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OPPRESSED KANSAS FARMER.

The Abilene, Kansas, Reflector relates the following conversation as having occurred between a neighboring farmer and a carpenter. Bryanite papers back there as here have been telling the poor farmer how much he is ground down by the price of nails and other things. So the carpenter opens the conversation by saying:

"I can build and finish up for you a six-room farm cottage for \$1,000, and the nails in the building will cost \$25 at present prices. Four years ago they would have cost about \$19. If the price of your farm stuff has advanced in proportion then you are not oppressed by the price of nails."

"Well," said the farmer, "I don't build a new six-room house on my farm every year and I guess none of my neighbors do, so the \$6 extra would be no hardship. A steer calf six weeks old is worth \$6 more than one of that age was worth in 1896. The difference in the price of a calf will make up the difference in the price of the nails for a new house and I don't have to build, anyway. Come to think of it, a yearling steer now will sell for just enough to pay for the nails in that thousand dollar house. Four years ago a yearling would bring about \$11."

"How many nails do you buy in a year?" asked the carpenter.

"Oh, about 75 cents, worth," answered the farmer. "And I figure it that the increased price beats me out of about 12 cents. The advance in the price of one bushel of corn or one old hen will make up for that."

"How about your other farm stuff?"

"Well, a 300 pound hog will bring at least \$3.50 more than it did in 1896. I sell about fifty fat hogs every year—say the total weight is 13,000 pounds. The advance in price means at least \$150 extra for me. Fat cattle are worth \$15 to \$20 a head more than they were four years ago and I get some little profit there. Most of my neighbors have a few head to turn off every year. A man only has to sell ten head of cattle to get \$150 extra profit. Would you buy a whole lot of nails?"

"How about horses?"

"Now you have struck it, mister. Horses have just doubled in price. When Cleveland was president, good young horses would bring from \$35 to \$45 apiece. Plenty of them were bought up in my neighborhood by horse buyers at that price. Now it takes from \$75 to \$90 to buy the same kind of a horse and there are just as many being bought."

"But you have to pay a bigger price for everything you buy," objected a populist bystander. "You get beat out of so much that you ain't any better off at the end of the year."

"That shows all you know about it," returned the farmer. "Four years ago you didn't have any money to buy anything with, so I guess you ain't qualified to chip in here and make comparisons. Right here in Dickinson county I can get shoes and clothing as cheap or cheaper than I ever could. Sugar is way down to what it used to be. And I'm not so young but what I can remember that coal oil used to cost 30 cents a gallon. I've seen flour and meat a little cheaper, but I've got wheat and hogs to sell at a big price. Machinery is about as cheap as it ever was, and a good deal cheaper than it was seven years ago. Five years ago my oldest boy wanted a bicycle and he bought a second hand one for \$60. It was quite a luxury for the hard times and it took two good cows to pay the bill, but a new one cost \$100. This year Jim bought a new bicycle for \$25. The price of a yearling done the business. I guess you town fellows ain't robbing the farmers enough to hurt. Nearly everyone up my way has money in the bank

now. Four years ago they mostly had notes in the bank."

The above is a sample of the argument one hears here this year. The farmer does most of the talking. The carpenter does not stay around long, for the reason that work in his line is pressing, and there are two jobs for every one carpenter. The sidewalk populist may stand around awhile and growl in an undertone about "plutocrats," but the music is nothing like it was in 1896.

IF BRYAN WERE ELECTED.

What would happen on the morning of November 7th in case the news were published of Bryan's election? asks the New York Commercial Advertiser. The panic would start then and there. It would not wait for McKinley's term to expire. What creates a panic is the destruction of confidence, and confidence would vanish with the assurance that Bryan and his populists were to be in possession of the government for four years. Precisely what Mr. Shurtz says had begun to happen four years ago would happen then. Enterprise would be paralyzed, for no enterprise is undertaken or carried on without confidence in the future, and there would be no confidence in the future with Bryan as president.

Then, too, what would be the limit of the period of uncertainty? Bryan is pledged to call an extra session of congress immediately upon taking office. Would that diminish the uncertainty or put a speedy end to it? On the contrary, it would aggravate and prolong it. If the house of representatives were popocratic and the senate republican the uncertainty would still continue, for business men would not be able to feel any confidence in the future so long as congress was wrangling over the question of a monetary standard. Nobody would feel sure how long the senate would hold out, or how soon it might consent to a compromise of some sort. In fact, a silver majority in both houses of congress would end the uncertainty, and in that respect would be less permanently harmful to business interests than conflicting majorities in the two houses, with no certainty as to when they might reach agreement.

