

THE NAVY GROWS

CHIEF OF BUREAU TELLS OF DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION.

ALL YARDS BEHIND IN WORK

Ships Added to the Navy During the Year—Urgent Necessity for Increase in the Number of its Construction Corps.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13.—"Progress upon new vessels under construction during the past year has been satisfactory," says Rear Admiral Bowles, chief of the naval bureau of construction, in his annual report.

All the larger vessels have been delayed by non-delivery of structural steel while the vessels building at San Francisco were set back by the ten months' strike, and the holdout of workmen at Seattle prevented any actual progress on the hull of the battleship Nebraska.

The inability of shipbuilders to obtain a sufficient force of skilled workers has also been, in many cases, an important factor in the slow progress of the vessels.

The battleship Ohio is shown to have been twenty-nine months behind her contract on the first of July. The battleship Missouri is over twenty months behind, the majority of the battleships and cruisers over ten months and some of the torpedo craft are more than forty months behind the date of completion stipulated in their contracts.

However, delays on the torpedo boats are being terminated by the newly modified conditions for their delivery.

The contractor's delay in beginning the construction of the vessels of the Virginia, Pennsylvania and St. Louis class gave his bureau an opportunity to make a careful revision of the general plans of those vessels, which, he says, will result in a considerable improvement in their military value and in their habitability. An entire rearrangement of the scheme for the stowage of ammunition was made and particular attention was given to an efficient scheme for coaling.

The ships added to the navy during the year were the battleship Illinois and the torpedo craft Decatur, Perry, Preble, Biddle, Thornton and Wilkes.

Admiral Bowles says there continues to be an urgent necessity for an increase in the number of officers of the construction corps. The principal navy yards, it is stated, have an insufficient number of officers for the performance of regular duties. The lack of officers is particularly hurtful just now in view of the construction of the big battleship Connecticut at the New York navy yard.

QUAY MEETS THE PRESIDENT.

Conference Over Coal Situation is Held at White House.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13.—Senator Quay of Pennsylvania saw the president for an hour yesterday and at the close of the conference the statement was made that there was "nothing to say." Of course it was known that the senator came to discuss the strike situation, but what information he conveyed or what suggestions he received cannot be stated. The senator departed immediately after the conference for Philadelphia.

REBELS REPEL THE ATTACK.

Reverses Come to the Government Troops at Montrovis.

PORT AU PRINCE, Oct. 13.—The revolutionists at Montrovis were attacked by forces of the government yesterday. While the armored government steamship Nouvelle Veloreque bombarded the rebels' position, the government troops attempted a landing. The rebels resisted with energy and succeeded in repelling the attack. There were many casualties.

St. Felix Collin, minister of the interior under the provincial government, has called the population at Port Au Prince to arms.

Charged with Horse Stealing.

BEATRICE, Neb., Oct. 13.—John Harrod was brought here tonight and lodged in jail on a charge of horse stealing. He hired a livery rig at Kimball's barn Sunday, saying he would return in the evening. He failed to show up, so officers were at once put on his trail. They succeeded in arresting him today at Havelock.

Denver Pioneer is Dead.

DENVER, Oct. 13.—Frederick A. Keener, one of Denver's most prominent citizens, died here yesterday of heart disease, aged 75 years. Mr. Keener, prior to coming to Denver in 1874, was in the grain business in Illinois and with his brother operated a line of steamers on the Mississippi. He was one of the builders of the Denver, Texas & Gulf road and also the South Denver tramway system. He was a man of great wealth.

THE LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Latest Quotations from South Omaha and Kansas City, SOUTH OMAHA.

CATTLE—There were no very good cornfed steers in the yards and the market could not be quoted anything but steady. It was evident, though, that packers are not very anxious for the steers, so long as they can get the westerns, but the prices paid looked just about steady with yesterday. There were a good many cows on sale, but the demand was of liberal proportions for the more desirable grades and prices held steady. Good heavy weight cows seem to be selling to the best advantage. The medium grades and canners were not particularly active, but still they brought about steady prices. The yards were full of stockers and feeders again and as speculators already had a good many cattle on hand the market was rather slow, with the tendency of prices downward. The good heavy cattle did not show much of any change, but that class was very scarce. The common kinds of all weights were hard to dispose of and sellers as a rule were calling them a little easier.

