

MAKING A TARIFF.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE WORKING ON NEW BILL.

The Farmers' Interests Being Carefully Studied.

Special correspondence: Washington, February, 1897. The Ways and Means Committee is pushing the work of the new tariff bill as rapidly as possible. One of the most distinguished members of the committee, speaking of the difficulties in the way of framing a satisfactory tariff bill and the length of time necessary for it, said to your correspondent:

"If any man, no matter how well posted, will attempt to determine for himself what ought to be the duty on pyrologuous acid, and then multiply the time occupied in that attempt by the thousands of items in a tariff measure, he will get some notion of an idea of the time and labor required to complete it."

This suggestion indicates in some degree the amount of labor required to complete a bill of this kind and the amount of labor which the Ways and Means Committee is putting on this new measure. The two weeks of hearings which they gave were a small fragment of the amount of labor necessary for the framing of the bill. The statements made before them orally during the fortnight during which they were hearing arguments were a small proportion only of the material pressed upon them by the friends of the various industries, and especially by the friends of the farmers. Hundreds upon hundreds of written manuscripts and thousands upon thousands of letters have reached the committee and the various sub-committees of the various schedules of the tariff bill. No class of citizens has shown a greater interest in the tariff than the farmer, and it may be set down as certain that no class of citizens will get more careful and faithful attention in the framing of the bill than those same farmers. Every question relating to their industries and interests is considered. Many of the important items relating to their industries have been acted upon already, and in all of these the new rates fixed have been such as to give a satisfactory protection. While the figure which has been fixed upon cattle is not quite as high as that of the McKinley law, it is believed to be ample to thoroughly protect the stock raisers of the United States against the competition of Mexico and Canada, which were the only countries sending in live stock in competition with our own. On some agricultural products the rates of the McKinley act have been restored. The prosperity of the agriculturist under that law was so strongly marked, and its popularity with the farmers was so great that the committee has cheerfully acted upon the recommendation of representatives of the agricultural interests and restored the McKinley law in a very large proportion of cases. One subject which has given them a great deal of difficulty is that of wool. The Wool Growers' Association has requested a rate of 12 cents per pound on first and second-class wools, with an addition of 3 cents per pound for skirted Australian wools, which is very considerably in excess of the rates of the McKinley law, and also something higher than those suggested by the woolen manufacturers. The members of the committee are somewhat embarrassed by what they consider an extreme demand on the part of the Wool Growers' Association, for they feel that if they make the rates of duty on wool excessive it will result in such an increase in the price of woolen goods as to grow unsatisfactory and result disadvantageously to the people of the country as well as unpopular in its effect on the public mind. The woolen manufacturers have recommended a rate of 8 cents per pound or less, and it is probable that the committee will adopt some golden mean between these two requests of the wool growers and manufacturers.

On the question of reciprocity, nothing has as yet been determined. There is a disposition on the part of the committee to provide a reciprocity clause, but they are finding difficulty in this because of the fact that they do not expect to put sugar on the free list, as was the case under the McKinley law. It will be remembered that reciprocity was made easy under the McKinley law because that act placed sugar on the free list, but gave to the President the right to demand an equal concession in the duties levied on our goods by those countries wanting our sugar to come in their ports free of duty. The fact, however, that the law which is now being framed is not to put sugar on the free list renders it more difficult to make reciprocity a feature of the new law. Yet it is expected that the bill will, when completed, contain such provisions as will make it practicable to again put into operation certain reciprocity arrangements which proved so extremely valuable and added so much to our exports in certain directions during the operations of the McKinley act. No subject has more interested the farmers than that of reciprocity, and while the details of the bill have in this line been completed, they may rest assured that their interests will be guarded in these as in other lines of the bill.

The sugar question is one which is still troubling the committee. While there was a recommendation on the part of certain sugar producers in favor of a bounty on beef and cane sugar, it is scarcely probable, judging from present indications, that this will be complied with. There will be, however, a sufficient protective rate of duty on sugar to encourage the beet growers of the upper Mississippi valley and Pacific coast, as well as the cane producers of the Southern States.

