

Daily Astorian.

JOHN T. LIGHTER, Editor.

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Candidate Bryan, who is a lawyer, says by implication that the supreme court is subservient to money, asserting that "when the rich want the constitution amended they have only to secure a decision of the supreme court." The richest corporation in this, if not in any country, the Standard Oil, does not seem to be rich enough to secure a favorable decision from the supreme court, which turned down that corporation in upholding the Texas anti-trust law.—Tacoma Ledger.

THE REAL PUERTO RICAN ISSUE.

American Economist.

"Keep the real issue in sight, and let the president and the party be judged by that," is the wise conclusion of a very able article in the Seattle "Post-Intelligencer" on the Puerto Rican question. Obviously this excellent editorial treatment of a much-discussed subject is the product of some knowledge and some thinking. Unfortunately the same cannot be said of a vast volume of matter that has found its way into print relative to the Puerto Rican topic. No writer has stated the issue more clearly or more intelligently than it is stated by the "Post-Intelligencer," thus:

It is not a question of whether we ought to impose a duty of 25 per cent or one of 15 per cent or none at all upon commerce between that island and the United States. It is whether this government has a constitutional power to levy such a tax under any circumstances; whether Puerto Rico is territory to be governed as all other territory added has been, by the disposition of congress, or whether its people acquired, by the Paris treaty, constitutional rights within the United States that compel recognition by us and leave us no choice but to acknowledge new possessions as an integral part of the nation under the constitution, and finally admit them as states.

Rightly the "Post-Intelligencer" insists that the contest is not waged on the question whether Puerto Rican trade should be free or untaxed. The opposition to the pending bill is based upon no such consideration. It cares nothing about the question either of tariff or of revenue. Engineered by clever free-trade and anti-imperialist strategists, the movement, intended solely to "put the administration in a hole," has secured the adhesion of a considerable number of republicans who seem to be able to discover the

use that is being made of them. They are apparently blind to the fact, so clearly pointed out by the "Post-Intelligencer," that

The constitutional question is the real bone of contention. The republican party cannot abandon its position upon that without reversing all our precedents and destroying the practical possibility of building up a mighty commerce in the Far East by exchanging for the open door in the Philippines the open door in the vast portion of Asia under European control.

We believe that those who have differed honestly from the party's policy when they came to see what is involved; and how cunningly the advocates of retirement from the Philippines have sought to make that necessary by a pretended fight over the Puerto Rican tariff.

If only the army of dissenters from the policy of the republican administration and the republican party could once grasp the idea that a much bigger and more portentous question than that of 25 per cent, 15 per cent, or no tariff at all is involved in the Puerto Rican proposition, it would mightily help to clear up the situation.

AGRICULTURAL PROSPERITY.

Los Angeles Times.

The depression in agriculture, as in all other classes of business, which began with the election of Grover Cleveland to the presidency in 1892, and continued during his entire term of office, was used to convince the farmers of the United States that a continuance of the policy of tariff protection would mean their eternal and absolute ruin, and that their only salvation lay in the enactment of a law practically abolishing all tariff duties and throwing open to them the "markets of the world." There is no doubt that many farmers were impressed with these specious arguments, and were thereby induced to vote the democratic ticket in 1896. In the hope that a free-trade regime would be inaugurated, by which, it was alleged, they would be made rich and prosperous.

But, as we know, the verdict of the ballots, in 1896, was not in favor of the inauguration of a free-trade regime. Many of the farmers were fooled, but not enough of them were fooled to give the victory to Bryan and the free-trade policy. The popular verdict was in favor of protection, and in obedience to that verdict a law was enacted, which is still in force, raising the tariff duties to a point where they protect American industries. What was the result? General and widespread prosperity. What was the effect upon the agricultural industry in the United States? Greater prosperity than that industry had ever known before; increase in the value of farming lands all over the country; increased prices for the products of the farm; increased demands for these same products; a more plentiful distribution of money throughout the rural sections; extensive liquidation of the mortgages on farms, and a general betterment of the condition of farmers from one end of the country to another.

The American Agriculturalist for March publishes an elaborate review of the agricultural situation, from an industrial and a financial standpoint. The statistics collated and the conclusions reached fully bear out the above assertions as to the present prosperity of agriculture in the United States. "The improvement in agricultural conditions now," as the American Agriculturalist well observes, "contrasted with the depth of depression in 1894-96, is as little appreciated by the outside public as was the farmer's condition during the hard times. It is conservative, however, to say that the produce of United States farms for the past year was worth to the farmers over \$1,000,000,000 more than in either of the years of depression. This is an average advance of 21 per cent. in values compared with the low point."

It further appears from the American Agriculturalist's summary that the live stock of the country is worth \$700,000,000 more than it was worth during the years of depression under the Cleveland regime—a gain of 38 per cent. Staple crops are valued at \$400,000,000 more than then, and other crops aggregate an increase of \$200,000,000 in value, or a gain of 25 per cent, as compared to the period of depression, including the years 1894, 1895 and 1896.

As regards agricultural real estate, it is found that while that class of property depreciated greatly during the hard times (while the Wilson tariff law, an approximation to free trade, was in force), it has more than recovered in value, and is now worth, according to a careful estimate, \$1,220,000,000 more than it was worth

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during the years of the hard times.

The total investments in American agriculture is estimated at \$17,550,000,000, which is a gain of nearly 10 per cent, since 1888. The increase in the number of farms in the United States during the past ten years is estimated at about 400,000. A larger number of these farms (69 per cent.) are occupied by their owners now than ever before, while the number of farms under mortgage has materially decreased. The amount of mortgages on farms occupied by their owners is estimated at about \$300,000,000 less than at the beginning of the decade. "Mortgages now average only about 27 per cent of the farms they are on. The rate of interest has declined, and the great bulk of mortgages now in force were incurred to buy the farm or to improve it."

