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NECESSARIES OF LIFE

only the consumer but the seller, the employer and the workman who made them, as cheap bread has done in this instance in Huron. With cheap clothing, for instance, the man who economized and bought one suit of clothes could buy two, which would double the business of the work for the workman. It would also double the consumption of the raw materials used in the manufacture of the clothing, thus benefitting the wool grower, cotton-grower and others who produced the raw materials out of which the clothes were made. And so with everything else.

CHEAP BREAD.

We publish the following paragraph from the New York Tribune because there is an answer, an argument and a moral in it:

"The bakers of Port Huron, Mich., have been indulging in a bread war, the result of which has been that all bakers are making money at two cents a loaf, and there is no talk of going back to the old price."

When in the campaign of 1890, the Democrats arraigned the Republicans for passing the McKinley bill, charging that it enhanced the cost of the necessities of life, the Republicans tacitly admitted this and rather boasted of it in their flippant comments on "cheap" things. Mr. McKinley declared that cheapness was synonymous with nastiness, and President Harrison gave it as his opinion, that a "cheap coat" made a "cheap man," in other words, that cheap clothing was a demoralizer that sapped the manly spirit. The American people didn't agree with either of them, for in the election of that year they bounced the Republican majority out of Congress, and in the following election bounced Mr. Harrison, and put in their places representatives of the Democratic party, which does not believe that cheapness is synonymous with nastiness, or that a cheap coat degrades an American citizen.

But neither Mr. McKinley nor Mr. Harrison meant literally what they said. They doubtless wished to make it appear that cheap goods lowered the price of labor and therefore made cheap workmen. That was a tricky way they had of deceiving the working people and making them believe that the higher the protection to the employer the higher wages they received, and that the result of cheap things would be that the workmen would have to work for wages that would not support a family or go idle and let the family starve.

In the extract given above there is an object lesson which it would do well to ponder upon. It was a discovery made by accident for those Huron bakers did not start out to lower the price of bread simply to build up their own trade, or favor their customers but to break their competitors down, but instead of breaking each other down they built each other up and sold more bread and made more money at two cents a loaf than they did before at five.

JOHN C. DAVIS.

UNEXPECTED RETURN OF THE NOTED SWINDLER TO WILMINGTON.

His Escape From the Asylum at Raleigh and His Journey Here as Told by Himself—The Purpose of His Visit—He Will Be Sent Back to Raleigh To-Morrow.

The universal topic here yesterday was John C. Davis. On the streets, in the stores, in the saloons, in the homes—everywhere—the inevitable subject for comment and discussion when two or more persons met was the return and arrest of John C. Davis.

MINOR MENTION.

Senator Hill is not adding anything to his prestige as a Democratic leader by joining hands with Senator Quay in the effort to obstruct the collection of the income tax, and thus practically nullify the law. There are ways provided for testing the constitutionality of an act of Congress, but not satisfied with this Senator Hill asks Congress to set aside the statutory requirements in order to facilitate the proceedings of those who are endeavoring to prevent the collection of the tax. We would not be surprised at Mr. Quay or any other more partisan Republican pursuing this course, but it is surprising that a man who is supposed to be loyal to his party, and one who aspires to its leadership, should thus labor for its defeat and to bring humiliation upon it. Republican as he is, Senator Sherman would not go so far, and Friday, when expressing his views on Senator Hill's motion administered a gentle rebuke to the New York Senator, a rebuke all the more pointed as coming from the leading Republican in the Senate. Senator Hill made his record on that question by his stubborn fight against the adoption of the income tax provision in which he went to the extreme of being the only Democrat who refused to abide by the decision of his Democratic colleagues in caucus, but when he goes to the further extreme of trying to pass a new law to nullify a law which he could not defeat in caucus, he is in the unenviable attitude of an obstructionist, who combines with tricky Republicans to antagonize his own party and make abortive its efforts to run the revenue of the Government must have.

The Catholic Times of Philadelphia charges members of the City Councils with demand and receiving \$300,000 worth of stock out of a total \$1,000,000 issued by a telephone company, for privileges granted. They probably had a frank on the "hello" also.

It is an ill wind that blows no good. The hard times have had a depressing effect on the sale of oysters, and some of the Maryland oystermen have had to pull out of the business. It is rough on them, but the oyster will have a rest and will not be sucked-in so much.

JOHN C. DAVIS ESCAPES.

The Wilmington Embroider Out of the Asylum About His Escape—Talks About Going Back to Wilmington and "Fixing Matters Up"—Gets Out of the Asylum Building Under the Cover of the Storm and the Darkness.

John C. Davis has escaped from the Insane Asylum, where he has been confined for three years.

RISE IN WATERS.

A GREAT FRESHET IN THE CAPE FEAR RIVER.

Flood at Fayetteville—People Driven From Their Homes—Bridges Started Away—Great Damage to Property—Wash-outs on Railroads.

The recent snow storms in the Western and Central parts of North Carolina and the heavy rains that followed have caused a rapid rise of the waters in all streams and rivers, causing great damage at many places.

The weather Bureau's synopsis issued yesterday morning from the Wilmington station said: "The freshet in the Cape Fear river is even more extensive than was at first anticipated; the gauge at Fayetteville this morning read fifty-two feet; a rise of fifteen feet in twenty-four hours, and still rising. This is only a few feet lower than the highest freshet ever known."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE RECEIVED AND READ IN THE HOUSE.

Bill Introduced in the Senate to Change the Legal Rate of Interest—Bill Passed to Restore Charter of the Farmers' Alliance—Two Populists from the Ninth District Seated—Democratic Legislation—The Senatorial Fight.

The Senate was called to order at 11 o'clock by President Doughton, and prayers were offered by Rev. H. W. Norris of the Senate. The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

Mr. Cook, from the committee to wait on the Governor, said his Excellency would communicate at once.

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