

THE COST OF LIVING.

Wages Compared With Food and Necessities Determine the Measure of Prosperity.

Concerning the costs of living as applied to the wages earned, and the extravagant claims made from Republican National headquarters to the effect that this is an era of great prosperity, the following excerpt from a speech made in the hall of the House of Representatives in Washington by Mr. Allan Benny, of New Jersey, on Jan. 28, last, sheds much light on the subject. Mr. Benny said:

"They tell us on the other side, Mr. Chairman, that wages have increased 12 per cent. during the Republican administration, and that the cost of liv-

ing has actually gone down. Now, I do not think there was ever a more erroneous statement made on this floor than that same one. The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Boutell) was very careful when speaking not to give us any figures on the cost of living. Let me give you some figures from Dun's Review, which I suppose every man here will take to have some weight at least.

"The figures, based upon quotations of 350 articles with due allowance for the relative importance of each, are as follows:

	Jan. 1, 1900.	July 1, 1897.	Jan. 1, 1900.	May 1, 1902.	July 1, 1903.	Oct. 1, 1903.	Jan. 1, 1904.
Breadstuffs	\$13,765	\$12,587	\$12,254	\$12,964	\$17,473	\$16,696
Meats	7,629	7,529	7,558	10,908	9,208	8,320
Dairy and garden	12,675	8,714	13,702	14,737	13,083	12,009
Other food	9,305	2,887	9,300	8,742	9,186	9,171
Clothing	14,845	13,808	17,484	15,527	17,126	16,816
Metals	16,240	11,642	18,085	16,702	16,554	16,396
Miscellaneous	15,111	12,286	16,312	16,554	16,765	16,890
Total	\$99,191	\$72,455	\$95,256	\$102,289	\$99,456	\$97,273	\$100,140

"These figures indicate that the cost of living was 6 per cent. higher in 1900 than in 1899; 41 per cent. more in 1902 than in 1897, and 34 4-10 per cent. more on Oct. 1, 1903 than on July 1, 1897, and about 30 per cent. greater on the first day of this year than on the first day of July, 1897; 39 per cent. increase in the cost of living and 12 per cent. increase taking the figures of gentlemen on the other side, in wages, yet they say every laboring man in the country and every citizen in the land ought to be thankful that the Republican party has done so much for the laboring man.

"There was one thing, Mr. Chairman, that I did like in the speech of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Boutell), and that was his statement that he did give some credit to Almighty God for the prosperity which he claims exists in this country. He was the first Republican that I ever heard on this floor admit that. But even he did not dare tell this house what percentage he claimed of the prosperity of the country was due to the Republican party, and what percentage was due to the goodness of the Almighty. I assume that the percentage he was going to credit to the Almighty was so small that he was ashamed to state it.

"And then the gentleman from Illinois looked around the room and demanded of some Democrat to contradict his statement that the country was prosperous. Well, I wonder, Mr. Chairman, what condition any man here would expect the United States to be in? Would not our country, under natural conditions, be expected to be prosperous? Why they remind me a good deal of the log of a ship that came into New York some time ago. The captain one day during the voyage was on watch, and he wrote in the log: "Mate drunk to-day." The mate did not like it very well, and the next day when he was on watch he wrote in the

log: "Captain sober to-day." So the Republican party comes here and declares that the United States is prosperous, as though it were an unusual thing.

"Why, if you, on the other side, would let us alone—would not by your laws on the one hand help a few people at the expense of many others, and by your failure on the other hand to enforce the laws of the land, designed to give all men an even chance—and would not divert the prosperity into certain channels, and the money from the prosperity into a few pockets, the country would always be prosperous. It is only because of that kind of work on your side that the country is ever in any other condition, and yet to-day you marvel that we are prosperous as though it was natural to expect anything else from our country. I expect it to be always in that condition, and it always will be if you will only give it a fair chance, and let the country and the people in it develop the resources of this, the greatest land in the world, and go along on their way in peace, free from your miserable manipulation.

