

THE ARGUS.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1891.

BANGOR, Me., seems disposed to take the lead in introducing fads. At a coming ball in that city the prompter will be suspended from the center of the ceiling in a basket.

Doctor Kocin's lymph is probably a very valuable medicine but like most other valuable medicines, it is most likely to kill you when you are least likely to get well without it.

KANSAS CITY annexed about 12,000 inhabitants before the census, but is to-day out just that number of inhabitants. The ordinance annexing the outlying territory has been declared illegal.

GOVERNOR ARBETT says that the value of land per acre is greater in New Jersey than in any other state in the union. There is not a farm in the state more than ninety miles from either New York or Philadelphia, and very little land more than six miles from a shipping point.

FORMERLY the great arctic or snowy owl was rarely found in central or northern New York, but during the present winter the species has been numerous represented and numbers have been killed. This is thought to be due to the fact that rabbits, on which the birds feed, have been uncommonly plenty this season and have attracted them.

St. Louis Republic: After the democrats of Illinois have made a nomination for United States senator and have submitted it to the people, its approval at the polls binds them to support it to the ten thousandth ballot in the legislature if necessary. To abandon it would be to repudiate the principal and to deny the right of popular choice.

Mr. WINDOM, like General Grant and Secretary Manning, was a great smoker of cigars, and his excessive use of tobacco is supposed to have aggravated his heart trouble. He was disinclined to take any physical exercise and disliked walking. Even in going the short distance from the treasury building to the white house he was accustomed to take a carriage.

UNDER the new apportionment the number of presidential electors will be 444; necessary to a choice, 233. On the basis of the vote of 1888 the republicans would have 270 and the democrats 174 electoral votes. On the same basis, remarks the Chicago Herald, and regarding New York and Indiana as now safely democratic, the vote in the electoral college would stand 235 democrats and 219 republicans. On the basis of the vote of 1890 the democratic majority would be overwhelming.

THE new departure in form adopted by the Daily Continent (formerly the Star), of New York, under the proprietorship of Frank Munsey, seems to meet with popular approval. It is a five-column, sixteen page sheet, ably edited and filled with bright and newsy matter. The columns are narrower, and about half as long. Mr. Munsey has deviated considerably from the prevailing custom adopted by metropolitan journals in his make-up of the Continent, and it is to be hoped that he will at least not regret his action if it does not prove a brilliant success.

Cause of Talleyrand's Lameness. The cause of Talleyrand's lameness has long been a matter of dispute. During the fifty-two years which have elapsed since his death his deformity has been accounted for in all manner of ways.

Some stories have it that the defect was congenital; others that it was occasioned by an accident which befell him in his infancy. The most curious explanation of all is that offered by a writer in The Quarterly Review. "To quote the very words of our informant, an eminently distinguished diplomat," says the writer, "Talleyrand's Vienna colleague, Baron Wessenberg, told me years ago that his lameness was owing to carelessness of his nurse, who laid him down in a field while she flirted with her sweetheart, and on coming back to her charge found some pipe dining on the infant's legs. I am sure that Wessenberg told me this as an established fact, and I am all but sure that his authority was Talleyrand himself."

A Very Delicate Heat Discovery. The new bolometer has been put to splendid use by Professor Langley, who with its aid has measured the heat radiation of the light of the glow worm. He states that the light given by this highly scientific insect is accompanied by less than one-fourth hundredth part of the heat given by an equal amount of gaslight. This means that the light of the glow worm is four hundred times more economical of energy than gaslight, and also vastly more economical than the electric light.—New York Journal.

Mexican children are very seldom rude or saucy. They are taught to be polite under all circumstances, and to all people. Some parents would rather have their boy be almost anything else than a grosero or rude person. For this reason one hears little quarreling or rough talk among children playing, and sees hardly any fighting or bullying of little boys by larger ones.

TAXES FOR THE POOREST

MR. THOMAS G. SHEARMAN DISCUSSES "THE COMING BILLIONAIRE."

Startling Figures on Wealth and Taxation—How Tariff Taxation Puts Money Into the Pockets of the Rich—The Poor Are Robbed to Make the Billionaire.

