

Even the Calamity Shriekers Are Compelled to Admit a Better Condition.

encouraging features in the business situation. Business failures are steadily decreasing in number, while the advances in manufacturing and distribution are a stable increase in the number of industrial plants now in active operation. Over 100,000 more men, according to the Pennsylvania labor bureau, are at work in the State today than there were six months ago, and the corresponding increment in the demand for labor has undoubtedly taken place in New England

Reports Very Encouraging.
Reports of the commercial situation made up to the close of last week are very encouraging. "No genuine feeling of improvement," says "Dun's Review," "could come otherwise than slowly and step by step, after such a depression as the past four years have witnessed, and the most hopeful feature of the situation is that the gains are so nearly devoid of elements of inflation and undue and probable reaction." These reports show a large increase in sales of wool, an ad-

Business Moves Forward.
The evidences of improvement in trade prospects are undeniable, notwithstanding the popular uncertainty, and that the markets will demand a tariff rates have been established. The last week showed an increase of nearly half a million dollars in the value of exports, and that of \$1,209,800,000, while in 1896 it was \$2,698,700,000, being in 1896 50 per cent greater than the gold and silver money combined. Secretary Wilson's latest move is in making a practical investigation to determine sections of the country most adapted to the production of the best quality of beet sugar.

tion of foreign goods increasing so enormously in association with the repeal of the Wilson low tariff rates and the enactment of the McKinley protective tariff, that gold exports have increased. The foreign goods brought into the country must be paid for in gold, and if such importations increase from ten to twenty millions a month, it goes without saying that gold exports must increase somewhat. Several other reasons, notably the desire for accumulations of gold in Europe by reason of war possibilities, show that there is nothing alarming in the exports of that metal, and no cause for the note of alarm being sounded by the gold standardists. The quantity of gold money in 1873 was \$1,200,000, while in 1890 it was \$3,700,000, being in 1890 50 per cent greater than the gold and silver money combined in 1873.

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