

WHAT IS THE REASON?

An eastern exchange, in viewing the present situation, publishes the following reasons for the depression of trade now felt all over the country:

"Why are things thus? The country to-day has all the elements of prosperity that it had in 1892. It is as full of grain, its iron and coal mines are as rich as ever, its mills and factories are as numerous, its facilities of transportation, its available domestic capital as large. Why is grain selling for next to nothing? Why are mines unworked? Why are mills and factories smokeless?"

"In November, 1892, an event took place that disturbed the confidence of those whose movements give life to trade, to agriculture, to manufactures, to mining and to transportation. A body of men met in convention and resolved that the system of protection that had given birth and nurture to American manufactures, and that had encouraged American agriculture, was unconstitutional, and must be abrogated; 'free-trade,' as understood in England was to supersede 'protection' as the word is understood in America."

"The first visible effect came from English action. The streams of British gold that were flowing into this country in exchange for our farm products, or for investment in protected American industries, ceased wholly as to the latter, and diminished as to the former. During the financial year of 1892, a Republican and protectionist year, we received more than \$200,000,000 from Europe in excess of our payments to it, and this does not include the millions invested in mines, railways, lands and factories. In the financial year of 1893, Democratic and promissory of free-trade, Europe will receive something like \$100,000,000 from us, and this over and above all payments made to us from that quarter."

"It is wonderful that gold is scarce! Congress cannot avoid the tariff issue. It is the issue. If the free-trade clauses of the Democratic platform were framed only to deceive, confession of the fraud must be made that confidence may be restored. If they were made in good faith the country should have fair warning from congress of its intention of revolutionary legislation, in order that it may prepare itself as best it may for panic. In either event congress is charged with the plain duty of speaking in unmistakable terms as to its tariff intentions. While there is uncertainty as to these there cannot be a full revival of prosperity; no, though every coinage law on the statute books be repealed or amended."

COMMON COUNCIL

An adjourned meeting of the council was held at the recorder's office on July 5th, at 8 o'clock.

Present—W. E. Rinehart, mayor; T. N. Jolan, Paul Kretz, W. H. Batta, T. A. Hudson and G. O. Robinson, councilmen.

Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

The report of the marshal as regards impounding stock was read and motion accepted and placed on file.

Report of committee on streets and public property reported that the Oregon Telegraph and Telephone Company had begun distributing poles on Second street, and that they would be constructed on the north side, and the Electric Company agreed to remove their poles from that side of the street.

The petition of the Epworth league for the city to keep the fountain on corner of Washington and Second in order, and in case this was done the league would donate it to the municipality, was accepted, and the fountain was placed under control of a committee on streets and public property.

Three sections of ordinance 129 was read in reference to the construction of a fence, and was referred to the committee on fire and water to make a report at the next meeting of the council.

The road tax was recommended by the mayor to be strictly enforced.

The street commissioner was instructed to collect road tax immediately.

On motion council adjourned to meet Aug. 3, 1893.

A Mistake

Our contemporary of last Saturday published the following: "It now develops that the ten head of horses reported on Thursday's Chronicle as being shipped to Portland by the Bolton boys were stolen property. Simultaneously with their shipment H. L. Friedman missed ten head of horses from the pasture under his charge at the Dalles. He followed the Dalles led him to follow the band. He found them at Albina in the charge of one of the shippers. He secured his property and brought one of the horses back with him." This was evidently an error, for the Bolton boys are well known in the vicinity in which they reside, and their honesty has never been doubted. The following from the Portland Telegram may give an explanation: "An attachment suit was commenced in Justice McCulloch's court by Milton Freeman, of Wasco county, against J. A. and Lawrence Walton to recover the sum of \$100, alleged to be due for pasturing nine head of horses, the horses being attached. The horses were driven from the pasture without the owners making settlement, which, according to the Oregon statutes, made them liable to arrest for larceny. This charge was booked against them also. Yesterday morning the case came up, but the defendants settled the matter by paying the claim and the costs of the case."

