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March 3, 1879.**WATTERSON'S THUNDERBOLT.**

Henry Watterson, dean of American journalism, most prominent and best known editor in the United States and for the past fifty years head of the editorial staff of the Louisville Courier-Journal, fails to find consolation in the fact that prohibition men and women are responsible for the re-election of President Wilson. He is a staunch democrat of the old unreconstructed south and is the foe of prohibition. He never forsakes his ideals; he never abandons his idols, he clings to what he calls the landmarks of the fathers, and here is his latest thunderbolt:

Beaten—bedraggled and out—even the fatfrying delusions of high tariff gone to the dogs—the republican party turns wistfully to the fake gospel of prohibition—turns from the manufacturers to the fanatics, from the Home Market club to the Anti-Saloon league, crying, "Help me, Cassius, or I sink!" That, at least, is in line with its doctrinal pedigree. The ancient Puritan was nothing if not for the conventional. The blue light Federalists—the dyed-in-the-wool whigs—were to a man in favor of cold storage morality and canned virtue. Personal liberty had no place in the creed of Praised God Barebones, from whom, crossed on Cotton Mather, the grand old party—the party of great moral ideas—is sentimentally descended. The Courier-Journal has said that no democrat can be a prohibitionist. In other words, no democrat can be for church and state—for legislation in restraint of freedom of the press, or of religious worship—for sumptuary laws—for the abridgment of personal liberty. No democrat can think that man may be recreacted good by act of assembly. As no democrat believes that protection protects, so no democrat believes that prohibition prohibits.

On the contrary prohibition promotes hypocrisy, corrupts politics and makes a mockery of law precisely as protection robs the many to enrich the few. The state of Maine stands a horrid example of the futility of prohibiting whilst the mammoth fortunes of New England, New York and the East generally, piled up during a single generation, attest the inequalities and false pretenses of protection. Democracy has just won—or thinks it has won—a noble victory for democratic principles. If the battle the party has gained was only for the offices, it was not worth fighting. If by a counterstroke the republicans are able to win it back through the fake issue of prohibition, we shall deserve to lose all we have gained. Yet that is what the republicans are organizing to do.

Every republican penny-trumpet is filled with prohibition literature. Every republican wolf wearing democratic sheep's clothing is yelping prohibition. It is to be nationwide. The little creatures of the South who dare not go the whole hog of Federalism centralizing all power at Washington and killing home rule as well as State rights, just chirp about religion and morals. But the battle is on and it is up to the democrats to begin to consider whether they will leave the democratic party and go over to the republicans, or stand pat on the regulative drink laws as they are, leaving religion and morals to the churches, men and women to work out their redemption according to their conscience. When the whigs went to pieces after the presidential election of 1852, they, as the republicans are proposing to do now, turned to a great religious issue. "No Popery" became the cry. For two, or three years, there was an attempt to rouse the country against the Church of Rome. The Know-Nothing saints got up "religious" riots in Philadelphia, in Baltimore and in Louisville. To little purpose. The people would not have it. Will they have prohibition operating a universal spy system from the national capital, centralizing all power at Washington, changing the government from a representative Republic to a semi-religious despotism, and, by a single constitutional amendment abolishing home rule and re-establishing church and state—the one without religion and the other without liberty?

This great apostle of democracy, of mint juleps and "Kentucky dew" sees in prohibition the coming triumph of republicanism. If he is right what should be the feelings of those who voted for prohibition and for President Wilson at the same time? Bryan, in a recent editorial declared that the dry states were responsible for the re-election of Woodrow Wilson. A scrutiny of the recent vote will reveal whether he is right or not. At any rate he and Watterson are at total variance with each other, but the latter has the courage to say that true democrats are not in favor of prohibition, and as prohibition are virtues that are worth while at all times, even in days of low prices.

**BOYCOTT NO SUBSTITUTE.**

The dispatches from various cities of this country tell of a general boycott being waged by customers against their grocers, with the result that the price of poultry, eggs and other foods tumbled perceptibly. And it is hinted that the consumers, encouraged by such results, are preparing for a more determined assault upon the citadel of extortion.

The boycott is quite as futile a weapon as the embargo, which some of our statesmen are urging. As praiseworthy as the object may be the means are anything but commendable.

What all the American people have to do is to look into the whole situation in so far as it inflicts hardship upon them and apply common sense to the solution of their problems.

