

be reduced below the point that will cover the difference between the labor cost here and abroad. The well-being of the wage-worker is a prime consideration of our entire policy of economic legislation."

Labor cost and wages are not synonymous terms. One farmer may pay a man twenty-five dollars a month and board for husking corn and get husked at these wages seventy-five bushels each day; that is, four hundred and fifty bushels a week. But his neighbor, another farmer, pays his corn husker only fifteen dollars a month and board, and gets but thirty bushels a day or one hundred and eighty bushels a week. There is more labor cost in low-waged-husked corn than in the high waged. Two men doing the same work, one at ten dollars a day and the other at five, do not prove that the labor cost in the product of the ten dollar man is more than that in the product of the five dollar man. Skill, celerity, continuity of effort on the part of the former may make his labor cost in a given commodity a half less than that of the five dollar fellow.

There has been a deal of partisan sophistry about protection to American laborers. High duties have been put upon certain foreign manufactures because they are said to be the product of cheap capital and "pauper labor." But capital is as cheap in New York as in London, Paris or Berlin, and there is not now and never was any pauper labor. "Paupers" never labor; they are supported by taxing those who do labor. No Protective Tariff has ever shut out the incoming of laborers from all Europe. There has never been a duty on brain, brawn, skill, muscle and mind, although there is a constant influx of each to compete with Americans in every trade, vocation and profession known to modern times. Men and women land every day in the United States to compete for a living with American men and women. There is free trade for labor and protective duties for capital.

President Roosevelt is a good, honest, courageous and able man, and he knows a Truth when he meets one. He likes conscience in the public service, and patriotism, better than he likes craft and partyism, and the Conservative has faith in his coming out clearly at last for sound economics.

MAKE IT WICKED. The prohibition state of Iowa and its best county—named after General Fremont—occupying the extreme southwestern corner of the commonwealth, immediately opposite Otoe county, Nebraska, and at the east end of the railroad bridge into Nebraska City, constantly reminds the Conserva-

tive of man's proneness to eat and drink forbidden things. Many of the Iowans like beer, wine, whiskey and other stimulants forbidden by the statutes of that state better than a hound pup loves to suck eggs. But before the prohibition the same citizens cared little for any intoxicants.

One of the most delicious and refreshing beverages known to mankind is water—pure, clean, clear water. And if some modern believer, of Iowa, or Nebraska, in the efficacy of law enacting, will secure a statute limiting, or prohibiting, the drinking of water except on Sundays, it will be guzzled down by the bucket full every day in the week. Just as soon as it is wicked to drink water, that liquid will taste better and everybody will thirst for it and get it and fill up on it.

NICE THEORY. Our friend, J. Sterling Morton, says that "Free trade does not compel Americans or anybody else to trade anywhere. Free trade merely permits Americans and everybody else to trade anywhere or everywhere."

The Crete Vidette in a recent issue publishes the foregoing and then delivers a lecture on the diabolism of permitting people to trade when and where they please. But it forgets that nobody trades continuously anywhere except at a profit or gain, and that therefore prohibitory tariffs cripple or kill off only that trade which is mutually profitable to buyer and seller.

The Vidette forgets also that the disastrous financial cyclone of 1873 was under the high protective Morrill tariff and the one of 1893 under the McKinley tariff. As to the Cobden Club—of which President Garfield was an honored member and of which the editor of The Conservative became a member many years ago—it has done a great and good work for international trade. It declared against "the period of exclusiveness in trade" long before President McKinley made his Buffalo speech—Sept. 5th, 1901—against it. We refer to his last utterance on political economy in which he declared that "we cannot forever sell and never buy," and that it would not be good for us if we could.

The Hon. William L. Wilson, than whom there never lived a purer patriot, was never entertained by the Manufacturers' Union in London, though he was a guest at the London Board of Trade banquet in September, 1894, as were several other Americans, including Congressman Isador Straus of New York, Joy Morton, Paul Morton and their father.

The Conservative is amused by the advocate of protective duties who eulogizes the United States as a country

of great wealth, magnificent resources, inexhaustible manufacturing advantages; blessed with the most intelligent and skillful laborers, mechanics and artisans, and then tearfully, between sobs, declares "but it cannot compete with the ignorance and pauperism of Europe" in the world's markets.

In the Convention of 1787, which formed the Constitution of the United States after long and thoughtful debate, it was agreed and declared that trade between the several states of the Union shall be forever free. And so it has been and so it remains and the several states are said to be quite prosperous in spite of this constitutionally secured Free Trade.

HEREDITY. The Conservative has always advocated the improvement of the breeds of men. It has frequently said that if human beings were as carefully mated with a view to an improved or superior progeny as the lower order of animals are by their owners, the breeds of human kind would advance in physical and intellectual power.

The subjoined cablegram shows that in Austria the improvement of the race, by permitting only competent persons to marry, is about to begin and that the law of heredity is respected by those who would have statutory preventives against the propagation of degenerates: Vienna, Dec. 13.—The Bohemian Society of Physicians has procured the introduction of a bill in the Reichsrath making a medical certificate of physical and mental capacity obligatory on candidates for matrimony.

CHRISTMAS TREES. Thoughtful persons are again saddened to see their fellow-citizens in the grasp of their annual lunacy, which leads them to encourage, by purchase, the cutting down of symmetrical young conifers for Christmas trees. Every city railroad yard in the country now presents the sorrowful spectacle of cars loaded to their capacity with these pitiful babies of the forest, massacred in commemoration of the Prince of Peace. Recently a big ship sank off the coast of Maine, which was loaded with nothing else. The cargo consisted of hundreds of thousands of Christmas trees; they were Jonahs to that vessel.

For the fleeting pleasure of the children of today, we destroy the trees that the men and women of a few years later will need for building human homes. And in doing this wanton wickedness, with total disregard of those who follow us in the little march from birth to death, we violate every good thing which Christ taught.