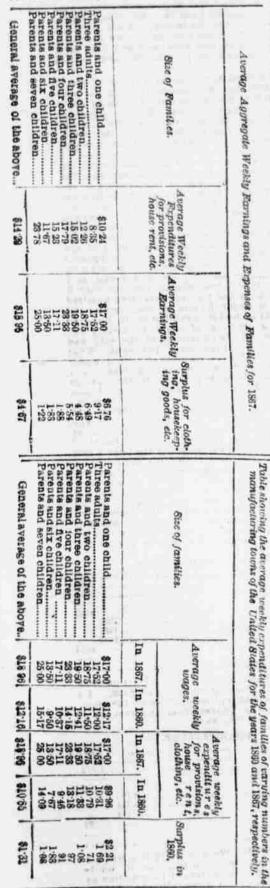
# THE DALL'S EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPHIA, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1869.

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## ( Continued from th : First Page.)

The gentleman from Ohio told us that hearing of my intended attack he had asked information from two sources in order to test the correctness of the Commissioner's position. That was an idle waste of time. Had he spent it in examining Mr. Wells' figures he would have discovered from their own manifest incongruity that no two or two hundred authorities could give them a chartwo hundred authorities could give them a char-acter for respectability or the weight of authority. The genileman is an arithmetician and knows that \$111,000 are not twenty-one and forty-nine hundredth per cent. of \$5,164,590, and that \$37,000 are not seven and twenty-six hundredths sor, doo and the sort of \$3,000. Yet the Commissioner per cent. of \$3,053,000. Yet the Commissioner fells us tacy are, and so impairs the value of the important table on page 111 of the report. the gentleman's attention to the two invite elabors'e tables to be found on page 16 of the report, the first purporting to show in parallel report, the first purporting to show in parallel columns the "average weekly expenditures for provisions, bouse rent," &c.: the second, "ave-rage weekly earnings," and the third, "surplus for clothing, housekeeping goods," &c., of fami-lies in 1667; the other in corresponding columns memory weekly earning the second seco purporting to show "average weekly expendi-ture of families of varying numbers in the ma-nufscturing towns of the United States for the years 1860 and 1867 respectively.

More remarkable tables than these never were More remarkable thoses that these hever were prepared by statistician. I had supposed that Mr. Delmar, late chief of the Bureau of Statistics, was a paragon in his way; but he must look out for his honors, for in these tables the Special Commissioner of Revenue has beaten him roundly in his own department. Unhappy Delmar! Happy Commissioner Wells! For Delmar's report Congress had nothing but an indignant vote requiring its suppression, though it lay ready printed and bound; but for Weils' budget of more egregious blunders it has such admiration and approval that no love of economy could restrain it from voting to print it for the widest possible circulation. The tables to which I refer must speak for themserves, for no man can describe or characterize them. As evidence of the want of care with them. As evidence of the want or cars win which the report has been sent to the country, I call attention to the fact that one column of figures which ought to be in the latter table has been omitted and that another appears twise. It is so in both editions. The tables are as follows:-



and absurdly false that Mr. Wells' deductions and conclutions will be received but as the value imaginings of a dreamy and indelent theorist. In view of the surprising tacts I have brought to the attention of the committee, and the urgency of the Commissioner for a return to the revenue tariff and contrated currency of 1890, I am forced to the conclusion that he regards poverty and idleness as supreme bleasings to the laboring people of a country, and I rejoice that I succeeded in obtaining the floor upon the motion to print his report, and sounded an alarm to the masses of my countrymen that it is an insidious plea for their impoverishment. In my judgment, the first duty of an American

statesman is to watch and guard the rights of the laboring classes of the country. They pro-duce its wealth, they fight its buttles, and in their hands is its destiny: for at every election they cast a majority of the ballots, and upon their intelligence, integrity, and manly inde-pendence rests the welfare of the country. To make republican government an enduring success, we must guard the productions of our laborers against competition with those of the ill-paid and oppressed laborers of Europe, that each head of a family may by the wages he can earn maintain a home and be able to support his children during the years required to give them the advantages of our common school system. If the Commissioner's report proves anything to those who are able to detect its fallacies, and test the fullness and accuracy of its comparative tables, it proves that under the influence of the cheap and abundant car-rency we now have, and the system of protection which the war forced us to adopt, the American people are consuming mora of the necessaries and comforts of life than they were ever before able to consume; are producing more of what they consume than ever before, and in spite of the taxes imposed by the national debt and other incidents of the war, are rapidly coming to be commercially independent of other nations. Yes, sir, under the influence of a tariff which, though it levies duties on raw materials and commodities which we do not and cannot produce, is still in a measure protective, and an adequate amount of sure protective, and an adequate amount of currency, we are slowly emerging from our commercial dependence upon Englaud, as is shown by the fact that our imports have steadily diminished since 1865. Thus in 1866, 1867, and 1868, respectively, the amounts of foreign merchandise imported into the country were as follows:-

