

The Reduction of Wages.

The Philadelphia Press, lamenting the calamity that has befallen the industries of the country in consequence of a Democratic tariff that has not yet supplanted the McKinley measure still in operation, declares that this blighting influence has already had the effect of reducing wages to the extent of 20 per cent. and asks: "Do people realize what a reduction of 20 per cent. in the wage fund of the United States means?"

The people generally understand the meaning of the 20 per cent. wage reduction which the Press holds up as the frightful result of Democratic tariff reform.

It means that long-protected interests, which for years have had the benefit of high tariffs, are taking advantage of a tariff scare to screw down the wages of their working people.

It means that in addition to the profit they may derive from such extortion, they are resorting to a method of creating industrial distress designed to excite opposition to a Democratic tariff policy that is falsely and absurdly, but to unthinking minds plausibly, charged with being the cause of the business depression.

It means that desperate expedients are being resorted to in the effort to defeat tariff reform, and that the beneficiaries of McKinley's monopoly measure are naturally doing their utmost to aid such a scheme, reduction of wages being one of the most effective means of intensifying the calamity howl.

All this is what the 20 per cent. wage reduction means.

Intelligent people understand the meaning of this measure. They have been studying the various tariff dodges and they look with contempt upon the claim that a high tariff is necessary for the welfare of the working people when it is seen that after thirty years of its protection their condition has been so little benefited by it that a few months suspension of employment reduces them to a condition of positive destitution.

But the contempt which such a fraudulent system deserves is nothing in comparison to the scorn that is due the industrial cormorants who, after having enjoyed three decades of tariff favoritism, take advantage of a proposed reduction of tariff duties as a justification for cutting the wages of their workmen, the distress caused thereby being intended to create a "calamity" opposition to greatly needed tariff reform.

We Have His Word That He Is a Democrat.

If there ever was a time when Senator Hill could confirm beyond question his assertion that he is a Democrat, now is that time. He is generally credited with being sincere in his Democratic claim, but never had he such an opportunity of establishing it beyond dispute by his action in support of the tariff bill that is now before Congress.

This bill is pre-eminently a Democratic measure. It is, as far as it can be practically made, the fulfillment of the party's pledge. It has been promised for years, and striven for by the Democracy through a number of fierce political contests. It embodies a question on which the party has long and laboriously educated the people. And above all, it is a measure which cannot fail without humiliating the Democracy to disgrace, humiliation and disastrous consequences.

Is there not involved in all this an issue that imperatively appeals to the fidelity and loyalty of every true member of the party, and pre-eminently to a Senator, who has so emphatically and conspicuously claimed to be a Democrat?

Appearances lead some to believe that local considerations will be preferred by Senator Hill to those larger considerations of public interest that are embraced in the Democratic tariff bill. Others apprehend that his unfortunate misunderstanding with the President will warp his action on a measure in which the President is so deeply interested. But we believe that both these impressions do the Senator injustice, for the country has had his solemn assurance that he is a Democrat, and being such he can not do otherwise than give the Democratic tariff his fullest and heartiest support.

It took quite a while for them to do it, but the Methodist minister outwitted the HASTINGS mouse, in Harrisburg, Monday night.

Grow Favors More Pensions.

Since his return to the House of Representatives Congressman-at-large Grow has made a speech in favor of liberal pensions. This was to be expected of a Representative whose election was in the interest of the Republican tariff policy.

A lavish expenditure of the public money in the payment of pensions requires a tariff that will wring from the people the means of meeting that expense. Such expenditure not only wipes out a surplus, as was exultingly anticipated by Commissioner TANNER, but it also puts the fiscal resources of the government to the utmost stretch to raise the hundreds of millions needed for the unlimited outlay thus imposed.

Could there be a more effective way of necessitating a McKinley revenue system?

It is apparent that in addition to the object of attaching a large class of venal voters to their party by making them beneficiaries of Republican pension laws, it has been the policy of the politicians of that party to resort to pension legislation as a means of compelling a vast outlay of public money that would have to be raised by tariff taxation. Pensions are thus intended to be instrumental in keeping up the Republican tariff system, the money raised by taxing the necessities of life being scattered broadcast among all sorts and conditions of pensioners thus imposing a burden upon those who have to pay the tariff taxes, while the protected interests and monopolies are well served in return for the pecuniary service they render the Republican party when their assistance is needed in political campaigns.

