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that free goods amounted to 48.96 per cent of our total imports, and in 1894 more than one-half of our imports, in value, were duty free.

There has been a good deal of fluctuation in the quantity of both free and dutiable merchandise imported, but the total imports per capita have not changed notably, being \$11.06 in 1870 and \$10.06 in 1896. The duty collected per capita has, however, decreased more than one-half, being \$4.98 in 1870 and \$2.30 in 1896.

"This vast sum of money will go into the treasury of the sugar trust, instead of the treasury of the United States."

The Trust knew what would be done, and proceeded at once to load up with sugar until it got nearly 700,000 tons in stock, but we are told that the sugar tax is to be a tax for revenue.

It seems from the cable dispatches that there is anxiety in Spain as to the attitude of this country in reference to Cuba, an anxiety which has been increased by the reports of what Commissioner Calhoun had to say on his return, and by the report of Consul General Lee on the Ruiz case.

It is reproduced here because it contains much valuable information in respect to the working of the various tariffs since 1870, and because it is evidently from an unbiased pen, which is governed more by facts and results than by theories.

FRUIT GROWERS AND TRUCKERS. Meeting of the New Hanover County Association—Various Matters Discussed—Arrangements for the Meeting of the General Association.

Considerable interest attached to the meeting of the New Hanover County Fruit Growers and Truckers' Association yesterday afternoon at the court house. Delegates to the General Association were to be elected, and no meeting having been held since the opening of the trucking season it was natural that the truckers should exchange views as to the service which they had received, the prospects for the future, and other matters of interest.

FRUIT AND TRUCK GROWERS. The East Carolina Association and the Good It Has Accomplished. Dr. E. Porter, of Rocky Point, was in the city yesterday and gives the information that the East Carolina Fruit Growers and Truckers' Association will hold the second annual meeting in this city on Tuesday, the 23rd of June.

This Association has accomplished quite a good deal for its members. Last year when it met there was an unsatisfactory refrigerator service, a freight rate higher than that of the truckers thought right, and a want of concerted action that all felt keenly. But every body has pulled together since then and the truckers have got in part at least what they wanted.

RAILROAD NEWS BUDGET. DESTRUCTIVE CYCLONE LAST NIGHT AT SOUTHERN PINES. Director for the Investigation for the Blast Appointed by Gov. Bassell—Other Changes Expected—The Tribune to be Sold Monday—Colored Teachers Assembly to Meet This Week.

It has been decided that the property of the Tribune shall be sold as a whole. The sale closes Monday. The counsel of the various parties holding judgments against the delinquent party have been undecided as to whether the property should be sold as a whole or in lots. A majority of the creditors voted in favor of the sale as a whole.

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LATE FOREIGN NEWS.

THE ARMISTICE BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE BROKEN. THE GREEKS MOBILIZED REINFORCEMENTS AND BARRICADED THEMSELVES IN THE DARDANELLES.

London, June 18.—The dispatch from Athens to the Exchange Telegraph Company reports that the armistice between Greece and Turkey has been broken by the Turks mobilizing reinforcements, fortifying Volo and Eretria and sending troops to various islands.

There are very few thoughtful people in this country who have watched the operations of our respective tariffs with a higher rate of duties than the present will bring prosperity to the country. If there was anything in the theory of high protection as a promoter of prosperity the countries with the highest tariffs should be the most prosperous countries in the world.

But the tariff exercised such influence in this country ought to be reasonably prosperous now for it has a protective tariff not much below the previous Republican tariffs, framed by men who adhered to the doctrine that protection means prosperity.

As showing how little confidence conservative thinkers place in high tariffs as promoters of prosperity, we refer to the Chicago News, a non-partisan paper, the following article:

The Republican managers of the tariff bill in the Senate are evidently masters of the situation. The votes thus far taken show that no material change can be effected that the caucus does not assent to, and consequently all the efforts of the Democrats to reduce taxation, except in some comparatively trifling matters have proved unavailing.

The New York Herald publishes a list of twenty citizens of the city of New York who own \$350,000,000 worth of the real estate in that city. And this isn't all they own, for they own millions of personal property and real estate and other property in other States and cities.

A New Jersey fisherman has hit upon a new industry, the breeding of sharks, and is making money out of it. When the sharks are about three feet long he butchers them and sends the steaks to New York, where epicures pay fancy prices for them.