Nothing is so paralyzing to trade, industry, commerce and enterprise as doubt about the future, for all these are based on credit, and credit dies when confidence is destroyed. These are the veriest truisms of business life, and any man with even an elementary knowledge of the laws of the financial and business world knows that the immediate effect of Bryan's election would be the destruction of confidence and the advent of all the evils that must inevitably follow. Is it reasonable to suppose that the American people, in the midst of abounding prosperity, are going to commit such an act of folly as this, especially when they have only to re-elect President McKinley to have absolute assurance that the present prosperity will continue undisturbed and undiminished?

HOT SHOT FROM OLD ABE.

Mr. Bryan is fond of quoting from Abraham Lincoln. Here is a quotation that THE CHRONICLE respectfully commends to his distinguished consideration. Mr. Bryan will doubtless recognize it as applying to a time when his running mate, Mr. Stevenson, was a Knight of the Golden Circle and Mr. Bryan's political ancestors were denouncing Lincoln for sending Vallandigham across the federal lines because of attacks upon the Lincoln administration scarcely more violent than many that have been made upon the McKinley administration by Mr. Bryan's congeners during the past year. Mr. Lincoln said:

"He who dissuades one man from volunteering, induces one soldier to desert, weakens the cause as much as he who kills an American soldier in battle. Most I shoot a simple-minded soldier boy who deserts, while I must not touch a hair of a wily agitator who induces him to desert? This is none the less injurious when effected by getting a father or mother or friend into a public meeting and there working upon his feelings till

he is persuaded to write the soldier boy that he is fighting in a bad cause, for a wicked administration and a contemptible government. I think that in such a case to silence the agitator and save the boy is not only constitutional but withal a great mercy."

When Charles A. Towne spoke Tuesday night at the Metropolitan Theater, Portland, it is said, "there was much denunciation of the American policy in the Philippines and the speaker won liberal applause as he pointed out the good qualities of the Filipinos and denounced the American soldiers." For the honor of American citizenship we should be pleased to learn that this last clause is false. In Lincoln's time a speech that produced such applause the applause itself was termed copperheadism and the perpetrators copperheads. What shall we call them now? Things have surely come to a pretty pass, when even the rag tag and bob tail of what was once a great party expects to win its way to power by denouncing our American soldiery and gloating over their defeat.

Bryan closes his last letter of acceptance with these significant words: "When the doctrine that the people are the only source of power is made secure from further attack we can safely proceed to the settlement of the numerous questions which involve the domestic and economic welfare of our citizens." Which, being interpreted, means that when Bryanism is safely seated in the White house it will proceed to demolish the gold standard and establish the lunacy of 16 to 1 in defiance of the financial wisdom of every civilized nation on the earth.

Bryanites, true to their populist instincts, are banking largely on the big strike among the coal miners of Pennsylvania. It is worthy of note that there were few strikes at this time four years ago. The thousands that were then out of work and living on free soup could not strike, and the few that were employed were too glad to get work at any wages to strike for higher.

"Speaking of the 'full dinner pail,' what is it full of? Promise?" asks the Walla Walla Statesman. Nay, Pauline. It is probably full of chicken and pie, but to a dead certainty there isn't a drop of free soup in it.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat thinks "the populist who finds himself clapping hands with Adlai Stevenson and Richard Olney must be bothered to tell whether the Indian or the wigwam is lost."

HOUSEHOLD LORE.

A Variety of Information for the Benefit of the Busy Housewife.

The use of a solution of gum arabic and water may be extended to preserve flowers as well as autumn leaves. Dissolve five cents' worth of gum arabic in a pint bowl of warm water and let it stand until there is no sediment at the bottom. This will take several hours. The blossoms that are to be preserved are then dipped lightly in the solution and shaken out before they are suspended by a string to drip. As soon as the flower has dried, dip again and allow it to dry again, repeating the process five or six times. The color and form of blossoms thus treated are remarkably preserved, says the New York Post.

The popularity of corduroy as an upholstery fabric is well founded. It is durable in texture, and although its color fades it fades beautifully, and usually is thereby improved. Still another good quality of the material is its adaptability to its surroundings. Like a seaskin saque, which may be acceptably worn to market or for a round of visits, corduroy is most appropriate for library or sitting-room, and not at all out of place with the finer furnishings of the drawing-room.

