

MR. BARRY STATES SOME FACTS

Says That the Worst Feature of Existing Conditions is the Low Prices at Which Farm Products Are Selling This Fall.

By Chas. Q. DeFrance.

Fourteen or fifteen years ago John W. Barry, a bright and energetic young man from one of the eastern states, came to Fairbury, Nebraska, and took charge as principal of the high schools of that city. After some two or three terms he resigned his position and became a partner in one of the largest retail lumber firms of Fairbury. His partner had plenty of capital and John had high business ability. Crops were good for a number of years in succession, many new settlers were coming to the county, and the firm of Switzer & Barry prospered. As time went on, and the inhabitants of Fairbury and vicinity became better acquainted with Mr. Barry, they came to look upon him as an oracle on matters of statistics. Figures were his especial delight, and by the time the census reports of 1890 began to be circulated generally, Mr. Barry seemed to have at his tongue's end all the important items therein. Hence, it was natural that he should be the referee in many a wrangle over questions involving the results shown by that census. Politically Mr. Barry affiliated with the republican party, and all his compilations of statistics—at least, those he gave to the world—concluded with a glorification of the "grand old party." Nothing pleased him better than to corner some long-whiskered populist, who perchance had called at the lumber yard on business, and bury him under an avalanche of figures showing the unbounded prosperity of Nebraska farmers.

During the years 1891-2-3 he was the "bogy-man" of the republican party of Jefferson county. Whenever a populist farmer got the better of his republican neighbor in a political argument, the latter almost invariably managed afterward to bring his populist brother and Mr. Barry together, start the ball rolling and then chuckle softly to himself while Barry bewildered the farmer with column after column of statistics.

Finally Mr. Barry's love of figures led him out of the retail lumber business. He compiled a valuable lumbermen's actuary and removed to Chicago to superintend its publication and sale; then he organized a lumbermen's commercial agency, but afterward sold out to a rival concern, and then bought an interest in the Northwestern Lumberman, a trade journal devoted to lumber interests, published at Chicago. He is at present one of the editors of that journal.

When the campaign of '96 began to wax warmer and warmer, the republican county central committee engaged Mr. Barry to make half a dozen speeches in Jefferson county, supposing that he could, as in the years before, astonish his hearers with apparently reliable statistics showing the beneficent effects of "the present gold standard." But for some reason the speeches fell flat. People who were formerly unable to detect the fallacies and sophistries in Mr. Barry's speeches were now educated in statistical matters. Hence, instead of gazing in open-mouthed wonder at a mathematical prodigy, who, apparently had all of the Tenth Census committed to memory, his audience smiled knowingly, as if to say, "Your figures regarding an increased money circulation are very pretty, but when we feel down in our pockets and find not a cent, it is hard to make us believe we have more money than ever."

Whether Mr. Barry's investigations had in fact converted him is not known, but it is certain his speeches at that time had little effect. Although professing a profound belief in the single standard, his arguments seemed to have lost much of their former vigor. As editor of a trade journal it is Mr. Barry's duty to tell his readers facts, not fanciful theories. And while he would not hesitate to take advantage of a political antagonist by skillful juggling of figures, yet when it comes to a matter of duty, Mr. Barry can be relied on to tell the whole truth. In all probability he is today talking "McKinley prosperity" to binetallists; but when he talks to lumbermen regarding present conditions, this is what he says:

"The worst feature of existing conditions, as affecting the lumber trade, are the low prices at which farm products are selling this fall. The lumberman has apprehended this all along through the season; for it was realized that the comparatively high price at which wheat sold up to May this year was because of a shortage in Europe and all other parts of the world, which caused an extraordinary demand for American wheat. Corn sympathized with wheat to an extent sufficient to elevate the price to a paying basis. The foreign demand for American grain is not so large as prior to the collapse of the latter wheat deal. Crops have turned out so well, though the yield has been uneven, that the later movement to primary markets has been heavy, and prices have declined to a point where farmers are to a large extent refusing to sell. Reports from retailers in Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Indiana and Ohio mostly reflect this view of the matter. The dealers take it as an indication that the lumber trade is to measurably suffer from this cause. From numerous localities in the various states it is reported that the attitude of the farmers has already checked demand for lumber, and the outlook for the fall and winter is less promising than earlier."

