

The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ - ED. & PROP

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THE CENTRE DEMOCRAT ONE YEAR for \$1.75 and 3 times a week World one year for \$1.45 and Phila. Weekly Times one year for \$1.45

DEMOCRATIC COUNTY COMMITTEE, 1896.

- List of Democratic County Committee members including Bellefonte, Centre Hall, Millburg, etc.

DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES.

The recent Democratic State Convention which met at Allentown, Pa., adopted a platform that is worthy of the careful perusal of every reader. We herewith give it entire:

"The democracy of Pennsylvania by its representatives assembled, declares its adherence to the fundamental principles it has taught and enforced from the foundation of the government, and which it believes are essential to the continuance of our system of free popular institutions. It declares for a strict construction of all constitutional grants of power to the federal government that infringe upon the rights of communities or the liberty of the citizen; for a liberal interpretation of all reservations of rights to the people; for home rule, and against the centralization of power, for freedom of thought, and against all proscription for religious opinions; against needless sumptuary legislation, and for the largest measure of liberty to individuals consistent with the enforcement of law and order; the preservation of rights of persons and property, and the maintenance of government. It believes that federal taxation, in whatever form, is justifiable only to the extent that may be needful for the maintenance of government, honestly and economically administered, within the sphere of granted powers.

It is opposed to all schemes of taxation that bear unequally upon individuals, or that tend to increase the profits of the few at the expense of the many, or to impose upon the few those burdens of government which should be borne by all alike. The democratic party has fulfilled the pledge under which it was entrusted with power, relieving the people from unjust and oppressive taxation, and by the enactment of a tariff for purposes of revenue, framed on constitutional lines. We are opposed to any backward step in the reform thus accomplished. We demand that the legitimate business interests of the country shall now have rest from all disturbing agitation of this question. The people are entitled to the substantial and lasting prosperity which we believe must surely come as the result of the reforms thus accomplished. We believe that these results are postponed only because of the failure and refusal of a republican congress to heed the wise suggestions of President Cleveland.

HIGH GRADE GOODS.

WOOLEN INDUSTRY BENEFITED BY FREE RAW MATERIALS.

Better Products For the Same Price—A Saving of 6 Per Cent to Domestic Manufacturers—Plea For Protection Has Little Standing—Facts About Revenues.

It does not require much attention to measure the benefits derived from free wool. The wools which are of much inferior quality as to be only a little removed from shoddy are no longer imported in as large quantities as when a duty was imposed, wools of high grade and fine quality being substituted for them. It is safe to say that whatever extension of the woolen industry has occurred in this country in the last year has been in the view of developing the use of fine wools in the place of Turkish, Russian and Chinese wools. For the same price a better product of manufacture is being obtained. As the revenue sacrificed in removing the duties from raw wools amounted to about \$8,000,000 a year, the benefit may be said to be purchased at a low price. On the imports of 1895 the manufacturer would, under the old rate, have had to pay nearly \$16,000,000 in duties—a tax of nearly 6 per cent upon the total value of all products of woolen manufacture in the domestic industries.

Manufacturers claim to have a grievance against the new tariff in that they are able to compete with foreigners in only a few kinds of goods. That taste, patterns and machinery should have become specially adapted to such wools as the greed of the woolgrowers imposed upon the domestic market was to be expected, and it could hardly be anticipated that in a single 12 months a change so radical could be wrought as to enable the home manufacture to meet entirely and successfully the new conditions. That imports should increase was natural.

In the year 1894 importations were restricted to what was absolutely necessary to supply the market on the most economical estimates. That year of economy and restriction naturally led to larger importations in 1895, when conditions had become more settled and the general tone of the markets could be better gauged. Not only were the needs of the market to be met, but its possibilities and the shortage of 1894 were to be provided for. Commercially therefore the year 1895 should have been not only a year of large importations but of importations which in comparison to previous years might appear excessive. How far do the statistics of imports bear out this conclusion?

The total imports of manufactures of wool for the two years 1891 and 1892 were valued at \$73,500,000, and for 1894 and 1895 at \$76,100,000. It does not appear on this showing that the importations of 1895 were excessive when taken in their true relation to the imports of other years. The same comparison can be made in the special lines of goods. The imports of carpets in 1891 and 1892 were valued at \$2,932,000; in 1894 and 1895, at \$2,862,000. Of wearing apparel, which includes most of the items on which the greatest tariff contests have been held, cloaks, hats of wool, knit fabrics and shawls, the imports of 1891 and 1892 were \$6,390,000; in 1894 and 1895, \$5,088,000. If, in place of value, quantities be taken, the showing is even more telling against the cry of overimportation. Of dress goods the imports in 1890 and 1892 amounted to 121,000,000 square yards; in 1894 and 1895 to only 21,570,000 square yards. The imports of plushes and other pile fabrics were nearly three times greater in quantity in 1891 and 1892 than they were in 1894 and 1895. In the single item of woolen or worsted cloths have the imports increased remarkably in quantity as well as in value. The imports for 1895 were as large as the imports of the three years from 1891 to 1893 inclusive. Taken as a whole it cannot be said that on the returns of the imports for the five years there has been any such increase above a normal average as would threaten the existence or prosperity of a great domestic industry. The plea for higher protection of woolen manufactures has little standing in the face of such statistics.

