

BABCOCK'S BUGBEAR

Facts Found by National Industrial Commission Refute the Fundamental Assumption of Tariff-Tinkers.

Special to the Plymouth Tribune.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 24.—The near approach of the opening day of congress has brought "the boys" back and filled the circumambient atmosphere with the red and blue light of political jabber. It is the harvest of correspondents, who have been subsisting on shucks during vacation, and their eagerness to get interviews with arriving members is only excelled by the eagerness of the said members to be interviewed and arrange for marked copies.

The question, apparently, to which most genuine interest attaches, is the proposition to reopen the tariff. As is well remembered, Congressman Babcock sprung this question by recommending the placing of a large number of protected articles on the free list under the presumption that the necessity for protective tariff on such articles has passed away. His reasons for thinking so are that America has attained the point where her manufacturers are able to meet foreign competition in foreign markets in the lines he proposes to unprotect, that the removal of a protective tariff would in some cases injure trusts, and that some concerns are selling their product cheaper abroad than at home.

Of course the democrats everywhere were tickled to death to have the proposition and the argument come from a republican congressman and they are also greatly pleased whenever they can find in press or speech any republican coincidence with Babcock's views. That there should such republicans is not surprising when one considers the number of people every where who are thoughtless and in the habit of jumping at conclusions or accepting half truths.

A department officer called my attention yesterday to a recent investigation made by the industrial commission and bearing directly on the Babcock contention relative to the sale of goods abroad lower than at home. The commission went into the situation exhaustively and it found, as has never been denied, that certain American manufacturers do favor the export trade in the manner charged, though they form a very small minority of the whole and they give reasons that are satisfactory for adopting the policy.

Thus, out of 195 cases inquired into in the manufacture of metals, covering practically all of the exporting in that line, 30 admitted the practice, and in no other branch of trade was so high a proportion found. But in all these cases where the export trade is supplied at lower prices than the domestic buyers pay it appears that the discrimination is more apparent than real when the reasons for doing so are stated. The steel trust, for example, sometimes sells abroad at a sacrifice in order to prevent overproduction in the domestic trade and keep its fires lighted and its men employed. No serious objection has ever been made to this very reasonable argument and certainly no one in America can find any just ground for complaint.

Other reasons are to be found in special offsets which make the cost of supplying the foreign markets materially greater than in the domestic market. High freight charges to foreign ports fall within this class and the exporter must pay them, or part of them, in order to sell abroad and he may do this by reducing his price. Tariff duties in the country to which he exports his

goods must be counter balanced in the same way or he cannot compete with the foreign manufacturer. Rebates and drawbacks where the raw material he uses has been imported must also be deducted from the foreign price for his product. These are the chief causes for the practice Mr. Babcock has condemned without understanding and any one of such reasons in a particular case is ample, sound and proper. It is advantageous to the American people to keep the mills running and to prevent a surplus of production.

Notwithstanding these well-founded excuses for discriminating the industrial commission finds that the conditions of the export trade are such as to enable the American producer in 80 to 90 per cent of that trade to charge as much to the foreigner as to the home consumer. Evidently there is not much material in this field for the Babcocks and the democrats.

Speaking of this phase of the commission's report my department friend suggested that prices always range higher in prosperous times than in periods of adversity and that at the same time people have more money to buy with. Dun's Review, a non-partisan publication upon which business men everywhere rely, shows that the per capita cost of living now is \$25.29 greater per year in America than it was in 1897, when the country was at its lowest ebb. But the average of earnings is now very much more than \$25.29 greater than it was then. The masses of the people are not only buying more per capita now than ever before in the history of the country, but they are also saving more, as is shown by the banks, insurance companies and building and loan societies.

The important thing, he continued, is to secure an ample income rather than to buy cheaply. Work comes first, prices are secondary. Keep the mills open and the men employed, sell the goods in the best markets first but sell them, and the country will make a profit on the whole transaction. The republican policy is to provide work at good wages; the democratic policy is to get things cheap, without any reference to the ability of the people to buy. The experience of the past decade vindicates the republican idea.

Indiana Raisens Lemons.

ELWOOD, Ind., Nov. 26.—A lemon, weighing three pounds, raised on a tree in the green house of Mrs. May Bradley, in this city, was sent to Washington yesterday, with a request that it grace the dinner table of President Roosevelt on Thanksgiving day. Last year Mrs. Bradley sent a similar specimen to President McKinley, and received a note of thanks and the assurance that her request had been complied with. The lemon tree which bears the fruit is about ten feet high and filled with lemons. Many of them, weighing two or three pounds, have been purchased by traveling men and sent to their houses handling the imported fruit, to show how much larger lemons can be raised in this country.

Sanguine Saltito.

