

THE M'KINLEY BILL.

What Shrewd Business Men in the North Think of It, and the Effect It Will Likely Have Upon Southern Enterprises.

WE HAVE THE BEST OF IT.

WASHINGTON, D.C., Oct. 9.—Several prominent Englishmen were in this city during the discussion of the McKinley bill and we exceedingly anxious that it be defeated or modified. In several interviews they had with newspaper correspondents they took the ground that it would injure our trade abroad. But one, who has finally concluded to establish a branch manufacturing enterprise in this country, admitted to-day that the effect of the bill would be to force the establishment of other English enterprises in America. "Your country," said he, "has been our best market; but under the new law we shall not be able to supply you longer, as it will be impossible for us to compete with your home industries. But rather than lose your custom we shall establish branch plants and get the benefit of your protective duties."

The idea that the English objected to the measure because it would hurt our foreign trade and give them the advantage of being without a great competitor in South America, was an absurdity, though the free trade papers have been silly enough to base objections to the bill upon such statements. The fact is the bill, though objectionable in some respects, will prove of great benefit to the country and particularly to the South. It will not only protect the Southern mineral section from the injurious competition of the low-priced labor of Europe, but it will have the effect of bringing a deal of English and German capital to that section. It also gives confidence to Northern capitalists, and you may expect heavy investments from New York, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. There will be less difficulty in securing money for Southern enterprises from the money centers. Prominent manufacturers and capitalists who have been much in Washington recently take this view of it, and say the hostility of Southern representatives to the bill was in direct conflict with the interests of their constituents.

"Adopt a measure like the Mills bill," said a shrewd Northern protective democrat and manufacturer, the other day, "and every industry in the South would be paralyzed. The South has a great advantage over the North, because of its cheap raw material and the proximity of the coal to the iron; but that advantage would be overcome if the duty were removed from iron and coke. We could get iron from Cuba and Spain, where first-class miners get only from 30 to 40 cents per day, and we could get coke made by labor equally as cheap, or cheaper. Our plants are in close proximity to the seaboard, and if the duty were removed we could hold our own with the South. But neither North or South could stand out against the foreign product made by such cheap labor. Altogether the South has, by odds, the best of the situation under the McKinley bill, though her representatives are making such an outcry against it. The leaders started the clamor and the underlings have taken it up; but it is all political clap-trap and done for party effect. It seems to me a great pity that Southern politics should be in such direct conflict with the Southern interest. The two should go together, as they do in the North. There is certainly a feeling of relief and security among all the capitalists I have met since the passage of the bill, and I have seen quite a number. They feel now that there is no danger in putting their money in Southern lands and Southern furnaces, or in any other section where the profits from investments are dependent upon the continuance of protective duties."

REVIEW OF THE SESSION.

What Congress Has Done and What It Has Left Undone.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9.—The committee of the Senate and House reported several thousand bills and resolutions during the first session of the Fifty-first Congress. In the Senate the usual mode of introducing reports, that is, by special permission of the Senate, was followed; but in the House the new rules allowed reports to be made at any time and without any special permission, thus allowing an unusually large number of bills to be placed on the calendar.

Of the principal committees of the Senate, the committee on pensions has had referred to it about 2,000 bills and resolutions, 1,200 of which originated in the Senate and 800 in the House. Of this number about 1,300 have been reported to the 400 Senate and 600 House. The committee reported five general bills, three of which became laws. The committee on territories has received forty-eight bills. Of this number thirty-seven have been reported. Among them were the bills providing for the admission of Idaho and Wyoming.

Of the bills introduced the committee on Indian affairs has received 216. Of this number they reported seventy-two, of which thirty-eight passed. The appropriations authorized by the committee aggregated more than \$6,000,000. It became apparent soon after the Fifty-first Congress convened that the elections committee would be, next to the committee on ways and means, the most important committee of the House. The committee decided seventeen of the eighteen cases before it in favor of ten republicans, six democrats and one union labor candidate. One case is undecided, and four of those reported have not been decided by the House. The contestants in every case were republicans. In every case the recommendations of the committee were adopted. Seven republicans and one union labor candidate were seated and one seat declared vacant.

THEY ARE COMING.

In Spite of Carnegie's Efforts to Keep the British Iron and Steel Institute People North of the Ohio River Two Thirds of Them Will Come South.

