

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE.

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WAR AND PROSPERITY.

The assumption that a country can promote prosperity by war is both fallacious and pernicious. War converts a large portion of the productive element of the population into a destructive element.

War doubtless brings opportunities for making some men rich. The builders of war ships, the cannon foundries, the gun makers, the powder mills, ammunition factories and contractors for army shoes, clothing and army supplies have a good chance to become millionaires.

As well might a man imagine that he can make himself richer by destroying his furniture and burning his uninsured house to make work for the carpenter and cabinet maker, to be paid for with borrowed money, as for a nation to look for increased prosperity by way of war.

GOLD FOR CUSTOMS DUTIES.

A bill has been introduced in the United States senate, at the suggestion of the National Business Men's league, proposing that 50 per cent of the duties on imports shall be paid in gold.

This proposition is of course prompted by the apprehension of conditions that will impose additional burdens upon the public credit, for otherwise, in view of the abundant and steadily growing stock of gold in the national treasury, there would be no good reason for suggesting such legislation.

In this view of the matter the proposition is obviously a good one, but the question arises as to what its effect might be upon gold. Would it have a tendency to force gold to a premium?

Suppose the present foreign complications had come just at the time the country was in doubt whether the election of 1890 would result in the choice of McKinley or Bryan, what would have been the result upon the business interests?

ance or inconvenience. There is, however, little if any chance of its being adopted, for while it proposes nothing new, the payment of duties in gold having been in practice until eight years ago, no such discrimination in favor of gold will, it is safe to say, be permitted by the present senate, however strongly urged as a measure for conserving the public credit.

A PROTECTION LESSON.

One of the most notable triumphs of the policy of protection is seen in the growth of the silk industry, which has attained proportions that place it among the most important of the manufacturing interests of the United States.

It is perhaps not remarkable that European papers, ill-informed regarding popular sentiment in this country, should entertain the idea referred to by Mr. Barthold, but it is inexplicable that any American newspaper should so reflect upon the loyalty to this government of the men of foreign birth who have sworn allegiance to it.

It is needless to say that besides giving employment to a large amount of American capital and a great number of American workers, the production of silks in the United States has reduced the price of such goods to consumers, operating in this respect as have all other industries that owe their existence and growth to the protective policy.

THE FARMER'S OUTLOOK.

The farmer who studies the soil and climate and seed is a better farmer than one who merely sows and plows. But he who also farms with a view to meeting certain probable conditions of the market is most likely to be successful.

Good prices for grain continue, notwithstanding the beginning of exports from other grain-producing countries, and there can be no doubt that a large part of the gain in values is in no way due to the shortage in other countries.

The situation in regard to live stock and meats is equally encouraging. Shipments of meats to foreign countries have steadily increased and the home consumption of fresh meat has been greatly augmented by the improved industrial conditions prevailing.

SABBATH LAW TINKERING.

It is related by a philanthropic gentleman of Boston that when he visited an asylum for colored orphans on Saturday he found the children without toys of any kind, and on inquiry he was informed that the playthings had all been put away so that the dear little children might prepare their minds for the Sabbath day without the distraction of games and pleasures.

The experience of the man who invented valuable labor-saving machinery used in the manufacture of shoes illustrates the natural antagonism between genius and the monopolistic tendencies of the age.

The objection to a patent system most often urged is that it creates monopolies; indeed, that is its chief purpose, so that the inventor may be rewarded for his labor and genius, but such monopolies are usually limited and are constantly being superseded by others created in the same way.

application shall not be rendered valueless by new methods of labor. However it may appear, genius is the handmaid of monopoly, the contrary is true. Genius is invention. Invention lightens labor and adds to the comforts of mankind, breaks down distinctions between the classes, and while forming the basis of great fortunes tends to uplift the mass of humanity.

FOREIGN-BORN CITIZENS AND WAR.

In the house of representatives on Friday Mr. Barthold of Missouri, himself a foreign-born citizen, resented the view expressed by some European papers and their echoes in this country that our foreign-born citizens would be a menace to the United States in case of war with a foreign country, declaring that the flag of the United States is the flag of its adopted citizens.

