

Territorial Policy.

In regard to President Cleveland's remarks at the Presbyterian meeting in this city about the lack of religion in our Western Territories, facts are of importance. There are plenty of people in the East who, forming their opinion from occasional stories, entertain the belief that the very wickedest of the three Territories is Oklahoma, which is supposed to be far wickeder than New Mexico, wickeder even than Arizona, and at least as wicked as the State of Montana. We are not surprised that the prevalence of opinion, when we think of the yards of wild Western wickedness that have come to us many a time from Oklahoma Territory.

Yet here we have an official document which tells another tale. It is the report of the Governor of Oklahoma for the year of 1895, sent to the Hon. A. C. Smith for the information of the President and Congress. After telling of the growth of the Territory in population and prosperity, and of its public schools, normal schools, university and benevolent institutions, Governor Renfrew gives some account of the churches, Sunday schools and other religious organizations in the Territory. It is truly a remarkable exhibit for a Territory which was opened to settlement only seven years ago, the population of which is estimated, even by its Governor, at only 265,000, and the voters of which at the last Territorial election numbered only 48,495. We infer from the Governor's report that Oklahoma is more religious than any other part of the United States, and that Mr. Cleveland was not well informed about it when he spoke at the Presbyterian meeting here a few days ago.

The Governor was unable to obtain the statistics of all the churches, and did not get any from the Presbyterians; but he makes an enumeration of 215 organized bodies, with a membership of 20,000. The churches seem to be well provided with clergymen. The Salvation Army is active in the Territory. "There was," says the Governor, "a steady advance along the religious lines in the year 1895."

So far as religion is concerned, therefore, Oklahoma must be regarded as a model community, notwithstanding the stories that have been told of the wooliness of its wickedness, and that Mr. Cleveland seems to have endorsed. The wicked, we are assured by the Governor, have a rough time in Oklahoma. "Outlawry," he says, "despite the startling reports that are so current is confined to desperadoes who make occasional raids from the Indian country, very often to their sorrow."

It is strange that we hear so much of the wickedness of Oklahoma, while we have to go to an official document to find out anything about its religion. We cannot believe that Mr. Cleveland had perused Governor Renfrew's report for last year when he made his speech at the Presbyterian meeting here. If he had perused it carefully, he would surely have dilated upon the difference between Oklahoma and those other parts of the wicked West which stand in need of missionaries.—N. Y. Sun.

Now as to the injustice of comparing the receipts under the last year of the McKinley law with the receipts of the first year of the Wilson law. Immediately upon the election of the Fifty-third Congress, and more than one year before that body convened, everybody knew that the McKinley law would be repealed and that a low tariff would be substituted in its place. The effect of this was that in the last year of the McKinley law importers bought as sparingly as possible, and when the new law went into operation it found the government warehouses fairly bursting with imports awaiting the new and lower rates. As a natural consequence of this the receipts of the last year of the McKinley act were greatly diminished while, for the same reason, the receipts under the Wilson bill were abnormally stimulated and increased. The real McKinley year was 1892, and a fair comparison of the two measures could only be made between that year and 1896. We hope our contemporary will make a memorandum in his diary and note the result of this comparison.—Petersburg Index Appeal.

That is the attractive argument, undoubtedly; but, granting that importers hold their goods during the last year of the McKinley law in order to take advantage of the lower duties of the Wilson statute, how does our contemporary explain the fact that the receipts during the second year of the Wilson tariff show an increase over the first? In the last year of the operation of the McKinley bill, imports show a decrease of over \$60,000,000 as compared with the year previous. If the \$60,000,000 represents hold over

goods to be accounted for in the first year of the Wilson bill's enforcement then we must subtract this amount from the \$152,000,000 received from customs in 1895, which process would indicate that the total amount of receipts to be ascribed to the new tariff was but \$92,000,000. Very well. A conservative estimate places the customs receipts for the fiscal year of 1896 at \$170,000,000. Will this contemporary admit that the Wilson bill, in a period of general depression, has brought about an increase in the customs receipts from \$92,000,000 in its first year to \$170,000,000 in its second? If the progress is as remarkable as that, we think the new tariff needs no argument to demonstrate its value as a revenue-producer.—Landmark.

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"How do you manage to wake up so early every morning?" inquired Boggs of his friend Biggs, who goes to work at six.

"An alarm clock," replied Biggs.

"I have one, too, but I never hear it go."

"I never hear mine either," declared Biggs.

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A record price for a dog was realized recently at the Birmingham Dog Show, at the customary sale by auction of dogs which had been claimed at catalogue price by two or more persons. Mr. R. S. Williamson's St. Bernard, Lorth Hartherton, a young dog born in February last, is said to be the best St. Bernard ever exhibited, catalogued at \$1,050, but after a spirited bidding the dog was disposed of for \$2,350 to Mr. Joseph Royle of Manchester.—Scientific American.

The latest application of the States' rights doctrine is that it applies to the silver question. For instance, some people are now saying that the platform of the party in this State should settle a Democratic voter's party allegiance. If the Democratic party of North Carolina says to I is good Democracy and the national platform says it is not, then we must adhere to the State declaration and nullify the national platform! How beautiful!—Lincoln Democrat.

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