It is probable that the new bill will not be given to the public until the special session of Congress is called. It is now understood that that session will begin on or about March 15. The committee expects to have the bill ready by that time, and it is understood that about two weeks of discussion will be considered sufficient in the House. Of the passage of the bill there, there of course is no doubt, for the House will be thoroughly Republican, and it is understood that the Democrats do not expect to make any factions opposition to the bill. What will develop when the bill comes into the Senate nobody knows. The silver people are remaining silent, and if the public is to judge by their attitude in

the past there is no reason to hope for co-operation on their part in anything proposed by the Republicans. There is, however, reason to believe that there will be sufficient co-operation on the part of the gold Democrats to bring about the passage of the bill in the Senate after a reasonable discussion. Senator-elect McEnery, of Louisiana, although a Democrat, has already expressed his intention to support a reasonable protective bill, and it is probable that certain of the gold Democrats will take similar action in case their votes are necessary to put the bill upon the statute books.

GEORGE MELVILLE.

DECLINE OF BRYANISM,

His Rapid Disappearance Is Evidence that His Is a "Lost Cause." Perhaps the only thing in American politics more remarkable than the rapid and picturesque rise of the silver movement before the last presidential election is the precipitous downward tendency of the same movement since the defeat of its vociferous prophet, William J. Bryan.

As the period of sober afterthought lengthens out, and as the time for the inauguration of President McKinley draws near, the conviction is forced upon Republicans that they were unnecessarily alarmed and upon Popocrats that they were foolishly hopeful.

The delusion that Bryan was dramatically near the goal, and that he could keep up the fever of silver enthusiasm for four years and win, hands down, in 1900, was soon dispelled. When the clamorous din of his oratory died away, all the enthusiasm which he had kindled in his followers of first disappointment has been followed by the hopelessness of utter despair.

A careful study of the official returns has convinced the sincere men of all political faiths that McKinley's victory was, with one exception, the most sweeping in the history of the country, and that Bryan's defeat was a deliberate, honest and mighty protest against dangerous fallacies, designed to mislead the unthinking and catch the time serving.

Considering normal conditions, the most emphatic repudiation of Bryanism came from the States where he expounded his doctrines most persistently. In the eight decisive McKinley States McKinley's majority over Bryan was 1,548,000, with 241 electoral votes, not to speak of the 30 additional electoral votes received in the close States.

Mr. Bryan still travels about considerably, but he can lose himself in a crowd just the same as any other citizen. His goings and comings are no longer announced. Since his defeat he has made two visits to this city, and on each occasion the only one so poor to do him reverence was his friend Robidoux, the Union avenue saloonkeeper.

In politics it is possible to set in motion a great wave on a false issue; but when the tide once begins to ebb it never returns.

There is nothing unique in the neglect of Mr. Bryan. He is simply the champion of a lost cause.—Kansas City Journal.

THE TARIFF WILL PASS.

Democrats to Join with Republicans in Favor of a Protective Measure.

Unless the most experienced observers in Washington are greatly deceived, says an exchange, the Republicans need have no anxiety about the passing of the Republican tariff bill by the Senate, even if the Republican Senators are not a majority. There will be no serious opposition to such a tariff bill as the Ways and Means Committee is framing. Democratic Senators may offer some opposition, but it will be perfunctory. This is because there are not a dozen free traders in Congress such as there used to be, and possibly fewer advocates of high tariff. The free trader is now confined to the editorial room or the recitation rooms of a few colleges. The experience of the past few years has modified the free trader who has connection with business. As for the people generally, they attribute the stagnation in business to the present tariff. Democrats in Congress who were free traders are now in favor of a revenue tariff which will give incidental protection. The new Dingley tariff bill will be a moderate measure, say those who know about it. It will give protection to home industries, but such protection as is compatible with an increase of revenue. To such a measure there will be no serious opposition. Even the silverites, who a year ago threatened to antagonize any revenue measure which does not include the free coinage of fifty-cent dollars, are wisely coming to the conclusion that such a line of action would be unwise, and would hurt their cause. Democrats, who are now chiefly from the South, see the folly of opposing a tariff which will insure ample revenue at a time when the deficit is at the rate of sixty or seventy million dollars a year.

