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TODAY'S WEATHER.—Fair and warmer; northwesterly winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER.—Maximum temperature, 62; minimum temperature, 49; precipitation, 0.21 inch.

PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26.

## TRADE TROUBLES WITH RUSSIA.

A strange contention appears in our diplomatic relations. Secretary Gage is told by the Russian Minister of Finance that he has not correctly construed the law of the United States as to reciprocity in trade and countervailing duties. Hence Russia justifies her retaliatory action, and increases its severities.

It is easy enough for any one acquainted with the English language and with our fiscal system to ascertain what our law means. But what is the Russian law? It proceeds upon a system incomprehensible to those not acquainted with the methods of Russian autocracy.

The main point in dispute is whether the Russian bounty, paid to producers of sugar, is a bounty on such sugar when exported. Our law provides that "whenever any country shall pay or bestow, directly or indirectly, any bounty or grant upon the exportation of any article or merchandise, then there shall be levied and paid in all such cases in addition to the duties otherwise imposed by this act an additional duty equal to the net amount of such bounty or grant, however the same be paid or bestowed." The law further provides that the Secretary of the Treasury shall ascertain from time to time the amount of such bounties or grants, and shall make all needful regulations for the collection of the additional duties.

Secretary Gage holds that the bounty paid on Russian sugar is practically an export bounty, and he levies countervailing duties on such sugar imported into the United States. It is at this point that Secretary Gage is told by the Russian Minister that he misconstrues the law of his own country. For the contention of the Russian Minister is that the bounty on production paid by Russia is not a bounty on export. In name it is not; in fact it is. A law practically identical in terms with our own exists in the Indian Empire of Great Britain, enacted in 1899. The British Council having charge of customs administration has given it precisely the same construction as that adopted by Secretary Gage and the Board of General Appraisers, viz., that it covers a "bounty or grant" such as that bestowed by the Russian law. This decision is not based, as commonly asserted, on the mere fact that Russia remits, on exportation, her internal revenue tax on sugar, but upon that fact, taken in connection with the ingenious system of regulation by which this is accomplished through the granting of transferable certificates which are sold in the market, and have a standard price on the Stock Exchange of that country. This cunningly devised system makes an actual export bounty.

Our law is mandatory also as to the duty on petroleum and the collection at our custom-houses of countervailing duties on other products equal to the bounties paid by the countries from which they come. Russia now levies an import duty on our petroleum, and Secretary Gage has accordingly ordered the same duty to be levied on Russian petroleum, though none is imported. In retaliation Russia has raised the duty on resins and bicycles, and probably will go much further. Many branches of trade doubtless will suffer. In his action as to sugar, Secretary Gage seems to be justified; but as to petroleum, since we import none from Russia, he appears unnecessarily to have provoked retaliation.

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Some time ago a solicitor for a New York commercial journal, which has little business or recognition at home, came to Portland begging for subscriptions and advertisements for his paper. A warning by The Oregonian against this paper and its methods was little heeded, and the solicitor entered a lot of subscriptions and advertisements at Portland, put the money or contracts therefor in his pocket, and went his way. At other places he also gathered in "business," as it now appears, on condition that his paper should be used for bitter and malignant attacks on Portland, in attempts to injure its reputation and commerce. Naturally this does not please those whom he buncoed out of their money here; though at some other places there are those who are highly gratified with it. No real hurt will be done, because the paper is insignificant, and Portland has been subjected to similar attacks at frequent intervals during its whole history. But the paper is hearing from those who were fooled and betrayed by it. They did not, indeed, imagine that the paper would be of any service to them personally, or that their advertisements in it would do anything for them in the way of business, but regarded their payments as subsidies to it, in return for the great things the agent promised in publication of commercial news from Portland. They now "withdraw their confidence."

## TARIFF REFORM.

It is barely four years since the Dingley high-tariff law was enacted, but today a formidable agitation for its modification has begun within the Republican party. Congressman Dalzell, the representative of the manufacturing interests of Pennsylvania, is reported to be alarmed at the strength of the Babcock anti-trust bill among the rank and file of the party at the West, and predicts that this and other measures to deprive the trusts of tariff protection will split the Republican party. The very fact that such a bill is offered by the chairman of the Republican Congressional Committee proves the existence of deep dissatisfaction in the Republican party over the use the trusts are making of the Dingley law.