"And then they announce that President Roosevelt is so sure of re-election, that there is no use bothering at all, and that there is no sense in the Democrats putting up a candidate.

"Well, let me suggest to you, gentlemen on the other side, if you think that is so, why are you making all this fuss; what difference does it make to you whom you nominate, or what the platform is, and if you are going to beat us anyway—why not keep quiet? You remind me of the boy going through the graveyard, who whistled at the top of his lungs all the time, not because he wanted to whistle, but just for the purpose of keeping his courage up. That is why you talk so loud on the other side now."

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ENGLISH AND AMERICAN TRUSTS.

English trusts are comparatively harmless affairs, and cannot and have not arbitrarily advanced prices except in a few instances, like that of brass bedsteads, and then only temporarily.

The difference between a trust in a free-trade country and one in a high-tariff country can be illustrated by the Borax Consolidated, an English corporation with \$16,000,000 capital. This is a world trust, and the Pacific Coast Borax Company, of this country, is the greatest of the twelve companies in the trust, and probably supplies as much borax as all of the other companies combined. This world trust sells refined borax to-day in this country at 7 1/2 cents and in England at 2 1/2 cents per pound. Much of the borax sold in England is borax from the mines of California, and is refined at Bayonne, N. J., and exported to England. The duty on imported borax is 5 cents per pound, and was raised from 2 cents in 1897 by the Republicans. When the duty was 2 cents, borax sold here at 5 cents. As a matter of history it may be stated that had there been no duty on borax here there would have been no world trust. The exorbitant profits of the trust here enabled it to sell borax at less than 2 cents per pound in Europe and to force its competitors to sell their plants at low prices. But this trust is comparatively harmless in free-trade England, while it is most harmful in protectionist America.

Professor Jenks, in the employ of the Industrial Commission, went to Europe in 1901 and made a 300-page report on "Industrial Combinations" in Europe. He could enumerate but thirty-five trusts in England. He states that "in England the movement toward combination has not gone so far as in either Austria or Germany," and that the English trusts have had little or so effect in advancing prices, the slight advance during the last two years being "due in good part to the increase in the prices of raw materials."

WILL GET EVERY DEMOCRATS VOTE.

Senator Lattimer, of South Carolina, says: "There is no possible excuse for any Democrat in the land to withhold his vote from Judge Parker, and there is every reason in the world why patriotic Republicans should support him. He stands for all that Jefferson, Jackson, Lincoln and Tilden stood for—good, sound and constitutional government."

Senator Joseph W. Bailey says: "My argument is that when the country is most prosperous in a material way, it has greatest need to call the Democratic party into its service in order that it may be reminded of its duties outside of dollars and cents."

Edward M. Shepard, of New York, says: "The modern Republican idea that the use of a protective tariff is to keep prices high to the American consumer in order that the profits of other Americans engaged in gigantic and long established industries shall be increased, would have been as abhorrent to Abraham Lincoln as it is to Judge Parker."

Edward A. Shepard, says: "The policy 'stand pat' means that, under Republican auspices, no committee shall investigate, nor House of Congress consider, the working of the tariff. On this subject there must be mute obedience as before a deity. If the manufacture of steel and iron be no longer an 'infant industry' to be cherished, but a practical monopoly within the American republic, out of whose profits the vastest fortunes in the world have been built up—if it sells its products to foreigners more cheaply than to Americans—nevertheless, there must be silence."

SALES ABROAD AT FIGURES BELOW HOME PRICES.

The Republicans try hard to find statistics to prove that but an insignificant proportion of manufactured goods sold abroad are sold at reduced prices. They quote the speech of Secretary Shaw in Chicago during the session of the Republican National Convention, in which he said:

"Our opponents lay much stress upon the fact that some American manufactures are sold abroad cheaper than at home. Our friends sometimes deny this, and they sometimes apologize for it, and few, in times past, have joined our opponents in recommending a removal of the tariff from all such articles. It is useless to deny, and, in my judgment, unwise to apologize and little short of foolishness to attempt to remedy the assumed evil in the manner proposed by the opposition.