The growth of wealth in the hands of a few rich men in the United States has, within the past twenty-five years, resulted in producing fortunes of unheard of proportions. The fabulous wealth of Croesus, which was the marvel of the old Greeks, was nothing in comparison with the vast fortunes of our Astors, Goulds and Vanderbilts.

It is not surprising then that we are asking ourselves: How rich will our rich men become? Shall we not at some time have a billionaire, and astonish ourselves and all the world besides?

In the January number of The Forum magazine Thomas G. Shearman, the eminent writer on social and economic questions, has a remarkable discussion on this subject entitled "The Coming Billionaire." When Mr. Shearman claimed in the same magazine more than a year ago that half of the wealth of the country is owned by 40,000 families, and that three-fourths of it is owned by fewer than 250,000 families, his statements were disputed by many. There was much controversy at the time over a list of some seventy rich men given by Mr. Shearman as worth from \$20,000,000 to \$150,000,000 each.

It was claimed by many that the figures were exaggerated, but in the January Forum Mr. Shearman contends that the list was in the main correct.

In discussing "the coming billionaire" Mr. Shearman treats of the creation of wealth as influenced by our present system of indirect taxation, and by indirect taxation he does not mean the tariff tax exclusively, but includes taxes upon banks, bonds, merchandise, lands, capital in manufactures, railroads, etc., in all of which the tax is shifted back to the actual user or consumer. This transferring of taxes brings it to pass that our tax system not only discriminates in favor of the holders of large capital, but it actually puts money into their pockets; that the poorer people not simply pay more than their due share of taxes to the government, but they pay in addition a tax to the rich which much more than makes up for the taxes which the rich themselves pay.

How this result is brought about Mr. Shearman seeks to show by a series of tables. The total wealth of the country he estimates at about \$32,000,000,000, or nearly \$1,000 per head of the population. The division of this wealth is as follows:

| Families. | Wealth. |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Rich.....182,000 | \$18,367,000,000 |
| Middle.....1,200,000 | 7,200,000,000 |
| Working.....11,600,000 | 11,215,000,000 |
| Totals.....13,002,000 | \$32,822,000,000 |

The production of wealth in 1890 is put at \$13,000,000. After allowing 4 per cent. of this for repairs and replacements the net income is divided as follows:

| Families. | Average Income. | Total Income. |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 180,000..... | \$2,500 | \$450,000,000 |
| 1,200,000..... | 1,200 | 1,440,000,000 |
| 11,600,000..... | 593 | 6,880,000,000 |

These figures become all the more striking when the matter of saving money is considered. If there were no taxes the rich could easily save two-thirds of their incomes, while the other classes could scarcely save one-fifth of theirs. But taxes, especially the tariff taxes, are levied upon the expenses of the people, and thus bear much more heavily upon the poorer classes than upon the rich—touching four-fifths of the income of the average poor man and only one-third of that of the rich man. All forms of indirect taxes thus levied upon expenses are supposed by Mr. Shearman to be about 15 per cent. This would therefore take from the two poorer classes \$960,000,000 a year, and from the rich only \$225,000,000. But these two sums represent taxes which go to the government and those which go to individuals. Mr. Shearman estimates that one-third of the taxes paid by both classes go to a small section of the richer class. This would give the following as last year's savings of the rich and other classes:

| SAVINGS OF THE RICH. | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Natural savings..... | \$1,000,000,000 |
| Deduct taxes, etc..... | \$225,000,000 |
| Add profits upon tax system..... | 400,000,000 |
| Total..... | \$1,175,000,000 |

| SAVINGS OF OTHER CLASSES. | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Natural savings..... | \$1,500,000,000 |
| Deduct taxes..... | 500,000,000 |
| Net savings..... | \$1,000,000,000 |

The yearly gain to the rich over and above other classes is sufficient to yield in thirty years, if placed at 5 per cent. compound interest, an amount equal to the entire present wealth of the country. But if a system of taxation were introduced, according to which the people would have to pay taxes on their possessions rather than on their expenses, the result would be far different. Mr. Shearman estimates that such a system would require about 1-15 per cent. on all property at its full value. Such a tax would be paid as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| 180,000 rich would pay..... | \$325,000,000 |
| 12,800,000 others would pay..... | 225,000,000 |

