

# THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

## THE TRUST AND WEATHER WORK TOGETHER

To Destroy the Nebraska Industry—Our Own Fault If They Do—Home Industry Must Be Protected as Well as Foreigned—Present Condition and Its Causes.

The business men's excursion to the sugar factory at Norfolk on Friday last had far more than the usual significance of such events, not only in the representative character of the party itself, but in the underlying motives of the trip itself. It was in fact nothing short of a practical endeavor to solve the question whether "home industry" is ever to mean more than a pretty phrase that sounds very well in the reports and public meetings, but has little force with the merchant and housekeeper who are the most potent factors in the development of the real idea conveyed by it. It is not to be supposed for a moment that the all-reaching eye of the sugar trust has not from the outset watched intently the rise and growth in the middle west of an industry that must in time, if properly fostered, become a dangerous rival in a territory over which they might otherwise have full control; for it must be remembered that barring the sugar factory at Lehi, Utah, the two Nebraska plants are the only refineries within the limits of the enormous triangle formed by the three great strongholds of the sugar trust, New York, New Orleans and San Francisco. Nebraska, therefore, has a double opportunity—the one to produce first all the sugar that her population consumes and after satisfying home demands push out in three directions towards the shipping points just mentioned; or, if she fails to do this, to become a territory over which they might otherwise have full control; for it must be remembered that barring the sugar factory at Lehi, Utah, the two Nebraska plants are the only refineries within the limits of the enormous triangle formed by the three great strongholds of the sugar trust, New York, New Orleans and San Francisco.

It is useless to argue that such a privilege is unreasonable and let it go at that for any great privilege is and then is impossible. Seeing it is believed, to most people, and it needed just such an optical demonstration as has just been made to convince the press and the merchant that and through them, as the great mediums, the consumers that whatever failings any of the Nebraska sugar may have had in its early days it is not today excelled—or always equalled—by the output of the great refineries on the three coasts. Therefore when we can produce right here within the four boundaries of our state more sugar than we can consume and of the very finest quality possible, of what value is the motto "Protect Home Industries." If Nebraskaans fill their minds with prejudice and use an outside product while Colorado, Dakota, Iowa and Kansas welcome gladly the western article and are making every effort to establish in their own limits home sources of supply. One serious obstacle has been and still is the belief of the average person that beet sugar is different from other sugar—some going so far as to insist that it bears the same relation to the cane product that oleomargarine does to butter, in short that it is an inferior article, has a "vegetable taste," etc.

Nothing, however, could be more absurd than to insist that only sugar; it is a chemical product and must be the same no matter whence its origin and the sooner the public mind is relieved of any other theory, the better. So far as the quality is concerned it needs only a half hour spent at the Norfolk factory, watching the brown "masse culle" spun quickly into white sugar and still moist conveyed to the granulator there to be dried, screened, and then whirled like driven snow into the gaping mouths of the racks, to convince every man who took part in Friday's outing that nothing could be finer in grain or color than Nebraska sugar, as the following resolutions drawn up the same day will attest:

"We, the business men of Omaha, Lincoln, Council Bluffs, Sioux City and Fremont, hereby tender our grateful acknowledgments to the Fremont, Lincoln & Missouri Valley Railroad company and officials and to the management of the Norfolk beet sugar factory for the courtesy by which we have been brought into close touch with and more accurate knowledge of the beet sugar product of Nebraska and the west, we recognize in the beet sugar industry a potent agency for the upbuilding and encouragement of this section of the country with all the climate thoroughly adapted to beet-growing, we express it as our belief and judgment that the future is full of hope for this business in Nebraska and adjoining states.

"Whereas, we are now producing only about one-fourth the quantity of sugar consumed by its citizens, it follows that there is yet vast opportunity for the investment of capital before the measure of our production reaches that of our consumption. We recognize the power of our jobbers to promote and encourage this industry by giving the home product the preference, all things being equal, and we solicit their good offices in bringing about this beneficial result."