HOGS—Receipts of hogs were light but as other markets were quoted 10 to 15c lower prices took a drop here also. Packers started in bidding 10 to 15c lower than yesterday's general market and the bulk of the hogs sold that way. Trading was fairly active, as sellers saw it was useless to hold out for more money, and the bulk of the offerings was disposed of in good season. The feeling grew worse and the close was rather slow and weak.

SHEEP—Good to choice yearlings, \$3.75 to \$4.00; fair to good, \$3.50 to \$3.75; good to choice wethers, \$2.25 to \$2.50; fair to good wethers, \$2.00 to \$2.25; choice ewes, \$3.00 to \$3.25; fair to good ewes, \$2.50 to \$2.75; good to choice lambs, \$4.75 to \$5.00; fair to good lambs, \$4.50 to \$4.75; feeder wethers, \$3.00 to \$3.25; feeder yearlings, \$3.25 to \$3.50; feeder lambs, \$3.00 to \$3.25; cull lambs, \$2.00 to \$2.25; feeder ewes, \$1.25 to \$1.50; stock ewes, \$2.50 to \$2.75.

CATTLE—Corn fed opened steady to higher, closed weak; best cows higher; quarantine steers and native feeders steady; western stockers dull and weak; choice export and dressed beef steers, \$6.90 to \$7.25; fair to good, \$4.00 to \$4.25; stockers and feeders, \$2.50 to \$2.75; western fed steers, \$3.00 to \$3.25; Texas and Indian steers, \$2.40 to \$2.75; Texas cows, \$1.50 to \$1.75; native cows, \$1.75 to \$2.00; native heifers, \$2.25 to \$2.50; canners, \$1.00 to \$1.25; bulls, \$1.00 to \$1.25; calves, \$2.50 to \$2.75.

HOGS—Slow, 10 to 15c lower, closing dull; top, \$7.30; bulk of sales, \$7.20 to \$7.35; heavy, \$7.15 to \$7.25; mixed packers, \$7.10 to \$7.20; light, \$7.15 to \$7.25; yorkers, \$7.30 to \$7.35; pigs, \$5.40 to \$5.70.

SHEEP AND LAMBS—Slow but steady; native lambs, \$3.50 to \$4.00; western lambs, \$4.00 to \$4.50; fed ewes, \$2.50 to \$3.00; native wethers, \$2.50 to \$3.00; western wethers, \$3.40 to \$3.65; stockers and feeders, \$1.25 to \$1.50.

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WILL NOT STRIKE WATER.

Bolts of Lightning Avoid the Surface of the Liquid.

BOSTON, Oct. 11.—Experiments conducted by Prof. John Trowbridge of Harvard university have led to the definite statement that lightning will not strike water. By means of a battery of 20,000 cells he obtained a voltage of 6,000,000, which force, he says, is at least comparable to lightning and enabled him to deduce his conclusions. He says:

With my battery I was able to obtain electric sparks about seven feet long, and found that instead of striking the water a spark of six or seven feet in length invariably jumped to some adjacent object in preference to striking the liquid surface. A spark of only a few inches in length, however, will strike the water, but such a spark is not comparable to lightning.

Beyond a million volts the initial resistance of the atmosphere to electrical discharges becomes less and the discharge therefore is stunted through the air instead of upon the water and strikes some object adjacent to the water.

Fear an Indian Uprising.

DENVER, Oct. 11.—A special to the News from Mercer, Colo., says: A special messenger rode into Meeker and reports that about 400 Utes have been in the vicinity of Rangely some days slaughtering game. He says that since the fatal fight with Harris the bucks have sent their squaws and papooses back to the reservation, which is taken to mean that they intend to fight.

Kruger Talks in Church.

UTRECHT, Holland, Oct. 11.—The Boer generals arrived here today to greet Mr. Kruger on the occasion of his 77th birthday.

The whole party attended divine service, where Mr. Kruger entered the pulpit and expressed great appreciation of the general's service and begged the public to assist in relieving the distress among the Boers.