Northwestern Lumberman.

kinley prosperity" think of such a statement? Mr. Barry is not a demagogue, but on the contrary a most ardent republican—or at least he was the last time I saw him. The worst feature affecting the lumber trade is "the low prices at which farm products are selling"; doesn't that feature affect many other trades? Doesn't it affect the farmers too? "The comparatively high price" of wheat is good. The price has never been "high" under "McKinley prosperity"—only "comparatively high." And this comparatively high price was caused by McKinley, "a shortage in Europe and other parts of the world." When wheat was comparatively high, corn sympathized "to a sufficient extent to elevate the price to a paying basis." It surely can't be on a paying basis now, since it has ceased to "sympathize" and wheat has gone down. One thing Mr. Barry will need to guard against—if he keeps on writing such truthful matter regarding existing conditions, the Hayward-Beejournal speech-writing syndicate will "dissect" him; and their task will be just as difficult as the one they undertook last week.

Speaking of "dissecting": State Treasurer Meserve, on Monday night, September 26, at the Oliver theatre in Lincoln, poured some hot shot into the fellows who wrote the speech Judge Hayward delivered at the Lancaster county convention some days ago. He told everything in a straightforward manner which carried conviction to his audience. Hardly a statement of figures made by Judge Hayward in his Lincoln speech was correct, and Treasurer Meserve wonders why an aristocratic gentleman like Judge Hayward, aspiring to the highest office in the state, did not come directly to the various state offices and obtain whatever figures he desired direct from the records. The treasurer declared that had Judge Hayward done so, every courtesy would have been accorded him; but it seems the judge preferred to have the Bee and Journal reporters prepare his speech. It may be that, like the song, "He's sorry now he spoke," for the speech is so utterly unreliable in matters of figures that no self-respecting man can knowingly deliver it to an intelligent audience.

Commenting on the Hayward speech the other day, the State Journal said: "As a matter of fact, there are just about the same balances in the treasury in the general and sinking funds today, as during the Bartley administration." Balance sheets in auditor's office show the following:

Aug. 31, 1896, general and sinking funds.....	\$694,089 74
Aug. 31, 1898, general and sinking funds.....	11,555 79
Bartley had only a little over sixty times as much in these two funds just two years before as Meserve had on the last day of August, this year; but it isn't hard for the Journal to lie 6,000 per cent.	
On August 31 Treasurer Meserve had on hand in all funds \$467,441.06, but only two of the funds, the general and the sinking, are available for reduction of interest-bearing state debt. A number of the funds need to be transferred to the general fund but this requires legislative action. When Treasurer Meserve took charge of his office he received from Mr. Bartley the following funds which were available for reduction of state debt.	
General fund.....	\$304,217 84
Sinking fund.....	143,960 70
Relief fund.....	1,566 65
Temp. University fund.....	9,432 01
Inst. feeble minded fund.....	2,888 04
Total.....	\$462,055 24
Amount of all other funds.....	400,397 51
Total rec'd from Bartley.....	\$862,452 75

These figures are taken from the records. Now, compare them with the following quotation taken from Judge Hayward's speech, and see how little the compilers of that speech cared for the truth:

"Candor, however, compelled them to state in the same connection, that the present incumbent received from Mr. Bartley the following sums of money: General fund, \$304,217.84; sinking fund, \$143,960.70. These amounts were applicable upon the interest-bearing debt of the state and explain how the treasurer paid \$437,053.13 of the state debt. He also received money belonging to other funds at the same date, \$496,107.47, or a total of \$933,000.00."

It is interesting to note in this connection that the compilers of Judge Hayward's speech also forgot to state that the interest-bearing debt of the state might have been reduced \$213,323.40 more than it is now if Mr. Bartley had turned over to Mr. Meserve all the funds his books showed he ought to have. But Bartley didn't get away with all this money; part of it was lost in depository banks because of republican carelessness and mismanagement.