With such a preamble there is no doubt that the retailer will henceforth have his mind impressed very forcibly by the jobbers as to his obligations in the furtherance of an industry with which he is allied so closely and it only remains for him to do his share in his capacity of supplying the consumer with the product of Nebraska enterprise. As for the consumer, he may be urged to give it to his state—everything else being equal, as it certainly is to use Nebraska sugar and if it is not furnished then to insist upon its being supplied. In regard to the present agricultural situation so many are the rumors prevailing that a slight review of the reasons is necessary to make an explanation of the causes that have led up to the present unfortunate condition of the beet crop. Briefly, owing to the beneficial situation of the state bounty law passed last March which enabled the manufacturers to offer a straight price of \$5 per ton for the beets, the full complement of 4,000 acres was secured for each factory and although early in the summer there was some fear lest the crop might be reduced in volume through lack of sufficient moisture, any anxiety that existed on that score was relieved later on by abundant rains, so that on August 1, when the crop was laid by there was every reason to believe that the two plants would be able to start into operation very early in September and for the first time in their history have enough beets to insure a good run, say 40,000 to 50,000 tons for each plant. With the coming of September, however, all plans were upset by a most unusual combination of weather, heavy rains being followed by unseasonably hot weather and this in turn by extreme cold, the result being that the early planting whose growth should have been checked by the first frosts, did not ripen but on the contrary started grow-

ing again, a state of things peculiarly injurious to any biennial root. The later plantings were also seriously affected and as a consequence neither factory could count on enough ripe beets to enable them to turn a washed until the 1st of October or nearly a month later than they had anticipated, and when they did start it was simply working from hand to mouth on account of the shortness of the crop in marketing. As a matter of fact the Grand Island plant found itself absolutely unable to obtain enough beets of the required purity to keep it going from day to day and was compelled to close down for over a week on that account. It must be mentioned here that the purity of the beet is a most important point to the manufacturer and too often overlooked by the grower for it is not only an indication of ripeness but represents ease of extraction. In other words while only a certain percentage of the sugar actually present in the beets can be recovered by the most approved methods, such percentage is very greatly reduced if the purity falls below 80. There is another cause also to which the unfavorable condition of the crop may be attributed and that is that owing to the very severe drouths of the past few years the sub-soil was too dry to enable the beets to develop much until after the summer rains and then they grew so rapidly that they became weakened through their efforts to attain full size in less than the natural time. It may be, too, that our soil is lacking in certain properties that the beet requires to insure proper richness and which had they been present would have enabled this year's crop to pull through in better shape. This can, of course, be only determined by analysis, and such elements as are lacking be supplied artificially. If such lessons have to be learned the sooner the experience is gained the better. It was hoped the trouble began that the beets would be delayed harvesting ripen sufficiently to enable the entire crop to reach the required standard, but in this there has been further disappointment and it is now certain that many of the beets will never reach that point. As long as there are beets, however, testing no less than 12 and 80 the factories will continue to receive them and pay \$5 a ton for them and when such beets are exhausted they will discontinue working under the bounty law and reopen to resume the low grade beets (not less than ten per cent and 70 per cent). This action is taken through a desire to meet the farmers half way in this trying time, but as it is difficult as well as unprofitable to work up low beets and to reduce the price at all necessitates foregoing the bounty, the factories cannot afford to pay more than \$2.50 per ton for such beets. Of course this imposes a hardship on many who have counted absolutely on marketing their crop at a fixed price but in a time when the disaster is so general it is not fair to insist that the manufacturers should bear the whole brunt of losses caused by forces over which they have no control. They will carry out their contract with the farmer to the letter, but no sane business man could for a moment think of purchasing at double price thousands of tons of beets that are far below what he is obligated by contract to accept, and the acceptance of which would entail upon him a tremendous loss. The assumption that the factories can not work up the 12% crop is ridiculous, each plant having a capacity of about 12,000 tons a month, which would enable them to slice every beet in the state by February 1. The disaster is simply one of those unforeseen things that can be attributed to a string of natural causes and that the best of human foresight cannot prevent. One good season would enable everyone to recoup losses made this year and as it is understood that the factories will give preference to making contracts next year to such persons it would seem the proper course to make the best of the situation now and profit in the future by past experience. That Nebraska is naturally adapted to the culture of the sugar beet there can be no question and the industry should not be allowed to languish because of one unfavorable season.