WAGES IN EUROPE.

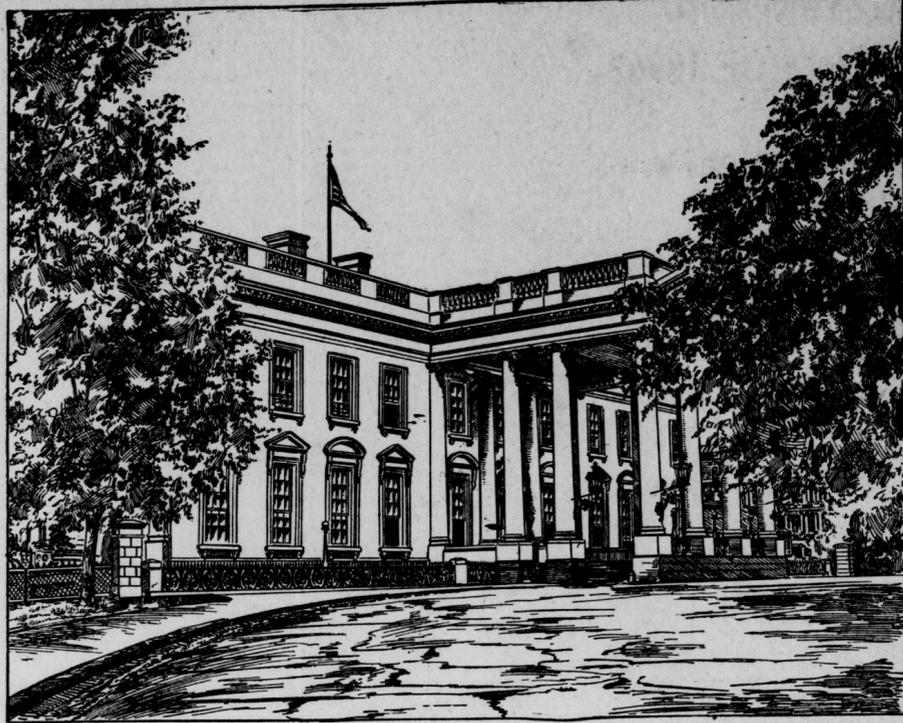
A Comparison with the Figures Paid in America.

The recent annual report of the Massachusetts bureau of statistics of labor contains a careful comparison of wages and prices here and abroad. Chief Wadlin ascertains that during the period 1890-1893 wages were 75.4 per cent higher in Massachusetts than in Great Britain, and the general average weekly wage is now 77 per cent higher.

As to the items entering into the cost of living, they were on the average only 17.29 per cent higher in 1893 in Massachusetts than in Great Britain—and of his figure 11.49 per cent was due to the single item of higher rents, leaving only 5.81 as the higher average cost of food, clothing and other necessities.

Of course, the Massachusetts workman spends more money than his English cousin—he can afford to. He earns 75.4 per cent more. He expends 11.49 per cent more because of his higher rent, and 5.81 per cent more on account of the higher cost of certain necessities of life. Then beyond this, as Chief Wadlin's figures show, he expends voluntarily 31.12 per cent to maintain that higher standard of American living generally which is reflected in his higher rent. The Massachusetts workman, native or naturalized, demands a larger house and more conveniences than he or his ancestors were satisfied with in the "old country." It is this which makes his rent a larger item, and he demands other things to correspond.

Altogether, the Massachusetts workman expends 48.41 per cent more for the support of his family than the English workman. But as the Massachusetts workman earns 75.4 per cent more, he can do this—he can provide a better home and longer schooling for his children, and still lay up a larger proportion of his wages against the inevitable "rainy day."