Thus it appears that notwithstanding the facts that the increase of our wealth is unpa-ralleled, and the natural increase of our popu-lation is very rapid, and that "from the 1st of July, 1865, to the 1st of December, 1868, about one million natives of foreign countries have sought a permanent home in the United States," purchases of foreign commodities are steadily diminishing. The sapient deduction of the Special Commissioner of the Revenue from these facts is that we are unable to trade foreign nations, and that to stimulate foreign trade we must reduce the wages of our laborers and diminish the amount of currency now profitably employed in the development of our productive power. His theory is that "all commerce is in the nature of barter or ex-change," and his complaint is that :--

"We have so raised the cost of all domestic "We have so raised the cost of all domestic products that exchange in kind with all foreign nations is almost impossible. The majority of what foreign nations have to sell us, as already shown, we must or will have (?) What foreign nations want and we produce, cotton and a few other articles excepted, they can buy elsewhere cheaper. We are, therefore, obliged to pay in no small part for such foreign productions as we need or will have, either in the precious metals or, what is worse, in unduly deprectated promises of national payment." promises of national payment."

The Commissioner's exception of "cotton and a few other articles" leaves Hamlet out of the play and surrenders his whole case, for we can raise enough of the articles he excepts, and of which we have a natural monopoly, to pay for every foreign production "we must or will

have The beneficent results of free labor in the former slave States are an agreeable surprise to its most sanguine friends. The South is abundantly rich in mineral and special agricultural resources, but she is suffering for the want of currency to develop them. Were she adequately supplied with currency, and the season should be a favorable one, her production of cotton, and the few other articles excepted by the Commissioner, would more than double that of 1868, and as other nations must have her cotton, tobacco, rice, and other semi-tropical productions which they cannot procure clsewhere, it seems to me that the true way to stop the flow of precious metals and Government bonds is to stimulate production by protecting the wages of labor and avoiding any contraction of the currency. In support of this view, let me call attention to the fact that we send from eighty to one hundred million collars abroad annually for sugar. If capital-ists will lend the planters of Florida, Louisiana, and Texas the means to cultivate their sugar fields, they will produce crops that will save a large percentage of this vast sum to the countr, As I showed in the former discussion of this subject, we bought about forty-five per cent. of the entire amount of railroad iron exported by Great Britain during the first ten months of 1868. The Commissioner makes no note of such facts as this, but finding some fortunately situated manufacturers of pig iron guilty of making profits almost equal to those merchants' and bankers' average, he holds them up to con-tempt and ridicule, and wonders-yes, in an official report. sneeringly expresses his surprise -that they have not petitioned Congress to legislate for the reduction of their profits! He probably does not know that the high rate at probably does not know that the high rate at which pig iron is now selling is stimu-lating the production of that primiary article to an extent that promises an early home supply and such competition among our own people as must inevitably cheapen the price of iron and reduce the profits of those whose product is now in unusual request. In proof of this assertion I not only point the Commissioner to the rapid increase of the means of producing plg iron in Pennsylvania, but appeal to all the gentlemen on this floor from districts in or near which coal, iron ore, and limestone are found. Districts hitherto unknown to the iron trade are now producing large quantities of pig-iron; and I ask gentlemen from New York, New Jersey, Ohio. Indhana, Soathern Illuvols, Missouri, Alabama, Georeta, Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tenuessee. North Carolina, and Oregon, whether there are not more furnaces erecting in their States respectively furna ever were in process of stration at once than ever were in process of erection at one time before, and whether those already existing are not in full operation? Virginia has no voice on this floor with which to respond to my appeal, but it is within my knowledge that Penn-

aylvania iron men have constructed and are ayivania iron men have constructed and are constructing furnaces, forges and r illing mills in various parts of that State. If we would turn the balance of trade in our favor, and put our bonds at par and stop the outflowing of gold interest. by receiving them in the hands of innigrants, or in pay for our cotion, rice, tobacco, provisions, etc., we must av id the Commissioner's nostrams, free trade and hard money, and promote the development of the boundless natural resources of the country, By no other means can we atrest the export of specie and bonds in exchange for foreign commodities.

