

# Democratic Matchman

Bellefonte, Pa., May 14, 1897.

## A Spendthrift Nation.

Government in the United States increases in costliness with remarkable rapidity. In 1840 the total net ordinary expenses of the Government, including interest on the public debt, was \$24,314,518. The population of the country in the century year 1860 at the beginning of the war was nearly double what it had been in 1840, and the expenditures of the Federal Government had increased to \$63,200,875. Then began the domination of the party which has since that time imposed its policies upon public administration.

The population of the country since 1840 has quadrupled, but the expenditure of the Federal Government has increased to almost eighteen times the amount expended in 1840. The total expenditure for the fiscal year ended June 30th, 1896 was \$343,678,654. The excuse usually urged for this enormously increased cost of Government is that it is a result of the war. But this is only in part true. The war has been over for twenty-two years. The expenditures for pensions and for interest on the public debt in the last fiscal year were \$174,819,028, leaving \$250,855,626 for other purposes. The cost of the civil establishment in 1840 was \$5,995,399; in 1860 it was \$27,977,975; in 1896 it was \$97,216,234. This item shows the way the cat jumps—from about 35 cents per head in 1840, about 90 cents in 1860, to \$1.82 in 1896. The whole cost of the Federal establishment, in 1840, was \$1.40 per head; in 1860 \$2; in 1796 \$0.30.

But the extravagance is no less rampant in municipal and State than in Federal affairs. It costs as much to carry on local administration in Philadelphia now as it cost to manage the Federal Government when William Henry Harrison became President. The State is not much behind-hand. Take three sample items of expenditures for 1910, 1860 and 1890:

1840.	1860.	1890.
Department expenses.....	\$3,627	\$48,844
Judiciary.....	11,174	106,065
Education.....	387,804	417,576
	2,577,222	

And these figures have been enlarged since 1890. The yearly expenditure for education has jumped to over \$6,000,000 per year, through this is the item of which the people who pay the taxes are least disposed to complain. The total of average expenditures for State purposes in the past 50 years has quadrupled, though in the meantime the State debt has been nearly paid off and though the growth of the State establishment necessarily does not keep pace with the increase of population.

The unfortunate war experiment with a depreciated legal tender paper currency had much to do with increasing the cost of administration. As the greenbacks fell in value salaries were necessarily advanced. They have continued to advance, notwithstanding standing back redemption, and there is a certainty that the country will never again go back to the practice of economical administration, which characterized the earlier days of the Republic. When the taxpayers shall take the trouble to note the vast expenditures of public money for municipal, State and Federal account they will cease to wonder what causes hard times. Millions of dollars are withdrawn every day in the year from the pockets of the people for governmental expenditure. We began business in the United States taken on a splendidly frugal basis; but we have blossomed forth of late years and faded an established place at the head of the spendthrift nations of the world.—*Philadelphia Record*.

## Our Forest Reserves.

For some years a small but energetic body of the friends of forestry have been endeavoring to stay the destruction of the woodlands of Pennsylvania and secure the setting apart of forest reservations in the mountain districts of the state. The last report of the forestry commissioners recommended the setting apart of large areas in Pike, Monroe, Luzerne and other counties as forest reserves, and in accordance therewith an act was drawn and introduced some time ago in the house of representatives. After much trouble, the bill passed finally, and is now before the Senate for consideration. The measure provides for three reservations of not less than 40,000 acres each, one upon the Delaware watershed, one upon the Susquehanna and one upon the Ohio watershed. It is believed that these forest reserves, aside from the good they may perform in staying floods in our rivers, will ultimately become a source of revenue to the state. What has been done in Germany in the protection and utilization of forests can be as easily done in Pennsylvania if the people so resolve. As instances of the intelligent utilization of forests in Germany, it is pointed out that Freudenstadt, in Wurtemberg, receives a net annual revenue of from \$20,000 to \$25,000 from about 6,000,000 acres of preserves, or more than enough to pay all of the municipal expenses of the city, the inhabitants of which number about 6,000; Baden-Baden receives an average yearly net revenue of about \$35 an acre from 10,000 acres of forests, and Prussia \$1 an acre from nearly 6,000,000 acres of timberland. Mr. Vanderbilt's experiments in North Carolina have demonstrated that lands that are valueless for anything else can be made to produce revenues by tree planting. But these forest reserves will perform a more important office. They will form natural water storage areas, and thereby lessen the liabilities of disastrous floods; they would materially assist in the more even maintenance of the water supply of springs and streams during periods of drought, and greatly aid in the preservation of the fresh water fish. State forest reserves will stimulate individual enterprise in the same direction. The bill before the state Senate should become a law.

