

PROSPERITY IS NOW GENERAL.

Business Improvement Moves Forward by Great Leaps and Bounds.

The Doleful Cries of Calamity Howlers Cannot Check the Advance of Good Times.

Being unable to deny that prosperity has come again upon the country, the Popocrat statesmen and organs with the record are loudly proclaiming that it is all due to the failure of the foreign wheat crop. The growers of wheat, they say, are prospering, but other wealth producers are getting no benefits. There is a great deal of difference, however, between mere assertion and well authenticated fact. There is abundant evidence on every hand that all classes of the people, including wealth producers of every description, are sharing in the new prosperity. The failure of the foreign wheat crop could not start hundreds of idle shops and factories to operating and give employment to hundreds of thousands of idle workmen. The failure of the foreign wheat crop would not suffice to stimulate all lines of business and produce a feeling of confidence and security among investors and merchants throughout the country.

The failure of the foreign wheat crop would not quicken the domestic wool trade, the leather trade, the tin, copper and iron trade, the beef, pork and lard trade, the trade in petroleum, glass, lead, cottonseed oil, lumber, paper, brick, coal, salt, hay, hemp, potatoes, corn, barley, rye, butter, eggs and fruit. According to Bradstreet's, which has kept a record of the business done in all lines for the last four years, the trade in all these commodities and scores of others has rapidly increased since July—the month in which the Republican tariff was enacted.

Regarding the stories of Western farmers paying off their mortgages in such enormous amounts, the Orange Judd Farmer has made careful inquiries and says that while it finds the newspaper statements somewhat exaggerated, there is unquestionably an immense amount of liquidation going on. During the past few years the farmers have practiced such economy that the marked improvement in wheat and other prices has wonderfully improved their financial condition. One great incentive to pay off old mortgages is the lower interest rates at which new loans can be obtained.

Causes of Good Times.

Advocates of the theory that the revival of business throughout the country is due to the wheat crop instead of the tariff found something to ponder over in the trade reports of Dun and Bradstreet for last week. From these it appears that the farmers have not yet marketed one-tenth of their wheat, but are holding it for the higher price which the foreign demand implies. Hence 90 per cent of the cash returns already credited to them in Democratic estimates has not yet gone into American circulation, and cannot possibly have caused or influenced the general reopening of iron, steel, rubber and textile industries and the increase in the profits of all private business which have been in evidence since July. The special points of interest arise from this in the trade reports are: An increase since one year ago of 34 per cent in the employment of members of trade unions; a gain of 12 per cent in one month in the output of pig iron, implying an increased consumption of 190,000 tons; a rise of 5 cents in the price of wheat; an advance for August in prices of more than 100 staple farm and manufactured articles of 3.4 per cent, following a 3.1 per cent advance in July, and a marked decrease in failures, both in number and the average amount of liabilities. In this chapter the tariff plays a leading part.—San Francisco Chronicle.

No Time for Croaking.

The propensity of the calamity howler to predict misfortune for this country and to emphasize the dark side of life, will find little encouragement by contrasting the present condition and prospects of the American people with those of the rest of the world. For such a comparison will reveal the fact that we are vastly better off to-day than most peoples. While other countries are threatened with distress owing to short crops, we Americans have been blessed with one of the most abundant harvests in our history. While the East is suffering from famine and while the harvest in Ireland is reported ruined by unpropitious weather, we in America are chiefly concerned with the problem of transporting to market the surplus products of the farm. While rising prices will bring dismay to those parts of the world which are under the necessity of buying, the American farmer, with a granary overflowing with wheat and corn, looks with complacency upon the steadily climbing grain markets. The great laws of supply and demand are working in our favor, and are bound to bring renewed prosperity to our country.—Detroit Free Press.

Breidenthal Admits It.

