

THE DINGLEY BILL AND THE FARMER.

How the New Tariff Measure Will Affect Agriculture.

VIEW OF THE MEN WHO FRAMED IT.

Leading Statisticians and Agricultural Experts Also Comment It.

The Most Favorable Measure to Agriculture Ever Presented to Congress.

The following expressions from leading agriculturists, statisticians and statesmen relative to the Dingley bill and its relation to the agricultural element of the country and to agriculture itself, will be of interest to every reader, whatever his occupation. The class of men selected for this expression of views includes men whose training as students of agriculture from a practical and statistical standpoint of actual practice in preparing the bill itself, renders their consensus of opinion upon this measure especially valuable.

Hon. Nelson Dingley.
"There can be no doubt of the marked growth of the protective sentiment in the South," said Chairman Dingley, of the Ways and Means Committee, in commenting on the bill. "So far as I now recall, this is the first time that Southern Democrats have voted for a protective bill or expressed the strong sentiment in favor of a protective tariff which we have heard in the House, and which are now being presented at the Senate end of the Capitol in the amendments proposed by Senators and others, increasing the protective rates of duty in the pending tariff bill. We have had Democratic votes from the North for a protective tariff bill in the past, but this support for the protective bill from the South is new."
"And gratifying, of course, Mr. Dingley?"
"Most assuredly."
"Surprising, too?"
"Not especially so; the development of manufacturing industries in the South in the last few years has created a protective sentiment. There are two reasons for this: First, the desire for the increase of manufactures and the direct results therefrom; and second, the advantages to agriculture which come from the home manufacturing industry. The value of farm products is largely dependent upon proximity to a market. Farm products are bulky and the cost of transporting them to a distant market destroys the profit to the farmer. If he has a market just alongside his farm or in easy reach he can make good profits out of a business which would not be successful if he were compelled to ship his productions a long distance to find sale for them. The establishment of manufacturing industries in the South has the effect of increasing the price which the farmer gets for his products, but has greatly diversified these products and thus further increased his profits."

"Then you look upon the growth of the protective sentiment as developing among the agriculturists as well as among the manufacturing communities of the South?"
"Undoubtedly a study of the agricultural history and conditions of the various sections of the country shows clearly that the value of the land and of its productions averages much higher per acre in the sections having manufacturing industries which afford a home market for the products and for diversified productions. The people of the South are realizing this in their experience with the manufacturing establishments which have been developed in that section in the last few years. So there is a growth of protective sentiment not alone among those interested in manufactures or directly profiting by the employment which they give, but also among the great mass of people of that section whose attention is devoted to agriculture."

"Do you look for a continued growth of the protective sentiment in the South?"
"Yes, the mere effect of this discussion and the avowed protective sentiments of men of all parties will have its effect in still further strengthening and increasing the protective sentiment."
"And does it probably mean an increase in Republican strength from this section in Congress and in national elections generally?"
"Undoubtedly. The Republican vote in the South has been largely held in check in the past because parties divided to a great extent on the color line. Now that there is a disposition to divide on other issues and upon the important issue of protection, it will insure fair elections, and with fair elections and increased protective sentiment, it will strengthen very materially the probabilities of Republican success in many parts of that section. We have seen this illustrated in the recent elections in which the Republican party carried the northern tier of Southern States for the presidency, and elected an unusually large number of Congressmen."

Hon. J. H. Erichman.
"I think the farmers generally without regard to political associations are rather anxious to see a measure like the Dingley bill passed, in order to see what the result will be as related to themselves. Even those who have not heretofore believed very much in the policy of protection to American industries, want to see this bill put into operation in the hope that it will afford them relief, and if it does they will be very thankful. If it does not afford the relief desired then they will turn their attention to something else. So far as I am individually concerned, I have always been an advocate of protection to American industries. As a farmer, I have felt that the agricultural interests have not always been fairly treated in tariff revisions. In the McKinley bill, agriculture received better treatment than in any other measure, previous or subsequent, except the Dingley bill. I had much to do personally with the shaping of the McKinley bill as related to the agricultural schedule, being called upon by Major Mc-

