ABILENE REFLECTOR.

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B. L. STROTHER. S. K. STROTHER.

STROTHER BROTHERS,

Editors and Publishers.

Official Paper Dickinson Co.

The "Reflector" An Official Paper.

The democrats of Dickinson county and others who are not democrats will be glad to learn that the REFLECTOR, for the coming year, will be an official paper of the county. The Board of Commissioners, at its present sitting, awarded the contract to the *Gazette* at legal rates, with the written agreement that the REFLECTOR and *Chronicle* were to each receive one-third. Consequently, all county matters will be published in the three papers at no more than one legal rate. The REFLECTOR returns its thanks to the Board for the consideration shown it. Although two of the three Commissioners are republicans, the Board unanimously and justly arrived at the conclusion that the democrats of the county were numerous enough to deserve recognition in this matter of the county printing; and that the REFLECTOR, a growing paper of general circulation, should not be ignored. A precedent has been established which the REFLECTOR hopes will be followed, no matter which party claims the Board. The present arrangement is eminently just and satisfactory to all parties, and should be maintained. Furthermore, the REFLECTOR takes pleasure in acknowledging the courtesy with which it was treated by its esteemed contemporaries.

The Protected East.

We read in Eastern journals that New Year's day "did not find the people so "prosperous and contented as they were "when the year 1883 came in." And we are further told that "manufactories "of iron and of cotton and woolen goods "are working with a reduced force and "curtailing their product, or are giving "their hands the option of taking lower "wages or going without work altogether."

It will thus be seen that the protected East has not been prosperous. Out here in the agricultural west, however, the volume of all business has been greatly increased, and the people have prospered. The difference in the condition of the two sections may or may not be the difference between two industrial systems—between protected business and legitimate business. Nor does the "protected" workman have a bright future before him. Here in dead of winter, amid snow and with the thermometer down below zero, he is given the "option of taking lower wages or "going without work altogether." And yet the only argument of protectionists is that the system elevates and dignifies American labor. The shivering, starving workman would be glad to have some one point out just how he is protected.

Reading further on, we come to the statement that "Wall street has never "before been so gloomy at a holiday "season. The brokers are in no mood "for fun. From the top to the bottom "of the list stocks have largely declined "in price as compared with the sales of "a year ago. Good and bad have gone "down together, the stocks of the most "prosperous and best managed roads "having dropped with the rest, though "their dividends may have kept up. "The aggregate loss because of this de-"cline has of course been erroneous so "far as the market value of stocks is "concerned. Men who were counted "as the possessor of many millions last "New Year's Day, are to-day badly "crippled, and speculators who followed "their lead are now cursing them as the "authors of their misfortunes."

The people see in this that a turn has been called in the speculating mania, and that a great deal of water is being squeezed out of stocks. The gamblers do not receive much sympathy from honest people who are engaged in legitimate business. Notwithstanding the depression, it will be seen that the dividends have kept up, and the only conclusion left to the reader is, that the working people are the ones who are feeling the hard times. Gambling in stocks, in wheat, corn, lard, pork and other provisions is no more reprehensible than gambling on a high protective tariff. The same principle underlies them all, and the poor suffer.

The dark despondency of the protected East is made darker by the light of a prosperous free West.

Must Accept the Issue.

Mr. MORRISON, Chairman, has called a meeting of the committee of Ways and Means to take into consideration the subject of tariff reform. He holds that it is the duty of the democratic party to take a decided stand on the question, and accordingly a bill will be framed making decided reductions, and pressed to a passage by the House.—This action, all well informed democrats knew would be taken, and it well comports with the popular demand, and is in accord with the generally received doctrines of the party. The gage will be thrown down, and the republicans must accept the issue.

Editorial Ends.

Congressman ANDERSON has introduced a good bill into the House providing for the adjustment of all grants of lands to railroads doing business in Kansas.

* * *

The House committee on military affairs has authorized Gen. SLOCUM to report a bill for the relief of FITZ JOHN PORTER, and it is probable that that gallant and long abused officer will have justice done him. A reinstatement, too long withheld, is due him.