The district court for Lancaster county has handed down a decision affirming the validity of the anti-gambling law of 1887, by which gambling in Nebraska is made a felony punishable with imprisonment sentence. While there has been considerable talk about the alleged invalidity of this law, no court of competent jurisdiction has denied its constitutionality.

The West Virginia minister who left directions that an inscription should be placed over his grave stating that he was "a firm believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, Jeffersonian democracy and the Methodist Episcopal church," should have been more specific.

The friends of the Nebraska statesmen are beginning to suggest Bryan and Lee as a ticket for 1906. It can be possible that Bryan is in need of a popular pusher like Fitz?

THE BEAR IN CHINA.

Russia will, doubtless, find little objection to China's demand that Port Arthur shall remain in Chinese hands, although permission is given to extend the Siberian railway to that point. It is a present concession to Chinese pride, and will not interfere in the least with Russia's occupation and use of the port in due course of time.

Prizes for Davy Jones.

The armada Spain sent against England had, at least, the merit of greatly outstripping the English fleet. It is quite different with the quixotic armada which Spain threatens to dispatch to far-off America to attack a much larger fleet.

Some Friends of Our Own.

Meantime what is being done to apprehend and punish the South Carolina fiends who murdered the negro postmaster and his helpers, and to bring down the building over their bodies? While contemplating the awful deeds of the inhuman Spaniards, let us not forget the capacities of an American white man in doing deeds that would shame the bloodiest pirate that ever roamed over the Spanish main.

Increasing National Galety.

The south is reported as amused over the idea that in the event of trouble with Spain the southern farmers could be stirred into rebellion against their own country. Amusement is the right frame of mind, since the idea is so ridiculously preposterous that no American, live in the north or south, can possibly grow indignant over such a rumor.

Drawbacks of Public Life.

Mirza Mahmood Khan represents the shah of Persia at Constantinople. The salary of this lucky diplomat is \$100,000—and he doesn't cost Persia a cent! The mystery is thus explained: There are in Constantinople several hundred and from three to four ambassadors, with the help of a half dozen aide-bodied collectors, extorts the sum named, and even more, according to current rumor. He suffers from one hardship, however. He is compelled to hand over \$20,000 a year to his colleague in Vienna, who has the Persian method of basing his salary on the receipt of a check, moreover, insist that Mahmood Khan must spend a certain amount on hospitality, and whenever he gives a dinner party, as he is just begun, but already it has been determined, so it is said, that Germany, which has been the most ostentatious flatterer of America, should give under test, give unquestionable signs of adulation and impurity. It is stated to be the purpose of the secretary to continue the investigation, and to record the results, with the view of using them to good advantage at the right time. So it stands the nation in hand which, fearful that America will get possession of its markets, slanders America's products to look well to the slimy pure nature of the stuff it ships to western Europe.

A Happy Thought.

That was a happy thought of Secretary of Agriculture Wilson to analyze articles exported to the United States by those nations which have shown a disposition to exclude American agricultural products on the ground of impurity of one kind or another. He is going to ascertain beyond a peradventure if these nations which are so fastidious as regards imports from America are equally fastidious as regards their own exports. As yet the chemical investigation has just begun, but already it has been determined, so it is said, that Germany, which has been the most ostentatious flatterer of America, should give under test, give unquestionable signs of adulation and impurity. It is stated to be the purpose of the secretary to continue the investigation, and to record the results, with the view of using them to good advantage at the right time. So it stands the nation in hand which, fearful that America will get possession of its markets, slanders America's products to look well to the slimy pure nature of the stuff it ships to western Europe.

no excuse whatever for anyone more successful than his fellows, or more lucky, to pose as a superior being. American railway officials are not so much given to this objectionable conduct, for nearly all of them are men who have risen from humbler positions in the service, but the tendency is visible toward the distinctly European notion of exclusiveness and imperious officialism. If the German railway employes effect the reform they have in view it will indicate a steady growth of democratic sentiment.

The success of the federation movement in Australia is not yet fully asured, for many of the leading statesmen of the colonies are fighting it as hard as did the extreme states rights advocates in the American states a little more than a century ago. The federal convention has already disposed of one of the most troublesome questions, that of the location of the federal capital, by deciding that it shall be a new city on territory exclusively under the control of the federal parliament. There is little doubt that federation could be as successful in Australia as it has been in Canada, but Englishmen are proverbially slow to take up with new ideas or to make experiments, and if effected at all federation will come with much friction and not a few harsh criticisms.