To Buy Glass Plant.

PITTSBURG, Pa., Oct. 11.—It is learned that at the meeting of the flint glass manufacturers here plans were considered for purchasing all the plants in the country.

G. A. R. Women Elect Officers.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11.—The ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic have elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, Mrs. Anna Hall, Wheeling, W. Va.; senior vice president, Mrs. Smith, Pittsburg; junior vice president, Mrs. Lydia Hinkley, San Francisco; treasurer, Mrs. Anna Michener, Germantown, Pa.; chaplain, Mrs. Mary Stark, St. Louis, Mo.; counsellor, Mrs. Lawrence, Kansas.

MEAT TAXES MUST GO

REPEAL OF TARIFF DUTY HAS BECOME A NECESSITY.

Election of a Democratic Congress the Only Method by Which the People Can Obtain Relief From the Extortions of the Beef Combine.

In April of this year when the beef trust had just made its biggest onslaught on the pockets of the American people, the Democrats in Congress introduced bills to abolish the protection the trust enjoyed under the Republican tariff bill. Mr. McDermott of New Jersey introduced such a reform measure, and Mr. Richardson of Tennessee offered a resolution along the same line, instructing the Ways and Means Committee to investigate the increase of the price of meats, determine the cause, and if practicable offer some measure of legislation that would remedy the evil.

These measures were referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, which includes the leaders of the Republican party, but no action was taken. There was ample time to consider and pass such legislation if the Republican majority had wished to consider it. There was a universal demand from all over the country from everyone, except the rich, for some remedy. No one knew better than these Republican Congressmen that to repeal the tariff duty on cattle and beef would bring a large measure of relief. What was the reason for their non action?

The tariff must not be touched. To even consider the matter would disturb business and what the Congressman did not say, but was uppermost in their minds, it would cut off to re-elect them in the fall. Without an ample campaign fund where would the faithful trustbees be?

The beef trust knew all this; they had their paid lobbyists at Washington watching the situation, who, after consulting the Republican leaders of the Ways and Means Committee, advised the trust that its interests were safe in the keeping of their faithful Republican friends. What was the result? Another lift in beef prices, making the retail prices highest ever known.

The whole country was aroused, except the millionaire and the Republican Congressmen, demanding that something be done. The poor had to give up eating meat, the middle class had to buy cheaper cuts.

The demand for relief from the extortions of the trust after considerable clamor at the portals, at last reached the inside of the White House. The President acted boldly and ordered his Attorney-General to proceed to prosecute the trust; not criminally, but through the long and tortuous path of equity proceedings in the civil courts.

When the Republican Senators and Congressmen called upon the President to consult him about the patronage in their states or districts, they could hardly restrain a smile when asked what they thought of these civil proceedings against the trust. They knew Attorney-General Knox and his leanings. Some of them had known him when Attorney for the steel trust. They knew the judges of the Federal courts had also trust leanings. Can you wonder they smiled. If the President and his Attorney-General had proceeded against the trust magnates in the criminal courts, the Armours and the Swifts and the balance of them, would now be facing a good prospect of serving terms of imprisonment after conviction by a petit jury. The President knew all about this; he knew that the same evidence that had been gathered by the government officials would convict in either court. The evidence was on hand to convict the trust of combining to raise the price of meat and of conspiracy to cheat the farmers by bidding up the price of stock and when the full tide had been turned to a special market then suddenly lowering it and buying the stock at their own prices. Yet he chose the long-drawn-out civil equity suit instead of the quicker and more drastic criminal remedy.

President Roosevelt has a reputation for strenuousness, but when he backs the trusts he is as mild as a sucking dove. Publicity of trust transactions! What care they for that?

Amending the Constitution—an impossibility with one-fourth of the states objecting. The present generation will be beyond the want of beef and either sprouting their wings or be howling for ice water before President Roosevelt's plans will afford relief. But the tariff must not be meddled with.

