

Business of the Week.

Dun's Review.

The remarkable speculation in hides and leather during the past year, with its unfavorable influence upon productive industry and legitimate business, is reviewed on following pages with a fuller statement of the prices since 1888 than has ever been published. It is shown how little foundation there was for the tremendous advance in prices, what share the United States Leather Co., had in it, and how one of the greatest industries of the country has been affected. For some months the lack of new orders, for boots and shoes, because of high prices and the enormous purchases made when prices were rising, has been recorded weekly. Those who wish to judge in what direction and how far prices of hides, leather, and boots and shoes may move, will find highly instructive as well as interesting, the contrast of such prices for the past eight years.

The scare about gold exports had no real significance, and although \$2,350,000 more will go out to-day, the stock market has been recovering. There was and is a substantial cause of difficulty, in the fact that exports of products have been too small to meet the greatly increased imports of merchandise. The collapse of Kafir speculations abroad has forced many to realize on American held, and the impression that our government may have to borrow again also operates to our disadvantage. But there is no local disturbance of money markets, stocks are 80 cts. per share stronger than a week ago, commercial loans are not large, and the demand for moving crops has been remarkably small, so that on the whole the money market has shown very unusual strength and steadiness for the fall season.

The government monthly crop report has caused, as usual, rather more uncertainty as to its interpretation than previously existed as to crops. The cotton statement, lacking account of acreage on which it is based, was of only speculative value, and the mere rumor that Mr. Neill had reduced his estimate of the crop actually weighed more than the actual estimate. Receipts from plantations, 25 per cent. less than last year, if of value, would indicate a crop over 7,300,000 bales, but organization to hold back the crop renders the comparison of less use. The bottom fact is that even a small crop than anybody expects, with the three million bales carried over, will assuredly prevent any famine in cotton. Meanwhile the exports decrease 26 per cent. in quantity.

Wheat perplexes the oldest inhabitant. There is really little reason to expect a yield larger than last year's, but Western receipts, 8,202,864 bushels against 4,026,639 last year, do not mean scarcity of wheat. Probably it is true that the attempt to induce farmers to keep back their wheat in July has ended, as usual, in much bigger sales at lower prices in November, and prices have now declined so far that, for the first time in many months, Atlantic exports exceed those of a year ago, having been for two weeks, flour included, 3,260,384 bushels against 3,193,111 last year. The decline nearly 1c., is not much, but does not mean confidence in renewed advance. Corn is scarcely lower, but without the aid of government all know that the supply will largely exceed all home and foreign demands.

Shipments of boots and shoes, according to the Shoe and Leather Reporter, are 58,818 cases for the week against 72,412 last year. Because buyers expect lower prices, many of the works have closed, and manufacturers are offering considerable reductions. The woolen manufacture has to meet this year with two difficulties, the remarkable demand for clay worsteds, which has encouraged an advance of 10 per cent. in price, and the heavy imports of woolen goods, which have amounted for nine months of the current year to 58,455,402 lbs. against 12,007,068 last year and 39,393,465 in the same months of 1892. But sales of wool continue large, for two weeks of November 12,192,920 lbs. against 12,289,600 in 1892, in spite of the fact that part of the works are closed or working only part force. The cotton mills are running well and find a very good demand for products, though it is not of late fully sustained, and are beginning to consider the possibility that raw cotton may not be as high hereafter. Print cloths have declined a shade.

What has become of our several correspondents?

Fallen Into Their Own Pit.

It is with exceeding regret we note the fact that some—if not all—of our esteemed Democratic contemporaries are having a good deal of fuss over the election of Judge Smith as the minority member of the Superior Court Bench. They very generally agree that there is enough that is suspicious in the returns from some quarters to justify the charge of fraud and demand an investigation. One of them thinks it is the duty of the chairman of the Democratic State Committee to go into the matter.

All this is what should have been expected when six candidates were nominated for a place to which but one could be elected. It was predicted in these columns at the time the Democratic State Convention was held. We have always supposed that those Democrats who favored the nomination of six candidates of their party had a desire to create further dissension and demoralization, for nothing else could possibly result. There were some who pretended to feel that they were making a point against the Governor on account of his selection of a Democratic Judge, but it seems now they were setting a trap for themselves, and have been caught in it. There is nothing in this to call for any very general expression of popular sympathy.

