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To insure publication in this paper, volunteered communications of a controversial character MUST BE SIGNED FOR PUBLICATION BY THE WRITER'S TRUE NAME. To this just rule we cannot hereafter make exception.

The Business Situation.

The business situation as shown by current reports is certainly encouraging. As an exchange remarks, though circumstances were against any decided improvements in general business last week, still there was a noticeable continuation of the slow and steady growth that has been characteristic of business ever since the November election.

The decision of the Supreme court affirming the Sherman anti-trust law as regards railroad agreements for the maintenance of freight rates had a tendency to demoralize the markets, but despite this they bore up remarkably well. Then, the snow in the west and the continuation of the heavy floods in the Mississippi valley and along the rivers tributary to that great stream, together with a further rainfall, were naturally obstacles to heavy business, while the dissolution of the iron pool was not of any present benefit.

The decision of the Supreme court demoralized the stock market, but it broke for less than would have been expected and in fact its general firmness was a matter of surprise. The total sales of stocks during the week reached 1,253,143, aggregating \$7,374,500, as against 1,277,553 for the week before, reaching \$7,861,500, and \$12,297 for the same week of 1896, amounting to \$4,555,900.

Government bonds were a fraction higher, ranging from one and one-eighth to one and one-fourth advance. The total sales aggregated \$305,000. Money was a little easier during the week. The report of the New York associated banks showed an increase of the surplus reserve of \$726,755, a decrease of loans of \$1,891,800, of deposits of \$2,695,500, an increase of specie of \$162,790, and a decrease of legal tenders of \$387,500.

Bradstreet reports a downward tendency in prices in wheat, corn, oats, coffee, cotton and for pig iron and steel billets, because of the expectations of lower-priced ore. But wool, raw sugar, wheat, flour, petroleum, linseed oil and turpentine were higher, while prices for prior cloths, refined sugar, lard and pork were practically unchanged.

The report of the state capital building committee printed elsewhere today seems to indicate good judgment on part of the members. There is no reason why these should be restriction in the approval of a building which to a certain extent is representative of the wealth and enterprise of the greatest commonwealth in the Union.

It is to be said, then, that while there was not as marked an advance in business and industry as desired, there was a notable improvement considering unfavorable climatic and other conditions, with more men employed and an increased demand for commodities. Altogether, the week was as satisfactory as could have been expected.

The New York Journal is at last beginning to manifest a sullen inclination to be good.

Impregnable Doctrine.

The organs of monopoly, and especially the New York Sun, are criticizing with severity two passages in the opinion of Justice Peckham affirming the validity and the vitality of the Sherman anti-trust law. In the first one, Mr. Peckham says:

The results of trusts, or combinations may be different in different kinds of corporations, yet they all have an essential similarity, and have been induced by motives of individual or corporate selfishness as against the public interest.

not for the real prosperity of any country that any changes should ever which result in transforming an independent business man, the head of his establishment, small though it might be, into a mere servant of a trust of a corporation for selling the commodities which he once manufactured or dealt in, having no voice in shaping the business policy of the company and bound to obey orders issued by others.

Whether these words be retished or not by the few whom they menace, they nevertheless express sound public policy. It is the cardinal principle in the Republican creed—a creed which has lately been sustained by a preponderating verdict of the people—that when cheapness entails ruin it becomes too cheap. When to get a cheap coat, as General Harrison once said, it is necessary to make a cheap man, then better a coat worth a few pennies more for each yard of its cloth. This is as applicable to dealers in merchandise as to the makers thereof.

John D. Rockefeller has been telling some Sunday school scholars that wealth brings misery and that the most unhappy man in the world is the one who has nothing but money. From the tone of his remarks one would judge that Mr. Rockefeller is like the stage comedian who has "money to burn but does not like to waste matches." There is no more tedious talk than that of the rich man who constantly wishes or appears to wish that he was poor. The example of many men of means who devote a large portion of their income to charitable works and who enjoy their wealth because it enables them to do good and alleviate suffering is the one thing that reconciles the world to the wealth of men of the Rockefeller stamp who make a show of their wealth by lecturing upon their own misery because of immense possessions.

The programme of the new secretary of agriculture seems sensible and progressive. Mr. Wilson is a practical farmer as well as a book farmer, and familiar with the operations, pursued at state experiment stations. In distributing reports he intends to study their adaptability to different sections and to produce from foreign countries those that seem the most promising. He will send the best varieties of sugar beet seeds to the sections suited to the growth of this valuable plant, and pursue the same course with regards to leguminous and fodder products. He thinks that the western price of corn for shipment is far below its value for feeding, and he proposes to encourage the raising of stock as the best way to end the era of the '90s.

Multitudes of readers will regret the death of "Oliver Optic," for more than thirty years has entertained the young with clean and wholesome fiction. He was not a great writer, but there was a robust and many-toned in his writings which appealed to the sympathies and the best impulses of every healthy American boy. No parent ever had occasion to fear the influence of "Oliver Optic" over his youngsters; its effect was generally to incite their ambition in the right direction, and it would be well if this could be said of all the writers who have attempted to succeed him in the field of juvenile literature.