The trouble anticipated by Mr. Dalzell will not take place at the East, where the protected interests, within or without the trust, are dominant in the party councils and the unprotected interests are too small and feeble to force recognition. But among the Western Republicans there is sure to be serious revolt. The West has never been the stronghold of protectionism. Until the moral issue of slavery became dominant the great states of the West were stiffly Democratic on the tariff issue—in the days when a protective tariff was a cardinal doctrine with the Whig party. In the days of the Morrill war tariff the Western Republicans were always for tariff reform and lower duties. Senator Allison, of Iowa, was a conspicuous low-tariff man. When the Democrats in 1894 enacted a lower tariff the Eastern Republicans attributed the hard times which followed to the low tariff, but the Western Republicans considered the demonetization of silver and the scarcity of gold as the cause of business depression. The prospect that the Western Republicans are disposed to move for tariff reform and reduction is naturally causing anxiety among the Republican leaders at the East. The report that Babcock will be punished by removal from the ways and means committee and from the chairmanship of the Congressional campaign committee will never be verified by the event, for of course Babcock knows that the Republican West is strongly behind him and his bill, or he would never have presented it. Furthermore, there is nothing new in Babcock's proposition, for more than ten years ago John Sherman said in the Senate that he would vote to repeal every shred of protection enjoyed by any trust or combination.

Passing from Representative Babcock to the President, it is clear that McKinley's plea for the ratification of the pending reciprocity treaties is causing alarm among the Republican leaders at the East. United States Senator Aldrich is reported to have recently urged the President not to renew his recommendation of the French treaty. The Eastern Republicans, who are voiced by the Home Market Club, had a controversy in January last with Hon. John A. Kasson, an Eastern-born but Iowa-bred Republican, to whom the President had referred the protest of the club against the French treaty for reply. The Home Market Club argued that the pending treaties, and particularly the French treaty, were most obnoxious, because they "are not based upon the true principle of reciprocity, which is the exchange on favorable terms of dissimilar and non-competing products, and that, on the contrary, they are based upon the principle of free trade, and will introduce a damaging if not ruinous competition." Mr. Kasson at once disposed of this definition of the Home Market Club by quoting the language of the McKinley tariff law, which authorized the negotiation of treaties with countries producing sugar, molasses and hides, all of which are produced by the United States.

At the Detroit meeting of the Manufacturers' Association in favor of reciprocity, among its leading advocates were protectionists of Pennsylvania and the West, who strongly supported "the movement for softening our tariff relations with foreign countries." Mr. Sanders, of New York, said that the time had come, in his opinion, for protecting our full-grown industries by open markets instead of protecting infant ones by the policy of exclusion. A member from Michigan said that "the time had passed when a high tariff was a benefit to American manufacturers." Reciprocity even was not satisfactory to many speakers. It was too slow. A New York delegate urged the indorsement of the Babcock bill for free trade in steel trust products, and declared that there are "clouds of tariff revision in the sky," which betokened a storm; that if the tariff should not be revised by its friends, it would be overturned by its enemies, who would lose no opportunity to point out "its weakness and its fraud." This was the language of a convention of protected manufacturers, speaking of the present tariff.

The position taken by these protected manufacturers is that the Nation had outgrown the Dingley tariff, which stood in the way of the enlargement of the foreign trade and was being used to foster and benefit monopoly. The resolutions adopted favored reciprocity and opposed a tariff which nourished monopolies. The action of this convention is a revelation that the eyes of manufacturers are no longer fixed exclusively on the home market, but include in their circle of vision the foreign markets. The manufacturers see that foreign markets cannot be captured by prohibitory duties which impair the buying power of those markets and provoke such retaliatory measures as have already been imposed by Germany and Russia. It is a significant fact that A. B. Hepburn, a former Republican Controller of the Currency, in speaking at the London commerce dinner, quoted the chairman of the Republican Congressional Committee in support of his statement that "the tariff will be taken off from all so-called trust commodities, and our ability to produce has so largely outgrown our capacity to consume that the open door is rapidly becoming the shibboleth of America."

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Why should the committee on rivers and harbors spend a day of precious time looking over the farms and orchards of the Willamette Valley after having once traversed the whole length of the Valley on the way to Portland? The avowed purpose of the committee is to gain information that shall enable it to act understandingly on appropriations for the benefit of navigation. There is no question about the volume of traffic or the productiveness of the Willamette Valley, which have a certain influence on appropriations for the improvement of the Columbia River. Less is known about the resources of the great interior Columbia Basin, which are also to be served by the mighty waterway, and there would be more sense in showing the committee Eastern Oregon, Eastern Washington and Idaho. But the day's excursion in the Willamette Valley promises to render impossible a trip of the committee up the Columbia River, even to look at the Cascade locks and the proposed improvement at the dalles. This oversight of those responsible for the itinerary is to be regretted. We are very glad to show our state to visitors and to make their stay among us pleasant as possible, but for visitors having such an official mission as the members of this committee have it would seem altogether more appropriate and useful to show them the needs of navigation on the Upper Columbia, as well as on the lower river, than to take them on an excursion through a valley of acknowledged richness and beauty like the Willamette. If there were time for all this, well and good; but the committee gives us only a scant two days, barely enough to inspect the Columbia from its mouth to the falls of Celilo, and that is the urgent thing to attend to. It will be very unfortunate if the trip up the Columbia shall be sacrificed for a picnic in the Willamette Valley.