Extravagance in this country, once a fault, is now quite flagrant enough to be designated a vice, and vice that is universal. This is especially true in the cities, but there is waste and extravagance enough in the rural districts to menace the welfare of the nation. What is needed throughout the land is a revival of individual economy.

Even in households where a measure of economy may be justly claimed there is waste, and wasted time is a loss that is not only most common, but a loss that can never be recovered. The city inhabitants need to get it into their comprehension that living up to income or beyond it will never get them anywhere, no matter how low prices may become.

Many need to learn that they are requiring others to do for them services which they ought to do for themselves, and services must always be added to prices, because they are a part of the cost of business and must be paid. And many others need to learn that gluttony, overindulgence in luxury and intemperance are bad.

If American households were now conducted with the same prudence, thrift, self-denial and common sense that were characteristic of former generations there would be no such complaints as are now prevalent in this country, nor would there be such price levels.

There is no sense in howling just because a luxury comes so high that indulgence in it makes too great a hole in the family revenues. Not boycotts, but wholesome self-denial and prudence sways price levels automatically and brings matters to rights, and self-denial and prudence are virtues that are worth while at all times, even in days of low prices.

There are evils which perhaps the

fears are based on what the women voters will do.

But he should have no need to worry, for Wilson owes his election to the women; yet when Watterson says that "no democrat believes that prohibition prohibits" he is classing as democrats all of those who voted for the president's re-election—prohibition men as well as women. But what about it if he is right?

**THE DAIRYMEN'S SLOGAN.**

The fat stock show, held last week at the Union stock yards, was a successful event in several particulars. It drew attention to the dairy interests of the state and a large number of fine dairy animals was sold at high prices.

One of the purposes of the exhibition was to attract attention and popular support for the movement to develop Oregon as a dairy state. There were exhibits in rural, business, scientific, sanitary and domestic ideas. Dairy machinery and farm equipment for dairy purposes were displayed. The event is regarded as having been a success.

There has been much talk of a milk shortage in Portland territory. So-called milk famines have occurred in the large eastern centers, but some of these situations came about because of the failure of producer and manufacturer to agree on the prices, the basic trouble lying in the methods of American farming. The United States has not made extraordinary progress with cattle. The livestock industry has declined with the shrinkage of the public lands. At the same time the farmer of the west has failed to take advantage of his opportunities.

A few years ago the farm journals introduced the "robber cow" to their readers. Such a cow is one that does not give enough milk or rich enough milk to pay for her keep. She eats more than she produces, and the natural result is that the farmer bears the loss.

As meat prices advance, and as grain may be sold for extremely high prices in the field, the Oregon farmer cannot see much profit in raising cattle. He is not confident that it is possible to develop this branch of farming so that it is profitable.

It is one of the ambitions of the livestock associations to help place the dairy on a paying basis. Butter, milk and cheese are essential foods. They should be cheaper in price and the best in quality. The slogan is: "Betterment from cow to cupboard."

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A school superintendent recently delivered an address on "Prepared for Teachers." In yesterdays time the teachers we knew were always prepared and not one of them ever lost a battle that we had anything to do with.

The advocates of an embargo on food to the allies should remember that it is never advisable to tickle a mule's heel with a straw unless the straw is longer than the average variety.

Eggs at 60 cents a dozen will make a woman almost an anarchist; but an Easter bonnet will make her feel like an angel. We advise them to save the egg money and get the hat.

Reports from the big cities show that bootlegging still continues. One would think that the high price of leather would have something to do with the industry.

Motion pictures will be displayed on trains of the Trans-Siberian railway to relieve the monotony of the long journeys.

The average man knows that Christmas is almost in sight by the way his little old thirty cents rattles in his pocket.

Petroleum deposits that have been discovered in Somaliland are being investigated by the British government.

November having displayed its versatility as a purveyor of weather, it now behoves forward looking persons to examine the prospects for December. There have been cases on record when December provided some fairly mild weather, but as a rule it lives up to the adjective fitted to it by Spencer in his lines:

And after him came next the chill December;

Yet he, through merry feasting which he made

And great bonfires, did not the cold remember;

His Saviour's birth his mind so much did glad.