It is Mr. Shearman's opinion that the substitution of a system of direct taxation would be worth \$750,000,000 a year permanently to the middle and working classes. An individual case is used to illustrate the workings of the two systems. At present the owner of \$10,000,000 need not pay more than \$15,000 a year in indirect taxes; while, if he is the protected owner of mines and factories, he often makes a round \$100,000 out of tariff taxation. Under direct taxation this millionaire would pay \$125,000 a year in taxes, and he could collect nothing from other men's pockets.

What, then, are the prospects for the coming of the billionaire? Mr. Shearman claims that if the billionaire comes he will not be the product of any natural law, but simply the product of indirect taxation—the system which taxes the many for the benefit of the few. If this system continues the billionaire might reasonably be expected in forty years, and several billionaires in sixty years.

years. The present system, under which landlords and large capitalists as a class pay nothing in taxes, will assuredly produce the billionaire if continued.

But will it be continued? Mr. Shearman thinks it will not. The abolition of the sugar tax and the enormous increase of the permanent expenditures of the government by the Republicans at the last session of congress have brought us face to face with a deficit of \$50,000,000, and no party will hereafter venture to reimpose the sugar tax. The people will learn through cheapened sugar, as never before, that the tariff is a tax, and they will not tolerate the sugar tax again. But in teaching the people this lesson the Republicans have unwittingly taught them an invaluable lesson in the nature of a protective tariff itself. In this way free sugar will not only not save the protective system, as was intended by the McKinleyites, but it will help to undermine and ruin that system. Blaine's reciprocity, too, will teach the former the value of the foreign market and the desirability of enlarging that market beyond the two Americas. The last election doomed the wool tax, and the wool growers have long threatened that free wool will mean free woolen goods.

As protective tariffs are abolished direct taxes will have to be levied in order to raise revenues for the government, and as protection passes away the reign of the extortioner will cease. The rich will then bear their due portion of the public burdens. When this has been brought about the billionaire will not come, for the system will be dead.

WHERE PROTECTION FAILS.

High Duties on Steel Rails Do Not Prevent Lockouts and Strikes.

The country has never seen a time, perhaps, when there was such an abundance of evidence to show that protection cannot guarantee "steady work and high wages." That high tariff organ, the Boston Commercial Bulletin, furnishes the following two items, placing them together:

The rolling mill and pipe works at Scottsdale, Pa., have been closed down indefinitely, as have been also the Charlotte furnace and coke works. About 10,000 men are out of employment in Scottsdale alone. The Frick company has also shut down nearly 1,200 ovens.

The officials of the Illinois Steel company give the following reasons why the rolling mills at South Chicago, Ill., have been shut down. They say: "We are trying to settle a scale of wages with the men for the coming year, and want time to adjust it. We have been negotiating with the men for ten or fifteen days in regard to the wages, and I can't tell how long it will be before we arrange the entire scale. We will be obliged to make some reduction in wages, as the mills in the east have done so, and we want to meet the difference." The Illinois company's mills have generally been shut down at this season for repairs.

This statement that the wages of steel rail workers have been reduced is of interest in view of the facts brought out in the senate debate on the steel rail tariff last summer. A dispute having arisen as to the difference between the labor cost of making steel rails in America and in Europe, an inquiry on the subject was sent to Carroll D. Wright, United States labor commissioner. He reported that the labor cost in one ton of rails in Europe is \$11.32 and in America \$11.59, a difference of twenty-seven cents. In his letter to Senator Carlisle, moreover, Mr. Wright made the following striking statement:

"You will pardon me if I call your attention to one analytical feature which should be observed in the use of the analysis herewith forwarded. Labor cost in one ton of steel rails—I mean after all the materials have been assembled in the steel rail works and are ready to be subjected to the proper manipulations for the production of standard steel rails—should be less per ton relatively in this country than in Great Britain or on the continent, because American producers of standard steel rails dispense with at least one expensive process still adhered to by the foreign producer; and furthermore, our materials, ore, etc., are purer than those used in most other places; so the quantity of ore, for instance, required for the production of a ton of standard steel rails is less in this country than in other places, and of course the labor required to produce one ton of steel rails is, so far as the purer materials are concerned, less here than abroad."