## A QUESTION OF FACT.

John G. Woolley, on Monday evening, in his argument for prohibition, denied that the abolition of the canteen had already caused gimlills to multiply in the vicinity of Army posts, and cited several instances where doing away with the canteen had accomplished good. This is a question of fact, not a mere matter of opinion. No one can read the reports which Chaplain C. C. Pierce has sent to the War Department from Fort Myer without realizing that the abolishing of the canteen feature of the post exchange has had a disastrous effect at Army posts. Chaplain Pierce is a graduate of a New Jersey State Normal School, of the Wesleyan University, Illinois; Shurtleff College, Illinois, and the Kansas Theological School. He entered the Army as Chaplain of the Ninth Cavalry, in 1882; resigned in 1884; was appointed Post Chaplain in 1888, so that he has had an experience of fifteen years of Army life. As a clergyman in good standing his testimony ought to be as weighty as that of a fluent prohibition demagogue, who is so reckless in his language that he stigmatizes as "red-nosed physicians" the members of the National convention that voted in favor of the restoration of the canteen. Chaplain Pierce, in a report dated April 1, says:

> In my report to the Adjutant-General, one year ago, I prophesied most unfavorable results in the event of abolishing the post exchange system in the Army, as was then proposed by zealous prohibitionists and saloonkeepers. Unfortunately, the plan of these misguided people, inspired, perhaps, by misleading statements from some who have been fighting the canteen for years, was adopted by Congress. The closing of the establishment in this post has been followed by the very unhappy results which I predicted. The dive business on the outskirts of the post is beginning to thrive; men are tempted away from their quarters; the evil can no longer be regulated by military control; and there has been no time in my 14 years of service when so many whisky flasks and bottles were smuggled into the barracks as now. In my judgment, the advocates of the abolishment of the exchange are responsible for the lowering of the moral tone of garrisons.

This was the state of things on April 1 last at Fort Myer, Va. During the two months following Chaplain Pierce has had ample time to study the effect of the absence of the canteen, and his last report shows that the bad results became more and more apparent; that a large number of soldiers were tried for misconduct, and that the officers were baffled in their efforts to maintain discipline and good order. We commend to the ignorant or infatuated enemies of the canteen this passage from the report of Chaplain Pierce, dated June 1:

> The bad results of the abolishment of the post exchange have been even more apparent than in the preceding month. Fully 50 trials of enlisted men followed pay-day, and the results, in general, were by far the worst that I have seen in more than 14 years of service. The officers have accepted the law in good faith, but their labors in enforcing discipline have been vastly increased by the ill-advised campaign which deprived the Army of the canteen. Personally, I do not need the canteen, but I believe it to be promotive of temperance and sobriety among the men, and I hope an effort may be made to restore it. Congress can well afford to ignore the mere theorists, who care nothing about the Army, and give heed to the advice of those who are more familiar with the practical conditions of military life and who are charged most directly with the morale and discipline of the men.

Candid men who read this report of a clergyman of excellent antecedents, who has spent nearly fifteen years in the Army, will be disposed to agree with his conclusion that the abolition of the canteen has really played into the hands of local saloonkeepers. Chaplain Pierce is not a professional prohibitionist, but his reputation as a man of veracity, sobriety and unblemished character, joined to his exceptional opportunity for personal observation, make him a far more credible and weighty witness than is Mr. Woolley, who, like all passionate reformers, is prone to the vice of exaggeration in his speech and perversion in his statements. Lurid speech and gross exaggeration is the stock in trade of the average "moral reformer."

## WESTERN OREGON'S PROGRESS.

It is a mistake to suppose that the Willamette Valley lags far in the rear of the car of progress. Envious or disgruntled persons may heap opprobrium on the conservatism of Western Oregon, humorists may joke about it, but the people attend to their affairs and are prosperous and happy to a degree that is not exceeded elsewhere. Jokes and gibes do not disturb their serenity of temper or their peaceful industry. They go right ahead tilling their broad acres, increasing their herds and flocks, and turning out flour and lumber and butter and cured fruit, and girls and boys that beat the Nation. They may not be up to the latest freak of fashion in all things, and they are not breeding dudes and dolls to vex the world, but the inhabitants of the Willamette Valley are a solid lot, and they are making commendable progress.