The beef combine claims that the high price they demand for meat is due to a scarcity of cattle. The statistics of the receipts of live stock at Chicago do not bear this out, for while the receipts of cattle have fallen off about 12 per cent from a year ago, the retail price of beef has advanced 40 per cent during the same period. In the Bulletin of the Department of Labor for July, there is an article on beef prices, and the price of good to extra steers, on June 1, 1901, is given as \$5.75 per 100 pounds. On the same date, 1902, the price is given as \$7.10; on the same dates the price of good to extra fresh beef (Western sides) was in 1901 \$7.75 and in 1902 \$10.00 per 100 pounds.

That article was written in defense of the trust and the prices given are evidently made as favorable as possible for the beef combine. The rise in the price of cattle was, according to that statement, 23 per cent and the rise in the price of dressed beef was

28 per cent. Yet the retail price of beef was increased 40 per cent.

There is one singular thing about the prices quoted in the Bulletin article for dressed beef. On June 1, 1893, and on the same date in 1895, the price was \$9.00 per 100 pounds, with in one cent a pound of the highest price reached in 1902 and yet the retail price of beef in 1893 and 1895 did not increase, or at least not perceptibly so, while in the present year the extraordinary increase of 40 per cent is added.

This increase in the retail price of 40 per cent is the average increase for the whole country, in some of the large cities the price has been raised far more. Anyone can settle the per cent of increase in his own locality by looking over his butcher bills or inquiring of the butcher from whom he buys.

The retail butchers claim they are making but little if any profit on the beef they are now selling at the 40 per cent advance. That question must be settled between the butchers and the beef combine. The public is certainly paying over 40 per cent more than they were a year ago, and the general complaint is that the quality is much inferior.

The census shows that the beef trust has crushed competition and raised the prices. Bulletin No. 217 entitled "Slaughtering and Meat Packing," tells the story. In the ten years from 1890 to 1900, 197 wholesale slaughtering and meat packing establishments were wiped out by the method of the trusts. Not satisfied with their grip on the meat business the trust now in a great measure controls the poultry supply and it is a safe prediction that the Thanksgiving and Christmas turkey will cost the American people fully as great an increased price as their beef, pork and mutton.

The beef combine is not yet a corporate trust, but in a few days it will actually become so, and all the great packing houses will be merged into an actual trust.

This step shows the futile efforts of President Roosevelt and his attorney-general to stop the rapacity of these beef barons, through the equity suit in the civil courts, as the injunction obtained has not deterred them from forming a more compact combination. Either the combine laughs at the puny efforts of the administration or knows that it is but a stage play to stifle the indignation of the people until after the elections are held.

The real remedy is only to be found in the criminal courts, and by taking off the tariff protection that the combine now enjoys.

The Dingley duty on beef cattle is 27 1/2 per cent; the duty on sheep is \$1.50 a head; on fresh beef, veal, mutton and pork 2 cents a pound.

To repeal this tax would allow the supply to be increased by importations and would cut the price of meat to the American consumer by the amount of the tax. The tariff may be sacred in the eyes of the Republican politicians and their friends, the trusts and combines, but the demand for the repeal of the schedules that cover trust productions will force action, and the election of a Democratic Congress will bring it about, for the Republican Senate will be compelled by public opinion to act.

The meat taxes must go.

That Full Dinner Pail.



Must Mean Democratic Victory.

Gov. Odell, in a speech at Buffalo, said New York has limited the powers of the trusts to a greater extent than any other state. To those of us who have been of the opinion that the trusts run riot in Wall street and furnish Boss Platt and Boss Hanna with money to control elections, this welcome news volunteered by the governor, if he is correct in his statement, will surely result in a Democratic victory. Without a campaign fund, where will the Republicans land and with the powers of the trusts limited in New York, the Wall street well, from which the bosses have drawn so often, will be as dry as the great American desert before the irrigation bill was passed.

Position of the Democrats.

The Harrisburg Patriot (Dem.) asserts that every recent election in Pennsylvania has been carried by the Republicans through fraud and states the position of the Democratic candidate for governor as follows: "Upon fair and honest elections rest the very foundations of popular government. All the other evil practices of the party in power are of secondary consequence and can be easily corrected and punished when the will of the majority rules in the nomination of candidates and is honestly recorded on election day."

Commoner Comment.

Extracts From W. J. Bryan's Paper.

SHAW'S TREASURY POLICY.