A CAR LOAD FOR THE GAP.

New York, Oct. 9.—The meeting of the iron and steel men of Great Britain, France and Germany was a success in a business way, occurring as it did in a year when the United States stepped from second to first place as a producer of iron. Many important papers were read, a number issued in pamphlet form, and many valuable points elaborated by discussion. All sorts of social courtesies were extended to the delegates which gave them most agreeable impressions of New York and American hospitality.

The exhibit made by the Big Stone Gap Improvement Company, aided by its friends, of its coal, coke, iron ores, marbles, building stones, sands, &c., being the only one at the Park Avenue Hotel where the most of the visitors lodged, or at Chickering Hall, where the meetings were held, naturally attracted a good deal of attention, and excited no little interest. One iron worker said: "The only coke we have in Great Britain, that has as much as 94% of carbon, is made in Wales from a peculiarly rich coal, and cannot meet the demand at \$8 per ton!"

Many copies of Prof. Procter's pamphlet, maps, and Mr. McCreath's analysis of your coke were distributed, and as they will be read on a portion of their trip, much good is expected to follow. I am told that Mr. Carnegie, during his passage over, tried to influence his passengers to make the trip to the Gogebic and other mines of Wisconsin and Michigan, Niagara Falls, &c., but an actual gain of those who registered up to last Wednesday, showed that only 94 had elected that route, while 225 preferred the South. This proportion doubtless prevails among the 600 or 800 delegates, and we expect to get one or two car loads for a side trip to Big Stone Gap after they have been to Birmingham, Chattanooga and Middlesboro.

THE TARIFF BILL.

The English Opposed to it Because It Will Injure Their Manufacturing Interests and Benefit Ours. The Talk that It Will Help England and Other Markets All Staff.

LONDON, Oct. 8.—English industry is beginning to feel the effects of the new American tariff law. Manufacturers were kept busy up to the latest moment possible in making goods for America to be shipped in advance of the new law going into operation and many are now busy filling orders which mean while accumulated from England and from foreign countries other than the United States. This will keep such establishments active for several months to come; but this good fortune is not universal, and for many quarters come evidence of commercial disturbances more or less serious in their effects. In the Staffordshire nail works the employees have been subjected to a 10 per cent reduction in wages and a similar blow has fallen upon the small army of the laborers in the steel works of Barrow-in-Furness. The Yorkshire mining and manufacturing industries contemplate a reduction in the number of their employees, and have dispatched traveling agents in all directions to endeavor to secure new markets in place of the American. The button-makers of Birmingham have sent agents to America to see if it would be practicable to retain their market in that country by establishing factories there in conjunction with the English houses. The Yorkshire Post, a leading organ of the industries of that region says: "It is useless to live in a fools paradise and to attempt to persuade ourselves that the loss of our best market is a good thing. It may be true, as claimed by optimistic theorists, that the absurd tariff now being put in force in America will injure that country's export trade as to permit England to secure markets now interfered with by American competition. But this is a contingency for the future only, and does not diminish the gravity of the immediately present situation. It does not meet current fixed charges on capital nor put bread into the hands of discharged workmen." It is believed that Leeds will almost entirely escape any ill-effects from the new law. Her clothes are of too highly finished and expensive a character to be much affected in demand by slight variations of price, or to be competed with by American goods. Bradford, however, with her lower grades of goods, will be hard hit, and the worsted and coating industries of Dewsbury will be almost wiped out.

A PLACE TO PUT IRON.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9.—The Secretary of the Navy this afternoon awarded to Cramp & Sons, of Philadelphia, the contracts for building two coast line-of-battle ships increased twelve feet in length, for \$3,020,000 each, and the protected cruiser on the Department plans for \$2,725,000. The Department also notified Mr. Scott, of the Union Iron-works of San Francisco, that they are willing to award him one of the battle ships for \$3,180,000 on the same plans as that which the Philadelphia firm offered. Mr. Scott's original bid for the ships on the Department plan was \$3,240,000 which is \$20,000 more than the Cramps bid. The difference between the Department's offer to the Union Iron-works, and the Cramps, \$160,000, the Secretary believes will only pay for the transportation of steel plates across the continent, and some other expenses to which the Philadelphia firm would not be subjected.

BIG DEAL NEAR BIRMINGHAM.