**WHY THEY CHEERED HIM.**  
He Always Beat the French, But Always Like a Gentleman.  
While Wellington was still a marquis he went to Paris from Toulouse, where he had fought and won the last battle of the peninsula war. He went to the opera the same evening, and though he wore plain clothes and sat in the back of the box, he was almost immediately recognized by some one in the pit who cried out, "Vellington!"  
The name was taken up by others and at last the pitrose, turned to the box, and called, "Vive Vellington!"  
Nor would the people be satisfied until he had stood up and bowed to them; he was cheered and applauded again. At the end of the performance the passage from the box was found to be crowded with people. The ladies of the party drew back nervously, but the duke said, "Come along!" in his brusque way, and conducted them on. While they were still in the corridor a man in the crowd was heard to say to his companions: "But why are you applauding so much? He has always beaten us."  
"This was very true, and the question seemed a natural one; but the answer was charming."  
"Yes, but he has always beaten us like a gentleman!"

**Qualified His Thanks.**  
In the first year of his practice, Judge Royce, of Vermont, was called to prosecute in a justice suit, and, fresh from Chitty, filed a plea in abatement which he duly discussed. The justice, in deciding the case, said: "The young lawyer has filed what he calls a plea in abatement; now the plaintiff seems to be a very ignorant man, and his lawyer about as ignorant as he is, and his writ doesn't seem to be a very good writ, and it doesn't resemble one much more than it does a hog-yoke; but the plaintiff seems to be an honest man, and if he has a just claim against this defendant, he shall have judgment." Whereupon Judge Royce, elated at the result, but somewhat disgusted with the remarks of the justice, arose, and, making a very profound bow, said to the court: "I thank you, d—n you."—Argonaut.

**Americans Only.**  
Museum Manager—I understand you are really a Canadian.  
Zulu Chief—That is true.  
Museum Manager—Well, you've got your nerve to come here asking for a job in the present state of sentiment as to foreign labor.—Detroit Tribune.

# FINANCE THE ISSUE.

## DEMOCRACY STANDS ON GOLD STANDARD PLATFORM.

The Tariff Question Is Settled for the Present—How One Party has Managed Finances—Side Lights on the Wilson Tariff Law.

The comptroller of the currency has just completed the compilation of the returns of the national banks, showing their condition on the 28th of September. The returns made on or about the 1st of October, which are those generally used for purposes of comparison, are of unusual interest this year as indicating the recovery of the country from the panic depression. The figures for some of the principal cities were published in part more than two weeks ago. We now have the totals for all the national banks.

The amount of loans and discounts on the 28th of September was \$2,941,846,233, against \$1,991,874,273 on the 2d of October last year, an increase of nearly \$500,000,000. The deposits were \$1,701,653,521, against \$1,728,418,519 last year, a decrease of nearly \$27,000,000. This increase in loans and decrease in deposits means that the money of the country is more fully employed than it was a year ago. As compared with October, 1893, when the effects of the panic were about at their worst, loans and discounts have increased \$182,200,000. In October, 1893, deposits were \$233,300,000 less than at present. Frightened depositors had drawn out over \$300,000,000 of the funds they had in the national banks a year before.

Bonds on deposit to secure circulation amounted to \$208,682,765 this year, against \$199,600,000 last year and \$206,500,000 in 1893. Bonds deposited for this purpose fell as low as \$149,000,000 in October, 1890. There was an increase of \$10,000,000 the next year and \$13,300,000 the year after that. Then after the panic there was a rapid increase of \$43,200,000. This panic increase has been adduced as proof of the elasticity of bank currency under our present system. The stability of the circulation since then, however, proved a lack of elasticity, for if there were true elasticity contraction would follow expansion. In circulation actually outstanding there was an increase of about \$20,000,000 after the panic, then a decrease of about \$19,000,000 in a year, followed in another year by an increase to almost the same figure as that of 1893.