## Two New Moons This Month.

Although we have already had one new moon during this month, which occurred the 1st inst., we will have another one on the 31st.

Fond Mamma—"Have you eaten all you want to Bobby?"  
Bobby—"No but I guess I've eaten all I can hold."—*New York Journal*.

The fund for the maintenance and education of Helen Keller, the blind and deaf girl, has already reached \$25,000.

FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD.—In another part of this paper appears an advertisement worthy the reading, as it's for the public good. It tells of a free distribution of Doan's Kidney Pills, a remedy for Kidneys Ills. Read it, and call at F. Potts Green's.

## Woolen Manufacturers Urge Moderation.

Admit That High Duties and Consequent High Prices Will Restrict the Use of Woolens.

Some of the severest criticisms not only of special duties and clauses, but of the whole accursed protective system, come from the protected manufacturers themselves in their struggle with opposing interests. Mr. S. N. D. North, secretary of the Woolen Manufacturers' association, is now and always has been a staunch protectionist. As such he believes that the 70,000,000 consumers of this country are legitimate subjects for plunder and that the manufacturers are the proper persons to enjoy the protection plunder.

The free wool experiment which we have been trying for three years, besides being an object lesson in the way of cheap woolens, has taught the woolen manufacturers that they can make as much or more profit with free wool and moderate protection, which permits people of moderate means to wear real woolen goods, than with high duties on the home producer puts up his prices arbitrarily. Mr. Dingley's own words are a confession that the Dingley bill is a fraud and a robbery of the people for the benefit of the few individuals and corporations."

## Admits Prices Will Be Higher.

With regard to Chairman Dingley's admission that the duty on wool will increase the price of wool, the Kansas City Times says: "The consumer and not the foreigner, therefore, pays the tariff tax. It concedes also that the home producer puts up his prices arbitrarily. Mr. Dingley's own words are a confession that the Dingley bill is a fraud and a robbery of the people for the benefit of the few individuals and corporations."

## The most retroactive feature of the Dingley bill is the provision for paying back to the big manufacturers their campaign contributions.

## A Blind Bicycle Girl.

The Remarkable Accomplishment of Miss Kate Helmke of St. Louis.

I am free to say the bill is far from satisfactory to the woolen manufacturers. The chief fault is to be found with the raw wool duties which are so high that our manufacturers will find themselves sorely embarrassed. It is true the committee has provided compensatory duties which are probably sufficient to offset the duties on the wool, but the difficulty will lie in the opinion of the manufacturer that an increase in price which must be given to cover the additional cost of raw material will have the effect of cutting down consumption to an extent that will be disastrous to the manufacturers. I do not contend that the rates on woolen manufactures in the bill are not sufficient to protect us against too severe foreign competition, but the committee's purchasing power must control him in buying of woolen manufactures, and I fear the rates of the new bill will very materially restrict consumption.

This is practically saying to Dingley, Aldrich and the other servants of the protected manufacturers at Washington: "Go slow with your high duties and don't try to protect too many. If you let everybody into the protection ring, there will be nobody outside to prey upon and we will have to prey upon each other. Don't make the mistake of taxing raw materials too high. We wouldn't mind it if we could sell our goods and charge the tax over to the consumer. But when the tax is so high that we have to make our prices almost out of sight we have found that we cannot sell so many goods, because the people can't afford to wear clothes—that is, woolen clothes, which are the only ones worth considering because they are the only ones which we manufacture. Our solicitude for the dear American consumer is such that we do not wish to compel him to clothe himself in the

Two years ago the fat struck the blind asylum. Dr. John L. Sibley, the superintendent, is president of the Century club, and holds the century record for Missouri. Every member of his club rides, and there are altogether 15 bicyclists at the institution.

When all the seeing attaches of the school took to the bicycle, Miss E. H. Keke started Dr. Sibley by announcing that she was going to ride. The superintendent thought she was joking. Two days later a man delivered a tandem at the institution for Miss Helmke. She had slipped out with a friend and bought it without the knowledge of any one at the school.

Miss Helmke had examined the bicycles belonging to Dr. Sibley and his family. Her wonderfully sensitive fingers had traveled over every inch of the machines, and she had a good idea of the general appearance of a wheel.

Searched on the rear of the tandem with Dr. Sibley in front, she soon mastered the art of pedaling and was able to take part in a run to Creve Coeur lake. Then she became impatient to learn to ride a single path.