THE WHITE HOUSE.

The executive mansion, better known as the "White House," which is to be the home of Hon. William McKinley during the coming four years, will, at the end of his term, have given to the country a hundred years of its history. Although its corner stone was laid in 1792, it was not until the latter part of the year 1800 that it was occupied as a presidential residence, and even then it was not in a completed condition. So it will require practically all of the term of President McKinley to round out the century of the occupancy of the executive mansion by Presidents of the United States.

George Washington, under whose auspices and during whose presidency the corner stone was laid, did not live to see the building completed, his death occurring but a few months prior to its occupancy, and it is related that he walked through the unfinished building commenting upon and admiring its general beauty and prospects only a few days before his death.

It was not a "white house" when Washington last saw it, or when it was occupied by the early Presidents. It was not until after the vandalism of the British, who set fire to it on the same day that they burned the Capitol building, that it was of the color which has given it the title of the "White House," during the recollection even of the preceding generation. Built originally of brown sandstone from Virginia, it retained the original color of the stone until after the fire which blackened its walls had rendered it an unsightly object. Luckily the fire was quickly extinguished by a heavy fall of rain, which set in shortly after it was started, and as it was found that the walls were not damaged, they were not rebuilt. The fire and smoke having, however, discolored them, it became necessary to cover them with a coat of paint, and thus the presidential mansion became known as the "White House," and has so remained since that time. Coat after coat of paint has been given it as years have passed, but it is the same old White House whose plans were made under the direction of Gen. Washington, and whose corner stone was laid in his presence and whose nearly

completed walls and apartments were frequently admired by him during the closing years of his life.

The executive mansion has been so frequently described that its details seem unnecessary. Standing in the midst of a magnificent group of elms, oaks and other forest trees, surrounded by well-kept lawns which are ornamented with various flowers and shrubs showing the highest production of the landscape gardener's art, it divides attention among visitors to Washington with the great Capitol whose picture was given to the readers of this paper a few weeks since. Surrounded by ample ground, whose total area is about eighty acres, the gates at its front stand always open to visitors, who may freely enter not only the grounds but, during certain hours of the day, the executive mansion itself. No permit is necessary; every American citizen, every visitor to the American republic, may visit and inspect and enter upon the residence of the Chief Magistrate of the land. Courteous officials at the doors admit all who come during the hours allotted for visitors and they are permitted to pass through those apartments not kept as private business offices of the President. The great East Room, celebrated in history and the subject of constant admiration, is always open to the public, and its walls frequently contain the most brilliant assemblages, including representatives of all the great nations of the world.

The structure, as already indicated, is built of brown stone painted white. Its length is 170 feet and its width 86. It originally fronted southward, looking out on the Potomac river, but the driveway was constructed so as to bring carriages past the north entrance, and that has gradually come to be known as the "front" of the building. During Jackson's term, a large portico, with heavy stone columns, was added to the north front, so arranged that carriages drive under it between the great pillars, depositing their occupants upon the stone steps leading to the vestibule of the executive mansion. It is the north front of the building, and the portico added during Jackson's administration, which is shown in the accompanying picture. The building cost originally \$250,000, but the ad-

ditions which have been made and the interior decorations from time to time bring the total cost, down to date, with furnishings, pictures, etc., to about \$1,500,000.