But where's the use in pointing out these misstatements? A lie can make a century while Truth is getting his boots laced. These republican politicians have absolutely no ground to stand upon, and their attempts to make political capital out of clean-

carine and passes would be laughable were their pitiful plight less noticeable. However, it's a good thing now and then to give them a few figures to digest, and watch their antics as they try to explain. Let the people notice this statement and inquire of the republican party why the state debt increased \$1,275,134.36 in two years; there was no crop failure in 1896.

AUDITOR'S STATEMENT.

State debt, November 30, 1894.....	\$577,825.75
General fund warrants.....	153,367.28
Temporary university fund warrants.....	851.95
Institute feeble minded fund warrants.....	61,293.54
State relief bonds.....	100,000.00
State funding bonds.....	449,207.33
Total state debt.....	\$1,188,675.59
State debt, November 30, 1896.....	\$1,906,273.67
General fund warrants.....	27,444.63
Temporary university fund warrants.....	31,734.50
Institute feeble minded fund warrants.....	153,367.28
State relief bonds.....	100,000.00
State funding bonds.....	1,593,727.26
Total state debt.....	\$2,406,703.67
State debt, November 30, 1896.....	\$2,406,703.67
State debt, November 30, 1894.....	\$1,188,675.59
Increase in two years.....	\$1,218,028.08
State debt, September 1, 1898.....	\$1,938,642.97
General fund warrants.....	153,367.28
State funding bonds.....	\$1,690,908.41
Total state debt.....	\$1,844,275.69
State debt, November 1, 1898.....	\$1,460,708.26
State debt, September 1, 1898.....	1,690,908.41
Decrease in state debt in 21 months.....	\$220,199.15
Increase in state debt in two years under republican rule.....	\$1,275,134.36
Decrease in state debt in 21 months under reform rule.....	220,199.15
Difference in favor of reform.....	771,800.53
Total amount of general fund warrants drawn to pay all expenses incurred by the state that were not paid by special funds, November 30, 1894, to September 1, 1898.....	\$2,166,211.77
November 30, 1896, to September 1, 1898.....	1,724,616.51
Making a saving to taxpayers in actual expenses paid by the state of.....	\$481,595.26
General fund warrants outstanding.....	\$1,906,273.67
General fund warrants.....	\$1,690,908.41
September 1, 1898.....	1,538,642.97
Actual reduction.....	\$357,265.44

The only time in the history of republican rule in Nebraska when the state interest-bearing debt was decreased was during the biennium from November 30, 1892, to November 30, 1894. On the first named date the debt was as follows:

General fund warrants.....	\$ 728,736.52
Temporary university fund warrants.....	107.34
State funding bonds.....	449,207.33
Institute feeble minded fund warrants.....	61,293.54
Live stock indemnity fund warrants.....	367.00
Total state debt.....	\$1,347,702.13

One thing will strike the reader as peculiar, and that is the fact that the only time the republican party ever reduced the state debt was during the short crop year, 1893, and the failure of 1894, and that was only \$115,553.79 reduction for the biennium. But during the fair crop year, 1895, and the big crop year, 1896, this party, long on promises and short on performance, increased the interest-bearing debt \$1,275,134.36.

G. O. P. BRIDGE BUILDING

How a County Commissioner Makes Money and Skins the Tax Payers. Editor Independent: I take this means of informing the people of Dodge county how their money is expended by republican county officials. Mr. S. W. Boyd is a republican county commissioner. He has a certain class of men to do the county bridging and other kinds of work. He sets these men to work and they all understand the ropes. In order to make the commissioner lots of work they make every job last as long as they can. If any man hopes to get a job by doing a good day's work he is turned off. Such was the case last spring. There were a few piles to drive and some ripraping work to be done. Some of the old gang happened to be away and three new men were employed. They put in from thirty-five to forty loads a day while the old gang had not been putting in but thirteen loads. So the new crew were discharged and the writer was informed that the reason they were turned off was because they did too much work and it did not give the commissioner enough or make the job last long enough to suit him.