One of the most recent and conspicuous examples of a Populist who has discarded the calamity howl for the prosperity whoop is J. W. Breidenthal of Kansas. He is the Bank Commissioner of the State, and less than one year ago he was a Bryanite, who could see no prospect or no salvation for the country unless the Boy Orator of the Platte was elected and silver given free coinage at the heavy-ordained ratio of 16 to 1. But Breidenthal has changed since then. He has seen a great light, and this is what he has to say to-day:

Never in the history of Kansas has there been as much money with which to pay debts as we find in the State to-day. The State has struck a wonderful streak of luck. Cotton advanced; cattle are plenty and command a good price. These conditions found Kansas in a good position to profit immensely thereby, and we have been a time in the history of the State when the farmers have not raised enough to live on. Now comes this magnificent year, with immense crops and

same sensitiveness to the market. This proposition was brought out with special force by Gov. Tanner in an interview given to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. At the time the Governor spoke the advance in wheat had been 30 cents per bushel, and he added:

But railroad stocks, manufacturing stocks, and all other stocks of a character to feel the effects of prosperity have increased all the way from 30 to 50 per cent, on the former values at the same time that wheat has been making this gain of 30 cents a bushel. Cattle, hogs, corn, oats, red-top seed, all farm products, have gone up almost, if not quite, in the proportion that stocks and wheat have. Bonds and mortgages have advanced. Taking the vast interests represented by stocks and bonds, you will find that the increase in the total value made during the past three months is \$1,000,000,000. The advance on other things, cattle, hogs, corn, and so on, has amounted to more than \$300,000,000. There is a grand total of \$1,300,000,000 added to the wealth of this country. It has been done by the adoption of a wise and encouraging economic policy which has restored the confidence of our people.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

The Iron Barometer.

Among the proofs of reviving prosperity, which some people are trying hard not to see, must now be included the increase of 12 per cent in the output of pig iron within about one month after the new tariff was enacted. For many years there have been not a few among the foremost practical business men who have regarded the production and consumption of iron as the surest barometer of the conditions upon which depends increase or decrease of general prosperity. This is in part because the production is of necessity months ahead of the final consumption in finished forms, and is based upon all that some of the shrewdest practical men in the country can foresee of the future demand for rails, car materials and other railway supplies, for freight vessels along the lakes and on sea coasts, for the buildings and the structural shapes of which their skeletons are framed, for agricultural implements and the iron and steel entering into their construction, for extension and improvement of farms, and so for fence wire and wire rods, and for erection of residences and other buildings, and so for nails and hardware of all kinds. When evidence points to material increase in consumption in so many forms trained business men calculate that better times are coming.

The production of pig iron started this year with a weekly output of about 190,000 tons, having enlarged to that extent from 112,782 tons last October, a gain of more than 40 per cent. There was a little further advance to about 170,000 tons in March and April, but as the passing of the tariff bill came to be considered more remote or uncertain and stocks of unsold iron accumulated the production was diminished to 164,000 tons at the beginning of July, showing a conservative determination to defer further increase of output until the conditions necessary for future prosperity were more positively assured. This assurance came with the passage of the tariff bill late in July, and the weekly output was slightly raised Aug. 1, and increased 20,128 tons weekly during that month. But the output Sept. 1 was already the largest ever known for that month, exceeding in 1895—when a sudden flurry lifted prices about to those of 1890—and it was 34,000 tons larger than Sept. 1, 1892.

It Cannot Be Concealed.

Once in a while we meet a man who says that while he sees a good deal in the newspapers about a revival of business he finds no improvement in his own condition and cannot see any in that of his neighbors. It is true that the marked improvement which has been so strongly felt in the East and in the Southwest has not yet reached the Northwest in full volume, simply because our harvest is later. Our wheat crop has only just begun moving to market. The \$100,000,000 which this year's crop will reach into this region has only begun to be distributed. Nevertheless, if the person who complains that prosperity has not yet reached him will look around over the whole city and State he cannot fail to perceive a very marked improvement. The banks are in better shape and are loaning money more freely. The merchants are full of hope and confidence, and manufacturers are making arrangements for a full output. Less idle men are seen, and, in fact, it is claimed by employment agencies that no person who is able and willing to work need now suffer from lack of employment. The increase in the volume of business throughout the country is unmistakable. It is revealed in the statement of weekly bank clearings, which show a gain of 45.6 per cent, as compared with the corresponding week of last year. Minneapolis' gain is 43.2 per cent, which may be taken as an indication that from this time on the revival will be felt here in full force.—Minneapolis Tribune.

The Tariff and Farm Prices.

