THE BALANCE OF TRADE.

REDUCED BY OUR PAYMENTS FOR OVERSEA TRANSPORTATION.

Some Telling Digs at Free Traders Whose Object Seems to Be to Force Americans to Purchase European Products at a High Price—Prosperity Here.

Mr. Thomas S. Shearman, who has long essayed to furnish the dispensers of higher education and our best thought generally with their ultimate convictions on the British system of political economy, is out with an article under the above heading, which virtually concludes:

"So far from this 'favorable balance of trade' being any evidence of increasing wealth in this country, it is simply evidence (if the figures are worth anything) that the cream of our wealth is being carried off to Europe without compensation."

None of Cobden's predictions have been found reliable. Hence Cobdenites have had at times to trade horses while crossing the stream; in fact, they have done most of their trading on economic foods; but all will be astonished to find that a "favorable balance of trade" is a present to the debtor community.

The necessity of the case, however, requires the theorem. Our "favorable balance of trade" is getting large. Between 1847, the time of the Walker tariff, and 1875, our net "adverse balance of trade" amounted to over one thousand and five hundred million dollars. This was arranged for by the export of specie and such interest-bearing securities as could be negotiated on the other side. Now Mr. Shearman finds that since 1875 the net excess of American merchandise is, in round numbers, two thousand five hundred and seventy-seven million dollars. Besides this we have exported a net excess of gold and silver, bringing the aggregate, according to Mr. Shearman, up to three thousand five hundred million dollars.

It is claimed by our writer that we have not got this back, either in securities or cash, and that we are not going to get it back. Both claims are doubtless true. Our "favorable balance of trade," taking Mr. Shearman's figures, amounts to less than one hundred and fifty million dollars a year. To offset this balance we have the estimate of persons conversant with the subject that our payments to foreign steam companies for oversea freights, passengers and mails have for some time averaged between two hundred and two hundred and fifty million dollars a year. And, as pointed out by Goschen, the freights, commissions and exchanges earned by British steamers form a noticeable element in the revenues by which the British discharge their foreign obligations.

Mr. Shearman is doubtless as conversant with the earnings of foreign steamer lines and their application to the discharge of their obligations as any one in this country, but he omits to tell the truth for the sake of being able to comment on "American women who have bought European husbands at a good round price." The price paid by some has probably been high, but a free-trader like Mr. Sherman should not object to that, as the object of free trade is to force the purchase of European products at a high price.

Value of Experience.

Soon after the enactment of the Dingley tariff bill was completed it was attacked from Democratic quarters because of its assumed favor for the sugar trust. Experience has proven that the Dingley bill contained no such favor. Since the Dingley bill became a law two great competitors to the sugar trust have appeared in the market, and the home manufacture of sugar from beets will soon destroy the power of all the trusts and combinations in the sugar market. There is more value in one year of experience under a Republican tariff law than in all the Democratic free trade and free silver theories ever formulated.—Cadillac (Mich.) News and Express.

TESTING THE QUALITY OF AIR.

An Idea as to Its Purity May Be Derived by Using Smoke or Peppermint.

Once a year is quite often enough to have the plumbing tested for the escape of sewer gas. There are two methods of doing this—the peppermint test and smoke test. The latter is regarded as the most absolute, though both are used. When such a test is made the regular escapes for the water are plugged up and smoke is pumped into the pipes from the roof. For this purpose there is a special machine which combines a furnace and a force pump. In this little furnace are put old rags or discarded Christmas trees, or anything which will make a fine smudge. As soon as these are in good smoking condition the smudge is forced down into the pipes and a tour of examination is made. If the smoke escapes at any point it can be detected at once. The peppermint test is made from the roof also. The escapes are plugged up and then about a pint of peppermint oil is poured in the pipe, followed by a bucket of hot water. The odor of the peppermint is so penetrating that it will quickly escape at any defective spot. But the man who handles the peppermint has to stay on the roof until the examination is complete or the whole house will be permeated with the odor.

Lotteries and Games.

In the Prussian Budget for 1898 occurs this curious item: "From lotteries, 82,000,000 marks"—about $20,000,000 of our money. These lotteries are conducted under the direct sanction of the state and are managed as honestly as any game of chance can be. The Italian lotteries yield $15,000,000 a year revenue; those of Denmark, about $250,000; of Holland, $250,000; of Portugal, $1,825,000.