Kinley, chairman of the committee, to assist in this work, and I tried to make it afford protection to agriculture. We secured about all we asked for, except a duty upon hides. We felt that as a matter of justice and right people who raise cattle are entitled to protection on hides as well as those who manufacture leather and shoes have a right to protection on their products. The farmers unquestionably reaped considerable benefit from the McKinley law, although the apparent reversal of the verdict of the people in 1890 and 1892 prevented them from realizing the full advantages which they would have otherwise reaped under the measure. Farming industries, as everybody knows, have been greatly depressed during the past few years, and many of us attribute this largely to the discrimination against agriculture, in the present Wilson tariff measure, which placed wool on the free list and reduced the duty upon agricultural products.

"We received great advantages, we think, from the reciprocity feature of the McKinley law, which has the endorsement of nearly every farmer in this country, and we were very sorry that the treaties were not carried out by the administration. We are very glad to see that the main features of the McKinley law as related to protection to agriculture are found in the Dingley bill. There has been some improvement, we think, in the wool schedule, and we are sure that the prompt passage of this measure will afford some relief which will be very grateful to the farmers. They will be very much opposed to unnecessary delay in its passage, as they want relief, and want it now. They will have little patience with any long drawn out action and delay on the part of Congress in putting this measure on the statute books. They want it to become a law. The farmers are dependent largely upon home consumers for the disposal of their products. The products sent abroad are brought into competition with the cheapest labor and land in the world, and sometimes there is no profit left for the farmer after charges are paid. For their other products, however, not shipped abroad there is a great advantage to the farmer in having a good substantial home market. The opening of factories and mines and giving employment to the vast army of laborers in this country at good wages will largely increase the consumption of those products not considered staple products, such as vegetables, fruits, etc., and will be of very great benefit to the farming class. These laboring classes are liberal buyers when they have the money and never hoard it over prices, so that we will get, if this bill opens factories and mines and gives the employment expected, great benefits in this somewhat indirect manner."

"It is not to be expected, however, that the benefits will be directly and immediately felt to the extent that they will later. The bonded warehouses of the great cities are at this time crowded to overflowing with millions of dollars' worth of importations which have been rushed in under the present law in order to escape the higher duty anticipated by the Dingley bill. It will take some time for the people to absorb this vast overstock of clothing and in the meantime but small demands will be made upon manufacturers in this country, nor will the customs receipts show their legitimate strength."

J. H. BRIGHAM,
Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.
Hon. George W. Steele.
Major Steele, Congressman from Indiana and a member of the Ways and Means Committee, discussed various topics of the pending bill, having looked carefully into the features of the Wilson law as compared with the McKinley law, upon which the Dingley bill is very generally based. Especially with reference to live stock he showed by his remarks in the Congressional Record that the decrease in the values of horses, cattle and sheep in Indiana alone have been enormous. In some cases over 60 per cent. In the case of cattle and sheep this decrease in value is directly attributable to the operation of the Wilson law. Cattle were brought into this country in great numbers from Canada and Mexico. Mexican cattle were brought in across the border at a total cost, including duty, slightly in excess of \$8 per head, and were driven in great droves eastward, to be finally fattened in the great corn areas of the West and then placed upon the Chicago and other Western markets. By this method of driving, the buyers of herds escaped the necessity of winter feeding, and they were thus brought into competition with the cattle raised by our own farmers at a cost of about \$20 per head. Vast areas of the grazing lands of the West are now idle by reason of this competition, in addition to this, infectious diseases affecting cattle have been largely spread among our own herds by these passing droves. The Western cattle raiser never knowing when his herd would become affected and depleted. Continuing, Mr. Steele said that there has been an undoublet-ed view of the law in the payment of duty and that great numbers of cattle have been brought in without the payment of any tariff whatever.