"A non-partisan commission appointed by Congress to investigate the subject with authority to compel the attendance of witnesses, made a careful and detailed report. Basing his computations upon the facts set forth in the report, Senator Gallinger, of New Hampshire, in a speech made in the United States Senate on April 23, last, placed the value of exports sold at a lower price abroad than at home at \$4,000,000. I cannot find that the substantial correctness of this estimate was ever questioned by the opposition. But in any event the amount is so small as compared with the aggregate output of our factories as to be unworthy of consideration."

Secretary Shaw is either a novice with figures or he is entirely willing to fool the voters with big statistics which he knows are not true. It is hardly possible that our Secretary of the Treasury does not know that we do not produce \$13,000,000,000 worth of manufactured goods in a year ready for final consumers, or anything like this amount. Our Census statistics of manufactures contain many duplications. Thus we have manufactures of cloth goods and of clothing; of iron and steel, and of foundry products, machinery, etc.; of lumber and of furniture; of leather and of boots and shoes. In these few industries the duplications amount to \$2,000,000,000 or \$3,000,000,000. Were it possible to take out the duplications—that is, the products of one mill that are sold as raw materials to another mill—it is probable that the total value of finished manufactured products would not be more than half of \$13,000,000,000. Whether or not our census figures have been stuffed in order to make a great showing for protection can only be surmised.

The statement that only \$4,000,000 worth of our manufactured goods are sold abroad cheaper than they are sold at home is ridiculous. Secretary Shaw says that he got his statistics from the report of the Industrial Commission, but he neglected to cite the page or volume. As a matter of fact no such statistics appear in any of the nineteen volumes. Neither are there any statements from which he could reasonably draw such a conclusion.

Secretary Shaw well knows, as does every one of the Commission, that the pretended investigation which that partisan body made of export prices was a farce and that it is absurd to attempt to draw conclusions as does Secretary Shaw, from data obtained in answer to the scattering letter of inquiry sent out by the Commission.

In the first place schedules of inquiry were sent out to only 2,000 of the 600,000 manufacturing establishments of this country—that is, only one of every 300. In the next place only 416 replies were received. Of course, the answers were mainly from those who were not guilty. The guilty ones did not volunteer information which would incriminate them before the American public. Moreover, they doubtless understood the make-up of the commission and knew that it did not want evidence of the great extent of this business. Hence, nearly all of the guilty manufacturers either refrained from answering at all or put in ridiculous and absurd answers, such as they supposed would please a majority of the members of the commission. Under the circumstances it is remarkable that even 75 manufacturers admitted that they were discriminating in favor of foreign customers. At this rate more than 100,000 of our manufacturers are favoring foreigners.

It could with far better logic and reason, be concluded from these Industrial Commission figures that, as 75 out of 416 manufacturers sold \$4,000,000 worth of products cheaper abroad than at home that, out of the 600,000 manufacturers in this country, 108,000 would sell \$5,768,000,000 worth of goods cheaper abroad than at home. This result is obtained by simple proportion and is mathematically correct.

CABINET ALL CAMPAIGNING.

Affairs of State, the impending crisis in China and all Governmental functions are passed upon by assistant secretaries these days. Not a member of President Roosevelt's Cabinet is in the city. Secretary of War Taft, the last of the official advisers of the administration to go out on campaign work, left the capital this evening—N. Y. American Washington Cor., Aug. 24.

THE PUZZLER

No. 206.—Word Squares.
I.—1. To irritate. 2. Clamor. 3. Repose. 4. A forest growth.
II.—1. Not a city. 2. A central state. 3. Wither. 4. A mark.
III.—1. A girl's name. 2. To post. 3. A title. 4. Too.