There are many points in the Commissioner's report that I would gladly review, but having addressed myself to a single one I will leave them for the consideration of others. Mean-while I congratulate the country that it is so strong, and the currents of its prosperity are so broad, and moving with such increasing volume, that no official report or the vagaries of no theorist can impair or arrest its progress.

### THE BANANA.

This fruit, though a native of Guinea, whence it was brought to America by way of the Canary Islands, is now not only domesticated, but grows wild all over the tropical parts of this continent, and is found in abundance in all the South Sea Islands. The two species of the fruit found in our markets, and called the larger (and coarser kind) Plantains, and the smaller (of which there are several varieties), Bananas, are mostly brought from the West India Islands. In Spanish-speaking countries they are all known by one name Platanos, and in many parts of Central and South America constitute nearly the entire subsistence of the poorer classes. The larger and coarser sorts are cultivated in preference to the small, tender kinds, as the plant is much more hardy, and the fruit, when cooked, more nutritious and less cloying to the palate. It is hardly proper, however, to use the term cultivation in connection with this plant, for the amount of labor required in Central or Northern South America to provide a family a fair subsistence on plantains is not equal to that which goes to the raising of a single bushel of potatoes in New England. In fact, it may be questioned whether the existence of the plantain tree, like that of the bread-fruit or the taro of the Sandwich Islands, may not be reckoned a curse rather than a blessing to mankind, fostering, as it does, habits of sloth and idleness to which the inhabitants of warm

latitudes are only too prone. The tree is raised from a shoot or sucker, of which five or six generally put out from the base of the trunk of the parent tree after it has attained maturity. The shrubs and bushes in some part of the tropical jungle not too much shaded are cut away, and the young plant set out. It will take care of itself, and, when once firmly reoted, grows with great rapidity, attaining sometimes a height of twenty-five feet within eight or ten months. While still young, at about the time of flowering, it is a beautiful object to the eye; its long leaves of brilliant green wave gracefully in the breeze, and at a little distance its nodding, purple-tipped blossom has a pleasing appearance. Later, as the older leaves die down, and the stiff, heavy cluster of bananas increases in size, it has a sickly, miasmatic look. The leaves are frequently above three yards in length, and from a foot to a foot and a half in width. From their somewhat apronlike shape, some of the old commentators on Genesis have concluded that our first parents. after their disgrace, had recourse to this tree for their first garments, and its botanical name, Musa paradisiaca, is derived from this tradition.

The plantain is an annual, dying soon after the ripening of its fruit; and as a number of young shoots or suckers, in various stages of growth, have already started about its roots, it is immediately replaced without any interference on the part of the cultivator, and a constant succession of fruit ensues. The leaves of the plant are used to some extent for thatch, though not well adapted to the purpose. The fibres of its thick trunk, often ten or twelve inches in diameter, are wrought into a very inferior kind of cordage. It grows best in very warm and humid climates, as it requires a very large supply of molsture. At New Orleans the plant thrives, but the season is rarely long enough to admit of maturing the fruit. The most luxuriant and heaviest growths of plantain the writer has ever seen were upon the banks of the Guayaquil river, in Ecuador, and on the low shores of the Central American Republics. Along the coast of Ecuador, and far out to sea, rafts or balsas are frequently met with, loaded entirely with plantains of enormous size, each separate fruit from fifteen to eighteen inches long, and a bunch weighing nearly a hundred pounds. This cargo is the sole food of the crew of the raft during voyages of several weeks' duration. On coffee plantations the plantain-tree is frequently cultivated in very large quanti-ties, merely for the purpose of shading the coffee-trees during the first two or three years after transplanting. Many readers may be unaware that a very excellent dessert dish is made from bananas by frving them in a batter like apple-fritters. In fact, in the countries where plantains and bananas grow they are rarely eaten raw, and hardly considered as a fruit. The coarser plantains are roasted with their jackets on in the ashes, and the finer kinds cut in halves lengthwise, and fried. The idea is universal in all tropical countries that wine or spirits should never be taken immediately after eating bananas, under penalty of a severe fit of colic. A common way of serving this fruit in the Sandwich Islands is by cutting it in slices like a cucumber, and eating with milk or cream. Among the lower orders in Catholic countries, there is a superstitious aversion to cutting with a knife the fruit of the plantain, owing to the fancied existence within it of the emblems of the Lord's passion. If the fruit be cut at right angles to its longer axis, some resemblance to a cross and other sacred emblems may be seen in the section. The small red varieties seen in our markets are only cultivated largely in those countries which have ready access to northern ports. have rarely seen them in South or Central America or the Pacific Islands. They grow on smaller and less hardy trees, produce less abundantly, and, when cooked, have no finer flavor than the coarser kinds. Bananas will ripen perfectly on the tree, but as the whole bunch would ripen at the same time, it is always cut off and hung up in the shade when the upper layers of fruit have reached their full size. In buying this fruit, it should be remembered that the upper layers have attained greater maturity before separation from the tree, and they will therefore have a finer flavor than the small, imperfectly developed fruit at the lower part of the bunch. They will ripen much more slowly in the shade than when exposed to the heat and light of the sun, but lose in delicacy of flavor. -Hearth and Home.