The changes in the specie holdings of the banks are interesting. The holdings were gradually increased after resumption until they amounted to nearly \$175,000,000 in October, 1885. With considerable fluctuations the average was considerably below this figure for five years. Then came the Sherman law, and the banks rapidly increased their specie from \$164,200,000 in October, 1889, to \$196,000,000 a year later, an increase of nearly \$32,000,000. Then there was a decrease to \$134,500,000 in 1891, followed by an increase to \$200,100,000 in 1892, \$224,700,000 in 1893 and \$237,300,000 in 1894. This year there is a drop back to \$196,200,000.

For four years before the passage of the Sherman act the banks seemed to be pretty well satisfied with their holdings of specie and made no effort to increase them. In four years after the passage of that act they had added \$73,000,000, or over 44 per cent, to their accumulation. In the meantime the United States treasury had lost \$131,000,000 of gold owned. During the twelve months ending with September the banks lost over \$41,000,000, while the treasury gained about \$37,000,000. This seems to show that the syndicate drew from the banks the gold with which they kept up the treasury reserve.

The specie held by the banks is mostly gold. At the end of September it was \$162,800,000 gold and \$33,400,000 silver. The proportion of gold is somewhat greater this year than it was last, showing that the banks have lost none of their caution in regard to silver.

This year's returns show 2,712 national banks in active operation, a reduction of forty-three from last year's number and of sixty-nine from the number two years ago. Up to last year there had been an increase in the number of banks every year for a long period. The increase in eleven years was 1,280, or an average of more than 116 annually. This steady growth indicates that the national banking system, on the whole, is well suited to the needs of the country, though as an agency for supplying the country with paper currency it is by no means what its founders expected it to be.

**Tin Plate Juggling.**  
A number of times within the last few weeks tin plate manufacturers in Cleveland and other cities have given out for publication the statement that in the course of two or three months the most of their plants would have to shut down, throwing many thousands of people out of employment. The reason assigned in every case has been the advance in the price of material. By material is meant the steel from which black plates are made, for, as was stated recently in these columns, there has been a decided fall in the price of the metal tin, which is the only other material of importance.

It has been stated as if incidentally in this connection that there was a strong organization of manufacturers engaged in the business of "working" congress for a restoration of the McKinley duty on tin plate. There is reason to think that what has been mentioned as an incidental matter more is in reality the main thing.

When these contracts expire they will have to shut down because they cannot afford to pay the higher price now prevailing. This looks plausible at first glance, but how happens it that the higher prices prevail unless some manufacturers pay them and still survive? There is no answer to this question which does not imply that the occurrence of the shut-down and the organization of congress at about the same time is something more than a coincidence. The shut-down will come at the proper time to excite sympathy for poor working people who, it will be claimed, have been thrown out of employment by a reduction of the duty on tin plate from 2.5 cents to 1.2 cents per pound.

There is ground for the belief that the manufacturers can do well and pay the higher price of steel. As The Chronicle has shown, the advance in steel is only half a cent per pound, while tin has been relieved of a duty of 4 cents per pound and at the same time is nearly 2 cents per pound cheaper than it was a year ago. Material, therefore, costs considerably less than half a cent more per pound of tinned plate, while the duty is 1 1/5 cents per pound.

That is significant, but the conclusive proof that our infant tin plate industry is not going into galloping consumption for lack of tariff nourishment is supplied by Tin and Terne, the organ of the tin plate manufacturers. That publication is quoted by the organ of the Iron and Steel association, the Bulletin, as follows:

According to the latest advices in the possession of Tin and Terne there are at present in operation in this country thirty-three rolling black plate plants to made into tin or terne plate. These plants have an aggregate of 155 black plate mills in operation. Six plants are at present putting in additional mills to the number of eighteen, while there are four new plants actually in process of construction, with an aggregate of seventeen mills, making a total of thirty-seven black plate plants, with an aggregate of 190 mills. There are thirty-seven coating establishments building or in running order to make tin and terne plate for general or special consumption, not, of course, including stamping concerns, where the coating is added after the article is shaped. Many of the existing plants contemplate enlarging and several new plants are projected, but in neither case have contracts been let.