One familiar with the conditions a decade ago cannot fail to note the great change that has taken place in Willamette Valley industries and life. Modern improvements have come in and quite transformed many localities. Nothing has worked more notable change than the creamery industry, which has attained important proportions under the intelligent encouragement of the Southern Pacific Company. In former years it was regarded as wastefulness to pasture cattle on improved meadow; now the practice is common, and it is found to pay. The silo is used to prepare food for cows. Considerable attention is given to breeding dairy cows, and they are cared for in a manner that makes them yield profit. And this industry is only just fairly started.

Farmers do not now favor volunteer crops of grain. They know they can get better results by intelligent culture. They are beginning to raise corn and make it pay. Advanced methods in hop culture and fruitgrowing and curing are coming into vogue. The people generally are quite taken with the spirit of modern enterprise, and they are bringing this richest of valleys up to the degree of fruitfulness that the world demands of it. They don't care a hill of beans for empty show, but as a solid agricultural community they shine.

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The young woman who adds to the social sin of unwedded motherhood the crime of selling her infant to a Chinaman is a creature so lost to all sense of duty, all instincts of humanity, that it is impossible to characterize her in words. There is but one creature in the world to whom she is superior—the father of the luckless infant thus sold into degradation and slavery—who by the abandonment of the mother of his child paved the way for her offense. While the public mind turns with loathing from the Chinese foster-parents in a case of this kind, it must in all justice be conceded that these so-called heathen are the least reprehensible of the parties concerned in the matter. Indeed, one may well pity the Chinese mother who, according to her light, did her duty by the child that came into her possession by purchase, who loves the little one tenderly and suffers the pangs of real grief in parting with her. In the rescue of this infant all humane people will rejoice, wondering shudderingly the while whether there are not other white girl babies in the purlieus of Chinatown in this city foredoomed to lives of degradation as chattels of an alien race.

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The Government will soon be paying $1,000,000 a year on account of the war with Spain. The Pension Office returns now show that the payroll is about $834,750. The total applications for pensions up to June 1 on account of this war was 37,095. They are now coming in at the rate of 1400 a month. The June returns will doubtless show a great increase in the number of applications. This is due to the fact that an army of pension attorneys has massed at San Francisco and make it their business to corral the mustered-out soldier and see that he becomes an applicant at once for the Government's bounty. It makes little difference, they assure him, whether he is sick or has been wounded in the service; he has undoubtedly filled his system with germs of future trouble, which, when they have incubated a sufficient time, will appear as rheumatism, defective vision, deafness, and all the other ills flesh is heir to. They warn him that other men are applying, and that now is the appointed time; they will, of course, take the case on commission.

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The Seattle tragedy is another scene in a dirty political fight in which the immediate cause of contention was gambling patronage. This was ostensibly a local matter, but it is of statewide significance because of its ramifications among politicians who are struggling for control of Federal patronage and a seat in the United States Senate. It is a desperate gang, and it resorts to desperate methods. The public will waste little sympathy upon either the officer deposed for taking money from shameless lawbreakers or the professional gambler who killed him, though there will be interest to see if the slayer be properly dealt with. So long as any considerable wing of Washington politics is dominated by a gang of ruffians, such scenes may be expected. Will such methods gain strength for the faction that promotes them?

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The report that the yeomanry are likely to decrease rather than increase under the army reform scheme of Mr. Brodrick, the British Secretary of War, and that recruiting for the regular army continues unsatisfactory, inspires the apprehension, expressed by the English newspapers and magazines, that conscription must be resorted to if the ranks of the new army corps, provided by the Brodrick bill, are not readily filled under the volunteer system. Military experts feel that conscription is inevitable if the pay of the private is not increased. Lord Raglan not long ago said publicly that compulsory military service would not be long in coming, since he did not believe the soldier's wages would be raised to the level of that of the Army of the United States.

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The proposal that Portland shall be cut off from communication by the river with the sea and no longer be a port, and that the course of development based on the natural features of the country, that was begun here sixty years ago, shall now be abandoned, turned back, changed or given up, cannot be expected to get much countenance in Portland; and it will get as little from the masses of the people of Oregon. The detractors of Portland will find that the old town has fighting blood in its veins, and more of it than ever before.