An English Syndicate Makes a Large Purchase in Walker County, Ala.

BIRMINGHAM, Oct. 8.—A big deal is reported in Walker county real estate. It involves the town site of Jasper, several coal mines and many thousands of acres of mineral and timber lands. An English limited liability company is said to be the purchaser. Mr. L. P. Musgrove and his associates are the sellers. The price paid by the Englishmen for the princely domain is said to be \$1,000,000, and the property will be stocked for \$3,000,000. So reports go, and the reports are worthy of belief. It is understood that the Englishmen, all of whom will be warmly welcomed to Alabama, will transform the quiet little town of Jasper into a bustling city. Of course there are individual owners of numerous lots in Jasper, but the English company get possession of practically all of the vacant ground. It means great things for Jasper, for Walker county, for Birmingham and for Alabama. It is the real beginning of a flood of English capital that will pour into this matchless mineral region.

THE GREAT TUNNEL.

Capt. A. M. Bishop, Acting Chief Engineer of the Tunnel Survey, Gives the Latest News About It.

Cap. A. M. Bishop, who has charge of the Interstate Tunnel survey, was caught on the wing in town yesterday and interviewed about the progress of his work and the outlook for the enterprise. He said in substance: "Our work is progressing as well as we could wish, barring the usual amount of bad, rainy weather we have had recently. My corps is composed of wide-awake, manly young fellows who are at their work with a vim. We have about finished the survey for the present on this side of the Big Black mountain, and I have found, what I guessed I could find when I undertook the work, a much better ascent to the mountain than the one first proposed. I begin to climb by my maximum grade of sixty-six feet to the mile at the mouth of Mud Lick branch of Callahan creek, about four miles from town, and rise by that creek to the spurs of the 'Nine-mile Spur,' and by making a distance of four miles in thirteen, I get a first-class route, easy to be built, and in no place exceeding the sixty-six-foot grade, to the mountain at a good point for

TERRIFIC EXPLOSION.

Six of the DuPont Powder Mills Blown to Atoms and the Shock Felt Thirty-Five Miles off.

A LARGE NUMBER KILLED.

WILMINGTON, DEL., Oct. 8.—The office and six mills of the DuPont Powder Works near here are in ruins, fifty or more houses of the workmen at the "upper yards" are wrecked, a dozen or perhaps more killed, and a score of others are injured as a result of a series of powder explosions at 3:30 yesterday afternoon at the DuPont works, which are well-known throughout the country and the largest powder mills in the United States.

The mills extend along the banks of the Brandywine on the west side about two miles. They are divided into the "upper," "Hagley" and "lower" yards. The first named, where the office of the company is located is about three miles and the last named about five miles from Wilmington. A workman named Grant in one of the mills connected with the "upper yard" was receiving a can of hexagonal powder to be shipped for the use of the United States government, when in some way a spark communicated to the can and it blew up. Instantly the packing mill exploded and the other mills in the "upper yards," seven or eight in number, followed at intervals of less than one second from the concussion.

AT HIS OLD HOME.

The President Talks to His Old Friends and Neighbors.

NORTH VERNON, Oct. 8.—To-day has been one of omissions for President Harrison. Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana have joined in doing him homage, and in the land of "Dixie" the greeting was no less warm than in his native State. He was widely more than day break when the President was up and bowed his acknowledgments to the bustling, enthusiastic Kentuckians that crowded depots as the train passed through. Cincinnati was reached at 7:30, and here John C. New and Congressman C. H. Grosvenor joined the party. Despite the early hour several thousand people were at the central station to greet the President, among the number being his nephew, Archibald Easton, Cincinnati. Now, at 8 o'clock the train promptly pulled out with the Lawrenceburg local committee aboard. The principle event of the day was now to come.

Near North Bend, Ohio, the old Harrison homestead was reached, and the train came to a stop just abreast of the house in which Benjamin Harrison first saw light, and but few yards from the white shaft that marks the tomb of his illustrious ancestor, President Wm. Harrison. The occasion was not one for words, and as the President passed to the rear of the platform he was accompanied by the rest of the party, who delicately left him to solemn memories that scenes called forth. After a brief stop the train passed on, but the President was visibly affected by sights that brought so many tender memories to his mind, and when the little town of Lawrenceburg was reached, his voice was heavy with emotion, as he addressed the crowd of old neighbors and friends that thronged to greet him.