Grow's advocacy of liberal pensions is in line with the duplex policy of his party in regard to tariffs and pensions.

Distress Is Its Best Hold.

A political party is certainly in a bad way when the hope of its future success depends upon the distress of the country. This is the disgraceful plight of the Republican party. Its political interest requires a continuance of the business depression and for that reason it is doing all it can to protract the industrial distress and prolong the suffering of the people.

Their excessive protection and licentious financial methods having been the cause of the "calamity," which they are now trying to turn to political use, the Republicans were lucky in getting out just in time to escape being caught while in power by the avalanche of business ruin which they had started on its way, and they are tricky enough to claim that because it began to sweep over the country about the time the Democrats took charge of affairs it came from a Democratic cause.

Such misrepresentation has naturally had its effect upon thoughtless people, and furnishes the only hope which the Republicans have of retrieving their political fortunes by deterring the Democrats from bringing on an improvement of the business situation by the passage of a Democratic tariff bill. For this object they are throwing obstacles in the way of tariff reform and doing their utmost to continue and increase the distress which they are using as political capital.

But what a miserable commentary on the party of which it can be said that the only chance it has to recover its lost political control is by continuing the prostration of business and prolonging the distress of the people.

Next week the army of the unemployed will march on Washington. The advance guard is to start from Los Angeles, Cal. and will be recruited all along the line, so they say. Mr. Coxey, and his Ohio soldiers, will join as the other detachments fly through the Buckeye state and together they will besiege the Nation's Capitol with ragged pants, gaunt faces, and blood stained feet? It is altogether likely that if this wonderful host gets as near as Baltimore there will be a general skeetle among the fellows at Washington and they will get a chance to run some of the fat off that feeding on public "pap" has weighed them down with.

We are glad to learn that every indication points to the selection of our friend, Mr. Geo. R. Gues, of the West Chester Democrat, to one of the good positions in the Mint at Philadelphia. In addition to being blessed with every qualification that makes a competent and popular official, Mr. Gues' years of devoted work in the interest of his party, makes him particularly deserving of the place. It is appointments like this, that will give to the public service good men and at the same time encourage other party workers in their efforts in the cause of Democracy.

—Read the WATCHMAN.

Statistics of Industries.

Figures in regard to Mechanical and Manufacturing Pursuits.—Showing for Pennsylvania—In Altoona, According to the Census, There are 53 Establishments, Employing 8,811 Persons and Earning in Yearly Wages the Sum of \$8,684,096.—The Value of the Products Was Over \$10,000,000. Large Increase in the Country.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—The census bureau has issued an extra bulletin showing data collected for all classes of mechanical and manufacturing interests in 195 cities of the United States having a population of 20,000 and over at the census of 1890. At the census of 1880 similar statistics were presented for 100 cities of this class. Comparison of the 100 cities reported in 1880 with the same 100 cities in 1890 shows the following results: Number of establishments in 1890, 167,844, with a capital of \$5,524,384,625 against 78,033 establishments in 1880, with a capital of \$1,384,879,147. Average number of employees in 1890, 2,581,237, and wages paid, \$1,400,882,018, against 1,143,076 employees and wages paid \$550,748,845 in 1880. The value of the products in 1890 was \$5,621,258,583, against \$3,018,413,756 in 1880.

The statistics for Philadelphia in 1890 are as follows: Number of establishments, 18,166; capital employed, which includes the value of properties rented, \$439,398,792; average number of employees, 200,264; wages paid, \$135,917,021; cost of materials used \$311,645,804; value of products, \$538,869,070. The statistics for New York city are as follows: Number of establishments, 25,403; capital employed, including value of rented properties, \$640,946,076; average number of employees, 354,291; total wages paid, \$230,102,167; cost of materials used, \$366,422,722; value of products, \$777,222,721.

In addition to Philadelphia there are in Pennsylvania fifteen cities, each with a population exceeding 20,000, for which statistics are given. The data for these fifteen cities, which in each case includes the value of property rented, is given as follows:

Allegheny—Number of establishments, 117; capital employed, \$24,687,117; average number of employees, 18,063; wages paid, \$7,081,529; cost of materials, \$14,231,758; value of products, \$26,818,979.