Nor can much be said on the plea of greater revenue. In 1892, which was the year of largest imports of woolen manufactures under the McKinley tariff, the amount of duties collected was \$36,560,539 on a valuation of imports of \$37,557,037. This was equivalent to an ad valorem of 97.36 per cent. In 1895 the duty collected was \$28,102,648 on a value of imports of \$61,018,579—the equivalent ad valorem being 46 per cent. This shows that with the rate of duty reduced more than one-half the revenue was reduced only 23 per cent. It is an impudent demand to ask congress to reimpose the high duties on raw wools to gain a revenue of \$6,000,000 or \$7,000,000 and to increase to an even greater degree the duties on manufactures of wool for a similar sum. At the end of February the deficit in the national account was only \$900,000 more than it was at the end of November. The government is, therefore, very nearly paying its expenses out of current revenue, and there is no reasonable ground for tinkering with the tariff, and least of all in the direction of higher duties on raw wools and manufactures of wool, where the consumer loses \$2 every time the government gains \$1.—New York Post.

Maryland Being Reformed. The Republicans have reformed Maryland in their usually effective style. Says the St. Louis Republic: "Governor Lowndes has been compelled to withdraw the appointments to judgeships of emblesler and a thief. The mayor and the council of Baltimore are in a quarrel over a distribution of spoils, and the council threatens to carry off all the booty by parceling out the places itself. Maryland and Kentucky have learned too late that the wages of sin is death."

MERCANTILE APPRAISEMENT FOR 1895.

The following foreign and domestic merchandise will take notice that they are appraised and classified by the undersigned, appraiser of mercantile and other license tax, for the year 1895, as follows:

Table with columns: Postoffice, Names, Business, Class, Tax. Lists various merchants and their respective goods and taxes.

EDITORIAL.

The nominee for the vice-presidency, on the republican ticket, will be the next problem to solve.

The A. P. A. association has declared against McKinley, for president. That may bring him more votes than do him injury.

Ever long presidential politics will have fall sway. The season of street corners arguments and political bums is upon us, and all we can do is to patiently endure the evil.

Read the Democratic platform, in another column of this issue. It is full of patriotic sentiment and dignified utterance. It tells exactly what Democracy stands for and means.

It looks now as though all the prominent republican bosses had been put to route by Mc Kinley. Quay, Platt, Reed and all the combined opposition will dwindle before the Ohioan.

Bellefonte Commandery, with seventy uniformed members, were in the parade also, under the direction of Hugh S. Taylor, Esq. Charles C. Bell, had charge of Juniors, who made a fine showing.

The cruel butcheries in Cuba, by the Spanish authorities, is gradually working out the future destiny of that island. It is bringing sympathy to the insurgent forces, who like patriots are battling for liberty and freedom.

It is amusing to hear excitable, eccentric republicans shout for McKinley, upon whom they place the estimate of a Moses to deliver them from political bondage. This protection prophet is the most overestimated man of the day.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND has broken the silence by announcing through a friend, that under no circumstance could he accept a re-nomination for President. He has no ambition for further honors and his health would never permit it. The Democracy will seek another Moses this time.

CENTRE COUNTY has twenty-seven republican and thirty-two democratic candidates anxious to be put in nomination on their party tickets this year. This makes politics lively and almost every section of our county is overrun with them. They are almost becoming a nuisance, but are a necessary evil that must be endured.

In the last presidential campaign nearly all the leading republican newspapers of the county published the story that E. H. Van Ingen, an American merchant in London, had brought \$500,000 from England, contributed by the Cobden club, to elect Cleveland president. The story was a lie, and the papers that published it knew it was a lie. Mr. Van Ingen has been bringing these papers to account for the slander. He has recovered \$4,000 and costs from the New York Mail and Express, \$1,000 and costs from the New York Recorder, and the New York Press has paid \$3,000 and costs, and expressed its regret for publishing "such false and unfounded charges." And Dallzell's news agency in London has paid \$4,000 smart money for sending the story out. This Cobden club business don't seem to be very profitable to republican newspapers. Mr. Van Ingen should call on the republican newspapers elsewhere.

Advertisement for 'ROBINSON AND FRANKLIN BROS. SHOWS' featuring 'America's Leading Amusement' and 'Will Exhibit in all its vast entirety afternoons and evenings at Bellefonte Wednesday May 27th.' Includes portraits of men and decorative elements.