The farmers of the middle West, Mr. Steele says, are well satisfied with the return to \$4 per ton duty on hay. This will shut out the great quantity of Canada hay which has been brought into the northern central section of the country by reason of the short haul, selling in our markets there, while the hay of the farmers of this country rots in the stacks. He

indicates a general satisfaction with the wool schedule, and has not received a single complaint in regard to the bill generally by the farmers.
"I cannot be expected," continued Mr. Steele, "that any genuine prosperity and stability will come to the country until this tariff matter is settled and rates on all articles adjusted permanently. The trouble was after the enactment of the McKinley law, that the people did not allow sufficient time for conditions to properly adjust themselves and to allow the law to show its full power, before they overhauled the country with an adverse criticism and demanded a trial of low tariff. The people of the country have had opportunity to see the full effect of the theory put into practical operation and have found it wanting, and now we hope that when this present bill is enacted into law they will be patient and allow the new law to thoroughly adjust itself to the conditions of the country, before passing final judgment on its merits. We confidently predict, that it will bring prosperity to the country, but it is not reasonable to suppose that it can work miracles, or that it can immediately place the country upon the footing of prosperity on a basis which we had worked up to and enjoyed through many years of continuous protection prior to the advent of the Wilson law. The country has demanded a return to the protective system, and no class has made the demand stronger in this line than the farmers. Now when the system is put into operation, let us give it the necessary time, after the past years of tearing down the protective walls of the country, to gradually bring confidence and the true market value, which has been the history of the accomplishment of a protective tariff."

"Under free trade, or a low tariff, the producer or manufacturer has no assurance what the prices for his products will be. The prices are regulated by the floods of material and manufactured articles which are unloaded upon our shores, the products of the pauper labor of Europe; he is thus timid about pursuing this line of industry to his full capacity and fear it will leave him in debt by finding his market clogged by foreign goods; thus his operations are circumscribed and his purchasing power reduced to a minimum and many of the people who sold him their products find themselves without a customer. Such an instance multiplied by thousands largely accounts for the loss of the home market in this country."

Hon. Walter Evans.
"The agricultural interests of the country are very comprehensive and include subjects of vast extent and importance—corn, wheat, sugar, rice, tobacco, cotton, fruits, horses, mules, cattle, sheep, wool, etc., are probably those that first strike you, the farmer needs that a demand should be created and sustained for all farm products at good prices. Without an active demand that is reasonably continuous and permanent in character agricultural interests languish. If there is such a demand they flourish, and that is precisely equivalent to prosperity for the farmer. The tariff bill aims at two things in this connection, namely, first, to guard our farmers and farm labor against the lower wage conditions of other countries, such as Mexico, Canada and many others who remain, and second, to so stimulate the general industrial energies of the whole country as to give all the people work at fair compensation in one form or another, and in that way to gain them the power to buy what the farmers have for sale, and as a consequence to create and sustain the demand of which I have spoken. No class of our people are more dependent than are the farmers upon the successful operation of the doctrine of protection to home industries, for, if those industries are prosperous the great cities, the laboring classes, will have money and will thereby buy freely and pay liberally and promptly for what the farmer has, but if the laboring classes are out of employment they cannot and do not buy what the farmer must sell. The last four years have demonstrated this, and it seems to me that the people will not forget it. Speaking generally, I may say that no class of our people were more thought of by the Republican members of the Ways and Means Committee in preparing the bill than were the farmers, and I believe the provisions of the bill will show this to be a fact. We tried to do what was needed to re-create our sheep flocks and the wool clips that would follow. We especially endeavored to encourage the production of sugar, feeling sure that our farmers could produce all we require if they would go to work at it. So with all the other great agricultural products I have named, and in my judgment if the planter or the grower of any crop that we now raise there which can be cultivated with great profit—notably, for instance, jute."