SALEM, Ind., Nov. 27.—The drill in the oil well on Sugar creek, near Saltito, Washington county, has struck a good flow of oil and the indications are that this territory will prove a good paying oil section. Water has interfered with the flow somewhat, but the operators think this can be overcome. Saltito is twelve miles northwest of Salem. This is the first well drilled. There is considerable surface indication of oil along the creek bed and the prospective oil territory extends right up to the town.

Good Opening for Young Man.

GENOA, Nov. 27.—James Fletcher, United States consul in this city, is dead.

PROSPECT OF TROUBLE

Agreed to Pension Mrs. McKinley, but Rider for Mrs. Harrison has Opposition—Reasons, Comment and Gossip in the Affair.

WASHINGTON, D. C. Nov. 26.—Bills providing pensions of \$5,000 annually for the widows of two presidents of the United States are expected to be introduced in the senate on the first day of congress. One, which undoubtedly will be handled by Senator Mark A. Hanna, provides for a pension for Mrs. McKinley. The other authorizes the payment of a pension to Mrs. Benjamin Harrison. The action of Mrs. Harrison's friends in asking that she be paid a pension has been the cause of a great deal of quiet comment and criticism among those who have learned of it.

There are some unusual features to the case. In the first place Mrs. Harrison was not the wife of a president, but of an ex-president. She, it will be remembered, spent a great deal of time at the white house nursing the first Mrs. Harrison and relieving her of the social duties of her position. After the death of Mrs. Harrison Mrs. Dimmick took charge of the executive mansion, acting as a sort of housekeeper for the president. Mr. Harrison and Mrs. Dimmick were not married until the former's term of office had expired. All the wives of presidents who drew pensions from the United States actually served as mistresses of the white house.

The friends of the measure providing for Mrs. McKinley's pension assert that the Harrison pension bill is being attached to that for Mrs. McKinley for the purpose of getting it through congress without opposition. There will be no objection to Mrs. McKinley's bill in either house. Everyone seems to think that it will not only be just but proper for the country to thus provide for the wife of the murdered president. Mrs. Harrison, on the other hand, they declare, does not need the pension, as Mr. Harrison made her the chief beneficiary of his estate, which was ample to provide for her all the rest of her life.

Reports come from Indiana that the children of Mr. Harrison by his first wife will oppose the granting of the pension. It is said that Russell B. Harrison has threatened to appear before the senate committee on pensions and inform that body that he knew his father, if possible, would disapprove of any such move. Mr. Harrison in his will practically cut his children off, leaving most of his money to his wife. Their antagonism to the proposed pension is taken as a renewal of the objections which they made to Mrs. Dimmick before she married their father.

The matter has been called to the attention of the senate committee, of which Senator Gallinger is the chairman, and it is expected that the committee will pass on the case before the bill is introduced. It is possible in case the committee decides unfavorably on Mrs. Harrison's claim to a pension that her friends will withdraw the bill before the committee has a chance to officially recommend an unfavorable report.

RANSOM OR LIFE

Ultimatum of Brigands Who Hold Miss Stone Captive.

SOPIA, Nov. 27.—Private advices from Dubnitsa state that the brigands have sent a message to Dickinson saying that unless he accedes to their demands for the payment of a ransom of 25,000 liras by Jan. 1 Miss Stone and her companion, Mme.

Tsika, will have their throats cut.

This was their answer to the ultimatum said to have been sent by Dickinson, but which Dickinson denied sending, that the brigands must accept 12,000 liras within ten days or all previous offers would be withdrawn. The report is discredited here and is regarded as a threat to excite sympathy in America, in order to obtain higher terms for the brigands.

A blizzard raging in the mountains along the frontier prevents the operations of the military gendarmes against the brigands who have Miss Stone a prisoner. The storm also makes communication with her captors impossible.

CLEM STUDEBAKER DEAD.

SOUTH BEND, Ind., Nov. 27.—The death of Hon. Clem Studebaker occurred at 11:55 today, having been anticipated for nearly a week. The members of the family were at his bedside. The funeral will take place Saturday afternoon at one o'clock.

SIX ROUT 150

Fierce Encounter Between Handful of Yankees and Horde of Savage Bolomen.

MANILA, Nov. 26.—Lieutenant Louis J. VanSchaick of the fourth infantry, who was out scouting with five men, encountered 150 bolomen who were returning after having sacked the defenseless town of Siaraca, near Cavite. Upon seeing the Filipinos, VanSchaick ordered his men to charge them. The command was obeyed, and VanSchaick, being mounted, reached the insurgents sixty yards in advance of his men. He killed three of them with his revolver. An insurgent fired his rifle point-blank at VanSchaick at four paces but missed. Lieutenant VanSchaick was knocked from his horse. He jumped to his feet and engaged in a hand to hand conflict with the enemy, using the butt of his revolver. He sustained two severe wounds one of which nearly severed his wrist. At this point the lieutenant's men arrived, rescued him, and put the insurgents to flight. VanSchaick is in the military hospital at Manila, and is doing well. He has already been recommended for a medal of honor for bravery in a previous engagement.