Before adjournment a general discussion arose in which several very important matters were touched upon. The necessity of "frost warnings" has been felt keenly. The truckers think that the railroads could be induced to furnish the information.

Something was said also about the package tax. Strawberry growers are perfectly willing to pay a tax of one cent per crate as levied by the Association, as they have felt the benefit of the Association, through whose agency their freight rate has been considerably decreased.

It is claimed that some marvellous cures of diphtheria are being effected in Chicago by what is called the chloric gas treatment, the discovery of Dr. Bracelin, of that city, who gives his formula to the profession. It is said that out of 105 cases so treated only one proved fatal, and some of them were in the last stages of the disease before this treatment was applied.

MACHINE BARRELS. As Drafted by the Inspecting Committee of the Wilmington Produce Exchange. At a recent meeting of the Board of Managers of the Produce Exchange it was ordered that notice be given that the Rule of Trade as to what constitutes a machine barrel of spirits tartrate, and that all barrels not fully up to standard will be rejected, or classed as country barrels.

Then the conversation turned on the California Fruit Transportation Company. It seemed to be the general verdict that the service was satisfactory as far as it went, but it was criticized in that it did not include cold storage in instances where the fruit had to lie over at stations in wait for trains.

The city markets yesterday presented the usual variety of edibles. Vegetables, however, are noticeable more limited in variety. Calf, fow, lettuce and several other varieties have about played out. There was the usual supply of fruit. Eggs were high on account of scarcity; they sold right along at 15 cents a dozen.

REPUBLICAN CAUCUS. On the Hawaiian Reciprocity Treaty in Connection With the Sugar Subsidy of the Treaty Bill. By Telegram to the Morning Star. WASHINGTON, June 18.—The Republican Senators were in caucus for two hours to-day and devoted the entire time to an effort to agree upon a course of action to be pursued with regard to the Hawaiian reciprocity treaty in connection with the sugar schedule of the tariff bill.

The meeting of the Senate yesterday afternoon was a most interesting one, and there was time to reach a conclusion and the caucus dispersed to meet again at 8:30 in the afternoon. Senator Nelson, of Minnesota, led the fight in favor of the abrogation of the Hawaiian treaty.

He said that the United States had paid \$15,000,000, only for the Louisiana purchase, yet in return had received sugar alone there had been paid \$31,000,000 for Pearl Harbor. Senator Frye made a vigorous defence of the treaty and the policy of maintaining the closest sort of relations with Hawaii, which had been settled and civilized by Americans.

IN AID OF CUBA. An Important Expedition Organized on the Coast of Florida. By Telegram to the Morning Star. WASHINGTON, June 18.—The Treasury Department has received by reference from the Secretary of State a communication from the Spanish minister to the effect that he has information that an important filibustering expedition is being organized on the coast of Florida, and that the same is to be sent to Cuba by the Government to frustrate it.

The expedition is reported as being a private one, but the Government has been informed that it is a filibustering expedition. It is reported that the expedition will consist of about 200 men, and that they will be equipped with arms and dynamite.

It is probable that the vessel which will receive these arms will not come close to shore. WILL DEFEND HER RIGHTS. The Spanish Premier Does Not Believe President McKinley Has Unfriendly Intentions Towards Spain. By Cable to the Morning Star. MADRID, June 18.—The Spanish premier, Sr. Canovas del Castillo, in an interview, is reported as saying that the alleged demands of the United States in the case of Dr. Ruiz, the American citizen who expired in the jail at Guanabacoa on injuries received there, must be considered. He added, however, that he would defend her rights.

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State Labor Commissioner Hamrick told a Charlotte News reporter that he found the laborer employed in the cotton mills of this State invariably the best paid class in the State, and for the most part happy and contented.

It will be remembered that these late legal proceedings were with the view of having the decree ordering the sale of the road as a whole revised, and an order issued for the sale of the property in sections.

North Carolina tomatoes are growing plentiful on the market now and at reasonable prices. They could be had yesterday at 10 and 15 cents per quart; and very much better than those coming from the South, which are gathered green.

Register of Deeds Norwood issued marriage licenses to three white couples the last week.

The weekly bank statement shows the following changes: reserves, increase \$3,390,630; loans, increase \$1,810,000; specie, decrease \$43,100; legal tenders, increase \$9,387,600; deposits, increase \$2,855,400; currency, increase \$70,000; and bank notes held \$47,001,475 in excess of legal requirements.

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