Allentown—Number of establishments, 882; capital employed, \$7,702,955; average number of employees, 5,833; wages paid, \$2,313,508; cost of materials used, \$3,102,911; value of products, \$8,876,565.

Altoona—Number of establishments, 208; capital employed, \$8,549,071; average number of employees, 6,561; wages paid, \$3,684,096; cost of materials used, \$6,133,222; value of products, \$10,497,019.

Chester—Number of establishments, 201; capital employed, \$9,893,639; average number of employees, 6,850; wages paid, \$3,104,049; cost of materials used, \$6,844,825; value of products, \$11,864,899.

Erie—Number of establishments, 236; capital employed, \$13,376,405; average number of employees, 7,029; wages paid, \$3,828,438; cost of materials used, \$6,145,680; value of products, \$12,765,768.

Harrisburg—Number of establishments, 475; capital employed, 7,970,847; average number of employees, 6,898; wages paid, 3,367,941; cost of materials used, 5,432,303; value of products, 10,538,444.

Johnstown—Number of establishments, 113; capital employed, 13,439,800; average number of employees, 5,645; wages paid, 2,131,501; cost of materials used, 13,137,341; value of products, 18,422,889.

Lancaster—Number of establishments, 599; capital employed, 8,768,484; average number of employees, 8,179; wages paid, 2,710,262; cost of materials used, 6,306,495; value of products, 11,351,585.

McKeesport—Number of establishments, 118; capital employed, 11,146,708; average number of employees, 6,292; wages paid, 3,436,539; cost of materials used, 10,617,338; value of products, 17,432,721.

Pittsburg—Number of establishments, 1,420; capital employed, 116,561,494; average number of employees, 56,438; wages paid, 33,598,152; cost of materials used, 69,902,915; value of products, 126,859,657.

Reading—Number of establishments, 435; capital employed, 15,439,232; average number of employees, 12,966; wages paid, 5,461,293; cost of materials used, 12,009,332; value of products, 20,855,165.

Scranton—Number of establishments, 177; capital employed, 16,776,571; average number of employees, 9,123; wages paid, 4,273,012; cost of materials used, 16,922,753; value of products, 24,341,745.

Wilkesbarre—Number of establishments, 270; capital employed, 9,436,661; average number of employees, 4,405; wages paid, 2,058,978; cost of materials used, 4,026,579; value of products, 7,746,371.

Williamsport—Number of establishments, 302; capital employed, 13,128,768; average number of employees, 6,113; wages paid, 2,677,579; cost of materials used, 5,919,284; value of products, 10,447,441.

York—Number of establishments, 321; capital employed, 4,287,249; average number of employees, 4,120; wages paid, 1,609,456; cost of materials used, 3,170,840; value of products, 5,968,223.

Little Anxiety in Washington.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—The War Department officials have had no request for rations from any one connected with the Industrial League, which organization is said to be contemplating a raid in force on Washington, and it may be safely predicted that no such requisition is likely to be honored if it is made. Of course the army officers do not relish the threat that the capital is to be over-run by a horde of unemployed and hungry people, as it would add greatly to the burdens of the relief organizations here. But touching the implied threat of trouble and disturbance in store for the town if the extraordinary demands of the moments of this Industrial League movement are not granted, the army officers have no anxiety.

First Day of Conference.

When the Roll Was Called 200 Responded to Their Names.—Dr. Monroe Chosen Secretary.—It was the Twenty-Sixth Time That He Was Elected Secretary.—The Last Year Was the Most Prosperous in the History of Methodism—Six New Churches Were Built in the Altoona District—At a Cost of \$12,000, and Nearly 3,000 Conversions.

HARRISBURG, Pa., March 14.—The first day's session of the Central Pennsylvania conference of the Methodist Episcopal church closed to-night with the interesting anniversary of the Epworth league. There was a large audience which more than taxed the capacity of the Fifth Street church, where the conference is holding its sessions. Rev. Dr. W. N. Broadbeck, of Brookline, Mass., was the principal speaker this evening, his subject being "Why Am I a Methodist?" a theme which gave the distinguished pulpit orator wide scope for his ability as a speaker. The growth of the Epworth league in the conference district during the year has been several thousand.