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Brown University on the 19th inst. conferred the degree of LL. D. upon Lieutenant-General Miles, "fearless fighter in early life against the Indians, heroic leader in our Civil War, Commanding General in our war with Spain, in all war and in all peace, brave, incorruptible, stainless and true." Dartmouth gave the degree of doctor of laws to General Sherman, and Harvard gave the same degree to General Andrew Jackson and to General George G. Meade.

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Stockmen of the Northwest await with interest the issue of the promised bulletin of the Agricultural Department on poisonous plants from data gathered by Professor Chestnut on his recent tour through Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Knowledge here, as elsewhere, is power, and from the data thus furnished stockmen will learn much to their profit, both in preventive and remedial lines.

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"Private Dalzell" writes the New York Sun that the G. A. R. will dominate the next National Republican Convention, and is likely to cast its influence for Foraker or Roosevelt.

## ANGLO-SAXON BIRTH RATE.

San Francisco Call.

Canada is dissatisfied with the census returns of her population. While the complete returns have not yet been compiled, the results of the count thus far lead to the conclusion that instead of a population of upward of 6,000,000, as was expected, the returns will show hardly more than 5,500,000. The most depressing feature of the count, however, is the revelation that while the birth rate of the French element of the population is high, that of the British races in the Dominion has fallen during the past decade much below what it was in former years.

The diminished birth rate of the British Canadians is regarded by students of population as the more significant because it corresponds with a similar decline among the British peoples of other countries. In the New England States, for example, it has long been noted that the old families of so-called "native Americans"—that is to say, the people of British descent—have actually ceased to multiply, and in some New England localities the death rate among them is higher than the birth rate. The recent census in England shows that the birth rate there in 1899 was but 29.3 per 1000 inhabitants as compared with 35.6 in 1878. Furthermore, Australian reports show a decrease in the birth rate there. Thus it appears that in old England and in New England, in the climate of Canada and in the climate of Australia, and under all the varying conditions of those widely separated countries, the Anglo-Saxon birth rate has begun to fall below the standards of the past.

From these figures some philosophers draw the conclusion that the British race, like the French, has passed the period of its highest fertility and has started on the decline. It may be the facts cited can be explained upon some other hypothesis than that of a diminished fertility, but if so, it is curious that the diminution should have occurred so generally in all parts of the world where the British races have settled and colonized. The one fact that stands in opposition to the theory is that the birth rate among the whites of the Southern States, who are an almost purely British people, having but little admixture from foreign immigration, continues to be large. In other sections of the Union the descendants of the original British colonists have been so blended with other races that their birth rate can hardly be considered in this connection. We have, then, the facts that outside the South the birth rate of the British races and their descendants, when unmixed with other races, has declined in all parts of the world, and it would seem, therefore, that the theory of a loss of fertility is not an unreasonable one.

It would be a curious thing if the Anglo-Saxon race, which has met the new century with the proud expectation of dominating the world before the century closes, should suddenly cease to multiply in proportion to other races and lose its prestige among the people of the earth. It is to be noted there is no diminution of the birth rate among the Italians or the Germans. The rapid increase of the Italian race of recent years has been, in fact, one of the marvels of Europe. In spite of a heavy emigration that has carried millions of Italians into every progressive country in Europe and to all parts of North and South America, the population of Italy has in 20 years advanced from 21,000,000 to 35,000,000. There has been of late much talk of "decadent" races, and now the statistical experts are intimating that the mighty Anglo-Saxon may have to be included among them.

## FRUITAGE OF SOCIALISM.

### Steady Progress in France Twoard the Bottomless Pit.

Chicago Chronicle.

France has made more concessions to socialism in its various guises than any other country.

It declined to refund the public debt at a lower rate of interest, as it could easily have done, for fear of offending the multitude of small holders of the Government obligations. It thus fell into the mode of socialism which seeks to favor people of small means as distinguished from men of large means at the expense of the masses.

By way of amends it has gone deeper into socialism and undertaken savings bank and pension schemes for the supposed benefit of the "toiling millions." All this has made it necessary to increase the public debt year after year. Now, in order to pay the interest and keep up the various establishments more or less socialistic in their character, it becomes necessary to increase the burdens of taxation very largely.

This has been foreseen by all competent students of economics as inevitable, but warnings have done no good. Now the consequences begin to loom up, and statesmen and people are becoming alarmed.

The Echo de Paris prints an article showing that the growing government burdens due to the increasing practice of state socialism is driving capital out of the country. It states that at the beginning of the present year the Bank of France held $212,500,000 in deposits and securities, while on the 15th of June it held less than $98,500,000. "The difference," says the Echo, "has gone into foreign investments."