No. 207.—Riddle.
A flower am I, as pure and fair
As any you have seen;
A very princess royal, where
The stately rose is queen.
I glow with ruddy tints of flame,
With gold or pearly white,
But take one letter from my name
And I am black as night.

No. 208.—Rhyming Puzzle.
I am a word of five letters, rhyming with rain.
Am I a means of traveling? No, not a
A carpenter's tool? No, not a
A weight lifter? No, not a
A country of southern Europe? No, not a
To pretend? No, not to
To rule? No, not to
A sanitary contrivance? No, not a
Killed completely? No, not
To clarify? No, not to
An injury to the muscles? No, not a
The organ of thought? No, not the
A mark or blot? No, not a
A young countryman? Yes, I am a

No. 209.—Connected Diamonds.
I II III
o o o
o o o o o o o
o o o o o o o o o o o
o o o o o o o o o o o o o
o o o o o o o o o o o
o o o o o o o
o o o

I.—1. A letter. 2. Noise. 3. A kind of bread. 4. A wanderer. 5. A wandering troop. 6. To drink a little. 7. A letter.
II.—1. A letter. 2. A domestic animal. 3. One who rides. 4. A greeting. 5. A time in summer. 6. An organ of the body. 7. Sacred songs. 8. A vegetable. 9. A letter.
III.—1. A letter. 2. Burning, fiery. 3. Scale of notes in music. 4. A sort of novel. 5. Extent. 6. Much used in summer. 7. A letter.

No. 210.—Song Symbol.
A pleasing song.



No. 211.—Grammar Charade.
My first is just a little article;
My second is a preposition small;
My third a very well known interjection;
My fourth a tiny pronoun; that is all.
But if my whole should be all taken from me,
Into a helpless heap I'd straightway fall.

No. 212.—Additions.
Add two letters to a small nail and make a pull; add the same letters to a supply and make animal tissue; to a public carriage and make a heavy chain; to an insect and make a musical instrument; to a twirl or perversion and make a palace.

No. 213.—Floral Arithmograph.
I am a word of eleven letters, the name of a handsome garden flower.
My 1, 3, 8, 9, 11, are a girl's name, and so are my 2, 3, 10, 4, 5.
My 1, 2, 9, 5, are anxiety and trouble.

No. 214.—Decaptations.
I am lost and wandering; behold me, I am useful in the house; again, I am a line of light.
I am a wide gap; behold me, I am to attain; again, I am every single one.

My 1, 6, 2, 3, are fuel of fire.
My 1, 2, 3, 7, will attract attention.
My 2, 3, 5, are a common beverage.
My 9, 10, 1, 5, are the food of a large part of the human race.
My 3, 11, 4, 5, are an ornamental trimming.
My 10, 4, 5, are frozen water.
My 9, 5, 2, 7, are actually existing.
My 3, 6, 4, 2, 7, belong to a place.

Key to the Puzzler.
No. 198.—Subtractions: Gem—m+be beg. Vase—v+f= safe.
No. 199.—A Popular Maxim: Poverty makes strange bedfellows.
No. 200.—Charade: Car-go.
No. 201.—Novel Double Acrostic: Primals—Longfellow. Finals—Portland, Me. Crosswords—1. League. 2. Ostium. 3. Nereld. 4. Garden. 5. Farina. 6. Enamel. 7. Lament. 8. Labor. 9. Out-g. 10. Warship. 1. Ague. 2. Suit. 3. Erie. 4. Dare. 5. Rain. 6. Mane. 7. Name. 8. Boa. 9. Tug. 10. Hairs.
No. 202.—Riddle: Asparagus.
No. 203.—Central Syncope: Fa-r-ee, face. Ba-s-te, bate. Mo-n-th. moth. Wi-el-d, wild.
No. 204.—Anagram Verse: Almoner, nor meal; role, man; lame, nor; realm no; mole ran.
No. 205.—European Rivers: Mersey, Thames, Danube, Don, Dnieper, Rhone, Seine, Dwina.

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C. A. BRYANT.

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HENRY WARD.

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