In 1888 the republican party denounced the democratic policy of loaning the government money without interest to "pet banks." To day the republican party is loaning more government money without interest to "pet banks" than was loaned at the time when the platform of 1888 was written. In fact, the present secretary of the treasury has gone far beyond any previous secretary in responding to the wishes and advancing the interests of "pet banks." The partiality shown by the treasury department toward the Rockefeller bank in New York is already known; a letter written to the secretary of the treasury by one of the officials of the bank demanded favors on the ground that the bank had assisted the republican party in the campaign.

But the recent rulings of Secretary Shaw go beyond anything that has heretofore been known. It is gross favoritism to let the banks have government money for nothing in order that they may loan it out to their customers at the usual rate of interest. The fact that they give bonds for security has nothing to do with it, because they draw interest on the bonds at the same time that they draw interest on the government money which they are permitted to loan out. Heretofore the government deposit has been considered like any other deposit, and the banks in reserve cities have been compelled to keep 25 per cent of it on hand as in the case of other money. But New York banks had loaned out so much money on the watered stock of the trusts that they were not prepared for any shrinkage in their deposits, and the government at once went to their aid, and by an order of the secretary relieved them from the necessity of keeping a reserve against the government deposit. This gave them quite a margin above their legal reserve. In addition to this, Secretary Shaw has enlarged the basis of security required of banks. Formerly a bank had to deposit government bonds. Now, according to the new ruling, the bank can deposit other securities, such as state and municipal bonds. It is easy to measure the enormous privileges thus conferred upon the banks. If, for instance, a bank has a million dollar's worth of bonds which it uses as a security for government deposits it can now use these deposits to purchase a million dollar's worth of state or municipal bonds and substitute these for the government bonds. It thus has its bonds (and they usually draw a higher rate of interest than the government bonds) and it makes a larger profit out of the benevolence of the treasury department. Having substituted other bonds for its government bonds the bank can now, under the law, secure a million in bank notes and loan out its money at the market rate while it draws interest on the bonds and pays a fraction of one per cent as a tax to the government.

The national bank currency system is a source of profit to the banks and they can well afford to contribute liberally to the republican campaign fund in order to retain the advantage, but why should the ordinary republicans vote to tax himself for the purpose of giving this undeserved aid to a few banking corporations? If the ordinary republican buys a government bond he is out the use of his money and must be content with the interest on the bond, but an extraordinary republican engaged in the national banking business can turn his bond into the bank with other bonds and the bank can deposit the bond with the treasury department and get the face value of the bond in bank notes and still draw interest on the bond besides. The ordinary republican can either eat his cake or keep it; the extraordinary republican can eat his cake and keep it, too.

Not content with this great advantage the bankers have been demanding and receiving a large profit in the way of the free use of government money, and all of the steps taken by Secretary Shaw have been in the direction of enlarging the privileges and profits of the national banks. If the ordinary republican, in his desire to make his money as profitable to him as possible, loans out so much that he hasn't enough to run him through the winter, the government doesn't rush to his aid and correct his errors to save him from stringency in his financial matters, but the extraordinary republicans who control the national banks can loan out their reserves, thus increasing their profits, and rely upon the favors of the government in every time of need. If money rates run up the treasury promptly supplies them with money to loan at the greater rate, and really makes it to their pecuniary advantage to bring a recurrence of such conditions, not to speak of the speculative advantage which can be found in an unsteady market.

Whether the secretary has violated the law in his effort to rescue the banks is a question which will probably be discussed when congress meets, but that he is running the treasury department in the interest of Wall street is a question which is not open to dispute. Whether his action will frighten depositors and lead to further withdrawal remains to be seen, but he certainly has done enough to frighten the rank and file of the party and show them that our government, instead of being administered as a government of the people, by the people and for the people, is really administered as a government of the corporations, by the

Senator Thomas Patterson has purchased the Denver Evening Times, which means that the Evening Times will be thoroughly democratic and no longer the mouthpiece of selfish financiers.

It appears that Mr. Baer was unduly modest when he said he was only one of the trustees of providence. Mr. Baer seems to be it.