The regular business session opened this morning at 8:30 with a half hour's song service, led by the Silver Lake quartette. At the close of this service Bishop John F. Hurst, D. D. LL. D., conducted a brief devotional service, after which the sacrament of the Lord's supper was administered to 600 persons.

The conference roll being called, 200 responded to their names. Rev. D. S. Monroe was for the twenty-sixth time elected secretary and chosen Rev. I. S. Wilcox, W. A. Carver and J. F. Anderson as assistants. Bishop Hurst addressed the conference. He presided over the body eleven years ago and began his ministry within the bounds of this conference.

MOST PROSPEROUS YEAR IN METHODISM. This has been the most prosperous year in Methodism, both at home and abroad. In one of the four conferences in India during the past year, he said, there had been 18,000 conversions, and equal progress in the home field. Rev. B. B. Hamlin, D. D., presiding elder of the Altoona district, read his report. Two pastors, Revs. I. F. Smith and J. W. Ely, have died. There have been nearly 3,000 conversions and over 2,000 accessions. Six new churches have been built at a total cost of \$12,000. Four new churches are now in process of construction. The characters of the preachers of this district was reported and they made satisfactory reports.

Rev. J. K. Foster, presiding elder of the Williamsport district, read his report. Thirty churches had been built or repaired, which, with debt paid, aggregate \$40,000, and six parsonages were built or repaired. There have been 2,500 conversions and the missionary collection of \$960 in advance. Thirty-eight out of the forty-nine charges show an increase.

The report of the committee on veteran ministers' relief will be considered to-morrow. It recommends the incorporation of a board of trustees of four ministers and three laymen, with headquarters in Harrisburg, trustees to be appointed annually, this board to receive the funds contributed for benevolent purposes and invest the same for the benefit of the conference. It is further recommended that each congregation shall observe what is known as "Veterans' Sunday," when contributions shall be made to this fund.

AN INCOME TAX.

The committee recommends that all members of the conference receiving a salary of \$600 or more shall be required to pay to the board of stewards a sum equal to 1 per cent. of his receipts (not including house rent) and that any person receiving less than \$600 annually shall be required to pay \$1 a year to this fund—that the claim of each superannuated preacher or widow or children under 15 years of age of deceased ministers, unless voluntarily relinquished, be upon the basis of the years of effective service, that the sustentation fund be annulled and the claims of effective men be considered by boards of stewards.

A resolution was presented and laid over suggesting to the general conference of 1896 the adoption of some plan for the celebration of the centennial of the chartered fund, which shall so presents its benevolent object to the church that by concerted contribution a large addition may be made to its invested fund.

This afternoon the anniversary of the Woman's Foreign Mission society was held. The wife of Rev. Dr. McK. Reilly, of Baltimore, gave a very practical Bible reading on "Our Communion."

Miss Rose Bowen, M. D. for several years a missionary in Africa, delivered an address on the work in that land, confining her remarks mainly to the women of that continent.

Mrs. A. H. Eaton, president of the Baltimore branch, also delivered an interesting address.

—Spring clothing, all new things, big bargains. See them at Fauble's.

Politics Bobs Up.

In the Central Pennsylvania M. E. Conference at Harrisburg.

HARRISBURG, March 13.—The annual meeting of the Central Pennsylvania M. E. Conference convened here to-day. The Temperance Anniversary was held this evening, at which Bishop Hurst, Chancellor of the American University of Washington, presided.

H. F. Ames, of Williamsport, made a speech in which he held that the sale of liquor is entrenched in the business interests of the country and its policy. He declares that the Methodists would tumble over each other in a few months in order to vote for General Hastings for Governor, who at a reception in Williamsport took his toddy straight with other prominent men.

—Think of it! \$7 buys an all-wool black chevot suit for men. See them at Fauble's.

Riverside's School Case.

The Matter Has Been Taken Into the Allegheny County Courts. An Injunction is Asked. W. T. Kerr, State Councillor of the Junior Order of American Mechanics, Seeks for a Judicial Decree to Prevent the Nuns from Teaching While Wearing the Garb of Their Order.—Judge McClung Will Give a Hearing on March 24.

PITTSBURG, March 13.—W. T. Kerr, state councillor of the Junior Order of American Mechanics, and five other members of the order appeared before Judge McClung, in the county courts to-day, and made application for an injunction restraining the Riverside public school board from employing members of religious orders, wearing the garb of their order, as teachers in the schools.