OUR COASTWISE TRADE.

The Kind of Open Door That Will Prevail in Porto Rico.

The London Chronicle shows some excitement on account of the report that our navigation laws relating to trade between American ports have been extended to Porto Rico.

As Porto Rico has definitely passed under the sovereignty of the United States there is no good reason for withholding the operation of our navigation laws. These laws prevent foreign vessels from engaging in our coastwise commerce—that is, plying between ports of the United States. Under those laws our lake and coast marine has developed. Our auxiliary cruisers came chiefly from the steamships engaged in the Atlantic coast trade. But for those laws our auxiliary navy would have been confined to the four American line steamships and a few ocean-going yachts.

Extension of our navigation laws to Porto Rico does not cut off foreign trade with that island. The ships of all nations can sail to Porto Rico, but they cannot sail from American ports to that island. We shall do our own carrying. So it is really no concern of foreign nations whether our navigation laws are in force or not, unless they want to fill our harbors with their ships to engage in our domestic trade. Our British cousins would shrug their shoulders should American ships begin to ply between English and Irish ports. But such a venture would amount to the same thing as the establishment of a line of British ships between New York and Porto Rico, or New York and Charleston. Great Britain relies on her ability to underbid and crowd out competitors for her domestic carrying trade, whereas we rely on our navigation laws.

The open door will prevail in trade with Porto Rico, but we shall not surrender our own carrying trade because somebody else wants it. Our commerce will follow the flag to the West Indies. If any foreigners want to trade with Porto Rico let them sail from their own ports or the ports of other nations; they cannot sail from our ports under a foreign flag.—Rochester (N. Y.) Democrat and Chronicle.

Real Benefits of Protection.

A fusion paper says that "effort is made by gold standard papers to convince their readers that the current large balance of trade is due to Mr. McKinley sitting in the White House." It takes no effort to convince the people of this country that the splendid balance of trade in our favor, $615,000,000, the largest ever known, is principally due to the Dingley protective tariff. While it is true that the shortage of crops in Europe created an unusual demand for cereals, the increase in this direction made but a small portion of the balance in our favor. The decrease of imports was the principal factor in the balance. Our people bought less foreign products by hundreds of millions, using home products instead, thus giving employment to hundreds of thousands of American workmen. That is where the real benefits of protection have been felt by the people of this country. Instead of taking foreign goods in payment for exports, they received over a hundred millions of European gold.—Tacoma (Wash.) Ledger.

Under Two Administrations.

"It has rarely, if ever," writes Henry Clews in his weekly Financial Review, "been the good fortune of a Government to close a costly war with $316,000,000 of cash in the treasury and seventy-six per cent. of it in gold." Nor can it be said that this great surplus is borrowed money, for during the first eight months of the calendar year the exports of merchandise have exceeded the imports by $352,000,000, while for the same months of 1897 the surplus was but $95,400,000, and for 1896 but $109,700,000. The credited balance of the year has been offset by net gold imports of $92,400,000, leaving a net credited balance of $259,800,000, or at the rate of $346,400,000 per annum. Yet it was only three years ago that a Democratic administration was, in time of profound peace, borrowing millions at enormous discounts in order to keep up the cash reserve on which depended the nation's credit.—Burlington Hawk-Eye.

A Sensible Suggestion.

The Los Angeles Times thinks it would be easy to resent French hostility to American fruits and other products by setting up the tariff on French wines and Parisian gewgaws. The suggestion is sound and practicable. For example, if the duty on French wines were double the present rate it would increase customs receipts from this source, for a large proportion of wine drinkers would doubtless continue to let the French label and not the real question of quality and merit control their palates, but the largely increased selling price necessitated by the higher duty would set sensible people to thinking whether it was worth while to pay for French wines three or four times the money for which an equally good article of American wine could be bought.

A Chance to Do Business.

Any tariff agitation, even by the friends of the protective policy, would have more or less of an unsettling influence upon business, and even though the tariff needed some modifications the business interests of the country would infinitely prefer a continuance of the present schedules to the disturbance which would surely follow the re-opening of the tariff question. They want a chance to do business.—Grand Rapids (Mich.) Herald.