General Hughes, commander of the department of the Visayas, reports that negotiations are about completed for the surrender of the insurgent leader Samson, on Bohol island. This surrender will doubtless end the revolt against the American authority in Bohol, as Samson is acknowledged to be the best insurgent leader there.

Runaway Engine at Warsaw.

WARSAW, Ind., Nov. 27.—Yesterday morning a runaway engine starting at Winona station, two miles east, crashed into the rear of another freight train standing on the Pennsylvania tracks in this place.

The caboose and three other cars were smashed to pieces and thrown across the tracks blocking traffic for several hours. The wreckage took fire, but was extinguished by the local fire department. The runaway engine got away from Engineer Kilgore while he and his fireman were engaged in repairing the air-brake connection to fourth car back.

Knox to Rebuild.

KNOX, Ind., Nov. 25.—Six or eight large brick buildings are contemplated in the district recently destroyed by fire. With these new structures almost the whole business portion will be of brick.

HUNDRED BRITISH CAPTURED

Boers Forced to Release Them after Heavy Fighting.

Kitchener Emphatically Denies Recent Story of English Barbarity in Placing Women and Children in Front in Battle Which Was Compared With Herod's Massacre.

LONDON, Nov. 25.—This morning's dispatches from South Africa show that the recent fighting near Yilliersdorp, southwest of Standerton, as to which Lord Kitchener reported nothing beyond the fact that Commandant Beyers had been captured after attacking a patrol of 100 railroad pioneers, was really a serious affair. It seems that Grobelaar's commando succeeded in surrounding and capturing a British force of 100 British Cape railway pioneers. Subsequently, Col. Bemington came up with reinforcements, and after heavy fighting compelled the Boers to retire and to release their prisoners. The British losses included Major Fisher killed and three officers wounded. The casualties among the men have not yet been reported.

With references to the story that the British placed Boer women and children in front during the fighting at Graspan, June 6, when General De Wet's convoy was captured—a story which has been spread broadcast as an example of British barbarity—the Daily Mail sent a dispatch of inquiry to Lord Kitchener, who replied as follows:

"The statement is absolutely untrue and devoid of all foundation. One child was killed and one woman and one child were wounded by the Boers."

As the story has been prominent in the recent anti-Chamberlain campaign in Germany, the Daily Mail has telegraphed Lord Kitchener's reply to all the leading German papers.

William T. Stead, lecturing in London yesterday, said he thanked God that Germany and Europe were bold enough to call baby murder crime. "Compared with England's conduct," he exclaimed, "Herod's slaughter of the innocents was saintlike. Great Britain ought to be beaten in this unjust war. In the American war we employed redskins, just as we have loosed kaffirs against the Boers, and, thank God, we were beaten."

Peculiar Method of Suicide.

DENVER, Nov. 26.—News has reached this city of the suicide of Judge M. A. Rogers, formerly of the supreme court of Colorado, and one of the ablest lawyers in the state, at Steamboat Springs, Col. The manner of suicide was unusual. Judge Rogers laid down on the ground with a stick of dynamite under him, and lighting a cigar, fired the fuse from it and calmly smoked until the shock of the explosion ended his life. The act was committed against some willows near Barr river, just inside the town limits. Judge Rogers had been at Steamboat Springs all summer with his wife. No cause is known for the suicide.

BOMBARDS COLON

Inhabitants Given Twenty-four Hours to Make Their Escape.

COLON, Columbia, Nov. 25.—As a result of an exchange of notes between the United States gunboat Machias and the Gen. Pinzon, Ignacio Foliaco, commanding the Pinzon, which has 600 men on board, yesterday notified the American, British and French warships now in the harbor that he intends to bombard Colon at noon today thus giving twenty-four hours notice.

The various consuls notified their respective follow-citizens that refuge may be had on board

the warships. To bombard the town of Colon it is absolutely necessary to fire across the railroad tracks, and the railroad employes have refused to work.

Lieut-Commander McCrea of the Machias is the senior naval officer, and he today expects instructions from Washington regarding the threat to bombard. There is much excitement.

Breastworks are being erected in the public thoroughfares of Panama. The townsfolk in the vicinity of these are hastily removing to safer places. All persons known to be liberals are arrested on sight. The government has declared its intention to contest every inch of ground if an entrance to the city is affected. The United States gunboat Concord, Commander Knox, has arrived at Panama and the battleship Iowa, Commander Perry, is with the Machias in this harbor.

CITY DEFALCATION SETTLED.

Shortage of Ex-Treasurer Abel of Elkhart Is Compromised.