When a bridge got out of repair, Mr. Boyd sent three men of the old gang to do the work. They worked seven days and put in one new cap and one new beam—a job that one man ought to have done in two days' time. The men received \$2.50 a day. One man \$1.50. Why complain that Dodge county is in debt? In this manner the work goes on under republican rule. In the first job spoken of it took the pile drivers five days to settle seven poles two feet deep apiece, which made it cost the county \$31.50 for driving the piles and it ought not to have taken over one day. The second job it took three men seven days and at \$2.50 a day and cost the county \$17.50 and the third man seven days at \$1.50 a day would be \$10, and the whole job ought to have been done in two days at the most.

I have only mentioned two small cases, but they will show what the Dodge county republicans will do when they have a chance. They howl the way the county business as been done and is still being done. How long will it be before the taxpayers can get justice and the republicans turned off? We want men put in their places who will spend the people's money economically. If you deem this statement of importance enough to give it space in your paper, we would be obliged if you would inform the people during this campaign of the true state of affairs.

THOS. SHINES.

GET DINNER ON TIME. There is no need of a woman saying she did not have dinner ready because her sewing machine had broken when you can get a guaranteed machine for \$19.50. If you need a machine write the Ind. Pub. Co. for particulars.

THE DAY OF HIGH PRICES FOR A SEWING MACHINE IS PAST. You can get a sewing machine without a name for \$20.00 or less with a name for \$30. Now we will sell you a machine that is just as good as any of your \$50.00 sewing machines for \$19.50. We will give you a warrant for 10 years. Write for particulars.

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NOT MUCH AGAINST KUNKEL.

Officers Think It Will Be Hard to Convict the Lawrence Man.

BODY TAKEN FROM THE GRAVE.

Friends and Relatives of Mrs. Kunkel Say She Was Insane—Another Examination of the Poisoned Woman's Remains Made by Professor Bartow.

LAWRENCE, Kan., Oct. 11.—The body of Mrs. J. J. Kunkel was taken from the grave this morning to make an examination regarding the method of embalming. Arsenic was used in the embalming process and the examination was to determine that the arsenic found in the stomach was entirely separate from that used in embalming. This examination was conducted by several physicians of the city and an analysis will be made by Prof. Edward Bartow of the University of Kansas, who made the analysis that resulted in the arrest of Mr. Kunkel.

Mr. Bartow was at work in his laboratory this morning but was unwilling to talk about the result of his work in the Kunkel case. The analysis of the brain and some of the internal organs of Birdie Comingore is now in progress under Mr. Bartow's direction and, while it will be more difficult to ascertain the cause of death in her case than in that of Mrs. Kunkel on account of the long time the body has lain in the grave, still, if the poison was given in anything like the quantities used in Mrs. Kunkel's case, that fact can be ascertained. Mr. Bartow thinks it will take him till next week to determine definitely the results of his examination in this case.

A feeling in favor of Kunkel has developed in the last twenty-four hours, and the officers now are even inclined to believe that it will be hard to convict him of the charges against him. This morning a telegram was received from Seattle, Wash., asking if Kunkel needed any assistance in any way and proffering financial or other aid that might be needed. It is stated that Mr. Kunkel has decided to associate Judge George J. Barker with Judge Norton in defense of the case.

WOULD HOLD ALL

The Interview Credited to Joseph Chamberlain by a French Paper.

PARIS, Oct. 11.—The Evening-to-day publishes the substance of an interview with Mr. Chamberlain, the British secretary of state for the colonies, who is now in America. The Englishman is quoted as saying he considers the United States, owing to the recent war, to be in the same position in the East as Great Britain in Egypt, adding that the United States has the same imperative duty to keep the Philippine islands. Mr. Chamberlain is reported to have added: "The moment has arrived for the United States to prepare for an extension of its territory, and in order to realize this ideal she will not refuse Great Britain's support. United, Great Britain, the United States and Canada will be invulnerable."