It may be assumed with entire confidence that the men who are engaged in this business are not such simpletons as to enlarge their plants and construct new ones in anticipation of tariff legislation which every man of respectable intelligence knows cannot be had within much less than three years, if ever. They are extending their business because it pays with the tariff as it is. If they shut down in December or January, as some of them threaten to do, everybody will understand that they do it for effect upon congress and not because of the advance in the price of steel. The operatives thrown out of employment will be entitled to much sympathy, but it will not be the duty of congress to express sympathy by doubling the duty for the benefit of manufacturing capitalists. It would be more fitting for congress to punish these capitalists for wronging their employes by putting tin plate on the free list.

**Cause of New England's Jingoism.**  
St. Louis Post-Dispatch: New England profited enormously by the last war. With her ready capital and factories she was in a position to take advantage of the necessities of the nation, and under the financial difficulties and the policy of high protection which followed the war New England employed her capital and manufacturing plants most profitably. All of these advantages are slipping from her, and it is perhaps natural that she should yearn for a return of the opportunities of war.

**Harmony the One Necessity.**  
St. Louis Republic: The indispensable thing in a party's existence is that when once agreed upon the general lines of belief the members shall refer minor differences to majority decisions and act with concerted earnestness in behalf of the nominees whose election is the victory of all. The democratic party to-day requires nothing more than that its leaders subscribe to this primary article of party organization. The republican fabric cannot stand the strain of a united democratic attack.

**Carnegie Acknowledges the Corn.**  
Indianapolis Epitome: Mr. Carnegie understands an advantageous position very promptly, without requiring a surgical operation to get the point into his head. Although an extreme high protectionist white Blaine had his ear, he says now, after observing the workings of the new democratic tariff, that our iron mills do not need high protection any longer.

**Prosperity by Taxation.**  
Columbus Press: Prosperity by taxation is the McKinley idea. Prosperity by our own industry, skill and resources is the only prosperity that can be universal and enduring. Nobody was ever made richer, happier or better by being taxed.

**Parti Loves to Play Billiards.**  
Mrs. Patti's home, Craig-y-Nos, is said to contain one of the handsomest billiard-rooms in the world, the furniture of which cost more than any other apartment in that famous castle. Mrs. Patti is a most enthusiastic player, and few women can handle a cue with the ease and success of this clever woman. No matter what the hour may be after singing at the opera, the diva does not retire until she has had a game of billiards with her husband, M. Nicolini, and frequently a professional is invited to join them.

# WOMAN AND HOME.

## GOOD CURRENT READING FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS.

Some Notes of the Up-to-Date Fashions—A Simple Crepe—Growth of the Fur Cape—Low Wallace's Energetic Wife—Household Hints.



IBBONS play no small part in the bedeckment of the h 1 f - mourning frock, for dressty occasions. Broad ribbons, of the softest surah are shown in both black and white, and are arranged on the frock in sash effect. An exceedingly smart gown of black and silk grenadine, made over black satin, has decorations of white surah run through alides of jet set with tiny pearls. The skirt is a very gracefully cut affair, the stiffness of the satin and the grenadine making it stand out in the smartest sort of way. The bodice is plain and seamless, the thin outside setting smoothly over the fitted underlining. The sleeves are in the bishop style, and stand out stiffly down to the waist. The bodice has a dainty arrangement of white surah ribbons brought from the low-cut shoulders through a pearl-set slide across the bust, through another slide, thence to the waist, where the ends fall half way down the skirt, finished by a full bow. A wide stock of the ribbon, with an immense bow at the back, finishes the costume. A gown of soft white wool is



COSTUMES FOR YOUNG GIRLS.

treated in the same manner, substituting soft black surah ribbons for the white.

**A Simple Crepe.**  
When one is in semi-mourning, and especially when one is young, one may occasionally attend a quiet little tea or evening gathering, when the affair is not too dressty. White is, of course, the second mourning color, so also is violet, in all the shades, and these are often employed in making up smart semi-dress frocks. A very pretty one to be worn soon by a young girl who has just laid aside "deep mourning" is a combination of silk, white crepe, black velvet and jet. The skirt is a widely spreading affair, suffed over the body skirt, of heavy white silk. It hangs in great godets all around the form, and is ornamented at the front by a deep border of jet, separated by rows of black velvet ribbon.

