## EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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FREELAND, PA., JANUARY 23, 1893

Report on the Reading Combine.

The committee appointed by congress to investigate the Reading combination did its work quicker and more fully than the majoritiy of congressional investigating committees. In the house of representatives on Thursday the report was made. The committee has held many hearings and taken thousands of pages of testimony since last July, when it was appointed. It is a very exhaustive document and has received the unanimous signature of all the members of the committee.

of the committee.

The report gives an exhaustive review of how the anthracite coal lands were acquired by railroad corporations until all of them are now so controlled. In all of them are now so controlled. In mentioning the various corporations that are interested in coal lands or in the combination, the committee notes that the New Jersey Central does not appear to have any contract or agreement with the Reading road, but it asserts that while it has not been able to develop any direct arrangemens between transportation companies by which the latter are obliged to fix and determine the output and price of anthracite coal, there is no necessity for a written stipulation to determine the existence of such a combination.

There Is a Combination.

The report states that a combination has been found, that conclusion being based on the fact that coal transportation and producing companies hold monthly meetings together, at which no minutes are kept, but at which the monthly output and price of coal is determined. These companies act in concert, and if a colliery owner should refuse to limit his output to that fixed by the combination, he is forced into line by the railroads withholding from him the cars necessary to transport the excess of the output. These monthly outputs, as regulated by the combination of transportation and producing companies, puts, as regulated by the combination of transportation and producing companies, explain why the annual output is ten millions of tons less than the capacity of the mines. This reduction, the report says, is brought about, not by the coal producers, but by the transportation companies who control them. The operators who are not in the combination are at the mercy of the rate-makers. On this point the report states that of thirty-four individual operators on the line of the Reading railroad prior to 1892, five have been compelled to retire from business.

Coal Prices Have Advanced.

The committee finds that an advance in coal used by housekeepers of from \$1.25 to \$1.35 a ton has been made. This, the report states, makes it clear that the combination has a monopoly, and, while not impugning the motives of the gentlemen in the enterprise, it says: "The public are the sufferers; the price of an article of universal necessity is very much increased, and the power of a common carrier deriving its franchise from the public is used and misused to that end."

The report says that the anthracite

The report says that the anthracite coal region comprises an area of about 477 square miles in the state of Pennsylvania, penetrated by the following tidewater railroad lines:

The New York, Lake Erie & Western; New York, Susquehanna & Western; Delaware, Lackawanna & Western; New York, Ontario & Western; Central Railroad of New Jersey; Lehigh Valley Railroad; Pennsylvania Railroad; Philadelphia & Reading Railroad.

The capacity of the anthracite collieries is estimated at about 50,000,000 tons annually. The actual output is about 41,000,000 tons. Fully 95 per cent. of the anthracite coal output is now directly and indirectly controlled by the railroad companies, and the tendency is toward the entire absorption of the coal fields and the collieries by the common carriers. The lease of the Lehigh Valley and New Jersey Central roads by carriers. The lease of the Lehigh Val-ley and New Jersey Central roads by the Reading is spoken of and the report

"By this arrangement the Philadelphia & Reading controls at least 40 per cent. of the anthracite coal going to tidewater and becomes an important and dominating factor in determining not only the output, but the price of the product."

led with less labor and transported with led with less labor and transported with less cost and risk than almost any other class of freight, the freight charges are tacitly and apparently solidly agreed upon by all of the coal-carrying roads, nearly double the rate for wheat or cotton. This excess over just and reasonable rates of transportation constitutes an available fund by which railroads are enabled to crush out the competition of independent coal producers, using for that purpose their own mines for those owned by affiliated companies.

The committee is not prepared to give an an opinion as to the liability of the roads investigated to punishment under the provissions of the anti-trust law, but feels justified in saying that the facts disclosed merits the fullest consideration of the law officers of the government.

Six Recommendations.

Six Recommendations

commerce law which this committee recommens are as follows:

"First, exempt from prosecution parties called as witnesses, so that when called to testify they cannot be excused on the ground that they might incriminate themselves; second, provide for the indictment and punishment of railroad corporations who violate the law; third, make it an offense punishable by law for witnesses to refuse to testify; fourth, provide that testimony before the interstate commerce commission be taken in writing and be preserved as part of the records; fifth, provide that when action of the commission is brought into court for review the same shall be tried on the vicinera and the action of the commission, except when the parties could not have reasonably anticipated the materality of any proposed new evidence; sixth, amend the act so as to define the meaning of the word "line" in the long and short haul clause by providing that when connecting lines by any arrangement transport freight for a long distance at named rate, no less number of lines shall transport the same freight for a short distance at a greater rate."