Dr. Sibley hesitated before giving his consent, but Miss Helmke was so persistent that he loaned her a wheel and gave her permission to practice in the gymnasium. It was hard work at first, but in a week she was able to ride without an attendant. Her training in the gymnasium had given her a good idea of its dimensions, and she soon learned to ride around the hall unattended. She then practiced in the yard, following the narrow circular path with absolute precision.

For some time she has been making daily trips to Forest Park. She is always accompanied by Dr. Sibley or one of the male teachers. Her attendant always rides at one side and guides her with his voice. Once on the boulevard she rides straight ahead without guidance, often reaching the park ahead of her companion.

Dr. Sibley considers Miss Helmke's achievements wonderful. "But, then," he said "she is a wonderful girl. Not one blind person in 1,000 could do as she has done. She came here without a knowledge of one word of English. To-day she is a splendid literary scholar, the best, in fact, ever turned out by the school. Besides teaching she reads proofs of the textbooks published here in the Braille characters. She rides as well as anyone in the school, and I sometimes think she could ride alone in perfect safety. Her attendant does not control or guide her wheel in any way. She never misses her daily spin."

"When she cannot go to Forest park she rides ten miles in the yard. She has a bicyclometer and takes great pride in the fact that she has ridden nearly 1,500 miles since she has mastered the wheel."

## The Protectionist Performance.

The following is a part of ex-Congressman John De Witt Warner's criticism of the Dingley bill:

"As it stands the most brilliant part of the pending performance consists in eating the words of the same actors in the Fifty-first congress. The McKinley bill of that date was virtually entitled 'a bill to reduce revenues.' The Dingley bill is specially commended as a revenue getter. The McKinley bill pointed with pride to the poor man's free breakfast table. The Dingley bill puts upon sugar—one-third of the total amount of the tariff tax proposed. The items which are supposed to help the farmer are good examples of so setting your trap as to 'catch 'em a-cumin and a-gwine.' For instance, we have reciprocity in order to give the farmers a market abroad for what is assumed they cannot produce for home consumption unless they are highly protected, as is done by another section of the bill."

## Senator Sherman at His Best.

Every advance toward a free exchange of commodities is an advance in civilization. Every obstruction to a free exchange is born of the same narrow, despotic spirit which planted castles upon the Rhine to plunder peaceful commerce. Every obstruction to commerce is a tax upon consumption. Every facility to a free exchange cheapens commodities, increases trade and population and promotes civilization.—John Sherman in 1868.

The Beef Trust's Tithe.

If congress can advance the price of hides 2 cents a pound in this country, the people will pay several millions a year more than they do now for their boots and shoes, and the money will go into the pockets of the Beef trust.—Hartford Times.

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## Fooling the Farmer.

Sample taxes from the Dingley bill, with comparisons showing the overwhelming foreign competition to which the farmer is subjected and what protection the ways and means committee regards as indispensable:

Duty, United States.	Exports from United States.
Barley, 30c. per bu.	837,324 bu. 7,060,331 bu.
Corn, 15c. per bu.	4,238 bu. 99,922 bu.
Oats, 15c. per bu.	47,506 bu. 18,012,500 bu.
Rye, 10c. per bu.	3,000 bu. 668,469 bu.
Wheat, 25c. per bu.	2,100,000 bu. 10,000,000 bu.
Flour, 5c. ad val.	1,384 bu. 14,020,000 bu.
Butter, 6c. per lb.	52,007 lbs. 12,973,016 lbs.
Potatoes, 25c. per bu.	175,240 bu. 1,000,000 bu.
Total value of these exports during the fiscal year 1896.....	\$139,021,622
Total value of imports.....	1,861,553

Imports to the United States.

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Japan gets the laugh on the United States. The "Jiji Shimpo," or "Daily Times," of Tokyo, is a leading paper of the Japanese empire. In its issue of March 31st it satirizes America's retrograde tariff policy in a double cartoon, with the legend "Forty Years Before and After." The upper illustration, in allusion to Commodore Perry, is a picture of Uncle Sam dragging the youthful and unwilling "Jap" out of the entrance of his house, to the supreme surprise and disgust of the residence. The lower half of the cartoon shows Uncle Sam in his own private garden, himself building a high fence or "Chinese Wall" of perpendicular boards, on each of which are figures showing a gradual increase ad valorem duties on foreign goods. This pictorial contrast is accompanied by an editorial on the effects of the new rates on certain Japanese industries, and on the mode in which Japan is likely to retaliate.—Pittsburg Post.

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