WALTER EVANS,
Member Ways and Means Committee.
Hon. Robert P. Porter.
The tariff bill is now before the public, and it is easy to make a comparison, item by item, of the proposed bill with the present law and the McKinley law. The opposition plan is to attack the new bill in detail, as they did the McKinley law, and make all the political capital out of the attacks. It is well for Republicans to be on guard against these misleading and insidious attacks. They should recall the fact most potent at this time that the sections of the McKinley law which were most bitterly assailed are the very sections that subsequently proved of most benefit to the American producer and the American wage earner. The agricultural interests of the country have been well cared for, directly by the increase of duties wherever necessary, and indirectly by the provisions for reciprocity, which are sure to increase our exports of agricultural products. Our free trade friends have shown great anxiety over this reciprocity feature of the new bill. "With sugar on the dutiable list, what have we got to trade with?" they innocently exclaim. The answer is: "Lots of things." The wool reciprocity will authorize the President to reduce duties in cases where other nations are willing to reduce duties on our commodities. For instance, an eighth of a cent reduction per pound on refined sugar will be an important club to hold over Germany, and may make that nation hesitate to prohibit our grain and flour and cattle and meat. The changes in the mineral water schedule will have the same effect. So in the case of silk and wines from France. This reciprocity should be extended much further than the committee has gone. In addition to sugar, the President is authorized to put a duty on tea and coffee; but the rate is not high enough to have the right effect. And in the case of the countries which should make reciprocal arrangements for our agricultural products the duties should be placed high, and the right reserved in

the President to reduce, if by so doing Germany and France would make similar reductions on commodities we sell to them. It is, therefore, to be hoped that Congress will not nibble at reciprocity, but give the country a strong measure, even more far-reaching than the committee proposes, that will give us new markets for our agricultural products in Europe and our machinery and farm implements in South America. We have been doing very well in our exports of manufactures during the last few years, but the gain in that direction has not made up the loss in agricultural products. We have plenty of articles to trade on in the manner suggested, if Congress only shows the courage of its convictions and interests the President with the widest possible latitude.

The proposed legislation to give us revenue, increase our home production, give employment to American labor and increase our influence in the world's markets is not going to glide through Congress without opposition. The free traders will put up a strong fight against it, and they propose to make all the capital possible out of the struggle, if it is no factious opposition.

ROBT. P. PORTER,
Ex-Supt. U. S. Census.

Hon. Martin S. Johnson.
The main advances in rates have been made in the agricultural schedule. We have given everything that we possibly could in the way of direct protection to the farmers. I do not think there is an exception. In every instance where we found that we could benefit any agricultural products directly by a tariff, we have done so, but the main advantage which the farmers expect to get, and will get from this protective tariff is in increasing their home markets, the best in the world. The sugar and flax schedules were made with a view to creating or establishing two distinctly new and great sources of agricultural wealth. We have passed beyond the experimental stage in both these items. "We know now that our soil and climate are the best in the world for the growth of flax fibre and sugar beets, and now all we need is protection. Cause and effect will be as clear cut in the utilization of the sugar and flax industries under the Dingley bill as was the tin plate industry under the law of 1890. By so adjusting the tariff as to protect and encourage the manufacture and production of everything that we can produce or make to advantage in this country, we create a home market for home products. Next to that market we expect to reopen foreign markets for flour, meats, agricultural and other machinery which we possessed under our former reciprocity agreements with the West Indies and Central and South American States, and also with Germany and France. In my judgment those markets for wheat and flour will make an additional demand for sixty million bushels of wheat a year, and the restoration of activity in the mining, manufacturing and other industries of this country, such as we enjoyed under the tariff of 1890 will, I think, increase the home consumption to what it formerly was per capita, thus adding about 120 million bushels a year to the present home consumption. "We will, I think, re-tribute our total earnings."