The platforms of the New York democrats would not have needed so much explanation if it had been made thorough democratic.

corporations and for the corporations. The republican voter, however, can be consoled. He can imagine himself in partnership with the big republicans of Wall street and he can use WE in speaking of the prosperity—although the Wall street end of the partnership gets the lion's share of the privileges and profits.

TARIFF'S CHANGING DEFENSE.

Republican orators are in the habit of defending a high tariff as if it had always been a republican doctrine, and as if it were always justified by the same arguments. As a matter of fact the first national platform written by the republican party—the platform of 1856—did not mention a high tariff. That platform was written at a time, too, when the people were enjoying a low tariff, but the republican leaders did not see fit to suggest protection as a necessary thing.

The victory won by the republicans in 1860 was not won on the high tariff issue.

When the civil war broke out and the government needed more revenue the tariff was raised as a war measure, but the manufacturers were not willing to have the rates reduced when peace was restored.

A new reason had to be found and Clay's argument was brought forward, namely, that infant industries must be protected for a short time until they were able to stand upon their feet. This argument did service in several national campaigns. It was answered in 1876 by the election of Mr. Tilden, and in 1884 by the election of Mr. Cleveland.

In 1888 the infants had grown so large that they could not only stand upon their own feet, but they could run all over other people's feet, and it became necessary to manufacture a new defense. And what was it? Well, they said that a high tariff was not such a temporary policy designed to assist infants as a permanent policy, intended to give manufacturers an advantage over foreigners, just equal to the difference between the wages paid here and abroad. The republicans insisted upon comparing wages per day when they should have compared wages per piece (and thus make allowance for the greater efficiency of American labor) and under the pretense that they were securing just enough to cover the difference in labor cost the manufacturers obtained a tariff sufficient to cover the entire amount paid to American workmen, and in many instances doubled that amount. The manufacturers wrote the law themselves and appointed themselves trustees without bond; they secured for themselves an enormous profit, but were not compelled to divide with the wage-earners for whose benefit they asked protection.

But now we are exporting an ever increasing number of articles and certainly no one can say that we need a tariff to protect industries which can pay ocean freight on their output and compete in foreign markets with the "cheap labor" of the whole world.

The trusts are hiding behind a high tariff wall and demanding extortionate prices from people in this country, while foreigners are given a better treatment than American citizens. A new argument is necessary, and what will it be? It has already been suggested, namely, that the beneficiaries of protection must stand together and object to any reduction anywhere. They can not defend each schedule on its merits—they will not try—they will simply insist that the tariff must be reformed, if at all, "by its friends," which means that it will not be reformed. The republican voters have supported the doctrine of protection under the delusion that they were performing a patriotic duty they have accepted the statements of the manufacturers without examination and have felt a sort of partnership in the industries protected, but they are beginning to learn that they have been made the victims of a confidence game. They are beginning to learn that the manufacturers who, during each session of congress, approached that body as mendicants and begged for legislation which they claimed was necessary to save them from bankruptcy—that these manufacturers not only have larger bank accounts than the taxpayers upon whom they have imposed, but have conspired together to form monopolies for the plunder of their benefactors.

The light is breaking. In Speaker Henderson's district the farmers and business men are already in revolt and the revolt will spread. On the tariff question, as on all other questions, the republican party discriminates against the many and in favor of the few, and the masses will ultimately register a protest that will be effective.

Mr. Baer says he is willing to leave it to Pennsylvania judges. With the memory of Judge Jackson still fresh in their minds can you blame the miners for not accepting the proposition. The ordinary republican can't get any relief from the treasury when he is afflicted with financial stringency, but he is permitted to borrow from the banks at a high rate the money which the governments loans the banks without interest.

The people who praise Secretary Shaw for loaning the bankers money on chips and wistons are the same people who grew red in the face and spluttered frightfully a few years ago when the populists hinted at a similar thing.

The republicans say that we have plenty of money, and yet the president is violating precedent and resorting to all sorts of expedients to relieve the stringency of the money market.

Mr. Baer says the government is not big enough to make the anthracite trust be good—only big enough to protect with the army while the trust robs right and left.

The mention of Mr. Alger's appointment to the senate somehow or other reminds us of Attorney General Knox because it brings up recollections of the beef trust.