The first floor is occupied by the great East Room, 80 feet by 40, stretching across the entire eastern wing of the building; opening from this three other rooms in line, known as the Green Room, the Blue Room and the Red Room. These titles grow out of the fact that the walls and furnishings are of the colors indicated. Still beyond these at the southwest corner of the building is the great state dining room, 40 feet by 30, and capable of seating fifty-four people at the large table which stretches its entire length. On the opposite side of the great corridor which runs through the building is the private dining room, where the President and his family gather around the family board. The basement is occupied by kitchen, laundry and other paraphernalia of household life. The second floor is occupied in part as the residence of the presidential family, the remainder of the floor being given up for offices for the President and his staff of clerks and assistants. The western end of the house is occupied exclusively by the family, and this is sacred from the public eye, while the eastern half is given up to business. Into this portion of the building all day long flows a stream of visitors, some of them to pay their respects to the President, others to discuss with him the affairs of the nation, others pleading for appointment for themselves or their friends, while still others are content to lay their wants before the President's private secretary or his corps of assistants and clerks who occupy adjoining rooms.

President and Mrs. McKinley will find the executive mansion in apple pie order upon their entrance on the 4th of March. The retinue of servants and attaches remain through one administration after another, excepting as to the few personal attendants whom the President or his family may desire to bring. The force of clerks and assistants to the President usually remain with but slight change, many of those now employed having been on duty in the building since the time of Presidents Lincoln and Grant.

BRYAN AS SPEECHMAKER.

The States in Which He Spoke Voted Against Him.

To the credit of American intelligence it may be said that wherever Bryan personally expounded the false doctrines of free silver and repudiation, just there the election returns demonstrated his greatest weakness. It may be claimed by his admirers that but for Bryan's oratory his defeat would have been even yet more disastrous. How could it well have been more emphatic than the following figures show? Let us exhibit the result in the eighteen decisive McKinley States only:

State	Ellec.	McKinley	over Bryan.
Pennsylvania	32	295,000	
New York	36	268,000	
Massachusetts	15	173,000	
Illinois	24	142,000	
Wisconsin	12	102,000	
New Jersey	10	87,000	
Iowa	13	65,000	
Michigan	14	56,000	
Minnesota	9	53,000	
Connecticut	6	48,000	
Ohio	23	45,000	
Maine	4	40,000	
Vermont	4	36,000	
New Hampshire	4	32,000	
Maryland	8	22,000	
Rhode Island	4	17,000	
Indiana	15	11,000	
West Virginia	6		
Total	241	1,548,000	

These great majorities, so uniform from East to West, are unprecedented in American politics. They carried with them seventeen more votes than the required majority of 224. In all these States the vote was free, full and honestly counted. There is but little comfort for the Bryanites in these figures. And nowhere in the country does it appear that the "change of a few votes would have reversed the result."—New York Sun.

FIFTY MILLIONS OF GOLD

Added to the Currency of the United States in Six Months.

Within the last six months the gold mines of the United States have produced not less than \$21,000,000 worth of metal. As not more than from 10 to 15 per cent of this metal has gone into the arts, and as none of it has been exported, it is apparent that at least \$18,000,000 of new gold of our own production has been added to the amount of money in the country. It is immaterial whether this metal has gone through the mints, since it is to all intents and purposes money, whether it is in the form of bullion or coin. For many of the uses of money in-

deed gold is more convenient in the form of large bars than in the form of small coined pieces, the loss by abrasion in shipping the former being much smaller than the latter. It is money because it performs the functions of money. In addition to the new gold of our own production there has been added to the amount of money in the country during the same period, by importation of gold from foreign countries, not less than \$30,000,000, making a total addition from these two sources alone of about \$50,000,000 within six months.—Sioux City Telegraph.

FREE TRADE AT HOME.

The Greatest "Free Trade" Field Is Furnished by Our Own States. There is a ripple of pleasurable and surprised excitement at present among the lonely devotees of the markets of the world fetich concerning the "tremendous" increase in the export of American manufactured goods. It is estimated that these exports will reach this year the "unparalleled total of \$200,000,000. It was last year \$228,489,893, as against \$183,595,743 in 1895. The percentage of manufactured products in all exports rose from 21.14 to 26.47 per cent between the years 1894 and 1896. The fiscal year ending June 30 is, of course, contemplated in all these statements. These are large figures when printed by themselves. They always are printed by themselves in journals which see in them the long looked for opening of the markets of the world. But they shrink—they shrink pitiously—when arrayed beside those of the value of the total manufactured products of the country in a prosperous year, thus:

Estimated manufactured exports, 1897	\$260,000,000
Actual manufactured products, 1890	9,000,000,000
Leaving as home market absorption	\$8,740,000,000
Our concern with the markets of the world is seen to be considerably less than 3 per cent of our concern with the markets of ourselves in this which was once well called by William McKinley the greatest free trade system extant, the internal commerce of forty-five States and five territories.	

