

WILLMAR TRIBUNE.

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—BY—
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OFFICE IN GILGER BLOCK.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 1895.

THE JAPS ARE COMING.

The most important piece of news for this country, though not yet generally known, is the active inauguration of a Japanese commercial campaign in this country. The Japanese are a wonderful people. In mechanical ingenuity and handicraft they excel anything on the face of the earth. Likewise in dogged patience and industrious application. They are in short more like intelligent machines for universal mechanical manipulation than anything else on the globe. Frugal and economical in habit by nature and with climate so mild that they can almost exist without clothing, food and shelter, and equipped with the best of modern machinery and with plenty of raw material, they have begun a manufacturing and commercial campaign that is destined to revolutionize the world. It is the beginning of a new phase in civilization. It is the beginning of Asiatic rejuvenation and resurrection from the sleep of thousands of years. In a short time we shall see millions of Asiatics contesting with the Europeans for the possession of the globe.

But what more immediately concerns us as a nation is that that the Japs are already on our shores and threaten to wipe out our manufacturing industries at once.

Senator Stewart in the "Silver Knight" says:

TO THE MANUFACTURERS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Your turn has come. You laughed when the farmers and planters cried out against Asiatic competition. It took longer to establish manufactures in the Orient than to open farms, but the manufactures are now running on a sound silver basis. The difference of exchange made European and American goods so high they could not buy them. Your gold-bug policy which enhanced the silver price of your manufactures in the East, made it necessary for a thousand millions of Asiatics to wake up and do for themselves. You are now brought face to face with nearly a thousand millions of a race who can do the same amount of labor which our people can on one-fourth the amount of food and one-tenth the wages now paid to the laborers of the United States.

Read the following and see how you like the picture. It is your crack of doom:

San Francisco, Nov. 24.—Under the caption "A Japanese Invasion," the Daily Report last evening published a story calculated to startle American manufacturers.

Japan is about to invade the United States with the agents of her factories whose ability to produce articles of necessity more cheaply than the rest of the world can no longer be ignored. Japan at last recognized its power, its ambition has been aroused and it is now inaugurating an irresistible commercial campaign.

This new and aggressive invasion commenced a few weeks ago when the agent of a powerful manufacturing and commission house whose headquarters are in Kobe and Hiogo, arrived in this city and offered such inducements to San Francisco merchants that they were compelled to place large orders with the new commercial giant.

A canvass of the San Francisco mercantile trade reveals the fact that an unprecedented cut in almost every line of staple goods has been made by the Oriental bidder. Buttons by the great gross are delivered duty free, at a fraction less than the actual cost per gross of the American article.

Bicycles, guaranteed equal to the best high grade, are listed at \$12. Japanese matches are to be laid down at a price which is destined to close every match factory in the United States. Sashes, doors, blinds and all kinds of wooden ware can be delivered, duty paid, at 30 to 40 per cent. less than the wholesale prices of local manufacturers.

After placing huge orders in this city the agent left for the East; where agencies will be established in New York, Chicago, St. Louis and elsewhere. For the purpose of underselling American and European manufacturers as fast as possible.

The leading papers are already discussing this startling occurrence and looking for remedies.

The most natural mode of relief set forth is of course protection at the custom house. There is no doubt that a protect-

ive tariff is one of the remedies necessary to meet the Japanese, but in and by itself, while under the present financial system, it will not prove sufficient. The reason is this: That a protective to be effective would have to be so high as to be practically prohibitive; and when this is reached it will yield no revenue. So there you are. We may put on a tariff so high as to destroy all trade with the rest of the world and yet Japan can practically wipe out our manufacturers out of existence. But even if it should be a good policy to prevent Japan from coming here with her cheap goods, which has its grave difficulties in the way, we cannot prevent her from competing with us in the markets of the world. Hence under an effective protective policy we would have to confine our business to our own country.

This would practically be the idea that underlies the principles of the People's Party. We hold that our financial policy and our industrial policy should be to provide for and take care of our own people, irrespective of what may become of the world outside. The trend of opinion in the old parties is now to merge us in the world at large.