An Old Pioneer

Among the oldest pioneers who have resided on the banks of the Columbia below which "the memory of man goeth not to the contrary" is Dr. H. A. Levens, of the Cascade Locks. Mount Hood was not "a hole in the ground" when he first settled at the gorge of the Columbia; but several decades have passed since he first breathed the invigorating atmosphere which journeys down from the summit of the snow-capped peaks which stand as everlasting sentinels over this region. In 1826 he first came to the Washington side of the Cascades, and he has lived in that vicinity ever since. He was personally acquainted with Lieut. Sheridan at the time he made his first fight, and participated in the memorable engagement. During these years he has seen a wonderful change, the advent of steamboats and railroads, and the advance of the tidal wave of civilization which

WILHELM

Wilhelm hated this girl Emma Dees, and had stated to one of his boys that he would kill her. There were two bruises on the breast of the deceased, the bones of the right cheek were broken and the skull terribly fractured. The end of the stick of wood had bloody marks on it, and there were two pools of blood in the cellar. A careful examination was made of each witness, and the jury after being out an hour and a half, brought in the following verdict: We the jury impounded to inquire into the cause of the death of E. W. Wilhelm, having listened to the testimony produced before us and made a careful examination of the body of the deceased and the premises, find as follows: That the deceased's name is E. W. Wilhelm, and that he was 36 years; that he died on July 7, 1893, and that his death was caused by a blow from a blunt instrument in the hand of one H. J. Wilhelm, who is the person who committed the killing was done in self defense.

PATRIOTISM

E. W. Wilhelm, a Farmer on Ten Mile, Killed by His Son

News of a terrible tragedy reached the city this morning, in which E. W. Wilhelm, a farmer living on north Fifteen Mile, was killed by his son Herman. As soon as news of the fact reached Eastwood left for the scene of the tragedy to hold an inquest over the remains. He was accompanied by Dr. H. Logan, who went to perform an autopsy if necessary. The doctor returned about 1 o'clock this afternoon, and he left before the verdict was rendered. Following is the account of the affair occurred at 7 o'clock last evening, and Hermann and his father were quarrelling when the old gentleman grabbed a gun. At this the young man beat him over the head with a stick, fracturing the skull. Around the base of the brain in the front the skull is fractured in many places, clearly proving that he had been struck several times. The injuries were such that an autopsy was not deemed necessary, and there cannot be the least doubt that they produced death. It was in evidence that during the melee the son dragged the father down stairs into the cellar, alleging that he did not want to shock his mother, and afterwards pulled him up.

Herman Wilhelm is the oldest son of Mr. E. W. Wilhelm, is married, has two children, and is from 30 to 35 years of age. He was living on the old homestead, on lower Fifteen Mile, about twelve miles from The Dalles, but the father still retained the title to the property, although it was generally understood that the old gentleman would relinquish it soon to Herman. For several years past there has been ill feeling between the father and mother—who is an invalid—and it was reported to-day that Herman Wilhelm had been about to beat his wife. Since last fall he has lived in the city—only going out occasionally to the farm—and has begun the erection of a dwelling house in Thompson's addition. He is over 60 years old, and has three other sons and one daughter, two of whom are married.

The tragedy produced a shock in this community, as the family have lived in this vicinity for a long time, and have always been highly respected for honesty and industry. The father of Wilhelm has been a settler here for many years past, and they are peaceable and industrious, and not inclined in the least to pick quarrels with any one. The young man who committed the terrible deed read the Declaration of Independence at the school house, and was highly esteemed by the community. Until the fatal tragedy of last night, no skeleton was known to be hidden in the Wilhelm family, except, perhaps, the difficulty that existed between the father and mother, and which was generally considered to be cured by the fact that they had proper respect for the members of the household.