Codfish is the principal food article imported into Porto Rico.

AGRICULTURAL.

Trees by Roadsides.

That trees are beautiful and that when they are fruit trees they may be made profitable also does not decide their adaptability for planting by roadsides. They are in the way for many necessary grading improvements, and when the tree is in leaf it is quite apt to keep the wagon track from drying out, and thus becomes an injury rather than a benefit. Besides even an apple tree is likely when it gets to bearing size to send its roots under the fence into the adjoining fields. We have known farmers who planted fruit trees in the line of the fence, thinking to use the trees to fasten barbed wire on when the trees were large enough. But we never saw any of the trees thus planted grow large enough to bear a paying crop. The truth is that the orchard needs careful treatment and cultivation. What it gets when planted by the roadside is not enough.

Improved Incubator House.

The cut shows a plan for obviating the inconvenience of rising temperature in the incubator house when the sun is shining, especially late in the spring or in the summer. Then

DOUBLE-ROOF INCUBATOR HOUSE.

it is difficult to keep a uniform heat in the machines, as the house becomes overheated from the effect of the sun upon the roof. A simple way out of the difficulty is to put on an additional roof, leaving an air space between the two. The inner roof can be covered with cheap boards and roofing paper, with lath battens. The outer roof should be shingled, as a black roof absorbs the heat readily.—New England Homestead.

Economy in Corn Fodder.

In the dairy line we must study economy in every way, and in using corn fodder for feeding instead of hay there is a chance of saving a considerable item in the annual expenses. It is only a question of time when corn fodder will be largely substituted for hay, especially in the great corn-growing belt of States. It requires rich land and constant attention to keep up a large yield of grass and hay, and the same amount of labor and expense devoted to the raising of a corn crop would yield far more in quantity to the acre.

Before the ensilage question was treated on this side of the ocean, very little general attention was given to corn fodder, except as a side crop for feeding green in summer to make the cows enjoy the solid food better. The corn fodder was obtained then chiefly from the sweet corn patch after all the ears were broken off for house use. But now ensilage has become an indispensable winter food for cattle, sheep and even horses. It is also certain that as winter dairying progresses, corn for ensilage will be used more extensively, and with better results than heretofore.

In fact, it is difficult for the writer to understand how dairying can be conducted successfully without the constant use of the silo, and corn for filling it. A sweet, succulent food is absolutely necessary for the cows in winter, and this can be obtained from using corn ensilage. Cows fed on this will give a good flow of milk right through the coldest weather.

The relative value of a crop of corn and a crop of hay on an acre of land cannot be estimated unless the fixed quantity and the nutritive elements of the two are considered. In quantity it may be said without exaggeration that on a given piece of land about four times as much green fodder for soiling can be raised in one season than green grass; but when the cows eat the grass as pasture the quantity is considerably less. One acre will not by any means support a cow in grass, but an acre of corn will. Here is the difference in the quantity.

As to nutritive value, there can be no question that corn fodder ranks higher than grass in nearly all of the elements that make fat, bone and muscle. This is proved not only by scientific analysis, but by practical experience. When fifteen cows are brought through a summer on fourteen acres of land planted with corn, where formerly nearly seventy acres barely gave the same herd sufficient to eat, it is pretty evident that there is nutrition in corn fodder to answer all purposes. Yet this is what happened and that is one reason why more corn fodder and less hay should be raised for dairy cows, and even sheep and horses.—E. P. Smith, in American Cultivator.

Winter Butter Making on the Farm.

Dairymen who expect to make butter this winter and produce it at a profit, should be prepared to conform to certain conditions. First, cold weather, unless successfully combated, is antagonistic to the production of milk. Milk must be had both of good quality and liberal in quantity, to insure raw material for butter manufacture.

It is imperative then that the cows be surrounded by warmth, to husband the animal heat within, and be fed well-balanced rations conducive to the highest production of milk. To give one without the other would be to cause the cows to shrink in yield. A milch cow in winter needs the highest grade of care—thorough, systematic care, given by an experienced and conscientious hand. Regularity in feeding and milking must be enforced and the stable kept sweet and well ventilated. Care of a winter dairy should not be termed "chores," and left to boy help, as is too often done. It is next to impossible to wring profits out of the cows by any such plan.