The bill also asks that the sisters now engaged be not permitted to remain in the public schools, as teachers or otherwise, while wearing the garb of this or of any known religion or sect.

It recites further that the Riverside board is maintaining a private sectarian parochial schools as a department of the public schools in derogation of the rights of children, parents, citizens and taxpayers, and in violation of the law; that they propose to request the central board of education to obtain colorable legal authorization to ratify the engagement and presence of the sisters as teachers.

Judge McClung took the papers and fixed Saturday, March 24, for a hearing. This evening the central board of education will meet, and it is expected, the matter of granting teachers' certificates to the nuns will come up for consideration.

Joseph Nimick, a member of the Riverside school board, when informed of the action taken by the Mechanics, stated that the board would fight the matter to the end and would carry it to the highest court. In the meantime the sisters would be retained until the matter was settled. He had hoped that the trouble would blow over, as the residents of the Thirty-fourth ward were nearly all Catholics. He would be surprised if they were eventually beaten.

Secretary of the Board Madden said the central board of education would be compelled to give them additional teachers, when it was shown that the increased attendance required it, and it was no person's business whom they employed. The question would be fought to the bitter end.

Rev. Father Cosgrove said the court was the proper place to settle the matter and he was glad the action was taken.

Action of Central Board of Education.

PITTSBURG, March 13.—The Riverside school teacher question came up before the central board of education to-night, and those who object to Sisters of Mercy acting as teachers in the public schools, won an easy victory. A resolution was adopted to the effect that the wearing of a religious garb in a public school was contrary to section 2, article 10, of the constitution of the state, prohibiting the appropriation of money for sectarian schools, and resolving that no money should be appropriated for the school if any of the teachers wore a religious dress.

Not Referred to Hensel.

HARRISBURG, March 13.—The matter of nuns acting as teachers in the public schools of Pittsburg and wearing their religious garb has not been referred to the attorney general.

Pattison More Modest.

Willing to Take Second Place on a Ticket With Stevenson.

ATLANTA, Ga., March 14.—The Constitution will print to-morrow several columns of matter from Asheville, N. C., considering an alleged political conference, saying: "Was the meeting of Vice President Stevenson and Governor Pattison, of Pennsylvania, in the Battery Park Hotel this week entirely without design, and was the presence of Hon. William F. Harris, Chairman of the National Democratic Committee, an accident? When the familiar face of Chairman Harris, of the Democratic National Executive Committee, made its appearance unannounced either by telegram or by letter, things began to assume a lively aspect. It is no wonder that the curties which passed between room 124, occupied by Vice President Stevenson, and 203, occupied by Governor Pattison were regarded as somewhat national in character.

The article goes on to assert that a possible Presidential ticket composed of Stevenson and Pattison was the subject of discussion.

To March to Washington.

California's Army of Unemployed to Invade the Capital.

LOS ANGELES, March 13.—The industrial army movement is creating considerable sensation here. Over 800 unemployed organized a regiment several weeks ago and expect to join their comrades throughout the Western States and march to Washington. They sent a delegation to the City Council last night to obtain railroad transportation for the Los Angeles regiment to Washington.

General Frye, commander of the industrial army, to-day sent notice to Secretary of War Lamont of the moving of the army and enclosed its constitution and by-laws. A demand is made that Lamont order rations issued to the army from various posts and provide transportation. General Frye significantly stated that the army will number 4,000,000 by the time it reaches Washington and intimates that it will be just as well to accede to requests.

Ireland's Flag is Triumphant.

NEW YORK, March 13.—The green flag of Ireland will, after all, wave over Brooklyn city hall on St. Patrick's Day, the board of aldermen having authorized it by a vote of 8 yeas to 7 nays. Three aldermen—Hess, Coleman and Cohen—would not put themselves upon record, refusing to vote, although their names were called repeatedly by the clerk. Mayor Schieren is thus overruled.

Oklahoma's Way.