These changes, the committee believes, would have a tendency to weaken the injurious effect of the existing monopoly, and that in time private enterprise might possibly be built un again.

injurious effect of the existing monopoly, and that in time private enterprise might possibly be built up again.

Everybody Can Correct Them.

One of the most famous literary men in the United States, a gentleman who writes habitually elegant and forceful English, bringing to the reader's countenance a smile or a tear at will, habitually makes in conversation the most villainous and atrocious errors of grammar and pronunciation. It is because of the influence of corrupt early associations that he did not try to get rid of and does not try to this day, more shame to him. His parents undoubtedly said "them papers" instead of "those papers," and he does the same. If a cultivated foreigner were to meet him and converse with him awhile, what would he not be justified in writing about American literary men when he went back home?

Next summer the country will be full of the finest specimens of humanity from Europe, representing the culture of the ages, come to visit the World's fair. Will the citizen of the grandest country the sun ever shone upon cause them to think we are a nation of ignoramuses by making constantly such slips as "there ain't nobody," "I didn't see nobody," etc., instead of saying "there is nobody," "I didn't see anybody," and 'I know nobody?" Stop using two negatives. Are the women with diamonds and the man with a gold watch chain going to persistently use "them" where they should use "those," and say "them cars" and "them books," instead of "those cars" and "those books?"

Nay, more. Shall we pose as an English speaking nation that habitually uses "jist" for "igut" and "right away" when we mean "at once?" Shall we let these foreigners know that there are Americans, and plenty of them—Americans, and plenty of them—Americans causeted in core mything exhoders who

for "get" and "right away" when we mean "at once?" Shall we let these foreigners know that there are Americans, and plenty of them—Americans educated in our public schools—who think it sounds stuck up and pedantic to use the best language they know therefore they drop into the vulgar idiom and mispronunciation with which the foreigner from Africa and from Europe have corrupted our common ling? For the sake of our country and the memory of George Washington, not Do not let them know it.

Therefore start in now, early in 1893. and talk English. Don't say "The boys is going to school" or "people says." "The boys are going to school" and "people say." Stop giving us these deformed, crippled monstrosities of language.

guage.

After twenty-five years of knocking at the government gates at Washington the women who would vote have scored a second point. The first was to have their case regularly referred to a special senate committee. The second is that Senate was suffrage, has reported to the senate a joint resolution to amend the United States constitution so that the right of citizenship shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex, and that congress shall have power to enforce the prohibition. Now, when both houses of congress pass Senator Warren's bill and the president signs it, and then it is ratified by thirty-three of the forty-four states in the Union, that amendment will become part of the United States constitution. will become part of the United States constitution.

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IT IS DUE TO THE DOMINATION OF THE M'KINLEY BILL.

the Manufacturer in Order to Keep Down the Prices of His Products Adul-terates with Old Clothes Ground Up.

Evidence is coming thick and fast for all quarters that the shoddy in a street of the property of the property

### THE BOOM IN SHODDY. fabric, but will rapidly disappear in

fabric, bit will rapidly disappear in wear.
Governor Russell showed from the statistics of manufacturers how the making of these adulterants has come to be a regular business openly followed and steadily increasing. Thus the shoddy establishments in the United States increased from 98 in 1890 to 134 in 1891, and the capital from \$4.091,207 to \$6,000,000. Here was an increase of nearly one half in the investment of capital in this strange business in one year under the stimulating influence of the McKinley tariff. The process has been going on for ten years, and during all that time had advanced, but the greatest advance was within the last year. In that year—the climax of McKinleyism—we have the following amazing totals of various substances used to make fabrics of "wool."

The Result Explained.

The election of 1890 distinctly and emphatically bespeaks the condemnation of the McKinley tariff law by the American people. The verdict of 1890 is again pronounced and judgment is affirmed in every particular.

can people. The verdict of 1890 is again pronounced and judgment is affirmed in every particular.

The McKinley bill was doomed from the day it was enacted into law. So long as a trace of McKinley sim remains in the tariff laws, so long will the tariff be a political issue. The Democrats have to thank Major McKinley for his services to the Democratic party. To McKinley perhaps more than to any other one man is due the thorough understanding of the tariff question by the American people. History has not yet recorded an instance wherein the people knowingly and patiently rested long under the burden of unnecessary taxation.

