

TROPICAL TRADE.

General Wilson's conception of free trade within and throughout the New World is a bold measure of sound statesmanship, which would increase the prosperity of all the countries of North and South America, promote peace and good will among them, and make them a unit in defence against European aggression. If coupled with a moderate revenue tariff against the rest of the world, it would cause no hostility among other nations, for their productions would fare better under such a tariff, made reasonable and permanent, than under the myriad and constantly shifting rates of a score of tariffs. The American Free Trade League will send his complete address in pamphlet on receipt of five cents postage.

THE EVILS OF SPECIAL PRIVILEGES.

BY DR. JAMES H. DILLARD.

If people could only be induced to quit talking about a conflict between labor and capital, it would be a great gain to economic progress and the public good.

There is, as we shall see, an apparent reason for the notion of conflict between these two; but, in truth, there is not, never was, and never can be a conflict between labor and capital.

Labor is work engaged in production, and capital is wealth engaged in production. They are natural, mutual helpers of each other.

Capital as such cannot possibly be a foe to labor. It is only when it takes a pernicious partner that the taint of hostility and oppression becomes attached.

This pernicious partner is monopoly, —or call it by what name you please, charter, franchise, protective tariff, favorable location, any special privilege whatsoever.

Since the beginning of economic history it has been monopoly that has oppressed the masses and taken from them their just living.

In old times, kings either kept monopolies in their own hands, as a means of squeezing money from the people's labor, or gave them to their favorites.

In modern times, monopolies are got and kept by partial legislation or by actual bribery of parliaments, senates, congresses, legislatures, and city councils.

In all times monopolies have been the chief enemy of pure and righteous government.

Monopolies.

Monopolies give the power of amassing wealth so easily and effectively that they have always been sought after. They have been natural channels, in wholesome competition, for meeting natural demands. In this way it can,

in no wise, stand in opposition to labor.

Real Enemy.

The truth of what I have written,—namely, that special privilege, in whatever form, whether it be a tariff tax or a telephone franchise, is the real enemy of good government, the real enemy of labor, the real enemy of the natural use of capital,—this truth must come home to the American people if they would save themselves from increasing corruption in public life, from increasing concentration of wealth, and from increasing social discontent.

We have for a century been putting into platforms the words "special privileges to none." What have we come to mean by it? Nothing. It has become a sounding phrase, that's all! The time has come when we must put meaning into it, and stand by the meaning in each particular case.

There is at least one man in public life today who sees this fact. The new mayor of Cleveland is bending all his energies to make the monopolies of that city yield more to the people and less to the magnates. That such a man, on such a platform, a democratic democrat in a republican city, could be elected by a great majority of the voters, is the brightest spot in American politics today.

PENSION PROSPERITY.

While the population of the United States has increased 21 per cent in the past decade, their pension roll has increased 47 per cent in the same period. And Secretary Hitchcock's report gives color to the hope, that before many decades have passed, the pension roll will overtake the population, the American people can stop work and live on their pensions, with congress assembling occasionally to vote an increase all around. Already one American in every eighty has a pension, and if only the applications in sight are allowed, this proportion will be reduced to one in every fifty-eight.

The pension roll is now the longest in our history. It contains 997,735 names. There are 403,569 claims pending, and every mail is bringing in new claims by the bushel. But the good work goes on too slow. This man Clay Evans should be put out and his place should be filled by somebody who will take possession of the United States treasury and hang out a sign: "Why work? Step in and help yourself!"—New York World.

BEEF SUPPLY SHORT.

According to information received at the headquarters of the national live stock association, congress will have the western public land situation brought to its attention

this winter in a new and startling manner. A number of prominent cattlemen of the west, who have been quietly investigating, are prepared to show that during the last five years there has been an enormous decrease in the number of cattle in this country, a decrease which seriously threatens the beef food supply, and unless speedy action is taken by congress, in the course of a very few years beef will be selling at such a fabulous price that only the wealthy can afford to indulge in the luxury of a beefsteak. The cause of this rapid decline in the number of beef cattle is said to be due solely to the contraction of the western public grazing lands and the increase in the consumptive demand. The rapid settlement of the west has caused the ranges left to become crowded, and this crowded condition has prevented the re-seeding of grasses and consequently millions of acres of once good pastures have been turned into absolute desert. Most of the large herds have been dispersed and slaughtered and the bulk of the cattle supply is now being furnished by the small stockmen, but the evolution from the large herds on the open range to the small herds in pastures is too slow owing to unfavorable land conditions, and where a few years ago the markets were supplied with cattle four, five and six years of age, even yearlings are being slaughtered to make up the supply of beef.

The stockmen claim that the unfavorable methods of administering the public lands of the west are back of the threatened shortage, and at the coming national convention in Chicago this month an effort was made to throw the whole matter into congress, ask that a commission be appointed with expert assistance to investigate and devise plans for relieving the situation.

NEBRASKA TERRITORIAL PIONEERS' ASSOCIATION.

Official notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the Nebraska "Territorial Pioneers' Association" will be held at University Chapel, Lincoln, Nebraska, on Tuesday, January 14, 1902, at 2 o'clock p. m., sharp.

As one or two meetings of this society have gone by default, I urge a full attendance. The organization is an important one in connection with the history of the territory, and should be maintained and perpetuated.

The officers of the association will be elected at this meeting and general arrangements made for the interests and advancement of the organization.

I repeat, let us have a full attendance.

ROBT. W. FURNAS,

President.

Brownville, Neb., Dec. 1, 1901.