ELKHART, Ind., Nov. 25.—The city finance committee has accepted \$6,000 from the bondsmen of ex-Treasurer Abel in settlement of his shortage of \$9,069. The examination by the expert accountant revealed that \$4,030 of the shortage was misappropriated during his first term, which ended in September, 1894, and the law requires that demands for restitution by officials shall be made within five years of the close of their term. The bondsmen threatened to take advantage of this law if the case were pushed, and the city compromised for \$6,000. Abel turned over to the bondsmen his property, whose estimated value is \$3,000, and it is said his brother, A. M. Abel of Conway, N. D., paid \$3,000. He held out for an agreement of immunity from prosecution, but this was not granted.

American Purchase in Paris.

PARIS, Nov. 26.—One of the finest sites in Paris has become American property. It is announced that the Equitable life insurance company has acquired the plot of ground on the corner of the Boulevard des Capucines and the Rue de la Paix, overlooking the Grand opera house, where it intends to build, introducing the latest American methods of construction.

Fairy Tale from Tipton.

TIPTON, Ind., Nov. 27.—Warren Warrington, a farmer, had his fortune told by a Gypsy woman, while her people were camping in this vicinity last week, and among other things she informed him that treasure was hidden on his farm. Monday evening while Warrington was driving through a dilapidated gate on his farm, his wagon, heavily loaded with corn, struck a post knocking it down and uncovering a tea kettle containing \$1,000 in gold. To make the story more complete, Warrington is inclined to hunt up the fortune-teller and give her \$100.

Burned Making Soap.

PERU, Ind., Nov. 25.—Mrs. Albert Johnson, aged thirty, wife of a prominent farmer living five miles south of Peru, was burned frightfully Saturday night. She was standing by a fire boiling soap when her dress ignited. She was enveloped in flames. Her children tore her clothes off, but too late to save her. Death is momentarily expected.

Mexican War Veteran Dead.

EVANSVILLE, Ind., Nov. 25.—The funeral of the late Adolph Miehle occurred yesterday afternoon, and was one of the largest in the history of the city. The pall-bearers were surviving veterans of the Mexican war. The deceased fought in the Mexican war and lost an arm at Buena Vista while standing near Gen. Zacharia Taylor.

WHO KILLED POPULISM

Passing of the Party that Swallowed Democracy Under Bryan's Skyrocket Leadership—The Air Full of Ominous Signs in the Northwest.

GRAND FORKS, N. D., Nov. 25.—Is populism dead? Has the so-called "reform" organization, which came into existence with the promulgation of the Ocala platform, and which apparently absorbed the "unfettered democracy," at Chicago in 1896, ceased to be a factor in national politics?

The foregoing questions have been agitated at every political gathering which has been held in the northwest during the past twelve months. It is significant that wherever these questions have been discussed in that section—once a stronghold of populism—the answers have been almost invariably in the affirmative even many of the men who at one time strenuously championed the pronouncements of the Ocala convention, or, a few years later, hysterically described the Chicago platform as "a second declaration of independence," reluctantly admitting that the populist party, if not actually defunct, is at least in articulo mortis.

Some of those who were recently leaders in the "reform" movement go so far as to predict that the populists will not again hold a national convention, or put another presidential ticket into the field. Others, more reticent in discussing the party's probable future, avoid all reference to national campaigns but, express the hope that their party, by maintaining its organization in certain sections, may continue to be a factor in local politics. These Mark Tapleys are not sanguine enough, however, to venture the assertion that populism will ever again amount to anything as a national movement.

Who killed populism? This is another question which bobs up for discussion when two or three politicians get together. It is heard so often that it reminds one of that other famous query, "Who killed Cock Robin?"

Probably one of these questions is as important as the other. But opinion in the northwest is very much divided in locating the responsibility for the "snuffing out" of the populist beacon.

Republicans, as a rule, maintain that, as populism, at best, was never anything more than a fungous growth, it naturally disappeared before the sunlight of prosperity which has flooded the land since the first year of the late President McKinley's administration. Former leaders of the populist party assert that it was fusion which brought the new party to an untimely grave. The bolder ones among these erstwhile party chieftains outspokenly declare that it was the leadership of Wm. J. Bryan which derailed the populist train and sent it, a hopeless wreck, to the bottom of the political ditch.

Democrats are not disposed to talk much about the decadence of populism. They say it is "not their funeral," and many of them proclaim that they "are disgusted with the unholy alliance made at Chicago in 1896, and are prepared to repudiate the present leadership of the democratic party at the first opportunity." It looks, therefore, as if the passing of populism will bring a reorganization, if not a rejuvenation, of the old-time democracy. Indeed, the political skies in the northwest are full of signs at present, all more or less ominous.

We've foes within and foes without, Trying to hold back our progress without doubt. Look out for the reckless frauds you see, Get the genuine Rocky Mountain Tea. J. W. Hess.