The Wilhelm Homicide

The coroner returned Saturday night from holding the inquest over the remains of E. W. Wilhelm on Ten Mile creek, and from the testimony before the jury the facts appear as follows: On the evening of July 6, Mrs. Wilhelm, who witnessed the tragedy, told H. J. Wilhelm, Mrs. Lydia Wilhelm and Miss Emma Dees, and their testimony was explicit regarding the affair. There were others sworn, among whom were Mrs. Josephine Wilhelm, the wife of the deceased, two of his sons and some of the neighbors. From the testimony it appears that Mr. H. J. Wilhelm had been managing his father's farm for the past two years, and his wife, Mrs. Lydia Wilhelm, and his two children lived on the farm. On the evening of July 6, Mrs. Wilhelm went out and called her father-in-law, husband and sister to supper. Mr. E. W. Wilhelm walked into the front room and was looking out the window when the others came through the garden gate. Miss Emma Dees, a girl about 12 years of age, being the last and doing the gate after her. As she came on the porch the old gentleman began to curse her and told her to look out for her life. At this the son stepped forward to keep still and stop the quarrelling, and he then advanced Mrs. Wilhelm—the son's wife—and grabbed her by the arm tearing her dress in different places. The young man then pushed him back, at the same time asking him to keep his hands off his mother. A scuffle and fight then ensued, in which the son named Wilhelm and his father, the parties during the melee passing through the hall into the front room and on the porch. By this time the father was in a violent passion, and made threats to kill the entire family. He immediately seized the matter by the collar, grabbed the double-barreled shotgun, raised both hammers, and came out with it pointed towards Herman. Realizing that his life was in danger H. J. Wilhelm immediately fled to the barn, and hid behind the door, and he was not seen again until he was taken from the barn by the coroner's jury. Herman then took the gun, which was falling from his father's hand, handed it to his wife, and supported the old man with his arm. He procured a quilt, wrapped it around his father, and he was taken to the house, where he died. Thinking his mother—who was at the barn during the fight—would be shocked at the sight of her dead husband, and took her body down stairs to the cellar, and immediately covered it with the same. As soon as she became somewhat recovered, he removed his father to the front room in the position in which he was found when the coroner arrived. The two other sons of the deceased were sent for and also several of the neighbors. The testimony of the widow was to the effect that her husband was very much worried because of having so much property, and was liable to have "spells" of bad temper. During such times she left him alone, as he was difficult to control. One of the sons testified that three years ago the father had threatened to kill him with a pitchfork because he had not placed the grain level on the threshing floor, and also that he had beat his wife at another time. This was an unmarred son, who had lived away from home for some time. It was also in evidence that E. W.

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A Disastrous Fire. CHICAGO, July 10.—The fact that has existed for months in the minds of the citizens of Chicago has been realized today in a frightful holocaust at the world's fair that claimed nearly two score victims and for a time threatened the destruction of the entire white city. The disaster is now in the hands of the fire because of its sudden transformation from an innocent flame into a death-dealing catastrophe. The structure that burned, the Coliseum, was one of the smallest buildings at the fair, but not belonging to the exposition. It was the exhibit of the Hercules Iron Works, manufacturers of iron and refrigerating machines. The building contained a skating rink, three 120-ton ice machines, some 40 barrels of linseed oil which added fuel to the flame, and in it there were stored large quantities of meat, fruit, etc. That the fire was not caused by the explosion of the boiler, but that the buildings were due to favorable winds. The scene of the horror was witnessed by many thousands of people who flocked to the locality where the alarm was sounded, and strong men went and manhandled as one life after another was snuffed out within full view of the multitude, but beyond reach of human aid.

School Report

THE DALLES, Ore., July 8, 1893. The four months' term of Fairfield school, No. 17, closed on June 30th, with a public examination. The pupils were orally examined in the branches they had studied during the term in the presence of forty visitors. Songs and recitations were given by the pupils between the exercises, and the proceedings closed by the distribution of prizes, of which there were six-hundred and one for the highest marks during the term.

The Silver Question

MONTREAL, Mexico, July 10.—The Monetary commission has issued a report in its indication of cessation. William Guggenheim, general manager of the great National smelter, the largest silver lead plant in this country, said to-day: "The white metal is all right and there is no cause for alarm. The future of the silver market is in the hands of England and the United States. England has already indicated that she will take care of what she can produce, and the United States product. She wants to close the mines of the United States. The repeal of the Sherman act will practically leave England and the United States open for such assistance as might come from Japan. England is obliged to buy silver, as she is a creditor of the United States, which England can't spare. The question now arises. What will the United States do for silver? What the reasonable supporters of the white metal demand is not free coinage, but a simple condition protecting it from fluctuation. Some few are continuing waiting operations are still shipping the ore that has been mined and put on stock piles. Some few are continuing waiting operations with day shifts. Some, however, are so completely shut down that the pumps have been taken out and the mines will be allowed to fill with water."

Troubles of Labor

ST. PAUL, Minn., July 10.—There is general widespread suffering in the steel established in the ranges of the Lake Superior district. It is the worst time since the black days of 1873. There is scarcely a mine on the range that is not either completely closed or greatly curtailed in operation. Miners have not been at work for three weeks, and the number is so small that it is estimated that it was less than a month ago. This tremendous unemployed force decreases in industry, the beginning of August work will be at a standstill. It is estimated that 12,000 men are today out of work for reasons that are not their fault. Most of the mines that have suspended operations are still shipping the ore that has been mined and put on stock piles. Some few are continuing waiting operations with day shifts. Some, however, are so completely shut down that the pumps have been taken out and the mines will be allowed to fill with water."