Our free trade friends assert that the sole reason for the rise in the price of wheat is the grain shortage abroad. They are vociferous in declaring, in season and out of season, that the enactment of a Republican tariff has had nothing to do with the farmer's increased prosperity. Let us look into this claim for a moment. It is not true, as many of the anti-protection organs imply, that wheat, of which we export vast quantities, is the only agricultural staple that has risen in value. There has been a marked increase in the price of corn, oats, rye, pork, butter, cheese, hops, hides and potatoes. Lambs for slaughtering are worth \$1.25 per head more than they were one year ago. The value of sheep kept for wool has also risen significantly since the passage of a tariff that protects American flocks. These assertions are not made rashly. They are based upon the official statistics of the Department of Agriculture. It will be seen at a glance that products of which we export comparatively moderate amounts have kept close to wheat in its upward movement. In our estimation the tariff has had a great deal to do with this. Since the Dingley bill became law a huge army of previously idle men has been set to work throughout the United States. Wage earners who had been employed only part time are now working full time.

No Halting the Advance.

Dun's review, which has been jubilant in its proclamation of business revival for several weeks, declares that there is no halting in the advance; that business grows better in all ways; that there is a steady increase in production and working force, and that the power of the people to purchase is a feature which overshadows all others. New York reports show that wheat is not the only commodity that is advancing in price, for over one hundred staples are higher, and there is a continued heavy demand for manufactured goods of all kinds.

The farmers are rapidly getting back the \$80,000,000 which they lost in the value of their sheep under free trade.

BRYAN AS A DEADBEAT.

He Attacks the Corporations and Then Asks and Accepts Favors from Them. The more Mr. Bryan tries to explain away his foraging expeditions on railroad passes the more he convicts himself of demagoguery and willful deception. When the San Francisco papers made public the fact that Bryan had solicited and accepted favors from Huntington's Southern Pacific Railroad in the shape of railroad passes, Bryan's friends at first denied the charge. They backed their denial by producing the requisition written by Bryan in which he applies for the free ticket over the Southern Pacific on account of the Omaha World-Herald.

Upon inquiry at Omaha it developed that Bryan had severed his connection with the World-Herald a year previously and furthermore that the World-Herald had no advertising contract with the Southern Pacific and was not entitled to any transportation for any advertising done for that road. To parry this exposure Bryan retorted over his own name that he was still a stockholder in the World-Herald. By this, matters were not much mended for the reason that as a stockholder in a newspaper he could have no claim upon any railroad for free rides and furthermore that under the latest commerce law interstate railroads are forbidden from giving free transportation except to railway employees.

The Southern Pacific is not, however, the only railroad on which Bryan has been foraging. Mr. Bryan traveled to St. Louis some ten days ago over the Wash and dead-headed his way with an 1897 annual pass. The pass is ostensibly issued on account of the World-Herald but bears on its face the flat contradiction of the pretense that it is a business transaction. Railroads do not issue annual passes in exchange for advertising. In the nature of things they could not know how often they would be used, for what distance and how much advertising value they would represent.

The discreditable part of Bryan's dead-heading over the railroads arises not merely from the fact that he poses as the champion of the anti-monopoly forces and denounces the railroads for discrimination in favor of influential non-producers as against the common people who must pay their way, but also because while amply able to pay his fare he is resorting to deception to cover up his acceptance of railroad gifts.—Omaha Bee.

COME, MR. BRYAN.

Try to Be Consistent in Your Theories and Assertions.

At Atchison, Mr. Bryan made a speech from which the following are detached sentences: "Last fall the Republicans said we were repudiators because we wanted to lessen the purchasing price of the dollar. * * * The price of wheat and corn is governed by the law of supply and demand solely. The law of supply and demand governs the value of a dollar. If there is a short crop of money dollars will rise. Nature makes a short crop of wheat. Man makes a short crop of dollars by law."