It has been said that it hardly matters what kind of weather comes in December, because during the first three weeks of the month people are preparing for the Christmas, and during the last week they are celebrating it. Their minds are too much engaged with plans and festivities and church to allow inclement weather to depress them. But there is no decorative feature of the holiday period like a good snow, bright sunshine and crisp air.

law can correct and ought to correct, but if individual action based upon common sense be taken, extreme conditions would disappear. Stop the waste and it will be seen that the supply will be equal to the demand and that prices will become normal. The United States is rich, but it is burning its money, living too fast and wasting its time in recklessness and indulgence.

And there will be a reckoning some day if the people do not return to saner living standards.

At the Riverside fair near Los Angeles the quick wit of a United States marine averted a domestic tragedy. A visitor from the sticks left his wife securely attached, as he thought, to a chair while he "took in" the sights. Gazing around she presently saw the tips of his coat-tails disappearing into the forbidden portals of a Hooch-ma-coochy show. The irate lady rushed to the blue uniformed marine and begged him to go in and bring out the disobedient husband. The marine obligingly entered, whispered into the ear of the ruralite, and then reported that no such man was within. Presently hubby was located viewing the innocent merits of a cream separator. How fine it would be to have a company of marines stationed at Gresham when the date for the next county fair rolls around!

There are about 30,000 saw mills operating in the United States. During the 1915 trip of the Federal trade commission over the country one of the industries given consideration was lumber production. It was found that a general scramble for business had resulted in price cutting and the demoralization of the business to the extent that many of the mills were selling lumber for the mere cost of manufacture with no charges for the standing timber. At the present rate, the forest of America will be denuded of their growth in a few more years and the lumber men will have put themselves out of business. There is to be a premium on smelting capacity, and the price rose on that scarcity rather than on the difference between the demand and the supply of raw material.

As soon as it became apparent that the war was likely to last for some time, there was a tremendous demand for zinc smelters. They were built with all speed possible. The demand for structural material and machinery and labor, increased the price. And as soon as the smelters were ready to turn out finished zinc, the demand for men to operate them increased the price of labor, and the scarcity also created in the laborers a certain disregard for their jobs and rendered them less efficient. These factors greatly affected the cost of production. As the supply approached the demand prices began to decline. Operators also faced the possibility of an end to the war, and hence the inflated demand, which would leave them with large idle plants on their hands. They will soon be meeting the demand, and will face the problem of keeping their plants busy. This will further tend to reduce the price. This is shown by the report that even at this time many producers are looking for orders which will keep them busy for some months, and are willing to accept a price much lower than that current.

The same thing is expected to happen in other metal industries. The copper producers have to depend upon manufacturers of electrical machinery for their new plants, and since this machinery can not be delivered short of about seven months, their expansion has been slower. The lead market is better organized, a large part of the domestic consumption being taken care of on contracts based on average prices. This helps to prevent panics among large consumers, and keeps the market fairly stable. But conditions in general, as this writer sees them, point to a decline in metal prices before the war ends.

**Chill December.**

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**Metal Prices May Drop.**

The gradual lowering of metal prices as the war continues is predicted by a writer in the New York Post, who bases his prediction on precedent and the peculiarities of the trade which war has developed in this country. As evidence of how the war has affected the metal industry in October, 1916, showing that the output was 3,508,849 tons, against 3,125,491 tons for October, 1915. Yet with this increased production, the price has advanced between \$8 and \$9 a ton. On January 1, 1916, the country's copper refining capacity was 1,877,000,000 pounds annually, and by September 1, it had been increased to 2,173,000,000 annually, while the price had increased from 24 cents a pound to over 75 cents. This increased output at increased prices has led many persons to believe that as long as the war lasts prices will continue to advance. But it appears that there is a balance between supply and demand that is dependent upon several factors not readily apparent, and that this balance is being approached.

The civil war metal prices provide an interesting analogy. In 1864, bar iron sold in Philadelphia for \$6.50 a hundred pounds, and in 1865 it dropped to \$4.75 hundred pounds.

"Lake" copper sold in New York for 55 cents a pound in 1864, and in 1865 the maximum was 50 cents.

The Engineering Mining Journal, assuming that the war will last well into 1917, concludes that there will be a continued large demand that will be met at gradually diminishing prices and profits.

It says that the zinc industry affords a good example of what may be expected in all metal industries.

When the war put an end to zinc supplies from Belgium, France and Germany, the United States was confronted with a shortage of means of converting the raw material into useful form. This placed a large premium on smelting capacity, and the price rose on that scarcity rather than on the difference between the demand and the supply of raw material.

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