This movement is by no means confined to the funds held by the Bank of France. M. Molsont, president of the French Chamber of Commerce, is quoted as saying: "The fact is, our capitalists have no confidence in the Government since it started in its reckless campaign. Every day large sums of money pass abroad for the use and development of other countries."

### The Same Old Howl.

Washington Star.

And yet the racket about "imperialism," and "crown colonyism," and all the other stupid isms of the hour will be kept up. We shall be told that, even in part conceding success in Porto Rico, we shall surely fail in the Philippines. The difficulties there are insurmountable. The people will not have us. The American flag is hateful to their sight. It must come down. We must withdraw. The welfare of the archipelago, the welfare of the United States, the peace and progress of the world, alike demand that American authority in the Philippines be brought to a close as speedily as possible.

But who are urging this? A number of badly rattled politicians, who, having failed to secure control of this government in 1896, and in 1900, are now scouring the earth for an issue for 1904. Free silver in 1896. The Man on Horseback in 1900. American incompetency in 1904. Great platforms! Two have been knocked into smithereens, and the third deserves no better fate.

### Free Trade With Porto Rico.

Springfield Republican.

Free trade with Porto Rico seems to be near at hand. This is indicated in a call for a special session of the island Legislature to meet on July 1 for the purpose, apparently, of giving formal notice to Washington that the revenues have been put in condition so as to afford support to the government without the customs duties on commerce with the United States. The Foraker act provides that when formal notice is made of such a situation the President shall proclaim free trade with Porto Rico. It is a long way round in getting in touch with plain duty, but we are at last about there.

### He Will Know More.

New York Evening Sun.

Colonel Bryan is negotiating with a Brooklyn second-hand bookseller for a complete edition of the works of T. Jefferson. After he has read through the set the Colonel will probably conclude very saidly that the man who wrote the Declaration of Independence was the original expansionist. At any rate, he will stop talking glibely of "Jeffersonian doctrines."

## COMPETITION NOT SUPPRESSED.

Chicago Evening Post.

That monopoly is a practical impossibility in the United States, owing to the wealth, activity, enterprise and political conditions of the country, is a familiar statement to intelligent students of the trust problem. Certain recent developments tend to emphasize and illustrate the truth of this somewhat optimistic view. No industrial event has attracted more attention than the creation of the "billion-dollar" steel combination, and at first the general belief—not to say fear—was that in the steel industry, at any rate, competition would be totally wiped out.

But what are the facts? According to the New York Journal of Commerce, there has been a rapid increase in the organization of new competition for the great steel corporation. The aggregate capitalization of the new companies, together with the additions to the capital stock and bonds by the older independent companies, amounted a week or two ago to over $137,000,000. Several new iron and steel concerns have been incorporated since, the most important of these being a sheet mill plant near Parkersburg, W. Va.

Formerly plants were erected not for the purpose of maintaining actual competition with trusts, but in order to compel the latter to absorb them at a handsome profit to the owners. But this is not the case today. There is not the slightest reason to doubt that, on the one hand, the United States Steel Corporation has no intention of undertaking to destroy or "assimulate" its numerous rivals, and, on the other, that the competing concerns will continue to exist and find plenty of profitable business. And this situation will prevent an artificial rate of prices and attempts to impose upon consumers.

An interesting report which, though formally denied, has gained general credence is that the Pennsylvania Railroad has secured control of a steel plant with the view of insuring to itself a means of providing its heavy annual requirements of steel at a satisfactory price. A consumer who buys 100,000 tons of rails a year, especially in these days of "community of interest," will easily find a method of protection against threatened monopoly. A great railroad system is in a position to acquire and operate a rail manufacturing plant.

In this and various other ways are the designs of the more aggressive combinations thwarted. In one word, competition is irrepressible, and in order to succeed the great trust must conform to the economic theory that consolidation rests on economy and superior efficiency rather than on the power to oppress the consumer and charge "what the traffic will bear." In this connection a statement in regard to the policy of the steel combination is worthy of notice. It is said that, instead of bidding for foreign orders only when domestic business is slack, the combination intends to devote steady attention to the export trade. This means that American steelmakers can undersell foreigners at all times and under ordinary conditions without sacrificing profits. It means brisk and keen competition at home and cultivation of foreign markets for the disposal of the surplus production. In such circumstances combination is an unmixed benefit.

### A Prosperous Country.

New York Herald.