MORE WORK AND BETTER WAGES

Encouraging Figures for the Workmen of the Country. Labor agitators constantly assert that the number of employed is decreasing and that wages are growing lower. The statistics of the United States census office from 1870 to 1890 disprove these assertions, showing a constant increase both in the number of persons employed and

their average yearly earnings. To this the agitator during the last campaign replied that, although 1890 was a prosperous year, since then there has been a decrease, and the condition of the workman is not as good as it was.

Conclusive evidence that wages have increased and more men are employed is furnished by the report of the Massachusetts bureau of labor statistics, which has just been issued. This is the best of the State labor bureaus. The report considers 2,427 identical manufacturing establishments in 1885 and 1895. By a comparison of their returns in 1885 and 1895 it is learned that the number of persons employed therein has increased from 187,477 to 218,352, an increase of 30,875, or 16.47 per cent. Meanwhile wages have also increased. In 1885 the average yearly earnings of each employe in these identical establishments was \$361.62. This increased to \$418.99 in 1895, a percentage total amount by these two figures during the same period being \$23,692,759, an increase of 34.95 per cent.

POPULISM AND SILVER.

Was the People's Party Really the Friend of the White Metal?

In a speech before the bimetallic convention at Topeka on Tuesday ex-Senator John Martin declared that free silver was only a surface issue and that deep down beneath it were the real issues which the silver party would be called upon to solve. In the next breath he declared for the government ownership of railroads and hinted at other procedures which have come to be regarded as the socialistic program, pure and simple. At Boston on Monday George F. Washburn, member of the Populist National Committee, issued an address to the Populist party, in the course of which he said: "We united with the silver forces in the recent campaign—not because we believe free coinage of silver is the solution of the financial problem, but because it would better existing conditions, would meet with the least resistance and would be the entering wedge for our main issue, viz.: Full legal tender paper money, issued and regulated by the Government alone. We do not stand for redemption money, but for a scientific dollar, kept invariable by proper regulation of the money volume."

At a dozen different places since the last election, leaders of the Populist party have uttered the same sentiments. In fact, they have lost no opportunity since election is over to furnish substantial evidence that the Republican charge was true and that the Populist party is not a friend to silver.—Kansas City Journal.

GOLD RAPIDLY INCREASING.

Some Interesting Facts Bearing on the Question of the Use of Silver.

There is an intimate, although indirect, connection between the question of establishing a bimetallic monetary standard by international agreement, and the immense increase, during recent years, in the world's production of gold. If the annual output of gold has reached such a figure, and is increasing at such a percentage as to afford a virtual guarantee that the world's commerce does not require, for its satisfactory handling, a greater use of silver than now exists, then the necessity or probability of an international agreement in behalf of silver is very remote. Now let us study the question of the increase in the world's supply of gold. The Engineering and Mining Journal, a most excellent, though of course not an official authority upon the subject, gives the following figures as representing the gold production for 1895 and 1896:

	1896.	1895.
United States	\$57,000,000	\$46,830,000
Africa	45,250,000	44,545,000
Australia	43,710,000	42,795,000
Russia	31,600,000	31,780,000
Mexico	6,990,000	5,600,000
India	6,000,000	4,500,000
China	5,170,000	4,650,000
Colombia	3,100,000	3,185,000
Brazil	2,480,000	2,230,000
Germany	2,390,000	2,355,000
Guiana (Brit.)	2,185,000	2,170,000
Guiana (F'neb)	1,875,000	1,865,000
Austria		
Hungary	1,870,000	1,830,000
Other countries	8,920,000	6,770,000

Totals ..... \$218,500,000 \$201,105,000  
According to this table, the production of last year exceeded that of 1895 by \$17,395,000.