Thus we look upon this Japanese appearance on the scene as having a very important bearing on the shaping of our economic policies in the future.

As Senator Stewart says, "It is the crack of doom to our manufacturers," and they will likely have to come down on their knees to the farmers to save them from utter destruction.

Looked at from this standpoint the coming of the Japanese may be a means of compelling our government to do tardy justice to the agricultural industry.

THE VENEZUELAN TROUBLE.

President Cleveland no doubt deserved credit for his fearless stand on the Venezuelan question and the maintenance of the Monroe doctrine. Everybody, irrespective of party, stands ready to back the president in all proper measures to assert the dignity of the country. But the talk about war with Great Britain is all nonsense. England will gracefully come down to reason as quick as she sees that we are in earnest. England in a war with the United States would in all probability lose Canada and possibly Ireland, if not India in the bargain. No, England never goes to war with Uncle Sam. There is not the slightest danger of that. Everybody ought to know that. Now read the following:

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Senator Chandler (Rep. N. H.) this morning introduced a bill, referred to the committee on military affairs, which provides that the president be and he is hereby authorized and directed to strengthen the military armament, by adding thereto, equipped for use, one million infantry rifles, one thousand guns for field artillery, and not exceeding 5,000 heavy guns for fortifications, to be procured by manufacture in the arsenals, or by contract for manufacture, or by direct purchases in this country or elsewhere, according to the discretion of the president who shall conform, when practicable without unwise delay, to the methods prescribed for making contracts and purchases by existing laws. The sum one hundred million dollars is appropriated to carry into effect the provisions of this act.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Mr. Grout (Rep. Vt.) offered in the house a bill of the same purport as Mr. Chandler's. It appropriates \$100,000,000 to be immediately available for the construction of fortifications and other works of defense on the sea coasts and along the Canadian frontier, and for their armament with heavy ordnance. In order to raise the sum of money necessary to carry out the provisions of the act the secretary is authorized to issue and sell bonds payable at the pleasure of the United States within 30 years.

We thought that the cry was, that the creditor of this country was being ruined by bond issues. And yet here is a proposition to issue a cool \$100,000,000 for war material, for a war that is practically impossible, for a war that cannot in the nature of things occur. Is this to direct attention from 40 cent wheat, 12 cent oats, etc., or what? We have some suspicion that this war talk is simply another way of playing

a game on the innocent public. It is all very well to fortify important seaports, and provide some ship of war. Of the latter we have already many more than we need.

But to go to work and saddle unto the taxpayers enormous sums for war material, that will in all probability never be used, seems the acme of absurdity. But of course if that is what the people of this country want, why we presume they ought to have it.

SENATOR KNUTE NELSON.

Senator Knute Nelson has been honored by the chairmanship of the Mississippi River improvement committee, quite an important one. Senator Nelson is going to cut an important figure in national politics. He is by considerable odds the ablest man in his party in the state and one who has a will of his own. His independence of his party was proven when he was a member of the House and voted for the Mills bill in spite of strong party pressure. Sturdy independence coupled with ability is the one great element needed in congress now. For that reason we have always regarded with satisfaction Knute Nelson's election to the Senate. We are of the opinion that the time will prove him to be much nearer to the true interest of the people of Minnesota than Washburn ever would have been when the test comes. He was elected as a protection republican to the House, yet he formulated a tariff bill in opposition to his party, that experience has proved to be one of the best ever proposed. There is no telling that he may now formulate some monetary reform of importance. We know his views are not circumscribed within party limits, and also that he has the courage to act on his own motion. It is from that class of men no matter what their party affiliation may be, that relief to the country is to come. Towne is another such man. We only wish there were more of them in Washington. For a crisis in the nation's history is impending, and bound to come up for settlement during the next few years.

C. J.

HON. W. J. BRYAN.