A year ago Mr. Bryan asserted that the value of a dollar was not influenced by any power whatever except the declaration by the Government that it was a dollar. He asserted in season and out of season that such a declaration was sufficient not only to make every silver dollar worth a gold dollar, but also to raise every ounce of silver bullion in the world to the value of gold at a ratio of 16 to 1. With such a record as this, how can the man have the audacity to now come babbling about the value of the dollar being governed by the law of supply and demand? He says the dollar has grown too valuable because it has not kept pace with the law of demand. The more money there is in the country, he contends, the less the dollar will buy. Does history bear out such a claim? In one of his lectures Mr. Bryan presents a table to show that since the crime of 1873 there has been a steady diminishment in the price of products. To make his theory good he must also show that there has been a diminishment in the number of dollars. On the contrary, there has been a steady and rapid increase in the number of dollars since 1873, until now we have a per capita circulation of \$24.30, whereas in 1873 we had but \$18.04.—Kansas City Journal.

UNAMERICAN.

The Principles of Deceit Will Not Be Welcomed by Patriots.

The ferocious hatred for the rich felt by men like Mr. Debs and his Social Democracy is utterly un-American. It argues in the men who feel and express it an estimate of the importance of wealth so inveterate that it has destroyed their self-respect. Apparently they cannot breathe freely—so long as they see other men far richer than themselves—that is to say, possessed in far larger measure than they of the only thing that they think of importance. To them, the men who have wealth belong necessarily to a different class from the men who have not. Not brains, no learning, nor character, marks the difference between men, they think, but wealth only. No men have expressed a more abject deference to wealth than these Social Democrats, who wish to kill all who possess more than a little of it. They cannot, apparently, conceive of a poor man being as self-respecting, as respected, as happy and as useful as a rich one.

It is a fortunate thing for the country that the Social Democracy speaks out its mind frankly, and government will be very unwise if it does anything to suppress its spirit by putting penalties on its excesses. A few weak-minded or vicious men, it is true, may be misled and even rendered dangerous to society, but the best arguments against the semi-socialistic, semi-anarchistic purposes of the Social Democracy that can be addressed to the masses of the American people are the utterances of the Social Democrats themselves.—New Orleans Picayune.

Labor and Free Silver.

The Illinois Federation of Labor has adopted, as part of its platform, a demand for the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1. But on this, as on previous occasions, the advocates of the plank failed to point out wherein labor would be benefited by the granting of such a demand. No attempt was made to controvert the specific statements as to where free coinage would do irreparable harm to labor.

The workmen of Illinois have eighty million dollars invested in building and loan associations. A change to the monetary silver standard of a free coinage 37 1/2 grain dollar would reduce the value of these investments about 60 per cent, and labor would lose forty-eight million dollars on one item.

The working people of this State have loaned 25 1/2 millions in gold value dollars

to the savings banks. If the currency were depreciated 60 per cent, as it would be silver coined free at the ratio of 16 to 1, the depositors would lose 15 1/3 millions. No friend of the free coinage plank mentioned that fact or argued that building and loan association investments would be affected injuriously.

The constant experience of the world has been that when there is a change for the worse in the money standard the wages of labor are slow to adjust themselves to it. The price of commodities advances rapidly. The price of labor lags behind. Thus there is a real reduction in wages. Though they may be nominally a little higher, their purchasing power is decreased.—Chicago Tribune.

Yens of Silver and Yens of Gold.

It was very unkind on the part of the Director of the Mint to delay his recent statement about the comparative value of the coins of the world until the departure of those silver patriots who recently hastened to Japan to learn the true cause of the demonetization of silver there. Had they had opportunity to study Director Preston's little table they might have stayed at home and devoted their energies to explaining to the farmer why wheat has gone above a dollar a bushel while the free coinage dollar has fallen below forty cents. Director Preston's table shows the comparative value of the silver and gold yens of Japan during the past decade. One minute's study of these figures would have been sufficient to show these perigrinating patriots the true cause of Japan's action. Here are the figures—read them for yourself:

Year.	Value of Silver Yen.	Value of Gold Yen.
1888	73.5	99.7
1889	73.4	99.7
1890	75.2	99.7
1891	82.1	99.7
1892	74.5	99.7
1893	69.1	99.7
1894	55.6	99.7
1895	49.1	99.7
1896	59.9	99.7
1897 (July)	47.8	99.7

Work of the Dingley Law.