PETROLEUM STEAMER AFIRE.

A Million Gallons of Oil on the Burning Weehawken.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 11.—The British steamer Weehawken, oil laden, Philadelphia for Venice, is aground and on fire on Cherry island flats, in the Delaware river, about twenty miles below this city. The Weehawken cleared from this port for Venice on Saturday with a cargo of more than a million gallons of petroleum valued at about \$40,000.

The Tereza to Start North Next Week.

NEW YORK, Oct. 11.—A dispatch to the New York Herald from Playa del Este, Cuba, says: "Work on the Spanish cruiser Tereza has been abandoned. Divers found fifty feet of the bottom of the big gale. Half of the deck of the Infanta Maria Tereza has been laid. In pumping out the engine room both engines were turned by hand. It is expected that the Tereza will leave for New York or Norfolk October 18."

Germany's American Trade Bill Grows.

BERLIN, Oct. 11.—The exports for the third quarter of the present year from the southern half of Germany to the United States are officially totaled at \$2,941,623, or \$919,333 in excess of the amount for the corresponding quarter last year.

Eighteen Years a Criminal Judge.

LAKINGTON, Mo., Oct. 11.—Judge John E. Ryland retired today after having served on the bench as criminal judge for eighteen years. Resolutions of respect were passed by members of the bar.

HOW BIG GUNS ARE MADE.

They Are Not Cast, Now, but Are Built Up.

Not so very long ago all guns were cast by pouring molten iron into a mold and then letting it cool slowly; but it was found that guns made in that way were not strong enough to stand the tremendous strain of the large charges of powder required to send a shot fast enough to enable it to pierce the steel armor of a modern ship of war; so the old method of casting was abandoned as the armor became stronger, and now they are "built up." First a long steel tube of the finest and strongest metal is made, and around this are placed, or "sunk on," successive cylinders or rings, one over the other, with the greatest care and nicety, first the "jacket" and then the "hoops." So nowadays a great gun, instead of being one piece, as it used to be, is composed of many parts. The process above described is called "assembling" a gun, and in the place of the short cast-iron cannon of former days, shaped something like a big bottle, we have the long, graceful steel rifles, which look not unlike gigantic watch-keys. They vary in size from the small rapid-fire guns, a few hundred pounds in weight, to the great thirteen-inch "Peacemaker," as it is fondly called, which tipped the scales at sixty tons—120,000 pounds. All these modern guns are breech-loaders, and after the shot and powder have been placed in the powder-chamber, the breech is closed by a steel "breech-plug," which is shoved into the gun and by a short turn is screwed tight into the breech. The shot or shell has also undergone a change. The round cannon-ball most of us are familiar with has given way to the "projectile," which is made of steel, hardened according to the work it has to do; and in those that are intended to pierce armored ships the metal must be so hard that the projectile can be fired through steel armor of a thickness equal to one-eighth more than its diameter, without its being broken or materially injured; for instance, an eight-inch projectile, according to this rule, must be capable of piercing a nine-inch steel plate.—St. Nicholas.

CAMPAIGN DATES.

JOINT DEBATES.

- Broken Bow, October 13.
- Mason City, October 14.
- Loup City, October 15.
- Arcadia, October 17.
- Greeley, October 19.
- Ogallala, October 21.
- North Platte, October 22.
- Lexington, October 24.
- Cosad, October 25.
- Gothenburg, October 26.
- Callaway, October 28.
- Miller, October 29.
- Shelton, October 31.
- Ravenna, November 1.
- Round Grove, November 2.

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Nebraska and Wyoming Homestead Excursions.

August 2nd and 16th, September 6th and 20th, October 4th and 18th, the Elkhorn line (Northwesters), will sell tickets at one fare plus \$2, for the round trip to points on its lines in Nebraska west and north and in Wyoming west of and including Orin Junction. The minimum round trip rate to be \$8. Stop-overs granted on going trip beyond Stanton and Croston, Neb. For further information call on A. A. Fielding, C. T. A., 117 S. 10th St.

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