"We find that the woolen schedule is meeting with general approbation among the farmers. I am in receipt of a letter from the secretary of the Wool Growers' Association of North Dakota with reference to the proposed wool schedule of the Dingley bill, stating that the same is thoroughly satisfactory to the North Dakota association. The woolen schedule of the present bill is a marked improvement over that of the McKinley law. The rates on the first and second class wools are the same as under the McKinley law, but the advantage of the schedule in this bill lies in the fact that the coarse so-called 'carpet wools' from China, Bagdad and Egypt principally, entering under the McKinley law a low rate of duty, are now rated as first-class wools. At least thirty million pounds of these wools were imported as carpet wool annually, but were converted into garments and cloths, instead of carpets, and to meet the requirements of the manufacturers, the fashions were actually changed, cloaks and coats possessing a very rough fibre and finish being worn by all classes. The protectionist farmers of the country with whom I have talked or corresponded express themselves as thoroughly satisfied with the present bill. They not only believe that it will help them directly by reason of the rates levied upon agricultural articles, but have great faith that with its enactment will come increased activity and good business times, and that there will be a ready and satisfactory home market for their products. Formerly there was little need of direct protection to farm products, as few were imported. Now all that is changed, as over fifty per cent of our total imports for the last five years have been agricultural products.

M. N. JOHNSON,
Member Ways and Means Committee.
Hon. J. R. Dodge.
Free traders are apt to sneer at the idea of a tariff on farm animals, wheat, barley, eggs and other products of the farm, and call attention to the limited amount of such imports. If they are intelligent, such sneering is insincere; if impracticable doctrinaires, they know no better. Without a duty on wheat, it can be brought from Argentina to New York at less expense than from Nebraska; barley is brought from Canada in spite of ordinary duties, and cattle from Canada and Texas. Wool was brought from Australia, Cape Colony and several South American States when the duty was 12 cents per pound, and since it came in free, with free shoddy in its wake, an amount in a single year, equal to the entire clip of the United States, has flooded the country, sending prices below cost of production and a fourth of the flocks of the country to the butcher's block, to exportation and to death by neglect; reduced the value of those remaining and almost eliminated the range. The manufacturers who were promised so much benefit from free wool, greater variety, cheaper cost, a larger output and a foreign market, have been overrun by enormous quantities and depreciated qualities of manufactured foreign goods, not admitted free, but at lower duties, and the result has been the shutting down of mills until, one time three-fourths of the factories were unproductive, artisans and laborers out of employ, consumption of farm products reduced, confidence destroyed, panic intensified and every interest of the country affected. The wool growers and manufacturers alone have lost more by this experiment of free wools and lowered woolen duties than the present tariff has returned in the national debt during Cleveland's administration. And who has gained? Nobody. The quality of clothing is reduced more than

the price, and it was never so hard for the laboring man or the farmer to buy a new suit. How can a laborer be benefited by a reduction of \$5 per annum on his clothing and \$100 on his income? Of what advantage to a farmer is cheap shoddy if he cannot sell his products except at prices below cost?

A silly pretense and generally a dishonest one that should be everywhere exposed, is the contention that duties increase invariably and permanently the prices of similar domestic production. This is neither the object nor effect of duties. It is to exclude excessive foreign competition which is readily admitted by anyone not an idiot. In this connection cannot the farmer see how he is benefited by protection? The day has arrived when the farmers must hold the home market or stare ruin in the face. Ten years' increase of our population requires half as much wheat as we export and our exportation is threatened with decrease by Russia and Argentina, with no prospect, scarcely a possibility of increase. We import half as much food and drink as all our agricultural exports, and our entire consumption already almost equals the enormous farm production, much of our exports going to offset the cost of our agricultural imports. What folly, then, for farmers to seek to destroy their own market by free trade competition. It is not the danger merely of imported farm products, but of imported manufactures which make labor idle, non-consumptive and paralytic to all industries, and that of the farmer who ought to be able to see this part distinctly in the record of four years of a semi-free trade administration.

J. R. DODGE,
Ex-Statistician U. S. Department of Agriculture.

A VERSATILE AGRICULTURIST.

Secretary Wilson Looking Out for Various Farm Industries.