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Judge W. MCCRARY has resigned his position as Judge of the Eighth United States Judicial Circuit, and has accepted the general solicitorship of the Santa Fe road, *vice* Mr. GEORGE PECK, resigned. His headquarters will be at Kansas City. There seems to be a manifest disposition on the part of the Kansas roads to remove their general offices to Kansas City, when the laws of the State require them to be kept within its borders.

* * *

The election of a Congressman in the SecondDistrict to succeed Mr. HASKELL, which is to be held on Saturday, March 2nd, is assuming a national importance. All organizations opposed to a protective tariff, democrats, greenbackers and free-traders, have combined and will force the fight on the CARLISLE platform. It is not too much to say that the tariff-reform candidate will beat the republican protectionist two thousand votes. The indications all point that way.

* * *

Congressman SPRINGER has accepted the position in theHouse committtees to which he was assigned by the Speaker, and in the face, too, of the Republican clamor which beset him. The investigation of the department of justice, he says, will be non-partizan and impartial, but as thorough as he can make it. Mr. COX, ween heard from, will no doubt accept his position, and all prospects of a row which would be felicitous to our republican friends are dispelled. The democrats in the House are leading their party on to victory.

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The extreme cold weather of last week extended to all parts of the country, and business in the trade centers was almost paralyzed. It was reported that the cold was the most severe felt for years. At Springfield, Mo., the thermometer marked 24 degrees below zero; at Jefferson City, 25 below; at St. Joseph, Mo., 26 below; at St. Louis, 23 below; at Leavenworth, 28 below; at Chicago, 27 below; Omaha, 34 below; Dubuque, 32 below; at Sioux Falls, Dakota, 40 below; in Vermont, 18 below in Virginia, Delaware and Tennessee, heavy snow and colder than for ten years; in Kentucky and Ohio, 18 below; in Indiana, 24 below, in Minnesota, 34 below; and at Rock Island, Ill., 35 below.

* * *

Republicans treat Irish-American citizens the same as they do German-Americans, or any other class of good citizens.—*Gazette.*

How does the republican party treat the Negro, the main stay of the party? By an accident a colored man was elected Auditor of this State, and his duty has been intelligently and faithfully performed. But an effort is forming in republican ranks to defeat him for a renomination. And the republican party, having control of this country, allowed O'DONNELL, an Irish-American citizen, to be hung unjustly. At the importunity of a number of democratic Congressmen, the President sent over a faint protest to the dude Minister at London, but England laughed her scorn and went on with the most infamous hanging of modern times. And Irish voters ought to be republicans! Bah!

* * *

"After paying all expenses and divi-"dends, providing for the sinking fund, "paying for all improvements to road "bed and new rolling stock, expensive "real estate, new buildings, etc.," the Commissioners found that the A. T. & S. Fe road in Kansas had a surplus of $2,621,691 remaining. They very properly made a new freight rate which decreased the gross freight earnings $2,000,000 in round numbers, but the Kansas City *Journal*, the republican organ of the west, says that the commissioners have done wrong, and that the road should be left undisturbed so that it could build more miles of road. The people, who have heretofore built the subsidized roads of Kansas, will think differently. The railroads should be able to take care of themselves and furnish some relief to the overburdened people. The Commissioners are doing good work, and should take hold of the Kansas Pacific, which needs attention badly.

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It is with extreme pleasure that the REFLECTOR welcomes its esteemed contemporary, the *Gazette*, to its new *role* of advocating railroad reform. The REFLECTOR hopes that it is sincere, and that it will denounce and help the democrats undo the flagrant wrongs which its party has heaped upon the people. The republican party for the past twenty years has dealt with this great question in an abstract manner, but the abuses have grown and multiplied until the people have no confidence in its professions. According to custom, however, the fear of a democratic investigation causes the republican party to pose before the people, as a repentant sinner;

"When the devil was sick,
The devil a monk would be,
When the devil was well,
The devil a monk was he."

Gov. GLICK'S tireless and successful efforts to expose the land frauds which had been inflicted upon the people of this State under preceding republican executives, and the admirable direction which a democratic House has taken, have scared the republican party, and by a show of eleventh-hour virtue it hopes to perpetuate its power and the power of the monopolies which it feeds and supports. But the old trick wont win this time.