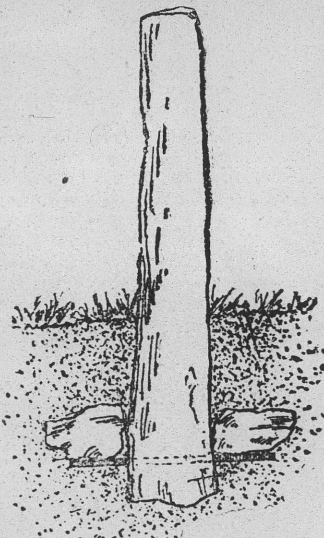
Every precaution should be taken to preserve the natural flavor of milk. Even the slightest bit of stable tang will ruin the quality of the butter. The immaculate flavor of winter-made butter will commend it more than any other feature, and win it friends everywhere. To insure this quality cleanly methods must be employed in milking. Clean, sweet bedding must be used under the cows, and directly after the milk has been drawn it should be removed from the stable. Outside of the stable and in a sweet, pure atmosphere, preferably the dairy room, the milk should be strained and aerated. It is then ready for any method of creaming that is to be employed. If a hand-separator is to be used of course that part is soon settled, but if you rely on deep or shallow setting, set the milk at once after aeration. I spoke of a "dairy room," attached or adjacent to every farm house where butter is made winter or summer; there should exist an especial room for this purpose and for the housing and creaming of milk.

This plan of "setting" milk in a pantry or "buttery" off from the kitchen will result now, as it has always resulted, in second or third-class quality butter. To obtain a first-class article, which is the only kind of butter that will yield a profit to the home dairy manufacturer, it must be made in a room removed from all cooking odors. Get the cream all out of the milk within twenty-four hours at least. If you keep it setting thirty-six or forty-eight hours, as is sometimes done, the milk, cream and resulting butter will have a bitter taste that is ruinous to good flavor. I have found an even temperature of fifty to fifty-five degrees to be a good one to facilitate the raising of cream. Do not heat the milk by setting the crocks on the stove to start the cream to rise. It will simply melt the butter globules and result in an inferior manufactured article.

After the cream has been taken from the milk in a sweet state, it is then ready to be matured or ripened. Perhaps twelve hours at a temperature of sixty to sixty-five degrees will be sufficient to do this, but not in any apartments where kitchen or other foreign odors are accessible. Cream moderately acrid ought to act all right in the churn at a temperature of sixty-five degrees and "come" readily into butter. If this does not, the cream from a fresh cow, if obtained and added to the rest, will quickly remedy the difficulty. Make winter butter only on the modern improved plan, i. e., washing the buttermilk from it when it is granulated, using a pure soluble grade of salt, and placing it on sale in neat attractive packages. You will find that by pursuing this plan and offering for sale butter with a perfectly sweet natural flavor, it will win more ready customers than the average creamery article, and pay you a handsome profit.—George E. Newell, in American Agriculturist.

Anchoring Fence Posts.

On many parts of a farm fence the ground "heaves" more or less with the frost, throwing down the fence continually. At these fences the posts should be set in a particular manner, to overcome, as far as possible, the action of the frost. In the first place, stout posts should be used, and such



TO SET POSTS FIRMLY.

as are considerably larger at one end than at the other. Thus with the big end down, the earth on rising around the post when frozen will be lifted away from the wood. At least, the tendency will be in that direction. Bore a three-fourths inch hole through the lower end of the post, and insert an iron rod. Dig a large, deep hole, and when the post is in position place large stones upon the ends of the rod, as shown in the cut. If set quite deep the frost will have hard work to move such a post. It is considerable work, to be sure, to set fence posts in this way but the number of posts to be thus set is usually not large, and it is better, moreover, to spend more time in making a permanent job than to be continually propping up a tumbling line fence.—New York Tribune.

The currency of Japan was estimated last June at about $186,000,000. Of this $40,000,000 was in coin, $96,000,000 the Bank of Japan notes, and the rest Government paper money and national banknotes. All notes issued by the bank are now convertible into gold.

WOMAN'S WORLD.

WOMEN IN OUTDOOR WORK.

They Are Beginning to Study Forestry With the Idea of Making It a Business.