Reports from the little State of Rhode Island are full of cheer. "The mill situation is better than it has been for five years," says a special dispatch to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The Lonsdale company has started on full time operation, employing 5,000 men and women. In the Woonsocket worsted mills, the 200 employees had their hearts gladdened by the restoration of wages to what they were in 1893, which is a virtual increase of 7 1/2 per cent. But more than this, ground has been broken for the erection of a new mill in the Olneyville district, and a plant near Blackstone, which has been idle for almost five years, will be purchased by a new company and started into full operation. It will not require a microscope to observe that the development in the mill situation is the direct result of the Dingley tariff law. It means prosperity.

Political Bird Shot.

Mr. Bryan has not yet issued his schedule of prices for speeches in Mexico.

Those wretched Ohio editors will not stop talking about John McLean's gold bond.

The Western farmers are not burning corn this year; they are burning mortgages.

The silverites insist that the rise in wheat is due to scarcity only. But how about wool?

Wool has made as big an advance as wheat in the past year. Is that the result of "scarcity" too?

The free traders are not shouting about that recent sale of American tin in foreign markets.

Altogether (to McLean)—Why didn't you take warning by my fate and keep that gold bond out of sight?

A bushel of wheat now calls for two ounces of fine silver. Last year one ounce was more than sufficient.

Silver has fallen 25 per cent in value since March of last year and 20 per cent since the November election of 1896.

Bland, Tillman and Bryan admit that there is "temporary" prosperity. A year ago they said even that couldn't come without free coinage.

Forty thousand farm mortgages, averaging \$1,000 each, are being paid off in Kansas this fall. That's "what's the matter with Kansas" now.

Over \$2,000,000 in British money coming in to San Francisco from Australia to pay for American wheat! How is this for British goldbug comfort?

Was it the "gold powers" of Great Britain that sent statistician Mulhall over here to show that this is the most prosperous country in the world?

Mr. Bryan should hurry up with his Spanish lessons. If he doesn't hasten his trip to Mexico, another "crime" against silver is liable to be committed.

Tom Watson says all the silver men will have to join the Populist force. He thinks the Democrats are going to leave over the 16-to-1 theory altogether.

The silence in the vicinity of Yellowstone Park, where Mr. Bryan is neglecting to speak up about the relative values of wheat and silver, is becoming painful.

The Democrats have laid aside their usual cry about increased prices under the new tariff law. They see that low tariff is no longer popular, even with their own people.

Will wonders never cease? Wm. J. Bryan, in a recent article in a New York paper on wheat and silver, says "those who advocate free coinage may be wrong."

Speaking of the "growth of exports of manufactures under free trade," will the Democrats claim the recent foreign sales of American tin as due to their non-protective theory?

The fact that the banks have larger deposits than ever before and that rates of interest are low seems to weaken the Populocentric theory that this country has not money enough.

According to Tom Watson, there will not be a sixteen-to-one free-coinage man left in the Democratic party this fall. He says that the only place for them is in the Populist ranks.

People who are wondering what the Democrats will find for an issue in 1900 should postpone their worry, as there may be no Democratic party by that time, the way things are going.

The Kansas farmers are paying off 40 millions of indebtedness this year. How lucky for the Popocrats that this didn't happen a year ago. They wouldn't have carried an elector anywhere.

This country really so badly off for money when the banks have larger deposits than ever before in their history and money is loaning at lower rates than at any time in memory of the present generation?

BEETS AND CAMPHOR.

SECRETARY WILSON'S VIEWS ABOUT THEM.

The Agriculturist and Arboriculturist Receiving Special Attention—Wilson Says There Is No More Reason for Buying Sugar Abroad than Wheat.

Would Keep Money at Home.