The resumption of dividends at the rate of 2½ per cent semi-annually by the Missouri Pacific Railroad after a long period of 10 years during which the road has paid no profits to its stockholders, is an event of note and moment. It is of interest not merely to the owners of shares in the railroad, but to the whole country as solid proof of the remarkable prosperity of its industries. We are expanding toward the southwest. This evidence of it is of higher significance than a similar showing of increased income from one of the great grain-carrying roads of the northwest, where a single big crop would swell earnings. The new development in the southwest is confined to no one staple; it is general; it implies the actual building up of the country. It means increased consumption of all our domestic products and manufactures, new wealth created and greater earning power for the nation as a whole.

### Turning Against Bryan.

Philadelphia Inquirer.

The friends of Mr. Bryan are not likely to relish Chairman Jones' announcement that he will not be the next Democratic candidate for the Presidency. The assertion may or may not be true. Nothing is more uncertain than politics. But certainly the attitude of the Democratic National Chairman cannot be construed into meaning that Bryan is the Democracy's only hope. The very reverse of this theory is indeed the fact. Having twice tried the Nebraska statesman and twice followed him to inglorious defeat, both the rank and file of the party tacitly admit his deficiencies as a leader, and while at sea as to who the candidate should be, are practically agreed that Bryan won't do.

### As to Third Terms.

Boston Herald.

President Grant is on record as saying that he never sought a first term in the Presidency, did not care much about the second, and was content to let the people have their will about the third. He would not have taken the latter unless it should have seemed to him to be an imperative duty. President Cleveland, it will be remembered, took the first nomination with the statement that he should not be a candidate for a second term, but subsequently changed his mind on that point.

### This Is News.

Atlanta Constitution.

Hon. Sidney Dell, formerly of Georgia, is trying to reform the commercial map of Oregon. The Georgian is a powerful man on the slope.

### "How Tildy Smith Can Play."

Bide Dudley in Leslie's Weekly.

Say, p'raps you've heard of Tildy Smith,
The belle of far and near;
The lady I've been goin' with
For nigh on seven year.
It wa'n't her beauty won her fame.
It wa'n't her winnin' way;
Pianner music made her name.
You ought to hear her play.

Of course she ain't no Rubystine,
She's simply Til, you see;
But I'd put up that colt o' mine
She's nigh as good as he.
She's got no Paderewski frills,
Her fingers ain't so fleet;
But, land! there's jest one tune o' Til's
That simply can't be beat.

Why, when she sets before the grand
An' tosses back her hair,
You'd think that Sousa's famous band,
Instid o' Til was there.
She starts the tune out kind o' slow,
To sort o' clear the track,
An' then before you really know,
She rips it up the back.

She'll make you think the soldier men
Are marchin' past the place;
She'll hev you up behind ole Ben
An' nearly get the race.
She'll make you think you're mighty glad
You're livin'; by and by
She'll git you feelin' fearful sad,
An' then you'll want to die.

An' next she feeds the birds a while—
You almost see 'em 'round;
An' when you're jest about to smile
She quits 'em with a bound.
An' then the air gets full o' dust,
The house begins to jump,
An' when you're jest about to bust
She lands you with a bump.

An' when she quits an' makes her bow
Before the yellin' crowd,
That ole pianner, yes, I vow,
Is sort o' looking proud.
You say you never heard o' Til?
That's queer, I'm bound to say.
Well, when you come to Stubbleville
Drop 'round an' hear her play.

## NOTE AND COMMENT.

Is it cold enough for you?

Now the Wild and Woolly West is itself again!

Nature has the grace to weep at her own unseemly conduct.

Br'er Hanna dictates Ohio politics just to keep in practice for the big game.

The innocent bystander, it seems, came up from Kentucky in time to be in at the Seattle affair.

Dr. Dowie continues to lighten the labors of the man who will take the next census of Chicago.

Mr. Wanamaker has been unable to add a franchise department to his otherwise complete emporium.

Dawson has a sensational murder trial. All the luxuries of civilization may now be enjoyed in the frozen north.

Why do not the Kansas farmers demand the free and unlimited coinage of corn? They have plenty of it this year.

It's an ill wind that blows nobody good. The weather is the only thing that makes life worth living to the pessimist.

Mr. Bryan isn't ready to join a third party. He has still some finishing touches to put on the wreck of the Democracy.

Richard Croker may never return to New York. Look at the opening for a young man of his talents in Philadelphia!

> I cannot sing the old songs,
> I know not what to do,
> I cannot sing the old songs,
> And will not sing the new.

Portland, June 25.—(To the Editor of Note and Comment.)—Why do you keep kicking at the weather? Doesn't it furnish you with three-quarters of your material for paragraphs? FAIR PLAY.

Yes, but we have to keep it stirred up or it wouldn't be interesting.