Secretary Wilson of the Department of Agriculture, learning incidentally that corn was being shipped from the United States to Denmark to be fed to cows, whose butter is marketed in London, at once conceived the idea that American corn should be turned into butter by American cows and marketed in London by American farmers.

Upon inquiry at the Treasury Department, Mr. Wilson learned that he had power and authority to spend the Government's money about as he saw fit. He had a purpose in view in making the inquiry, and at once issued orders to his assistants to buy several hundred pounds of the best creamery butter made in Illinois, Iowa and one or two other States. This will be shipped to the Government's animal industry agent in London, and placed upon the market. The butter will be put in various packages, and the agent will be instructed to report what the market wants in the way of package, color of butter, salt, flavor, etc. It is expected that in this way a knowledge of the wants of the English market will be obtained, to the end that the farmers of the United States will soon be getting a fair share of the English butter trade.

Secretary Wilson says scientific work is all-right, but he wants scientific work that has a practical value. "The trouble with many of our scientists of the Agricultural Department," he says, "is that they work for the detection of other scientists, for the approval of their fellows in the scientific world. I want them to work for the farmer."

Currency Reform Not "Shelved."

The assertion which is made by some of the sound money Democratic papers that the Republicans have "shelved" monetary reform is a little too precipitate. President McKinley gave a prominent place to this subject in his inaugural address, and suggested the appointment of a commission to go over the whole question and report a plan which would bring our diverse and illogical financial system into approximate harmony with the requirements of the time. A bill to carry out the President's suggestion has been introduced in the House.

It would be unreasonable to blame the Republicans for giving precedence to the tariff question. A deficit of something like \$70,000,000 a year in the revenues is to be provided for, and this necessity is far greater than that of reforming the financial system, urgent as the latter requirement is. The condition of the currency will not get worse, for the assault on the nation's monetary stability and solvency made last year has been repelled, and it cannot be repeated until three years hence at the earliest. On the other hand, the necessity for immediate action on the question of the revenues is imperative.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Bryan's Case Hopeless.

If these immense crowds which greet Mr. Bryan wherever he speaks mean that he is likely to be nominated in 1900 they indicate that Providence is going to stick to the Republican party. Mr. Bryan is an eloquent and picturesque man, but his popularity does not grow on close acquaintance. He will never be as strong again as he was last year. Despite his ravings in 1896 that his defeat would mean national bankruptcy and general disaster, and his silly blings at the Republican party since the election, a majority of the people probably think he is sincere, but a majority of the people can never be led to think he is the sort of man this country needs for President.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Steady Business Improvement.

A good many people are complaining that business is no better than it was before the election. There has certainly been no boom, and men of small means find it about as difficult to get money as before; but there is certainly an improvement in financial conditions, and people with good collateral and gilt-edged credits can secure money for legitimate operations at a lower rate of interest than ever known before in this country. If people will exercise a little patience they may yet witness a marvelous business recovery, as the result of the healthful political and industrial conditions brought about by the inauguration of a Republican President and the passage of a protective tariff.—Minneapolis Tribune.

The interest on our public debt increased per cent during Grover Cleveland's second term in office, but the interest in Grover Cleveland and his party during that time decreased more than 50 per cent

THE SILVER COMMISSION.

President's Appointment of Commissioners Generally Commended.

President McKinley, by his appointment of commissioners to an international monetary conference, has given another striking assurance of Republican good faith in dealing with the silver question. The pledge of the St. Louis platform to promote an international agreement in the interest of bimetallicism and the cordial sympathy of the Republican party for every practical movement in that direction are forcibly demonstrated by the President's prompt and statesmanlike action in the present instance.—New York Mail and Express.

President McKinley has acted wisely in making the bimetallic commission a radical one. Two of the members are for free silver without any qualifications, and can be trusted to do all in their power to bring about international bimetallicism at the ratio of 16 to 1. The other is a gold man who favors bimetallicism and who, of course, will not place any obstacles in the way of his colleagues. There can be no complaint hereafter that the bimetallicists have not been given ample opportunity to achieve their purpose.—Baltimore American.