Women have been invading the labor field in startling fashion during the last ten years, and proving that that they have possibilities for which masculinity had never given them credit. Until very recently, however, the careers carved out for themselves by women were such as necessitated a sedentary indoor life, and from out-of-door pursuits women seemed barred. With the rise of the athletic girl that state of things became intolerable, and now each day brings news of some new feminine venture in out-of-door work. The number of women ranch owners who manage their ranches is increasing, and in California, Arizona and Florida women are going in for fruit culture, with great enthusiasm and fair success. A number of girls are studying forestry, and horticultural colleges for women are springing up like mushrooms. Germany in particular is enthusiastic over horticulture as a profession for women. Schools have been founded at Charlottenburg, Frideau, Constance and Baden, and last year the Baroness von Barth-Harmsting opened a horticultural school for women at Pauen, and guarantees her pupils, after two years' training, a profitable place. She says that she already has more applications for women gardeners than she will be able to meet.

A great number of American women of good social position cultivate flowers and fruit for the market. Violet culture, especially, seems to appeal to women, and some of the most successful violet farms in the country are managed by women whose names are in society's blue books.

Women are taking up general agriculture, as well as flower and fruit culture. A fine course in agriculture has recently been opened to women in Minneapolis, but Russia has a long lead in the matter of agriculture for women. Twelve years ago a Russian baroness undertook the management of her husband's estates while he was absent on Government service. She found the land in bad condition, and set to work studying the possibilities of the soil. When, after several years of hard application, she had solved the problems that confronted her, she decided that the Russian peasant women ought to learn what she had learned. She opened a practical school of agriculture and horticulture for women in 1889 and made it a success. Last year the Russian Government came to her aid and gave the institution money enough to establish it upon a broad and liberal scale. Courses in theoretical agriculture, drainage, gardening and forestry are offered, and there are practical classes in all kinds of farm work. Several of the women graduates have been intrusted with the management of large estates, and situations are promised to every one who obtains a diploma.—New York Sun.

The Care of Women's Hair.

To keep the hair in good condition it is absolutely necessary not only to brush it with clean brushes and great regularity, but certainly once in two weeks to give it a thorough shampooing so that every particle of dust may be removed from it. The soft, fluffy look of the hair, and its beautiful gloss after being shampooed, shows how grateful it is for the treatment given it. Experience, though sometimes a tiresome teacher, has taught me that the best way to cleanse the scalp and the hair is to use very hot water made "soap-sudy" with tar soap; use a nail-brush, upon which the soap has been rubbed, to scrub the scalp thoroughly, and every part of the scalp is washed rinse the hair and head with baths of water, the first being the temperature of that used for washing the hair, and the last ordinarily cool, the baths between having been gradually graded. To get such a bath for the head it is only necessary to hold one's head over the basin and have the water from a small pitcher poured over it. Each bath necessitates the wringing out of the hair until it is quite free from soapsuds, and until the water is as clear as before it went over the head. When the hair is shampooed it is wise to put on a loose wrapper that cannot be injured either by water or soap. I do not advise the use of a fan in drying the hair as it has been found to give many women severe colds, nor do I recommend the loose Turkish toweling for rubbing the hair, since it is apt to leave fluffs of white cotton all through it; but for the first rubbing use a thick, hard Turkish towel, and after that rub the hair and the head with ordinary towels which have been made hot for this purpose. You will be surprised to see how quickly and comfortably the hair dries. Do not put the hair up until it is perfectly dry, or it will remain damp for a long time and have a close, mouldy and altogether undesirable smell about it. Use as few hairpins as you possibly can.—Ruth Ashmore, in the Ladies' Home Journal.

When Florence Nightingale Came.

When Florence Nightingale came, instantly a new intelligence, instinct with pity, aflame with energy, fertile with womanly invention, swept through the Scutari hospital. Clumsy male devices were dismissed, almost with a gesture, into space. Dirt became a crime, fresh air and clean linen, sweet food, and soft hands a piety. A great kitchen was organized which provided well cooked food for a thousand men. Washing was a lost art in the hospital; but this band of women created, as with a breath, a great laundry, and a strenuous cleanliness crept along the walls and the beds of the hospital. In their warfare with disease and pain these women showed a resolution as high as the men of their race showed against the gray-coated battalions of the Inkermann, or in the frozen trenches before Sebastopol. Muddle-headed male routine was swept ruthlessly aside.