A SIGNIFICANT STATEMENT.

What the Officials of the L. & N. Road Think of the Future of Big Stone Gap.

Pending some recent litigation which arose from the attempt of the L. & N. railroad to condemn certain property at Big Stone Gap for depot purposes, the question arose as to the quantity of land the company had a right to condemn for such a purpose, the general law imposing a limitation upon the right of such corporations to condemn property. It seems further that the law permits the condemnation of a larger quantity of land for the "principal" depot of a railroad line than for a minor depot. In the case referred to the holder of the land maintained that the depot of the Cumberland branch of the L. & N. road at Big Stone Gap would not be its principal depot, but that Middlesboro would be, and therefore the company had no right to condemn such a large area of property for the purpose indicated.

Pending the controversy Mr. W. E. Addison had a consultation with the chief engineer of the road, Mr. O'Brien, and interrogated him on these points.

"We expect our principal depot on the line," said the engineer, "will be at Big Stone Gap, if the line may be considered to have a principal depot. We expect it to be the most important point on the road, not excepting Middlesboro, and we shall need very extensive depot grounds."

Over thirteen acres were condemned for the freight yards for which the company are to pay \$1,500 per acre, and they had already reserved other ground for a union passenger depot. It may well be inferred from these facts that the L. & N. railroad company realize that Big Stone Gap is soon to become a populous city.

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MAIL ROBBERY IN LOUISVILLE.

Two Registered Pouches Taken from a Mail Wagon while En Route to the Depot.

LOUISVILLE, Oct. 8.—A daring mail robbery was committed in Louisville shortly after 2 o'clock this morning. At 2:50 o'clock each morning the registered matter from all points South and from Louisville is sent to the First street station of the Louisville & Nashville railroad to take the mail train for Cincinnati and the East. The mail wagon which left the postoffice this morning was in charge of Driver John Davis and Mail Agent S. A. Parsons. They locked up two heavy pouches in the wagon and proceeded to the depot as usual. When they arrived at First and Water streets and jumped down from the wagon, to their astonishment they found the door of the mail wagon, which is in the rear, wide open, and the two registered mail pouches gone. They knew the door had been locked, but it occurred to them that it might be possible for the door to have jostled open. They ran back along the line they had taken from the postoffice to First street, but were unable to find the missing pouches. They again returned to First street, and by this time the railroad employes working about the station had found the two mail pouches. They were cut almost in two, and all of the registered matter was gone.

Postmaster Barret is not responsible on his bond for the robbery. The Railway Mail Service requires Mr. Parsons, the agent, to give a receipt for the sacks. He gave this receipt, and if anybody is responsible it is he, but he has shown due diligence in the matter. Postmaster Barret is making out a list of the registered matter and will be ready at 3 o'clock this afternoon. He will then ask the senders of the letters from various parts of the country to tell how much their packages contain. The postmaster does not think it will amount to more than \$10,000.

RUBE BURROWS CAUGHT.

The Desperado is at Last Captured in a Cabin, Tied Across a Horse, and Taken to Jail by Detectives Who Will Get a Big Reward.

DEMOPOLIS, ALA., Oct. 9.—Reuben Burrows, who is believed to have been concerned in train robberies at Duck Hill, Miss., Buckatunna, Miss., and Flomaton, Ala., and who killed the postmaster at Vernon, Lamar county, Ala., was captured this afternoon near Myrtleville, Ala. Detectives of the Southern Express Co. have been on Burrows trail for months. They have had the assistance of the citizens at different places, and this afternoon John McDuffie, a farmer, located Reuben in a cabin. He sent two negroes in to engage him in conversation and nab him. They found that he had placed his pistol in a corner of the room, but had his gun in his belt. They seized his hands and a desperate struggle ensued until McDuffie and Deputy Sheriff Beck ran and covered Rube with pistols. He was then tied, McDuffie strapped him across his horse, his head on one side and his feet on the other, and so rode to Linden, the county seat. Rube does not deny his identity. Linden is twenty miles from the railroad. He will be brought to Demopolis tomorrow and held for his numerous crimes. The rewards offered aggregate \$3,500. When captured he was alone and was making his way up from Brewton, the scene of his last robbery in South Alabama, to his old haunts in Lamar county, in Northwest Alabama.