To cover the difference of twenty-seven cents a ton the two houses of our high protective congress put a duty of \$13.44 a ton on steel rails. The price of rails is now \$24 a ton in England and \$28 in the United States. The American railmakers are now consolidated into only six or eight establishments, and they have a practical monopoly of the home market.

The shutdown of the Chicago concern is not the only evidence that the steel railmakers are not getting all that high protection promised. The great steel rail king of this country is Andrew Carnegie. The following interesting news item has recently been printed: "Five hundred employees in Carnegie's steel works at Bradford, Pa., have struck for the advance in wages which was promised before the McKinley bill was passed, but has since been indefinitely postponed."

Here is another from a Philadelphia paper: The Edgar Thomson Steel works of Carnegie Brothers & Co. (limited) have again broken their phenomenal record at rail making. An output of 1,441 gross tons of rails in twenty-four hours is now the record, the best previous performance having been 1,417 tons. The best day's work by any other mill is said to be 1,312 tons.

The difference between the price in England and America, as above given, is \$1 a ton, which would be \$5,764 on Carnegie's one day's output. To insure Carnegie against the competition of the cheaper English rails the McKinleyites imposed a tariff of \$13.44 a ton, which, on Carnegie's 1,441 tons, would amount to a tariff protection of \$19,396.04.

Dreams. Puck could put a girle round about the world in forty minutes, but he was slow compared with the most ordinary dream. We survey mankind in China and Peru at the same instant of time, and in the course of one revolving moon we may walk with Plato in the groves of Academe, applaud Luther at the diet of Worms, set out for holy Palestine with Cour-de-Lion, assist Noah in building the ark, and call on the mountains to cover us at the day of judgment.

Many stories are told showing the different count of time. Lord Brougham relates that he dreamed a dream of long continued action during a short doze while a droning counsel was pleading before him. Lord Holland fell asleep while listening to some one reading, dreamed a long dream, and awoke in time to hear the conclusion of a sentence the first words of which were in his ears when he became unconscious. Dr. Abercrombie relates that a gentleman dreamed that he had enlisted for a soldier, joined his regiment, deserted, had been apprehended, carried back, tried, condemned to be shot, and at last led out for execution. After all the usual preparations he awoke with the report, and found that a noise in an adjoining room had both produced the dream and awakened him.

Another dreamed that he had crossed the Atlantic and spent a fortnight in America. In embarking, on his return, he fell into the sea, and, having woke with the fright, he found that he had not been asleep ten minutes.—All the Year Round.

'Is Consumption Incurable.

Read the following: Mr. C. H. Morris, Newark, Ark., says: "Was down with Abscess of Lungs, and friends and physicians pronounced me an Incurable Consumptive. Began taking Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, am now on my third bottle, and able to oversee the work on my farm. It is the finest medicine ever made."

Jesse Middlewart, Decatur, Ohio, says: "Had it not been for Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption I would have died of lung troubles. Was given up by doctors. Am now in best of health." Try it. Sample bottles free at Hartz & Bahnsen's drug store.

ELECTRIC BITTERS.

This remedy is becoming so well known and so popular as to need no special mention. All who have used Electric Bitters sing the same song of praise.—A purer medicine does not exist and it is guaranteed to do all that is claimed. Electric Bitters will cure all diseases of the liver and kidneys, will remove pimples, boils, salt rheum and other affections caused by impure blood.—Will drive Malaria from the system and prevent as well as cure all Malarial fevers.—For cure of headache, constipation and indigestion try Electric Bitters.—Entire satisfaction guaranteed, or money refunded.—Price 50 cents and \$1.00 per bottle at Hartz & Bahnsen's drug store.

BUCKLEN'S ARNICA SALVE.