They Issue Divorce Decrees in That Territory with Neatness and Dispatch.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 14.—Oklahoma, according to letters received here by several law firms, is entering the field as a rival to South Dakota in cheap and rapid divorce. It may seem strange that a country should try to advertise itself by calling attention to the excellent facilities its courts afford married persons who contemplate seeking legal separations, but that is just what Oklahoma is doing. The territory has the queerest lot of divorce laws on record. A man can move into Oklahoma, divorce himself from his wife and move out again, all within thirty days, and the wife need never know a thing about it.

Letters and circulars giving full details of these rare facilities have been received here from Guthrie. One letter from J. M. McDonald, attorney, of Guthrie, who refers to Attorney General Galbraith, of Oklahoma, for his trustworthiness, says:

"Guthrie is a pretty town. Persons of social standing desiring to temporarily reside here can always find congenial company and be entertained in royal style. Divorces can be easily obtained in Guthrie. The legal charges will be reasonable, and the persons concerned will be put to as little inconvenience as possible. But an appearance in court may be necessary, and it is promised there will be no crowd of loungers and gossipers to listen to whatever testimony may be given. The proceedings will be conducted in a quiet manner, and the defendant need not know anything of what is going on. The defendant's presence is not required in court, nor will it be necessary to serve any papers."

Extracts from the Oklahoma statutes of last year bear out all these assertions, and show that the territory is the promised lands for those who want freedom from matrimonial fetters.

Spring Tours to Florida via Pennsylvania Railroad.

On March 27th the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will run the last two personally-conducted tours to Florida. Special trains in charge of experienced tourist agent and chaperon will leave New York 9:30, Trenton 11:08 A. M., Philadelphia 12:10, Wilmington 12:50, and Baltimore 2:36 P. M. These trains will be composed of Pullman sleeping and dining cars fitted with modern appointments and conveniences of the most sumptuous type.

\$50 from New York, \$48 from Philadelphia and Baltimore, and proportionately low rates from other points on the system, will cover all expenses en route—transportation, Pullman accommodation, and meals. On the last tour the ticket covers Pullman facilities south bound only, the limit, however, being May 31st, thus allowing a much longer visit.

A stay of two weeks in the glorious health inspiring peninsula may be enjoyed on the first, and that time may well be spent in following out the numberless side trips available from Jacksonville. These tours are especially delightful during the present season when the beauties of this magnificent State are at their best, and a vacation spent there should necessarily result in great benefit to those participating.

Work for Hundreds of Men.

Rhode Island Mills Rapidly Resuming Work in Full Force.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., March 13.—With the resumption of work in half a dozen mills in the vicinity of Providence Monday and extensive building operations the hundreds of idle men are fast disappearing from the public streets. Along the Pawtuxet Valley every mill is in operation, from the print-cloth factory to the big cotton mills, and in including the yarn and stocking factory at Washington.

At Centerville the Lister Woolen Goods Mills are in operation day and night, and it was stated business was so good that the 24 hours a day run would be continued in all probability ten weeks or longer, when the mills would continue on 10-hour time.

All the leading mills in Pascoag, Burrellville and Harrisville started up Monday, and the operatives were all given employment at their old wages.

List of Sugar Producers.

Who Get Assistance in the Shape of Bounty From Uncle Sam.

WASHINGTON, March 12.—Complying with a resolution the Secretary of the Treasury to-day sent to the Senate a list of licensed producers of sugar from beets, sorghum and sugar cane in each State and Territory to whom bounty has been paid and the amount paid to each. The statement shows that the payments for the current year up to March 4, have been as follows: Beet sugar, \$610,935; sorghum sugar, \$16,926; cane sugar, \$2,613,497; maple sugar, \$115,597. Total, \$3,257,055.

The State of California leads in the production of beet sugar; Nebraska and Utah are also producers of this kind of sugar. Kansas and Minnesota are the only producers of sorghum sugar, and the latter only to a very light extent. Louisiana receives the bulk of the bounty paid on cane sugar, but Texas, Florida and Mississippi also show an interest in the industry.

Presidential Postmasters.

WASHINGTON, March 10.—The commissions of 11 Presidential Postmasters expire during the month. About 130 more will expire in April. Exactly 999 expired during the last three months, as follows: December, 472; January, 351, and February, 176. Of these cases 275 or 300 have not yet been acted on, although practically all have been taken under consideration by the Postmaster General. In twenty-two cases where commissions expired in December and forty in January no recommendations for filling the vacancies have been sent to the President.