I hope the gentleman from Ohio will give these tables a reasonable amount of consideration, and if he still thinks they may be correct, refer them to another authority-the ancient matrons of his district. But before making this reference I beg him to advise the ladies of the fact that he draws his question from an official document; for if he fails to take thi precaution they will hold him guilty of perpe trating a practical joke at their expense by submitting to their judgment so absurd a proposition. They will doubtless be able to tell him that parents with two children cannot live so weil on the same money as parents with but one, and as a general rule it costs more to maintain parents and three children than is required for the support of those with but two or one, and that the same is true with reference to parents and four children; but they will probably doubt his sincerity in asking whether parents with five children can live just a well on less money than is required to sup-port in the same communities parents with but two, and will laugh at the proposition that parents with six children can live as well on less money than parents with but two: and I think I hear them crying out, "Why, sir, what do you mean by asking us whether parents six children can live for less than parents with two, and yet in the same breath telling us with two, and yern the same breat cening its that if they happen to have a seventh, be it boy or girl, it will more than double the ex-penses of the whole family?" Unwelcome seventh child! According to Wells, you come into the family of every laboring man to double the household expenses, though all your six predecessors be still sheltered by the paternal roof! Lucky children numbers five and six !hence orth you will be welcomed everywhere, for the Special Commissioner of Revenue has proved that in all instances your coming re-duces the expenses of the family to less than they were when the household flock consisted of but two! According to the Commissioner this law of social life, hitherto undiscovered, is absolute, and prevailed alike in 1860 and 1867. To invite attention to these tables is to subject

them to ridicule; and yet, Mr. Chairman, they are the foundation-stone and the keystone of Wells' entire structure; upon them he rest all his stgument, and from them he deduced his conclusion, so disparaging to the Republican party in Congress, and so damaging to the in-terests of the country, that, as a result of maxies legislation, marriage is a luxary the Laboring people of America cannot safely enjoy. Happily for the country, they are so flagrantly basis."

\*Since my remarks were delivered I have received from Mesers. McFarlan. Straight & Co., commission merchants of New Orleans, their trade circular of Feb 1, from which I ex-tract the folls wing corroboration of my views —"Receipts of the Louisnans sugar crop this season to 30th ultimo, inclusive, foot up 47,419 hogsheads sugar and 100 518 barrels, 4602 hair barrels, and 17 quarter barrels molasses. But for lack of promptness in commencing grind ing early and of adequate preparation on the ing early and of adequate preparation on the part of the producers for securing a large yield, and the early severe frosts succeeded by floods of rain, the Louislana sugar crop of 1808 would probably have reached 115,000 hogsheads at least, or about three times the product of 1867. least, or about three times the product of 1867. The yield of 1868 must have been raduced by mere waste, caused by lack of wood, lateness in beginning to grind, and the unfavorable weather during the latter part of the grinding season, say 25,000 hogsheads or more, leaving perhaps 90,000 hogsheads to be realized. This great waste from a bountiful crop is greatly to be regretted, and we may hope it will not be repeated. repeated.

"The production of domestic cane-sweets "The production of domestic cane-sweets properly protected and encouraged, might be increased far beyond the ideas of many who are directly interested. We believe the sugar lands of this State and Texas might be made to produce the entire 650,000 tons of sugar said to be required annually by the people of the United States, saving the \$100,000,000 of specie paid yearly for foreign sweets, including charges and import duty, or perhaps fifty to sixty millions actually paid to foreign pro-ducers. We have space only to ask the genuine financier to consider this important instru-mentality in ald of a return to the specie basis." A ALL CHARLES CONTRACTOR AND

-Edward King, of Newport, R. I., has pre-sented to the Redwood library some fine pieces of marble statuary, consisting of the "Dying Gladiator," life size, the bust of Adriadne, Venus of Milo, Cicero, Demosthenes, and Marcellus, sculptured by Paul Akers, in Italy; and the "Schoolboy," sculp-tured by J. Mozier, Rome, 1857.