The report of the state capital building committee printed elsewhere today seems to indicate good judgment on part of the members. There is no reason why these should be restriction in the approval of a building which to a certain extent is representative of the wealth and enterprise of the greatest commonwealth in the Union. Buildings should be erected on a scale of magnificence in keeping with the progress of the state even at a cost exceeding the estimate of the committee. This is no time to practice economy in the erection of cheap edifices.

It is reported from London that Marconi, the young Italian electrician who has been at work in the endeavor to devise apparatus whereby it will be possible to send telegraphic messages without the use of transmitting wires, has succeeded to the extent of communicating through, around, or over a mountain five miles in diameter. These reports may be untrue, but it seems clear that to use the familiar expression—we "are on the verge of great discoveries" in the domain of electricity.

There is a measure on the calendar at Harrisburg directing sheriffs to invite representatives of newspapers to be present at all executions. It is probable that this bill was introduced in the kindest spirit, but nevertheless it is unwise. The newspapers should not be permitted to publish the harrowing details of such occasions, thus further inflaming the sentimentality of a portion of the public that is already maddened on this subject.

Anna Besant, theosophist, says that when some great soul is incarnated, it enters into the body of some young person whose earthly existence will terminate about the same time. This is rather suggestive of assertions of the trout season, but as no one is probably prepared to prove that it is not so, Anna's theory will have to stand until something new is promulgated.

We have read a good many reviews of Grover Cleveland, but nothing comparable in accuracy, courtesy, inclusiveness or thoroughness to that which appears in the April Bookman from the pen of Professor Harry Thurston Peck. It is a bit of writing which comes pretty close to winning the grade of 100 per cent.

Thus far there has been a singular uniformity in the appearance of the suits of Charlemagne Tower which have appeared in the daily papers which strengthens the belief that Mr. Tower has never repeated his first visit to a photographer.

Reports are again in circulation that the emperor of German is crazy. It probably isn't as bad as that. All that

alls him is that his head has ceased to fit his hat.

According to the Philadelphia Bulletin, the McKinley administration is making no noise or fuss over its Cuban policy, but more American prisoners have been released since the 4th of March than Cleveland was able to get out during his whole administration.

If Hawaii is annexed to the United States light opera seems to be the only thing left for Queen Lili and Duke Palmer, provided her income of \$20,000 a year is insufficient for household expenses.

If Canton, O., does not organize a base ball club, or get up a boxing squad or something in the near future, she will not cut as big a figure as Wilkes-Barre on the map of the world.

Up to the hour of going to press Uncle John Wanamaker had not been endorsed for any new office by his Philadelphia friends this morning.

The Fitzgimmons heart blow to a certain extent blew out the gas.

Gossip of the Capital

Special to the Scranton Tribune.

Washington, March 29.—"First pass the tariff bill and then come to me and I will talk to you about the office I want to be President McKinley's exact language, but that is what he means when he tells senators and representatives to call around a little before they discuss the question of federal patronage. It is quite evident that the president is not going to be in a hurry about distributing the leaves and fishes. The new appointment thus far may have been necessary and more will be made from time to time. There will be no wholesale changes until after the new tariff law is enacted. McKinley's appointments returned home and gone to work again. Office-seeking is not a very profitable business, it costs money and a heap of it, too. To conduct a successful campaign the office-seeker ought to be right here in Washington and within easy reach of the white house. There is no telling what day, hour or minute the president will make an excursion to make a move on the political checker board, and when he does move the game is generally over. The cost of living in Washington is not the only hardship, an office-seeker experiences. Think of the terrible strain his nervous system must necessarily undergo! Chasing an office, and then not getting it, is about as unprofitable as a log, hourly expecting to be rescued, with no ship in sight. If you don't believe me, try it."

"Private" John Allen, of Mississippi, has the reputation of being the funny man of the house. He is funny and when he gets up to speak most members are inclined to believe that he will not say anything with any weight or depth to it. In this they are sometimes mistaken. Mr. Allen often says many things which are apparently foolish. Two weeks ago when the Democrats were canvassing for the purpose of selecting a leader for the minority Mr. Allen made a speech which contained far more truth than fun.

"You may get up here and talk about your leaders," he said, "and you may vote for this man and that man for your leader, but I want to call your attention to the fact that leaders are not elected, but born. As I look around upon this noble assemblage, I see a great many faces before me of men who would not questionably make great leaders. And, perhaps, it may be impertinent for me to suggest it, but I think we ought not to be in too big a hurry to choose a leader until we hustle around and get together a few more of us for the leader to lead. It's all very well to be trying to see a mortgage on the speakership, which can be foreclosed in the next congress, but suppose it happens that there is nothing to foreclose on then, what good will it do the man who holds it? Let me suggest there were a great many good leaders in various parts of the country during the last campaign, but as I look around me, there are many of them whom I do not see here now, and while we are counting on the victories which we are to win two years from now, it may be possible that there may be some of us who will not be here then."