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BLASTS FROM RAMS HORN.

Adversity has sharp teeth. Meditation is a tonic for poor memory. No fraud is more wicked than cheating in a love game. Gospel bullet never reach the mark without fire behind them. About the best waterproof for all kinds of weather is a clear conscience.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

The Belgian prince must be a nice, moral young man. Gossip about him is meager and spiteful. An Indiana county treasurer, who made away with \$30,000 of the public money, accumulated a fine of \$1,000 and a term in the penitentiary.

Rapid transit is evidently on the decline in Greater New York. Fifty thousand straps have been ordered by the street car companies to enable the people to hang on to the present system.

CLERICAL CUT RATES.

Lay Sermon Preached on a Worldly Text. Why should a clergyman ask for or accept a half-rate fare from a railroad?

The calling of a clergyman is—or it should be—the most dignified and ennobling of all vocations. The man who enters into the care of souls and the ministry of God assumes a task beside which other undertakings are unimportant and insignificant.

POINTED PLEASANTRIES.

Brooklyn Life: The Elder—So you want to marry my daughter, eh? I like your nerve. Younger—You ought to, sir; I've been three months working it up.

LOVE'S GOLDEN BLOSSOM.

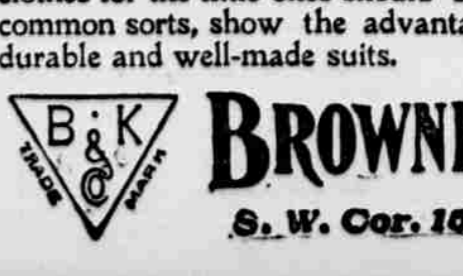
Chicago Tribune: "Mr. James McJames, Harbison, Wis.," said the clerk at the express office, "I've got a package for you, Mr. McJames. What are the contents, madam?"

Just a Glimpse

is all that the windows affords of the store's contents. Come in. We don't undertake to show half the styles or materials, or more than an example or two of the variety of patterns that we have in the store.

If people were only judges of sound clothing, we shouldn't have to advertise, and we are doing all that we can to educate them up to a point of understanding the advantages of well-made garments, and the unwisdom of buying the cheap stuff that is so common.

Our children's clothing especially, is an instance of what clothes for the little ones should be, and, by contrast with the common sorts, show the advantages of dressing small boys in durable and well-made suits.



NATIONAL PROSPERITY.

The heavy increase in our exports of merchandise in February is contrary to expectations of many who have looked for a turn in the tide of trade after the enormous movement of the last two years. The balance of trade in favor of the United States continues steadily to grow. With an increase in February of \$1,791,692 in our exports, imports ended with February at \$1,791,692. The month of February of 1905 shows a surplus of \$1,791,692 in our exports, the largest ever recorded in our commercial history, while the heaviest total for any fiscal year was \$1,050,598,556 in the term ended June 30 last. The monthly average of our surplus exports in the calendar year, therefore, was \$31,642,296, and in the fiscal year 1897, \$37,552,790.

The merchandise imports in February show a decrease of \$1,137,017, but the average of gold increased \$5,027,743, making the decrease in the whole movement only \$1,127,517, the excess of exports in the month amounted to \$8,420,723, or \$12,919,000 larger than in the same month last year.

For the eight months exports have amounted to \$84,729,415, or \$70,996,307 larger than in the same months of the previous fiscal year, and imports to \$46,661,205, a decrease of \$67,016,366. The exports and imports, including specie, for the eight months compare thus:

Table with columns for 1897-8 and 1905-6. Rows include Exports, Imports, and Excess of exports.

The influence of this enormous volume of international trade, so greatly in our favor, tends directly toward the stimulation of our internal commerce. It increases the receipts of the government, and, in the settlement of balances, adds to our gold holdings and increases our credit.

Our foreign commerce makes a sound foundation for the advancement of which by fear of war or even actual hostilities with such a power as Spain will be only temporary.

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