All these facts and conclusions are significant. They go far—very far—toward disproving the free trade theory that the protective tariff system is a detriment rather than an advantage to the agriculturalist. It is a fact that the free trade theorist too often and very conveniently overlooks that when the manufacturing and commercial interests of the country are prosperous, the farmer naturally shares in the general prosperity. Industrial prosperity means for the farmer a better home market than is possible in dull times; and the home market is worth more to the farmer, generally speaking, than all the markets of the world put together.

The American farmers are an intelligent class of men. They are close observers of current events, and are close students of industrial and economic questions. For these reasons they will be found voting almost solidly in the coming election for the republican candidates and a continuance of the phenomenal prosperity in which they have participated so freely during the past four years.

PEACE DECLARED.

Why devote all your time reading about the Boer war and the gold fields of Alaska? There are other matters of vital importance; you may make a trip East, and will want to know how to travel. In order to have the best service, use the Wisconsin Central Railway, between St. Paul and Chicago. For rates and other information write

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GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS.

Proposals for fresh beef and mutton: Office Chief Commissary, Vancouver Barracks, Washington, April 3, 1900. Sealed proposals for furnishing and delivering fresh beef and fresh mutton for six months beginning July 1, 1900, will be received here and at offices of commissaries at Fort Stevens, Oregon; Boise Barracks, Wallace and Camp O'Brien, Idaho; Fort Casey, Flager, Walla Walla, Wright and Vancouver barracks, Wash., and Skagway, Fort Wrangle and Valdez, Alaska, until 11 a. m., May 5, 1900, and then opened. Information furnished on application. Envelopes containing proposals should be endorsed "Proposals for Fresh Beef and Fresh Mutton," and addressed to commissary of post to be supplied, or to Major James N. Allison, Chf. Comy.

My son has been troubled for years with chronic diarrhoea. Sometimes ago I persuaded him to take some of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. After using two bottles of the 25-cent size he was cured. I give this testimonial hoping some one similarly afflicted may read it and be benefited. THOMAS C. BOWER, Gloucester, O. For sale by Charles Rogers.

Those that cannot themselves observe can at least acquire the observation of others.

Mrs. R. Churchill, Berlin, Vt., says: "Our baby was covered with running sores. DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve cured her." A specific for piles and skin diseases. Beware of worthless counterfeits. Charles Rogers.

Circumstances are beyond the control of man; but his conduct is in his own power.

J. E. Clark, Peoria, Ill., says: "Surgeons wanted to operate on me for piles but I cured them with DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve." It is infallible for piles and skin diseases. Beware of counterfeits. Charles Rogers.

Destiny is our will, and our will is our nature.

Miss Annie E. Gunning, Tyre, Mich., says: "I suffered a long time from dyspepsia; lost flesh and became very weak. Kodol dyspepsia cure completely cured me." It digests what you eat and cures all forms of stomach trouble. It never fails to give immediate relief in the worst cases. Charles Rogers.

Good wishes do not always bring good fortunes.

DeWitt's Little Early Risers purify the blood, clean the liver, invigorate the system. Famous little pills for constipation and liver troubles. Charles Rogers.

Freedom will lead to prosperity, and despotism to destruction.

Male firmness is very often obstinacy. Women have always something better, worth all qualities. They have tact.

"One Minute Cough Cure is the best remedy I ever used for coughs and colds. It is unequalled for whooping cough. Children all like it," writes H. N. Williams, Gentryville, Ind. Never fails. It is the only harmless remedy that gives immediate results. Cures coughs, colds, hoarseness, croup, pneumonia, bronchitis and all throat and lung troubles. Its early use prevents consumption. Charles Rogers.

To study man from the past is to suppose that man is ever the same animal.

Mr. J. Sheer, Sedalia, Mo., saved his child's life by One Minute Cough Cure. Doctors had given him up to die with croup. It's an infallible cure for coughs, colds, grippe, pneumonia, bronchitis and throat and lung troubles. Relieves at once. Charles Rogers.

When men are pure, laws are useless; When men are corrupt, laws are broken.

"I was nearly dead with dyspepsia, tried doctors, visited mineral springs, and grew worse. I used Kodol dyspepsia Cure. That cured me." It digests what you eat. Cures indigestion, sour stomach, heartburn and all forms of dyspepsia. Charles Rogers.

The most successful legislators are those who have consulted the genius of the people.

As a cure for rheumatism Chamberlain's Pain Balm is gaining a wide reputation. D. B. Johnston, of Richmond, Ind., has been troubled with that ailment since 1882. In speaking of it he says: "I never found anything that would relieve me until I used Chamberlain's Pain Balm. It acts like magic with me. My foot was swollen and painful very much, but one good application of Pain Balm relieved me. For sale by Charles Rogers."

The greatest of all evils is a weak government. They cannot carry good measures; they are forced to carry bad ones.

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The passenger department of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway has taken advantage of the current interest in the Paris Exposition and has printed for free distribution one of the most charming books of the season, entitled, "Glimpses Across the Sea." Its contents describe a recent voyage across the Atlantic made by Sam T. Clover, journalist and author, and includes his diversified experiences in London and Paris. The "Glimpses" are entertaining and instructive to the prospective western patrons of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway, who may be contemplating a trip to Europe. The enterprise of the railway company in augmenting such a happy departure from the ordinary methods of advertising is commendable.



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