C. L. MAISER Total. .\$5,068 651.61 large amount is only an indic FIRE AND BURGLAR-PROOF SAFES, merse traffic, that must go over the through live in s few months, when tue great tide of Pacific coast LOCKSMITH, BELL-HANGER, AND DEALER IN BUILDING HARDWARE, trayel and trade will begin. It is estimated that this No. 434 BACE Street business must make the earnings of the road from FIFTEEN TO TWENTY MILLIONS & YEAR. GOVERNMENT SALES. As the supply of these Bonds will seen cease, par-CARRA. ties who desire to invest in them will find it for their SALE OF GOVERNMENT VESSEL interest to do so at once. The price for the present is DEPUTY QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE, BALTMORE, Md., Jan. 26, 1869. The United States steamer OULONEL RUCKER will be offered at public sale at the port of Baltimore, at 12 ofclock, noon, on WEPNESDAY, February 10, 1863. This vessel is a PROPELLER. of 241 66-95 tons: length, 185 feet: breadth. 22 2 10 feet; depth of hold, 5 5-10 feet; draft, light, 5 feet; loaded, 6 feet. Bie has one direct-acting low-pressure engine (24x 24 inches) of 50 horse power, and one botter. The hull is of iror, covered with 25-inch white oak and pine plank. The hull and boller were recently repaired at an expense of three thousand dollars. All the property on hoard that rights home. par and accrued interest from Jan. 1, in currency. Subscriptions will be received in Philadelphia by DE HAVEN & BRO., No. 40 S. THIRD Street, WM. PAINTER & CO., No. 36 S. THIRD Street, dollars. All the property on board that rightly belongs to her outfit will be sold with the vessel. She is well found in every respect and ready for immediate And in New York AT THE COMPANY'S OFFICE, The right is reserved to reject any and all bids for cause deemed sufficient by the undersigned. The vessel is now lying at the head of SPEAB'S WHARF (foot of Gay street), where thesale will take piace, and is open to inspection by those desiring to become bidders. Terms-Cash in Government funds on day of sale. STEWART VAN VLIET. Deputy Quartermaster-General. No. 20 NASSAU Street. AND BY JOHN J. CISCO & SON, BANKERS, No. 59 WALL Street, STEWART VAN VLIET. Deputy Quariermaster-General, and Brevet Major-General U. S. Army, And by the Company's advertised Agents through out the United States. PUBLIC SALE OF CONDEMNED ORD. Bonds sent free, but parties subscribing through DUBLIC SALE OF CONDEMNED ORD-nance Stores. A large quantity of Condemned Ordnance and Ord-nance Stores will be offered for sale a: Poblic Auc-tion, at BOCK ISLAND ARSENAL. Illinois, on WEDNEBDAY, April 7, 1869, at 10 o'clock A. M. The following comprises some of the principal arti-cles to be at Id, viz :-2. Iron Cannon, various calibres. 100 sets of a rilliery Harness. 190 sets of a rilliery Harness. 10, 600 pounds Shot and Ehell. 45,100 sets of Infantry Accourtements. 2200 McClellan Saddies. local agents will look to them for their safe delivery A NEW PAMPELET AND MAP WAS ISSUED OCTOBER 1, containing a report of the progress of the work to that date, and a more complete statement in relation to the value of the bonds than can be given in an advertisement, which will be sent fre on app ication at the Company's offices, or to any of the advertised agents. JORN J. CINCO, TREASURER, 2200 M cCleinn Saddies. 766 a rthiery Saddies. 2106 Halters. 706 Saddie Blankets. 66 6 Watering Bridles. 5460 Cavairy Carb Bridles. 2200 Artillery 9 races and Hames. Persons wishing catalogues of the Stores to be Can obtain them by application to the Chief of marce. at Washington, D.C., or Brevet Colon ChisPin. United States Army, Parchasing Off rorner of HOUSTON and GREEN Streets, New Y city, or upon application at this Arsenal. city, or upon application at this Arsenal. T. J. RODMAN, Lieutenant-Cohonel Ordnance, Brevet Brigadier-General U.S. A Rock Island Arsenal, January 25, 1869, 1 30 PROVISIONS, ETC. MICHAEL MEAGHER & No. 223 South SIXTEENTH Street WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS PROVISIONS, OVSTEBS, AND SAND CLAMS. FOR FAMILY TERBAPINS \$16 PER DOZEN.

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