This administration is already being charged with a promotion. Among President McKinley's first appointments was William McKinley Osborne, a cousin, to the best position in the consular service, that of consul general to London, which formerly paid anywhere from \$20,000 to \$25,000 per year. Next came Secretary of State Sherman. It was only a few days after he had assumed the duties of his office that he had appointed the son-in-law, James McCallah, to the position of consul general of law, at the state department, with a salary of \$20,000. Mr. McCallah was for many years an associate of the United States Supreme court, and is well qualified to fill his new position. It will, of course, be the official family of the president, and it is not known to the public.

A brother of the late General Winfield Scott Hancock, the hero of Gettysburg, who has been superintendent of the pension bureau for many years, has been given a promotion by Secretary Peck. The secretary and General Hancock were warm personal friends and the promotion of the general's brother was made for personal reasons. Mr. Hancock, like his distinguished brother, has been a life-long Democrat. His new position, that of chief of the stationary division of the pension office, gives him a salary of \$20,000 instead of \$18,000, which he received as superintendent of the building. It is not under the civil service.

The building of a private car for the exclusive use of the president of the United States, made from material supplied and constructed for the purpose by the car-building and allied industries in the latest project proposed by representative railroad men. The project will be a complete exposition in the art of the surpassing excellence of the industry in the United States. It will be presented to the nation as a tribute from the car-building fraternity for the personal and official use of the successful president of the United States. It will be named "The President." The design and specifications for the car are now being prepared under the supervision of a committee of twenty-five prominent and representative master car builders and superintendents of motive power various railroads, thus insuring the car that the proposed vehicle shall represent the skill, ingenuity and experience of the American car builder. Much of the material required in its construction has already been tendered by leading dealer and manufacturers in the railroad supply trade.

There are many things about the car service which are interesting. Senator Hoar is one man who has shown a keen interest in that law. Recently he made the statement that certain road cars, for office use, were required to be an one foot for a distance of twelve feet. His statement was challenged by several newspapers and one member of the civ-

service commission. In the senate the other day Mr. Gallinger read the "shopping" provisions and several other questions as to the weight and height of type-setters, which he characterized as absurd and ridiculous. Senator Gray, in defending the law, replied that these requirements were made to ascertain the soundness of men recruited for heavy work. Mr. Gallinger gave his opinion as a physician that size and weight had no bearing on the question of aptness. "Soundness" would be a good thing if men were selected for the senate who were sound in health," he said, "and who could take twelve consecutive hours, but we must take human nature as it is, and when the government selects type-setters because of their weight, size and ability to keep it an absurdity." Referring to the size and weight requirement, Mr. Gallinger said: "That Sheridan could not have served the government if the civil service commission had got at him."

CALENDAR FOR APRIL.

- Coming Events Foretold by Macchiusi. 1. Numerous fools return to their folly. 2. Uncle John Wanamaker is urged by his friends to take something. 3. Cleveland sells his duck gun. 4. The Scranton Sunday World discovers that there is wickedness in the city. 5. Scranton Times publishes the journal of a beautiful show signed "H. Greeney". 6. F. S. Paul lets the contract for a factory building on Spruce street. 7. Scranton Times publishes a justification of the arbitration treaty. 8. Street Commissioner Kitchey does citizens' clothes. 9. Excelsior of Burns builds a fire under his saw-bottle at Chicondole. 10. Three Wilkes-Barre citizens are arrested for walking on the grass at court square. 11. "Rube Wrangler" becomes remorseful and commits suicide. 12. The Board of Trade museum is opened with a full quota of "treasures". 13. A real joke is discovered in the funny column of the Philadelphia Inquirer. 14. Senator Quay narrowly escapes a watery grave in a battle with a Florida tarpon. 15. Jim Mauley discovers that the fire on his street commissionership boom has been prosecuted. 16. The new moon blazes at the fifty condition of Scranton streets. 17. Magistrate Judge and Kane indulge in a bath of "hot" water. 18. The Hyatt Park Literary and Debating society decides to exclude the New York "World" and "Journal" and "Tribune" from its club rooms. 19. Price of chewing gum is advanced on account of the teachers' institute. 20. Editor Lynde advertises for a competent man to write to the circulation of the "Times". 21. A wild cow with three horns is shot near Joseph Church's watering trough. 22. South Canaan gold prospectors strike a coil of lead pipe. 23. Lord Byron Green tells the sad story of his life. 24. Manager Geokel, of the Wilkes-Barre Base Ball club, lays in a stock of equipment recommended for stiff joints. 25. Revenue Collector Grant Herring buys a new traveling bag and a ticket one way to Bloomingburg. 26. Constable Smith discovers a speaker in the Twelfth ward. 27. Editor Tiffany, of the "Nicholson Examiner," refuses a railroad pass. 28. A Cuban war correspondent is shot for telling the truth. 29. Editor Sam Boyd's essay, "How I Feel to Have a Grudge Against Hamilton," goes to press. 30. Sandy Griffin suspects his "roots" at Athletic park.



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Advertisement for MOOSIC POWDER CO., featuring a large illustration of a powder barrel and text describing mining and blasting powder. Includes contact information for the company in Scranton, PA.