Ex-Senator Pettigrew is quoted by a Western friend as having recently said to him: "What I made during the recent flurry in Northern Pacific was the result of legitimate transaction. I borrowed the money and bought the stock on a tip given me. The actual stock was mine, and in my possession. In the whole transaction I was guilty of no act inconsistent with what I have stood for in the Senate. In all my life I have never made a deal through a broker, nor ever bought a bit of stock on margins."

There is a curious combination tree in West Stockbridge, Mass. It is primarily a maple which measures, a foot from the ground, 12 feet 3 inches in circumference. Fifteen feet from the ground there are one or two birch limbs growing, and higher up are currant and raspberry bushes which bear fruit each year. It is not stated whether the sugar made from its sap has a raspberry flavor or the birch bark a currant color and taste, or the berries a spicy tang of birch. It is very old, and bids fair to stand for many years longer.

"Every Cuban must have his helper," says an Army officer who has been serving in the island. "You cannot hire a carpenter for an hour unless you provide him with a helper to hand his hammer and nails and talk to him. In sawing, the carpenter reverses the motion used by the American carpenters. Collars on mules are worn big end up. In rowing a boat the oarsman pushes instead of pulling. There are many other habits which strike Americans as equally strange. It is a popular misconception that people in the tropics cannot eat meat. All who can afford it buy meat. But only the favored few can afford it. The chief subsistence of the natives is the sweet potato, which is rank in its growth. Meat costs 25 cents a pound, and, strange as it may seem, Cuban butchers charge the same for neck or hock that they do for tenderloin. Meat is meat to them."

## PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

Hard to Please.—"I can't get on with that young woman at all." "What's the trouble?" "Oh, she get's mad when I say she's mature; and he gets mad when I say she's immature." —Detroit Free Press.

"Oh, you cruel boy, to take those eggs out of the nest! Think of the poor mother bird when she comes—" "The mother bird's dead, miss." "How do you know that?" "I see it in your hat!"—Punch.

A Fund in Sight.—"Harriet, let's give each other a dime every time we grumble about the heat." "No, Harry; you give me a dime every time you say you never grumble about the heat."—Chicago Record-Herald.

A Supreme Test.—First Brewer—I am going to advertise this beer as being able to withstand all climates. Second Brewer—Are you sure it's true? "Yes, sir! I've kept a bottle of it in New York now for six weeks."—Life.

Downie (referring to the pleasant-faced lady who has just passed—Ah, my boy, I owe a great deal to that woman. Dorking—Indeed! She's not your mother, is she? Downie—No, my landlady.—Glasgow Evening Times.

Robbers and Robbers.—"Henry, Henry," whispered the wife of the good citizen, "there's a robber in the house." "Lots o' them," replied Henry, sleepily. "In the House and Senate, too, but they ain't a circumstance to those in city councils."—Philadelphia Press.

To Be Humbled.—"Biggins is one of those people who think they know it all." "Never mind," answered Mr. Sirius Barker. "Pride goes before a fall. He has a daughter who will soon be through school. He will sit and listen to her graduation essay and feel like an ignoramus."—Washington Star.

Time—100 years hence. Scene—Liverpool.—Aged British Inhabitant (pointing to liner steaming out of harbor)—That boat, sir, is one of the most remarkable vessels in this country. Stranger—Indeed! How is that? British Inhabitant—It's the only British steamship that doesn't belong to an American syndicate.—Fun.

### The Czar's New Girl.

Pittsburg Chronicle Telegraph.

There is grief at Peterhof,
And great Mister Romanoff
Sadly mopes around with feeling all awhirl;
For he'd counted on a son,
And in fact had ordered one,
But the doctor brought around another girl.

Now his daughters number four,
And that's why the Czar is sore
And at intervals retires to sigh and groan;
For he long had thought with joy
That the next would be a boy,
And in time would take his seat upon the throne.

Then he's thinking of his woes
When the girls will have their beaus,
An' he'll have to sit up late to lock the door;
He could get along with two,
Even three he'd calmly view,
But he's in the dumps each time he thinks of four.

The he thinks again and frowns
As he counts the cost of gowns
And the other things his girls will soon require;
Each will want to cut a dash
That will take a lot of cash—
So he thinks, and ever stroger grows his ire.

Now 'tis feared the Czar will fret
And at last so angry get
That from Russia that poor doctor he will run;
And in exile far away
E'er thereafter make him stay
Just because he didn't bring around a son.

But don't do it, Romanoff,
For your subjects would but scoff
At you every time they'd hear the story told;
Be a father true and kind
To the little girls, and mind
That each one of them is worth her weight in gold.