The bodice is half low, just showing a bit of the throat, and is made of Lyons velvet in jet black, fitted smoothly and fastened under the left arm. It comes a trifle below the waist, ending in sharp points, both back and front. The sleeves are huge balloon affairs, coming to the elbow, and are of crepe lisse over white silk, all studded with the jet sequins. A deep frill of velvet-bordered crepe falls from the elbow over the half length black suede gloves. Altogether, the frock is very simple, but wonderfully striking, owing to the ex-



Low Wallace's Energetic Wife.

Mrs. Lew Wallace, like many another wife of a man of letters, has been the shield between her husband and the thousand small annoyances of the every day world. She has served as a constant spur to her husband in his literary work, and her pride in his genius and desire that he should make the most of it have impelled her to urge him on when he might otherwise have halted for a space. The same energetic spirit has always been carried into every detail of her life. Procras-

tation is her abomination, not in it easy for her to hate the sin and love the sinner in this regard; she is stone deaf to excuses for the delayed performances of duties, and is given to quoting Horace Greeley's saying: "The only way to do a thing is to do it." Mrs. Wallace went through some thrilling experiences of border ruffianism in New Mexico when her husband was there. He had not determinedly about breaking up some of the worst gangs of desperadoes, with the natural result of gaining their deadly enmity. One young fellow of 21 who boasted that he had killed a man for every year he had lived staked his honor as a ruffian that Governor Wallace should be his next victim. It happened one night that Mr. and Mrs. Wallace and the youthful murderer took lodgings at the same hotel. It was a hot summer night, and after going to bed Mrs. Wallace arose and opened the door of the room, speaking of the increased comfort given by the current of air. Gov. Wallace quietly remarked: "Better leave it locked. D—n it in the house watching his chance to shoot me." One can imagine the celebrity with which the door was shut and the fear and trembling in which the night was passed by Mrs. Wallace, if not by her husband.

**Growth of the Fur Cape.**  
It was only a few years ago the fur capes came into vogue, and were nothing more than a mere shoulder covering, shapless, and with what now seems to us a horribly dowdy air; yet they were received with open arms, and were considered the most fetching things ever worn. Every season saw something added to the fur cape. First came the little tilt at the shoulders,

then the cosy high collar, then an added length, until the elbow was reached; now, last of all, we have the full sweep, with huge collars, perfectly flat



at the shoulders, and ornamented in various ways with a contrasting fur, small heads of beasts, tails or rich lace. The cape of the present is as modish a wrap as a dainty woman can wear, and, aside from its mere beauty, is wonderfully comfortable and proof against the winds, however chill. In keeping with the richness of the outside the linings are exquisite. Brocades are used in abundance, in tints to harmonize with the fur. A rich chinchilla cape has a lining of pearl gray satin brocaded with scarlet in a straggling fashion. The linings for ermine capes are especially lovely, in delicate color, mostly in soft yellows, blues or rose pinks. These so fashionable brown satin linings are very seldom seen nowadays even in the sealskin coats. A band of ribbon, embroidered with the name of the owner, is a pretty way of individualizing the cloaks.

**Housekeeping Hints.**  
When grease is spilled on the kitchen floor cold water should be poured over it immediately; the grease will then harden and can easily be scraped away when firm. If it is not treated in this fashion it sinks into the floor and repeated scrubbing fails to remove it. While this is true for grease, it does not do with oils.

Turpentine is the best friend housekeepers have, and a supply should always be kept on hand. It is good for burns, excellent for corns, good for rheumatism and sore throat and a quick remedy for fits and convulsions. It is a sure preventative against moths, a few drops rendering garments safe from such invasions during the summer. It drives ants and bugs from storerooms and corners by putting a few drops on the shelves. It effectually destroys bugs and injures neither furniture nor clothing. For cleaning paint add a spoonful to a pail of warm water. A little in the suds on washday makes washing easier.