President McKinley has very properly named commissioners to represent the United States at the international monetary conference.—Atlanta Journal, Dem.

The platform of the national Republican convention advocated an international conference upon the free coinage of silver. The Republican Congress carried out the proposition by appropriate legislation and authorized the President to appoint a commission. President McKinley shows his intention of obeying that legislation to the best of his ability by the selection of Senator Wolcott of Colorado, ex-Vice-President Stevenson and Gen. Paine of Massachusetts as the members. These gentlemen are all bimetallicists. Senator Wolcott is one of those radical silver men who can be respected for his honesty of purpose. He is, first of all, a Republican, and refused to desert the party along with Teller and Debois and the rest of them. The commission is a strong one.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

President McKinley is working in good faith to carry out that declaration of the St. Louis platform which pledges the Republican administration to do all in its power to promote international bimetallicism. The last Congress having provided the necessary legislation whereby either a monetary conference might be called or special commissioners be appointed to sound foreign governments on the question of bimetallicism, the President has adopted the latter course.—Chicago Times-Herald.

President McKinley's appointment of a commission to an international monetary conference demonstrates anew his loyalty to the best interests of the currency and his desire to carry out the declaration of the national Republican platform in regard to securing such larger use of silver in the moneys of the world as may be made with safety. The commission announced is representative and its personnel could hardly be improved. It covers all phases of opinion on the silver question.—Ohio State Journal.

The silver Democrats have persistently maintained that the Republican party was not sincere when it declared at St. Louis that it was favorable to the largest possible use of silver as a money, and was further favorable to a bimetallic currency based on an international agreement. Since the election these same people have stubbornly insisted that President McKinley, nor the Republican party, would do nothing favorable to the restoration of the white metal as a primary money. Our dispatches this morning are a sufficient answer to such assertions. President McKinley has already begun the good work of getting ready for an international conference with a view to securing an international agreement for a bimetallic currency that will be acceptable to the great commercial nations of the world.—Dubuque Times.

If anything can be done in favor of international bimetallicism this commission can accomplish it. If nothing can be done, and the indications are not flattering, we shall know the truth about the matter. If an international coinage ratio cannot be established, it is possible that the remark of Senator Wolcott, one of the commission, to the effect that financiers in Europe are eager to arrange the depreciation of silver bullion, indicates that an effort may be made to come to an agreement by which nations may absorb and use more silver as money.—Indianapolis Journal.

President McKinley has taken the first step towards carrying out the pledge of the Republican national platform to promote international bimetallicism, by appointing three commissioners to an international monetary conference, in accordance with the act passed at the last session. The composition of this commission is certainly favorable to the silver men. The expectations of the country as to the success of this commission will not be raised too high; but if it fails it will be a satisfaction to know that a sincere effort has been made by able representatives of the United States to fetch the leading European nations into line.—Minneapolis Tribune.

Wilson's Winning Ways.

Secretary Wilson has adopted a most effective way of disabusing the minds of farmers, particularly in the West and South, of the delusion that the coinage or currency question is at the bottom of their troubles. It will take time, of course, to carry his project fully into effect, but it marks a decided step in rendering the Department of Agriculture one of the most practical and useful branches of the Federal Government. The public will heartily sustain him in his efforts to enable American farmers to better their lot and to free themselves from the pestilent influences of political mountebanks and fakirs.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

Southern Farmers Prospects

Hon. J. Pope Brown, president of the Georgia State Agricultural Society, is reported as saying that "the farmers of that State are in better condition than they have been in twenty years." Mr. Brown is a farmer, progressive, successful and prosperous. He ought to know and we believe he is very correct.—Houston Home Journal.

Signs of Better Times.

While the revival of industry from the depression caused by the Democratic tariff is slow, as was foreseen by all intelligent men, it is, nevertheless, progressing steadily, and in no part of the Union are signs lacking that the hard times are passing away, and better conditions returning to all classes of trade and industry.—San Francisco Call.