Special Washington correspondence: Secretary Wilson, the head of the Department of Agriculture, continues earnest if not enthusiastic about the practicability of putting into the pockets of the farmers of this country the \$100,000,000 that the people are now sending abroad for their sugar. "The more I think of this beet sugar business," said he, "and the more I look into its vast possibilities, the more I am surprised that the American people have been buying such quantities abroad. There is really no more reason why we should buy sugar abroad than wheat. We have in this country land as well adapted to the growth of sugar beets as anywhere in the world, and it is a remarkable fact that our people have been so long in seeing the possibilities and putting forward every effort toward the accomplishment of this end. Sugar enters into our consumption to such a large and national extent that the triumph of bringing about the growing of all our own products in this direction would be no small one. The way in which the American farmers are taking hold of it shows what a comparatively easy matter it would have been at any time of late years to establish the industry on a permanent basis, and as I say, it seems strange that far-sighted men have not seen the advantage to result to those successfully fostering it. In my trip through the West I found farmers generally enthusiastic over the subject, all of them anxious, and hoping that the analysis to be made of their beets would show such a satisfactory percentage of sugar as to enable them to at once enter into the growth of the beet as a crop. In fact, the danger lies in over-enthusiasm: in the large outlay of money and establishment of plants in sections where the beet cannot be profitably grown.

"The McKinley bounty on sugar was operating well, and if it had continued would have so encouraged both cane and beet sugar industries that we would, by this time, be quite independent of foreign markets in this respect. The bounty proposed for beet sugar in the Dingley tariff bill would have still further stimulated the industry, but even as it is, I believe we are on the way to seeing a good quality of sugar supplied from a great many points in the United States. The sugar beet thrives on a variety of soils, being best adapted to sandy loams of moderate fertility, and I presume that reports of our analyses will show great areas in various sections of the country capable of raising beets containing a sufficient percentage of saccharine matter to warrant the building of factories and the planting of large areas.

"About 2,500 of the farmers of the country have grown beets for tests, and we are now receiving samples for analysis. If everything goes right we will have a complete report on the subject by the first of the year. This will show the most desirable sections for entering into the beet industry and will enable operators to erect beet sugar refineries with some degree of assurance that the industry will be a success in their particular sections.

"Any new crop which takes the place of present crops, and thereby reduces their acreage, tends to stimulate the prices received for those crops, by diminishing their yield, and this is one of the indirect ways in which a general cultivation of the sugar beet will better the condition of the farmer. The saving of \$100,000,000 to the country will give that amount to labor. Sugar represents labor almost entirely, from the growing of the seed to the sugar barrel. The diversification of our industries to this extent will have a tendency to help the prices of other crops.

"The production of camphor," continued the Secretary, "has been recently called to my attention, and I think I see in this connection another industry to be developed and one especially advantageous to the South. We are gathering statistics now in regard to the area in which the tree will thrive. It is known to do well in Florida. In fact, there are now in that State large trees which were sent down there from this department years ago as little plants, intended then for shade and ornament, but they have demonstrated clearly that the tree grows well in Florida, and what I want is to see whole groves planted on the rich hammocks and bottoms of the State, where the soil is very productive, but not safe from frosts for the growth of oranges, lemons and the more tropical products. Every part of the camphor tree is now used in the extraction of this valuable gum; the leaves, chips, the roots, everything. All our camphor is now imported from the far East, and if we can keep this money in our own pocket, we are so much the better off. The South, especially, is in need of a diversification of crops, and I hope it will be found that the camphor industry will be practicable and profitable."

GEO. MELVILLE.

Last Shot at the Farmers.

The free traders took their last shot at the farmers in June; they hustled in everything available on which the new tariff law increased the rates of duty. The following shows the value of some of the more important farm products in June, 1897, compared with June, 1896:

Imports.	June, 1897.	June, 1896.
Cattle	\$477,865	\$29,815
Butter	18,219	13,187
Broodstuffs	16,185	8,000
Chickens	592,738	109,413
Feathers	104,069	88,327
Flax	179,499	10,429
Wool	2,05,284	81,038
Manilla	724,498	76,498
Fibers (total)	1,275,325	889,096
Oranges	161,115	11,713
Hides	3,865,655	1,355,349
Rice	404,711	167,286
Sugar	13,889,862	11,883,083
Beans	33,517	18,887
Clothing wool	2,296,861	157,807
Combining wool	1,633,628	38,239
Carpet wool	1,183,451	420,854
	\$23,369,015	\$15,394,642

Postal Savings Banks.

It is announced that Postmaster General Gary, after thoroughly studying the subject, has concluded to favor the establishment of postal savings banks in this country, and will make the advocacy of such a measure a feature of his incumbency of the Postoffice Department. He has not as yet formulated a plan, but will do so in his report to be submitted to the President on the opening of the next session of Congress.