If it is desired to serve boiled ham hot for a winter luncheon or Sunday night it may be deviled. The slices should be cut nearly half an inch thick and broiled over clear coals before they are arranged on a hot platter, and spread with a dressing made from a teaspoonful each of oil, lemon juice and mustard, well mixed.

False hair, according to a hair-dresser, should be carefully brushed and combed every night, as only in this way can it be kept clean and fresh-looking. The same authority suggests that a sandalwood box is the best place in which to keep unattached switches, puffs and curls.

Clarke & Falk's flavoring extracts are the best. Ask your grocer for them.

OUR MANY PEOPLE

Present Population of the United States and Gain.

Interesting Facts Concerning Growth of This Country Ascertained from Recent Enumeration Accounts.

How many persons were there in Uncle Sam's big family on June 17? If this noble American sire is not quite like the fabled dame of Mother Goose, who had "so many children she didn't know what to do," he has so many that he isn't sure but once in ten years what the total number of his offspring is, says the New York Herald.

Measured by the per cent. of gain between the censuses of 1890 and 1899, which was 24.6, the population of the United States to be disclosed by the national roll call, just completed, should reach a total of 77,500,000. As a matter of fact, it does not seem likely that the total will exceed 70,000,000, and probably will not reach that figure.

Several noteworthy factors have been at work to effect this, to many, surprising result. Immigration has fallen off to a remarkable degree. In the ten years ending June 30, 1899, 4,849,000 persons entered this country from foreign lands. In the decade closing with June 30 of this year almost a million less will have sought an asylum on America's shores. These figures omit the immigrants from Canada and Mexico.

The reason for this marked decrease in immigration lies very plainly in the hard times period of 1893-94. A small flood of 823,884 persons entered the United States in the fiscal year of 1892. Two years later the total was barely half as great, and so far spread was the news of our business and financial distress that in 1898 the immigrants were only 229,200, the smallest number since 1879. An increased total last year has been followed by a greater one this year, so that the coming decade will probably see a return to the huge immigration figures of the early 80s.

Coincident with the decline in immigration, due to the business crisis, must be reckoned a decline in the natural growth in population. Adverse financial conditions operate not only to increase the death rate, but also to decrease the birth rate. Aside from this it is a notable fact that the per cent. of natural growth of population has been constantly and rapidly decreasing in this country for a whole century. If we correct the admitted errors in the census tables of 1870, it will be found that the ratio of increase of population by natural growth in each decade has steadily dropped from 35.6 in the 1801-10 period, to 14.1 in the 1881-90 period. In other words, there was born to the average community of 1,000 inhabitants between 1801 and 1810 356 children, while to a similar community between 1881 and 1890 there were born only 141 children.

To give a keen point to this plain truth that the nation is slowing up, so to speak, in its natural growth, the interesting state censuses of 1895 are of decided value. Nine states counted heads in that year. Two in New England, Massachusetts and Rhode Island; one middle state, New Jersey; one southern state, Florida; four middle western states, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota and South Dakota, and one far western state, Utah. Of this typical group, representing all sections of the country, only one showed an increase in per cent. of population equal to the to be expected half of the increase of the previous decade.

The sole exception was New Jersey, which grew 27.7 per cent. between 1880 and 1890, and 15.7 per cent. between 1890 and 1895. Two causes may explain this increased ratio of growth—proximity to New York city, which, with its ever gathering density of population, forces more and more families to fly to the less crowded and less expensive suburbs, and proximity to the main port of entry of immigrants, who would naturally, in hard times, be loth to spend their savings in taking a long trip into the west.

How much influence this latter consideration had is potently illustrated by the figures of some of the western states' censuses. Thus, Minnesota, which grew more than 60 per cent. between 1880 and 1890, gained but 21 per cent. in the five years following. Kansas, which added 43.2 per cent. to her population between 1880 and 1890, actually lost 6.4 per cent. between 1890 and 1895. In both these cases probably the lack of new settlers from foreign lands was not more marked than the slackening of immigration from other states.

Now some one will ask in view of the sharp decrease in immigration and the probable decrease in natural growth, what is the population of the United States to-day? With all due deference given to the many points involved, it may be fairly estimated that there are between 75,000,000 and 77,000,000 inhabitants in this country. The exact number is nearer the smaller than the larger figure.

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