If the Commissariat failed to supply requisites, Florence Nightingale, who had great funds at her disposal, instantly provided them herself, and the heavy-footed officials found the swift feet of these women outrunning them in every path of help and pity. Only one flash of anger is reported to have broken the serene calm which served as a mask for the steel-like and resolute will of Florence Nightingale. Some stores had arrived from England; sick men were languishing for them. But routine required that they should be "inspected" by a board before being issued, and the board moving with heavy-footed slowness, had not completed its work when night fell. The stores were, therefore, with official phlegm, locked up, and their use denied to the sick. Between the needs of hundreds of sick men, that is, and the comforts they required was the locked door, the symbol of red tape. Florence Nightingale called a couple of orderlies, walked to the door, and quietly ordered them to burst it open, and the stores to be distributed!—The Cornhill.

Mending a Glove.

A single lengthwise break in a seam may be carefully overcast on the wrong side, a very fine needle being used. Such a needle prevents further tearing of the kid and enables the needlewoman to take closer, shorter stitches than could be otherwise done. For such fine overcasting on the wrong side cotton thread in a color to match the glove exactly and in a number to suit the needle perfectly will be best chosen. Silk thread has a greater tendency to cut the kid than has the cotton.

An actual hole in the gloves requires different treatment. It cannot be—should never be—drawn together. There are two effective ways of repairing such a place. The most admirable method is that of the buttonhole stitch. For this a fine needle is necessary, fine silk thread the same shade as the kid, and a spirit of leisure and painstaking care. The place is to be nicely buttonholed and around with tiny stitches, just as a buttonhole would be, excepting that the stitches are taken a trifle less closely, perhaps; then, just as if no buttonhole stitching had been done, it is with the same infinite pains buttonholed again, the second row of stitches being taken one between each stitch in the edge of the first row. Thus two rows are formed, the second circle being, of course, smaller than the first, a third row is then done by catching between the stitches in the edge of the second row. This process is repeated until the ever-narrowing circle ends in the center of the rent. When well executed the result is so beautiful that one would almost wish for a break in a glove in order to ornament it with such needlework. Any one can do such a bit of mending, but a fine needle and thread must again be insisted upon. The shade of the thread must be just the same as that of the kid. Patience only is necessary for the rest, and the task is accomplished.—Philadelphia Press.

Fashion's Fads and Fancies.

A striking gown of brown, made with the plain back and fastened across just below the waist with two oblong buttons or pins of gold, had orange velvet let into the front of the jacket in a square, zigzag pattern. A bit of orange velvet was in the brown hat.

Red in very glowing colors, from poppy to deep "jacque" rose and Burgundy shades, is more than ever worn this season both here and abroad in hats, little French bonnets, furtrimmed jackets, capes, redingotes, tea-gowns, evening toilets, and even gloves and silk petticoats.

The bows worn with stocks are big and broad and the ends long. The material may be either ribbon or the soft brocaded silks that have been used in bright-colored silk handkerchiefs that we see often now, and in men's scarfs. The sides and ends are hemmed with a narrow stitched hem.

There is much openwork in silk and lisle thread stockings. Plain black ones have openwork lines the length of the leg, and more elaborate stockings have color in openwork set in and covering the top of the foot and well up on the ankle. White silk stockings have the openwork without color.

The Trelawny hat is eccentric and pretty to the last degree. It juts over the face in a point, or is as round and small almost as a teacup. It is pinned as low down on the forehead as the force of gravitation will permit, and it has one tuft of plumes that waves audaciously from a jeweled aigrette on one side.

Pretty bonnets for children are made after European costume designs—a little puffed crown, the front part coming well over the face like a sunbonnet, with the edge folded back. They are made in dainty flowered designs, lined with plain silk, or with the plain silk lined with the figured, and two long streamers of chiffon hang down the back.

The Legs as Digestive Organs.

Chomel knew what he was talking about when he said that a man digests as much with his legs as with his stomach, for we know that exercise facilitates nutrition, increases the elimination of waste products, promotes appetite and under proper conditions is an aid to digestion.—Journal of Medicine.