The best salve in the world for cuts, bruises, sores, ulcers, salt rheum, fever sores, tetter, chapped hands, chilblains, corns and all skin eruptions, and positively cures piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by Hartz & Bahnsen.

Senator-Elect Peffer, of Kansas, believes in women suffrage and prohibition. How lonely he will be in the United States senate.

Allow me to add my tribute to the efficacy of Ely's Cream Balm. I was suffering from a severe attack of influenza and catarrh and was induced to try your remedy. The result was marvelous. I could hardly articulate, and in less than twenty-four hours the catarrhal symptoms and my hoarseness disappeared and I was able to sing a heavy role in grand opera with voice unimpaired. I strongly recommend it to all singers. Wm. H. Hamilton, leading basso of the C. D. Hess grand opera company.

John L. Sullivan indignantly denies that he is drunk again. It must be the same old drunk, then.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.

Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of cutting teeth? If so, send at once and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it mothers, there is no mistake about it. It cures dysentery, diarrhoea, regulates the stomach and bowels, cures wind colic, softens the gums, reduces inflammation and gives tone and energy to the whole system. Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children Teething is pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female nurses and physicians in the United States, and is sold by all drug gists throughout the world. Price 25 cents a bottle.

The tired street-car horse best knows "the luxury of whoa."

Do You Cough?

Don't delay. Take Kemp's Balsam, the best cough cure. It will cure your coughs and colds. It will cure pains in the chest. It will cure influenza and bronchitis and all diseases pertaining to the lungs because it is a pure balsam. Hold it to the light and see how clear and thick it is. You will see the excellent effect after taking the first dose. Large bottles 50c and \$1.

The length of the ballet girl's dress is considerably over two feet.

A Real Balsam is Kemp's Balsam. The dictionary says, "a balsam is a thick, pure, aromatic substance flowing from trees." Kemp's Balsam for the throat and lungs is the only cough medicine that is a real balsam. Many thin, watery cough remedies are called balsams but such are not. Look through a bottle of Kemp's Balsam and notice what a pure, thick preparation it is. If you cough use Kemp's Balsam. At all druggists'. Large bottles 50c and \$1.

There is no danger of a cold resulting in pneumonia when Chamberlain's Cough remedy is used as directed "for a severe cold." It effectually counteracts and arrests any tendency of a cold to result in pneumonia. This fact was fully proven in thousands of cases during the epidemic of influenza last winter. For sale by Hartz & Bahnsen.

Great Clearing Sale

FROM

February 2d to February 14th,

—TO MAKE ROOM FOR—

SPRING STOCK.

Will close out a large line of Bed Room and Parlor Sets at cost, also a great variety of 314 Chairs will be sold cheap.

Do not miss this opportunity.

W. S. HOLBROOK,

No. 103, 105 and 107 East Second St.,

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H. SIEMON & SON,

—DEALERS IN—

Stoves and Tinware,

PUMPS, NAILS, &C.

Baxter Banner Cooking and Heating Stoves and the Genesee Cooking Stoves.

Tin, Copper and Sheet Iron Work.

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—THE WELL KNOWN—

MERCHANT TAILOR,

STAR BLOCK, OPPOSITE HARPER HOUSE.

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Spring and Summer of 1891,

A larger and finer stock than ever. These goods will arrive in a few days. Wait and see them.

PRACTICAL HOLIDAY GOODS.

Believing that everyone, deem it necessary to remember their friends with a useful Christmas gift, we have selected the neatest and largest line of LADIES' and GENTS'

Ooze, Swede Kid, Russian Calf and Plush FINE SLIPPERS

In all the modern styles and shades.

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Corner Twenty-third street and Fourth avenue.

ROCK ISLAND, ILL.

J. T. RYAN, Proprietor.

This house has just been refitted throughout and is now in a No. 1 condition. It is a first-class \$1.00 per day house and a desirable family hotel.

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MANUFACTURER OF CRACKERS AND BISCUITS.

Ask your Grocer for them.

They are best.

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General Jobbing done on short notice and satisfaction guaranteed.

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Manufacturer of all kinds of

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Thirteenth avenue.

Is prepared to make estimate and do all kinds of Carpenter work. Give him a trial.