We had the pleasure to meet Hon. W. J. Bryan, the noted free silver advocate of Nebraska, at Minneapolis recently. Mr. Bryan has no horns, as the goldbug papers seem to think, but on the contrary has a very benign and pleasing physiognomy. He is one of the foremost orators of the day, and considered even by his bitterest political enemies to be of superior mental ability, and a true patriot. His simple and in-ostentatious manner evinces that his sympathies are with the common people. In fact, he is one of them. In comparing the artless and earnest honesty of this man's countenance with the hauteur and overbearing swagger of most of our goldbug, silk stocking politicians, we felt we discerned the real reason why men in public life come to differ so widely on economical questions. One is a cold, rigid business man; an aristocrat at heart. He sees nothing in the world but arithmetic applied to money. The other is a humanitarian, with a heart that beats and vibrates in unison with the feelings, aspirations and suffering of humanity in general. Money arithmetic is secondary.

C. J.

W. H. HARVEY PROPOSES.

W. H. Harvey proposes to start a sort of semi-political secret order called the Patriots of America. We are sort of sorry to see the able exponent of bimetallicism take up with such impractical nonsense. He seems to think that there are men enough in the country to start this order and manage it out of pure patriotism and love for their fellow men. We doubt it. Harvey is an able theoretical reasoner, but he doesn't seem to understand the elements and motives that sway the ordinary mind of the masses. He is no politician. No, if the reform forces are to carry victory they must get men to the front that know how to take the unthinking masses as they are, and talk sense into them in a language they can understand. Organization is necessary, but we are quite certain that Harvey's plan is not practical at this stage of the drama.

C. J.

EDITOR STEPHENS.

Editor Stephens, of New Paynesville, is getting in a new printing outfit to replace the one destroyed by fire. That fire was a serious loss to him, and he is

now compelled to begin business anew at the foot of the ladder. No doubt had insurance rates been moderate Brother Stephens would have seen to it that he had been better protected against loss, but as it is now to pay insurance on frame buildings in close proximity to others amounts to the same as paying a good rate of interest on capital invested, and in many cases rates are entirely prohibitive. What has become of the movement on foot among the county publishers of Minnesota to organize a mutual insurance company? Three or four hundred members paying, say \$10 a year, would soon create a fund large enough to meet all losses, and it would be the means of saving thousands of dollars annually to the boys, who are now paying from \$20 to \$50 a year per thousand dollars of insurance.

C. J.

The most silly argument against the free coinage of silver is the one that we cannot do business with gold standard nations if we adopt the bimetallic standard. Any 10-year-old schoolboy knows, or ought to know, that that this nation does not buy one dollar's worth of goods for our money anywhere in foreign countries. Our exports exceed our imports by hundreds of millions of dollars every year, and must continue to do so in any event. Furthermore, if our stamped coin leaves our country it is shipped as bullion, and not as money. It goes as a commodity, whether coined or not. But as long as our exports equal in value our import no money or money metal is needed or ever used for foreign trade. The exports of bullion, whether coined or not, is simply for speculative purposes in the bullion market of the world, and irrespective of coinage laws. If we were importing goods in excess of export of goods, there might be some show of reason for having a dollar that would circulate around the world for trade purposes. But as we do not do this it is arrant folly to talk about coining money to suit other nations. The only possible use we have for money, or object of coining it, is for home use. But what is the use to talk about colors to those who were born blind?

C. J.

Gov. Matthews of Indiana says in relation to a pardon issued by him recently, "I would never pardon a man who stole for himself, but when it can be shown that a man through misfortune is brought face to face with want, and he steals in order that his wife and children shall not go hungry, will pardon him every time." Shall the commandment be changed to thou shall not steal except— etc.—Litchfield Independent.

C. J.

What the farmers need, and what the People's party demands, is better facilities for production and distribution, so that the producer may get more and the consumer pay less, by shutting the leaks, cutting down the expenses, and stopping the stealings in the middle between the two, where at present all the profits are gobbled up, so that the producer gets nothing and yet the consumer is forced to pay double price.—Progressive Farmer, Raleigh, N. C.

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