JOE WHEELER'S DISCOVERY.

He Says the McKinley Bill is a Nullity but it is Not Likely Joe's Opinion Will Prevail.

RUSSELLVILLE, ALA., Oct. 9.—General Joseph Wheeler, democratic candidate for Congress, spoke here to-night to a large audience. In the course of his speech he said that there is no question but that the Tariff bill is a nullity. The bill was passed by the House and Senate, and in enrolling the bill section 30 was omitted, and with this omission it was signed by the president. He read decisions from the Supreme Court of Alabama, including the case of Moog vs. Randolph, which was rendered by Justice Summerville, who is now the inspector of customs at New York. These decisions were rendered in cases in all respects similar to the McKinley bill case. It is certain that Judge Summerville will hold to his decision and the bill will be a nullity. This will overwhelm the republican party.

THE LOSS.

At the office of the DuPont Company, one of the members of the firm stated that the loss in mill property was as follows: Dry house, one magazine, packing house, corning mill; the structures partially destroyed are the glazing room and press room. No exact figures in regard to the quantity of powder lost can be given, but the estimates run all the way from ten tons to forty. The DuPonts were busily engaged at the time in fulfilling extensive contracts for the United States government for small arms and also prismatic cannon powder. In addition they have heavy contracts in hand for the Union Metallic Cartridge Company.

Of the killed the bodies of three only had been recovered. Mrs. Rosa Dougherty was found dead in her attic. The body of Wm. McGarvey was found with his head completely blown off, and the body of Green was found near a magazine where he had been engaged soldering a powder keg. At 8 o'clock this evening the other bodies had not been seen or heard of.

THE IRON TRADE BOOM.

PITTSBURGH, PA., Oct. 9.—The Bethlehem Iron Company proposes to increase its capital from the present limit of \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000, to extend its plant. It has very large government contracts for steel guns and armor plates, and has facilities to do the work. President R. G. Clark, of the Thomas Iron Company, says: "The Bethlehem company needs money to meet the demands of its growing business. The demand for iron and steel is increasing all the time. We have stopped making iron for delivery during the balance of the year. We haven't a pound of iron at the port of New York. Vessels are waiting for iron yet to be made. We are also pressed for deliveries in steel rails. The foolish thing of it all for us is that prices remain unchanged. They ought to be higher under this state of things. Judging from the iron and steel industry, the business of the country is in a fine condition."

LONGSTAY AT KNOXVILLE.

Some of Knoxville's foremost and fairest young ladies tied in and were presented to the general, who began to bow and shake their hands in a typical Southern manner. "This won't do," said Cooke, "a Southern general ought to take Sherman's privilege with Southern girls." The general, taking the hint, proceeded to kiss the whole party of pretty young ladies—and those who have seen Knoxville's girls know what a precious privilege it was—while younger men stood, stared and wished they could exchange their youth for the great general's age, with its privileges.

DEATH OF MR. J. H. DUFF.

Mr. Jerome H. Duff died Tuesday morning, Oct. 5th, at his home on Clinton avenue, of typhoid-malaria fever, after a protracted illness of six weeks. He was born in Lee county, Virginia, February 5th, 1838, and moved to Wise county a number of years ago and has lived at Big Stone Gap since it was founded. He leaves a wife and six children, two boys and four girls, to mourn his loss. The funeral services were held at the church on Wednesday afternoon, under the auspices of the Masonic order, of which he was a member. Rev. Wm. Theobald, presbyterian minister, preached the funeral sermon, choosing for his text the 5th verse of the 11th chapter of John: "Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus." A large concourse of friends and relatives followed the remains to their last resting place.

SAID TO BE O.E.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Oct. 9.—Miss Jefferson Davis has left New Orleans, where she has been to look after the publication of her book. It is reported that Miss Winnie Davis's engagement with Mr. Wilkinson has been severed, and gossip is busily employed advancing reasons. One is that Mr. Wilkinson is waiting to recover from recent financial misfortunes.

CHANGE OF A COURT TERM.

The date for holding the Federal court having been recently changed, and the lawyers and litigants not having been advised of the fact, there were few persons who attended it. The court was, therefore, adjourned until October 22nd. The term has been fixed three weeks in advance of the time when it was formerly held.

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