Even the French peasantry, degraded and oppressed by centuries of the domination of the clergy and the nobility, finally revolted, drove away the customs officers who stood at the gateway of every town to collect taxes from every person bringing his wares to the market place. The people finally awoke to the fact that famine and want were caused by the prevention of the free interchange of products through these customs officers. The French revolution resulted. England for years endured tariff laws under protest, but when famine brought the people face to face with the fact that the tax laws were responsible for the famine not only the corn laws, but all protective laws were stricken from the statutes. Doubtless this response of the English parliament in 1846 to the urgent demands of the people averted an English revolution.

In this country the tariff question has been fountly out again and again. With

statutes. Doubtless this response of the English parliament in 1846 to the urgent demands of the people averted an English revolution.

In this country the tariff question has been fought out again and again. High tariff has never given the people satisfaction. It has always brought opposition, which has ceased only when tariff has been reduced. In 1856 the tariff has been reduced. In 1856 the tariff has been reduced. In 1856 the tariff has been reduced in 1833, and again in 1842, and the result was that perhaps for the first time in the history of the country the tariff was satisfactory to all to such an extent that no political party referred to it in the national platform. This indicates that a moderate tariff graded to the needs of the government is the policy to pursue if the question is to be permanently settled. The McKinley bill awoke such a storm of opposition as to indicate that the people will never consent to endure a high tariff.

McKinley centered the assaults of the Democrats upon the tariff and brought about a condemnation of the high tariff policy far more emphatic than would be pronounced upon the tariff and brought about a condemnation of the high tariff policy far more emphatic than would be pronounced upon the tariff and brought about a condemnation of the high tariff policy far more emphatic than would be pronounced upon the tariff and brought about a condemnation of the high tariff policy far more emphatic than would be pronounced upon the tariff and brought about a condemnation of the high tariff policy far more emphatic than would be pronounced upon the tariff and brought about a condemnation of the high tariff policy far more emphatic than would be pronounced upon the tariff and brought about a condemnation of the high tariff policy far more emphatic than would be pronounced upon the tariff and brought about a condemnation of the high tariff policy far more emphatic than would be pronounced upon the tariff and brought about a condemnation of the high tariff.

McKinley and the sea of th

Kimleyism is a thing of the past in American politics.—Utica Observer.

Campaign Methods Contrasted.

It is very fortunate that the means adopted by the two parties in the conduct of the campaign should have conformed to their respective ends. The aim of the Democratic party was to benefit the whole people of the country by relieving industry of hampering burdens, but this aim appealed to the whole people, and no one class had a special interest in it such as could be made the basis of an appeal for money to carry on the campaign. There were of course the usual and inevitable ambitions of office seekers, but these were engaged in local conflicts, and left little to spare for the exigencies of the general canvass. On the other hand, the Republican contention in behalf of the hampering of all traffic and industry for the enrichment of a few favored persons made a campaign of corruption absolutely inevitable. The managers had no difficulty in making out a list of the men whose interest it was to supply them with money in quantities large enough to stific the popular protest against the methods by which that money had been acquired. The newspaper owned and edited by the Republican candidate for the vice presidency saved them all trouble beforehand by compiling a list of such persons, a list of which the purpose was so evident that it became the vice presidency saved them all trouble beforehand by c

of course this situation made that table a campaign of corruption. While the Democratic managers could not have carried on such a campaign if they would the Republican managers could

## M'KINLEY SWAMPED.

HE NAPOLEON OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OVERTAKEN BY DEFEAT

ory for Free Trade Won by the Fair Battle—Harrison Beaten Because He Represented the Protection Doctrine.

Battle—Harrison Beaten Because He Represented the Protection Doctrine.

Major McKinley has prided himself as being the Napoleon of the Republican party. Election day was the Waterloo for McKinley and McKinleyism. Nothing coall save McKinley from the ditch digged for him, soberly, silently and remorselessly, by the people who pay the taxes, and who believe that revenue is a tax, and a tax for anything but the honest expense of government is an unwarranted hardship. In that ditch McKinley will probably be left by the party he has brought to such disastrous defeat. If the party is to survive it will have to choose new leaders and return to its older and better faith. McKinleyism is dead.—Chicago News-Record (Ind.).

Now perhaps we may hear more truth and less humbug about McKinley prices and McKinley wages, American tin, Peck's statistics, Frick's Democracy and British gold.—Buffalo Courier (Dem.).

The victory has been won by the fair-

tin, Peck's statistics, Frick's Democracy and British gold.—Buffalo Courier (Dem.).