A still better appreciation of the increase in the world's gold output can be obtained when it is remembered that for 1894 it amounted to \$179,000,000 in round figures, while in 1891 the total value of all the gold mined was only about \$130,000,000.

It is thus seen that the stock of gold is increasing at an extraordinary rate, nor is there any possibility that the value of the yearly output will be less than the present figures for a long time to come.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

"STILL LACKING."

The Tariff Law a Failure to the Last.

The receipts for January were nearly \$6,000,000 less than the expenditures. That is, under the present Wilson tariff, which some Democrats affect to believe will some day produce enough revenue, we increased our debt last month \$200,000 daily. This Wilson tariff has now been in operation twenty-nine months, and has resulted in a total deficit of \$126,877,216. For the first twenty-nine months of the McKinley tariff it produced a surplus of \$23,026,188. The mere statement of these easily proved and not disputed facts should be sufficient argument to convince any sensible mind that the repeal of the McKinley tariff was a gigantic blunder, and the passage of the Wilson tariff an act not far removed from a crime.

The excuse that the shortage under the Wilson law is due to more extravagant appropriations will not hold water, for the receipts for the twenty-nine months under the McKinley law were greater than under the Wilson law for the same time by \$146,114,022, while the expenditures for the same time under the McKinley law were not quite \$3,000,000 less. There has been a great deal of unwise legislation in the world, but it is doubtful if ever a people were called upon before to repeal a law, under which they were enjoying unexampled prosperity, and adopt one in its stead designed to close their factories, paralyze their industries, decrease their commerce and plunge them into bankruptcy.—Louisville Commercial.

SLOW BUT SURE.

Business Improvements Coming as Rapidly as Could Be Expected.

There is a gradual but certain improvement in all departments of business activity, including the manufacturing and merchandising interests in all parts of the country. With this acceleration of trading activity comes a growth of business confidence that is shown in the large purchases of raw materials for use in supplying a market that is certain to open up brisk and strong in the spring. It is believed by close observers of commercial conditions for many years past that the industrial recuperation will be similar to the trade revival that followed the resumption of specie payments in 1879. The people waited for a few months for the benefits that were promised, and there was great disappointment over the fact that a quick wave of prosperity did not sweep over the country. When the revival came, however, it came suddenly and strong, bringing the greatest growth and prosperity the country had ever seen.

There is every indication that such a recovery from the depression of the past three years has already set in. There is no wild speculation of any kind at this time, and hence the gain must be attributed to the deliberate judgment of the ablest and most conservative business men.—Chicago Times-Herald.

LYNCHING NEGROES.

The Southern Newspapers Are Criticizing the Custom.

It is gratifying to note that all the leading papers of the South—the best and most influential papers—have taken up a serious and vigorous discussion of lynching, its causes and effects. Some time ago the Chicago Tribune printed a table of its own compiling which showed the following lynchings for 1896:

Alabama	15	Mississippi	6
Arkansas	4	Missouri	5
Colorado	4	New York	1
Florida	10	North Carolina	1
Georgia	9	South Carolina	4
Illinois	1	Tennessee	14
Indiana	9	West Virginia	1
Kentucky	9	Texas	7
Louisiana	25	Indian territory	4
Maryland	2	Oklahoma	6
Minnesota	8		

Of these lynchings, 112 were in Southern States and ten in Southern territories, leaving nine for all other parts of the country. The greatest number of lynchings in any year of the last decade was 235 in 1892, so that the returns show a gratifying decrease of the crime.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

Be deaf to the suggestions of tale-bearers, calumniators, pick-thanks or malevolent detractors, who, while great men sleep, sow the tares of discord and division, distract the tranquillity of charity and all friendly society.