EPUBLICAN NEWS ITEM. CHARLES L. WING, Editor.

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HOW IT WILL BE BROUGHT ABOUT IF IT COMES AT ALL

Reciprocity In Competitive Products Would Inevitably Lend to the Downfall of the System of Protecting Labor and Industry.

In contending that reciprocity in competitive products is the right policy for the United States to adopt the Des Moines Register and Leader, a Republican newspaper, exhibits a "progre sive" tendency far in advance of the general mass of Republican writers and speakers. At its present rate of "progress" it will soon land squarely in the free trade camp. It can land nowhere else, for once the system of protection begins to be abrogated in spots through special trade arrange-ments whereunder foreigners are en-couraged to undersell American products in the American market protec-tion as a national and uniform policy must cease to exist.

Reciprocity in competitive products is the beginning of the end of protection. That is why such reciprocity is op-posed by the American Protective Tar-iff league. For the same reason the best Republican thought of the country opposes it. Outside of a few special localities which clamor for free trade in callfies which clamor for free trade in the things they have to buy, but insist upon protection for the things they have to sell—outside of Iowa and cer-tain parts of New England, where some people foolishly imagine that they can have free coal, free iron ore, free wool, free hides, etc., while at the same time retaining tariff protection on their fin-shed products—generally speaking, we say, there is no sentiment among Republicans for reciprocity in competitive products. If therefore the Tariff league is in line with Republican thought on this question, is it not doing a good work for Republicanism and protectionism in endeavoring to point out the dangers and disadvantages of reciprocity in competitive products? The Des Moines Register and Leader, however, thinks otherwise: "The Protective Tariff league and the

American Economist in their opposition to Cuban reciprocity have done more to weaken the hold which the protective policy has upon the American people and to give color to the suspicion. which Democratic free traders are al-ways ingeniously encouraging, that perhaps after all the policy is dictated more by selfish interests than any other two agencies that have been engaged in the recent discussion. Reciprocity may not prove to be all that James G. Blaine pictured it, but reciprocity is firmly enough established in the confidence of the friends of protection that the man who opposes it is aiming the most effective blow at the whole American system that he is capable of."

It is easy to say that protection is a policy "dictated by selfish interests." Free traders have said it many times. In fact, it is about all they can say. It seems to be by some people considered a crime to stand hard and fast for an economic system that invites the investment of capital and insures the employment of labor. Altruists of the Cobden school of superior thought see only selfishness in such a system. The Register and Leader appears to share this view. It is concerned lest too much zeal for the preservation of protection American policy the downfall of that policy. We think the apprehension is unfounded. When protection falls, it will fall through the treachery of professed friends and not through the fidelity of true friends.

Won't Have "Calamity" Issue. Genera! business calamity is the only thing that will afford the Democrats a chance to win, according to the word of one of the most experienced and clear headed of the country's Demo-crats, ex-Senator Vest, and neither that statesman nor anybody else whose that statesman nor anybody else whose opinion on the subject is worth anything sees calamity in the immediate future. It is clear to business men throughout the country that the financial adversity is not in sight which would be necessary to give any chance of success to the Democrats. Neither is the harmony in sight without which that party cannot make even as strong a canvass as it did in 1900.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Fine In Theory; Bad In Practice.

Free trade is best defined in the language of the Richmond Times in 1864.

Referring to state rights, that paper remarked that "in theory they are beautiful and true, but defective in practice." Some people learn by studying a question to a logical conclusion, and there are others who will not learn an economic lesson when it is demonan economic lesson when it is demonstrated practically by free soup stands.
—Sheffield (Ala.) Reaper.

Mr. Cleveland's Consolation.
In speaking of Henry Ward Beecher
Mr. Cleveland says that "when he felt
the cruel stings of man's ingratitude
and malice he screnely looked toward
is Heavenly Father's face and kept
cithin the confecting light of a pure vithin the comforting light of a pure enscience." If Mr. Cleveland applies

All of the antitrust legislation now in the federal statute books is Republican legislation. All the prosecuting of the trusts has been done by a Republican attorney general. What antitrust measures have the Democrats ever passed? What trust did the Democrats prosecute when they were in power? What practical remedy for monopoly oppresion has any Democrat proposed?-St.

Judge Parker's boom is in danger of getting out of breath before it reaches the last lap. The papers are printing pictures of the members of the judge's family. This is an extremely advanced stage of the presidential vegetation, and there is liability to many frosts between now and the summer of 1904.

-Cincinnati Enquirer.

Workingmen Want No Change. It will be pretty hard work to con vince the workingmen whose wages have been almost universally raised in the last two years that they want a change in political parties next year .-Louis Globe-Democrat.

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