

The American Wool and Cotton Reporter, a well-known journal of the textile industries of New England, gives Major McKinley a very chilling reception. The Major was the guest of the Home Market Club in Boston at its banquet on the 18th inst., and he made the principal speech of the evening. The Reporter says that this speech misrepresented the industrial history of the nation, and that it was partisan and unstatesmanlike. Mr McKinley said, for example, that the fourteen years of low tariff from 1846 to 1861 were years of depression and distress in manufacturing. The Reporter says that the president of the Amoskeag Mills, who was present at this banquet, could have told Mr McKinley that in 1846 the Amoskeag declared dividends of 25 per cent in stock and 10 per cent in cash, in 1847 it declared 25 per cent in stock 5 per cent in cash, and in 1849 it declared 20 per cent in stock and 3 per cent in cash, and there were but few half years from that time to 1860 in which it did not pay semi-annual dividends. All so that the following great textile mills were started between 1846 and 1861:

"Atlantic mills in 1849; Lyman mills, at Holyoke, in 1854; Naumkeag Steam Cotton mills, at Salem, in 1847; Pepperell mills, at Biddeford, in 1852; Bates mills, at Lewiston, in 1852; Hill Manufacturing mills, at Lewiston, in 1855; Franklin Company, at Lewiston, in 1857."

But the unkindest cut of all is the Reporter's mention of the fact that the cotton industry has been in a worse plight since the McKinley tariff bill passed than it was before. Here is what it says on this particular subject:

"Furthermore, the cotton manufacturing industry of the United States has not changed to be as prosperous since the passage of the McKinley bill as it was for a year or two before that measure became a law. The great Merrimac Manufacturing company at Lowell has recently reduced its semi-annual dividend to two per cent. It paid 3 per cent semi-annual in 1890 and 4 per cent semi-annual in 1889, and in 1891 the shares of the company sold for just half what they brought in 1881, viz., \$2,000 in 1881 and \$1,000 in 1891.

"Equally partisan and unstatesmanlike," it says, "was Mr McKinley's citation of heavy exports of gold between 1846 and 1860—the fact being that the great gold discoveries of California came in this period and it was just as necessary as to export wheat or tobacco, or any other commodity of which we were producing a large surplus. In short, the Reporter exposes McKinley as a great humbug, if not a downright fraud.

SHOOT AT THE MARK.

The most determined effort to accomplish tariff reform, if unwisely directed, may prove to be the greatest obstacle in the way of that reform.

The strength of McKinleyism is the close alliance of the beneficiaries of McKinleyism. "Divide and conquer" would seem to be the dictate of wisdom on the part of democrats.

All the subsidized interests represented in the senate will surely stand together in hostility to any general tariff-reform bill that democrats can frame. They cannot be held together in opposition to separate bills for the relief of the people.

When the democrats shall have control of both houses of congress and the president, it will be their duty to reconstruct the entire tariff system upon a just and reasonable basis. At present it seems clearly their duty to force so much of reform as is obtainable.

It is folly to shoot into the air when there is a target of wrong to be shot at.

Then let us have a number of tariff bills. Let us have a bill putting binding twine, jute, hanks, salt, lumber and coal on the free list. Let us have one putting wool on the free list, and reducing the duty on woolen goods from its present rate of 92 per cent to about 35 per cent. And a few others that would be the means of putting a number of the republican brethren in congress to a crucial test. What a quivering there would be when our republican friends in congress were called to vote upon such bills as the above.

CLEAR AND TO THE POINT

When Crisp was elected speaker he was called out to make a speech and the following was the first thing he said:

"Representatives, I am profoundly grateful for this mark of your confidence and esteem. I pledge myself here and now to devote whatever of industry and ability I possess to the advancement of the real interests of the democratic party. I beg to say to you now, as I speak to you my first words since I am your selection for speaker, that my election means no step backwards in tariff reform. I beg to say to you that there is in our party today no man who more earnestly believes in the democratic doctrine of tariff reform than I do.

If the republican brethren can find any comfort in this they are welcome to it.

"AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST"—The regular price of the American Agriculturist is \$1.50 per year. For a short time I am authorized to receive subscriptions at \$1.00, also to furnish the December number free to all who subscribe now for 1892. F. L. KESTON, sub agent.

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When the DEMOCRAT said a few days ago that in less than two months republican papers would be denouncing Crisp as a free trader (although when elected they said he was a protectionist) it did not expect that its words would be verified even before the speaker made up his committee, but so unsteady are these organs that thus soon comes the New York Press, the leading organ of that party in New York, and emphatically establishes the fulfillment of our prediction. It says:

Like Mills, Crisp is a thoroughgoing representative of the free trade southern democracy. His bitter partisanship and his adherence to free trade were both shown in his speech accepting the nomination on Monday night.

Mr Crisp's anxiety that his hearers should understand that he is at heart just as fanatical a free trader as Mills is manifest. His record shows him to be a consistent advocate of British free trade.

Of course there is no reason for surprise in the mere fact that these organs should be eating their own words, and saying things exactly opposite what they formerly said, but, even among democrats, there is some surprise that they should thus early repudiate the things they were saying only one week ago. But this is only carrying out a general scheme which seems to have been adopted by these organs—that of depending upon misrepresentations where facts are so uniformly unavailable with them as they seem to be at present.

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