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To the REFLECTOR'S challenge to discuss the tariff question with the *Chronicle* and *Gazette*, the latter paper says: "Some of the 'blow-wind' Bour-"bon papers are trying to fix the minds "of their readers in favor of 'Free-"Trade,' but it is no go—the people are "not inclined in that direction." To thus summarily dispose of a question which is assuming such a vital importance, pre-supposes ignorance in the mind of the reader, or else the writer does not understand the question or is afraid of it. So much for "a paper "that strives to benefit its constituen-"cy, and endeavors to be an instructive "and welcome visitor"—and so on, *ad libitum*, *ad nauseatum*. And the *Chronicle*, that paper which "gives more read-"ing matter and tries in every way to "make the best paper in the county," (without succeeding, by the way, since the REFLECTOR occupies the pinnacle,) with a petulance and ill-humor which clearly betrays its fear of the great question of American politics, says: "To sat-"isfy the curiosity of the young man of "the REFLECTOR we simply remark "that the *Chronicle* takes hold of the "tariff question just as it wants to. At "present we prefer to remain a spectator "of the lively fight now going on in the "democratic ranks over this question, "rather than take a hand." Just so, and your enjoyment of the fight may become so intense that you will "take a hand" when it is too late. But absent-mindedness sometimes covers very grave defects;—it is very proper for a person to be afraid of a question he cannot handle practically and logically.

Will The Truth Ever Be Known.

Mr. C. P. HUNTINGTON of the Central Pacific and MR. THOMAS A. SCOTT of the Texas and Pacific appear in a far worselight as corruptors of Congressmen than did Mr. OAKES AMES in the Credit Mobilier business. AMES was a member of the House, and in his dealings with his fellow members he managed to preserve some semblance of self-respect, both on the part of the briber and on the part of the bribed, The consideration for the influence and the votes of the purchased legislators was a share in the enterprise which OAKES AMES himself was engaged in promoting and protecting. Mr. HUNTINGTON, however, does not attempt to disguise the theory on which he proceeded, and on which, according to his reports to COLTON, his vigorous adversary SCOTT was likewise proceeding. To these men of affairs Senators and Representatives were commodities in the open market, to be brought outright for cash, and to be owned in fee simple by the purchasing corporation, like locomotives or railroad iron. The only difference, from Mr. HUNTINGTON'S point of view, between a ton of steel rails as property and a Congressman as property was that the latter was likely at any time to give his owner the slip, and sell himself to the competing railroad, provided it offered higher figures.

In Mr. HUNTINGTON'S incidental allusions to his friends the "good fellows" in the Senate and House, and SCOTT'S friends the "wild hogs" and "damned hogs," there is a bald, bold, and heartless disregard of the conventional properties of the lobby which is likely to surprise and startle the statesmen in question. For the first time they see themselves exactly as they were regarded by the railway magnates who were so easy and liberal in personal intercourse, so affable at the dinner table, and apparently so considerate of the outer shell of reputation and self-respect. It is a terrible warning to many legislators whose names appear in the HUNTINGTON correspondence. Lucky will they deem themselves if they escape with this warning, and nothing further.

Mr. HUNTINGTON'S letters, so far as published, lift only a corner of the curtain. There may or there may not be more damaging documents in the budget with which Mrs. COLTON is apparently trying to force money from her husband's surviving partners. These other documents, if they exist, may or may not ever see the light. Perhaps the chances are against it. Enough has been disclosed, however, to show what a valuable witness Mr. C. P. HUNTINGTON would make if he was called upon by the Sergeant-at-Arms to assist in an honest, thorough, and fearless investigation of the means used to procure legislation by the several Pacific railroad companies during the ten years just from 1870 to 1880.

ABILENE MARKETS.

The markets are corrected every Wednesday at 12 m.

Wheat No. 2 (soft,)	68
Wheat No. 2 (hard)	64
Wheat No. 3	55
Wheat No. 4	35
Rejected Wheat	25
Oats	17
Corn	28
Rye	35
Butter	20@25
Eggs	22
Chickens, per doz	2.00@2.25
Flour, patent, per 100 lbs	3.20
Flour, straight grade	2.75
Potatoes	.40
Turkeys, per lb	.12
Chickens, per lb	10
Hogs per 100 lb	5.10@5.15
Cattle per 100lb	3.00@3.50
Unbaled hay, per ton	4.00@4.50