The victory has been won by the fairest fighting ever seen in any presidential battle. From start to finish the struggle has been free from personalities. Mr. Harrison is beaten simply because he was a representative of Republican doctrine in its intensest form. It is not a personal but a political rejection. This defeat should leave no sting and excite no resentment. Two lines of policy were distinctly defined during the campaign, and the verdict is given with a clear understanding of the merits of the case. We rejoice that the decision has fallen on the side of tariff reform.—New York Herald (Ind.).

What are the causes of this defeat of the Republican party? One does not need to go far to seek them. It has not yet recovered from the popular prejudice against the McKinley bill which two years ago, just after its enactment, rose like a deluge and swept away the Republican majority in congress which had enacted it.—St. Paul Pioneer Prese (Dem.).

The people of the United States have declared in favor of the Democratic can-

rose like a deluge and swept away the Republican majority in congress which had enacted it.—\$t. Paul Poincer Press (Dem.).

The people of the United States have declared in favor of the Democratic candidate, and presumably of Democratic principles, and so the United States is to have an era of free trade for at least two years and possibly four. All good citizens, no matter how much they deplore the result, will bow to the public verdict, but we venture to make this prediction—that if this country shall have four years of free trade or of tariff for revenue only there will not be another Democratic victory for half a century.—San Francisco Chronicle (Rep.).

McKinleyism, the force bill, bread and butter politicians, civil service abuse, pension frands, billion dollar extravagance, jingo foreign policy, nepotism—these are a few of the products of Republican misrule that were overwhelmingly repudiated and rebuked at the polls yesterday. The American people can be trusted to correct abuses in its government.—St. Paul Globe (Dem.).

The quietest presidential campaign known closed with the heaviest vote ever cast. The poople had made up their minds to vote and knew exactly what they were going to vote for. They had been thinking for four years, and did not need the stimulus of fireworks displays and the beating of drums to awaken them to the importance of voting according to their convictions.—Cleveland Plain Dealer (Dem.).

The labor vote is largely foreign and ignorant of the extent of its prosperity. It has been misled by demagogues and has revolted against the best conditions it has ever known. Its mistake will be seen when the prosperity on which labor seen

It has been misled by demagogues and has revolted against the best condition it has ever known. Its mistake will be seen when the prosperity on which labor has thrived as never before receives the inevitable shock through legislation based on the platform on which Cleveland is elected. A majority of the voters have decided to put their labor on an equality with that of the cheap labor of the countries of the old world.—Portland Oregonian (Rep.).

Tarif Reform That Is Within Reach.
It has been suggested that an extra session of the Fifty-third congress should be summoned on the 4th of March next, in order to inaugurate with as little delay as possible the economic reforms demanded by the people in the elections of Tuesday. There are substantial reasons when the summer of the summ

in order to inaugurate with as little delay as possible the economic reforms demanded by the people in the elections of Tuesday. There are substantial reasons why a new congress should meet on the 4th of March following its election, instead of waiting for more than a year to carry out the mandate of the country.

But let the existing senate, on the meeting of congress next month, take up and pass the neglected tariff reform bills of the house that are now lying in its finance committee. These measures —among the rest the bill to make wool free and to reduce the duties on woolens and to restore the old duty on in plate-would, if passed, go far toward satisfying the wishes of the country until the new congress could enact a more comprehensive measure of tariff reform.

Had the senate been capable of comprehending the meaning of the popular verdict of 1890, its Republican majority would have promptly seized the opportunity to remove the most glaring iniquities of the McKinley tariff. But instead of giving the least consideration to the house tariff bills, the senate stowed them away as passed in the pigeonholes of its committee on finance. This indecent disregard of the will of the people, as expressed by their representatives, has been terribly avenged upon the Republican party in the elections of 1892.

Though utterly deaf to the voice of 1890, it is hardly possible that the Republican senate will prove callous to a second rebuke, compared with which the former was but as a gentle whisper of admonition. In the few brief months that remain of their power the Republicans in the senate could do much to rehabilitate themselves and their party with the people by passing the house triff bills. Will they have the courage of the accessive. Publical become

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Ham, 13 cents.
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18 pounds sugar \$1.00.
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5 pounds currants, 25 cents.
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6 bars Octagon soap, 25 cents.
8 packages pearline, 10 cents.
Best coal oil, 12 cents gal.
Cider, 20 cents a gallon.
Syrup, No. 1, 35 cents gal.
No. 1 mince meat, 10 cents.
3 pounds macaroni 25 cents.
3 quarts beans, 25 cents.
6 pounds oat meat, 25 cents.

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