Judge Smith's nomination was not regarded as a formidable one at the time it was made, but there were some significant features about it which ought to have attracted more attention than they did. The fact that no candidate for the nomination—not even Judge Yerkes, who lives next door to Philadelphia—received anywhere near as many votes in the Philadelphia delegation as did Judge Smith should have been pretty fair notice that Judge Smith had some influential support in the city delegation which the other candidates could not command. There was no natural reason why he should have been preferred by the city delegates. He lives in a distant country and there were several candidates located much nearer Philadelphia who, in the natural course of things, would have been favored, but the record shows that Judge Smith led all other candidates in the favor of the Philadelphia delegation.

Very likely the same influences that gave him that excess are to be credited with much that was done to run the favorite candidate's vote ahead at the election. That does not account, however, for the various suspicious figures upon which some of the Democratic organs are basing allegations of fraud. It would be impossible to deny that these returns do look suspicious, and we trust that those who are interested will go to the bottom and see what is the matter. It is useless, however, to call upon Chairman Wright, of the Democratic State Committee, to do it. We venture to say that he is entirely satisfied with the result, and if he were not he would hardly undertake to expose frauds committed in behalf of a Democratic candidate, though five other Democratic candidates were cheated in the operation.

It is a little wonder so many of our esteemed Democratic contemporaries so fervently wish the Superior Court had never been born. And yet their party would have had no trouble whatever if it had shown a little breadth of judgment in making nominations. Narrow and unworthy personal resentment dug the pit, and there you are.—Ee.

Stabbing At a New Era.

Whisky and a woman was the cause of trouble out at New Era on Sunday. Courtland Barber and Jas. Beeman got into trouble and Barber was stabbed in several places, once near the heart. THE REPUBLICAN was informed yesterday that the physicians thought that the man would recover unless he bled internally. Beeman has not been arrested yet.

The Tankhannock correspondent of the Wilkes Barre Record states that the Lehigh Valley has in view the extension of a branch from Lopez down the Loyal Creek creek to Hills Grove, with a view of continuing it on through to Williamsport. This corroborates our statement in our last week's issue.

TAKE NOTICE.—My husband, M. M. Fiestler, has left my bed and board without just cause or provocation and I hereby forbid any one harboring or assisting him, as I will pay no debts of his contracting.

Administrator's Notice.—Letters of administration having been granted to the undersigned upon the estate of W. B. Hill, M. D., late of Laporte borough, notice is hereby given that all persons indebted to said estate must make immediate payment and all having claims against the same will present them duly authenticated to me for settlement.

GEO. P. FRONTZ, Adm'r. Hughesville, Pa., Nov. 11, 1895.

Notice.—I am prepared to fill orders for Lehigh Valley "Stove" and "Nut" coal at \$4.50 for 2000 lbs. delivered or \$4.00 for the yard.

SONESTOWN ITEMS.

E. W. Warner is enjoying a hunt. The Mine Roller Mill is running on full time now. John M. Converse is building a fine wood-house. Who has killed the most game this season, so far? A. T. Armstrong is building a large store near his grist mill.

There appears to be a new mail agent on the Eagles Mere route. Yesterday a large portion of our town people did their butchering. The Sonestown flagstone quarry is putting out some very fine stone.

R. W. Simmons, our new blacksmith, is doing good work, and we predict for him good success here. Our farmers around here have newly all their corn husked, and fodder in the dry. Corn was a good crop through this section.

Z. E. and H. E. Botsford have bought the stock of goods on hand in the Magarale store, and took possession on the 15th inst. The late election returns nearly paralyzed some of our people; some had very long sober faces, some laughed, some looked as though they had lost their friends and some damned not a little.

I will lease on reasonable terms, with a SMALL CASH PAYMENT DOWN.

JAS. CUNNINGHAM, Headquarters to buy your hardware. Includes ranges, heating stoves, washing machines, wringers. Located at 540 Packer St., Williamsport, Pa.

Charles N. Purvis, Collections Made in all Parts of the World. Located at 540 Packer St., Williamsport, Pa.

Samuel Cole, Op Dushore is headquarters for all kinds of hardware. Includes tools, pumps, stoves, and various household items.

J. W. Ballard, MANUFACTURER AND DEALER. TOP & OPEN BUGGIES, Farm and Heavy Lumber Wagons. Located at Factory West Main St., Laporte, Pa.