

### Then and Now.

Under the above heading the Wichita, Kansas, Democrat proceeds to dump a few claps of campaign thunder on the dear people with the hope, no doubt, that the comparisons made between present prices and those of 1896 will cause a few soft headed ignoramus to yearn for the good old rag-tag, soup house times of Cleveland and Tariff Reform. The Democrat undertakes to but General Prosperity off the track and chase Mark Hanna into a hole with the following-interrogatives:

Do you know—

That it requires fifty per cent. more wheat to buy a stove than it did in '96?

That it requires twenty bushels more corn to buy a wagon than in '96?

That it requires one hundred per cent. more corn or wheat to buy a copper kettle than in '96?

That it requires twice as much corn to purchase a coil of rope as in '96?

That it requires forty per cent. more corn to buy a plow than in '96?

That it requires seventy-five per cent. more corn to buy a hoe, a rake, a shovel, a spade or bolt than in '96?

That a set of common wheels cost \$7.00 in '96? and now cost \$12.50?

That the price of cultivators is higher by \$3.00 to \$4.00?

That galvanized barbed wire costs from \$1.00 to \$5.00 a hundred pound more than in '96?

That you pay forty per cent. more for glass than in '96?

The Democrat seeks to set up a regular bugaboo of high prices and rails out at the very things it demanded in '96. Hardware of every kind is higher than in '96, but this fact will not frighten many people into the democratic party. Prices of everything are higher. Nobody but a fool would expect anything else. Fully four million workingmen are getting better wages than they did in '96; and, what is of more importance to laborers, they are given steady employment, and all the idle men who wish to work are now employed at better wages.

The money which the laboring men are now earning amounts to hundreds of millions more every month than we paid for labor in '96. We could not have better times without better prices. Demand for goods always increases the price. When times are hard men who have goods will sell them below cost to get rid of them.

The people cannot buy because the money is locked up in bank vaults and hidden away by those who are afraid to lend it. Laboring men have little work and cannot buy the necessaries of life. Everything, then, must be sold cheap. Cheap goods in all lines means low wages and hard times.

The Democrat speaks of the great advance in the price of copper kettles, which includes of course stills, caps and worms, and that means an advance in the price of licker. What a blow it would be to the democratic politicians if corn licker was to advance. No wonder this calamity howling organ of the grasshopper state views with alarm the advance in the price of copper.

When the Democrat says that a coil of rope costs twice as much now as in '96 it asserts that which is ab-

solutely and everlastingly not so. We recently purchased several coils of rope,—more than enough to hang every calamity howling democratic editor in Kansas—and we know something about the cost. There has been an advance, we will admit; but if we had purchased this rope in '96 with corn it would have required 20 bushels more to have paid the bill than would now be required had we paid for it with corn this year. Besides this, it is plain to anybody with sense enough to know when day comes, that when raw material advances in price, as cotton has done, there must be a corresponding advance in the price of the finished product. It was in '96 that the democrats nearly busted their gall bladder yelling for free silver and 10-cent cotton. Now these same fellows are howling like a pack of wolves because one of the very things they wanted is about to be realized.

There is a pretty good story told, on which the Democrat—and other people—would do well to meditate. An old Irishman lately came to this country, once dropped into a corner grocery and inquired the price of potatoes. He was told that the price was seventy-five cents a bushel. "Och," said Pat, "and sure and I could buy them for a shillin' a bushel in the ould country."

"Why didn't you stay there and buy them then?" asked the grocer.

"Be jabbers and where would I get the shillin', will yez tell me that, now?" said Pat.

And the moral is that nothing is cheap when you haven't the money to pay for it.

### A Grand Showing.

It has been a most prosperous year in all lines of business, and the reports that are now being compiled furnish some very interesting information. During the twelve months ending with the first day of this month there have been 1,984 manufacturers who failed, as compared with 2,475 during the year before. That would not seem to indicate that republicanism closes up the factories and ruins business. During the year there have been 7,400 traders who failed, while last year the number was 9,788. The banks have done well, too, and the failures this year have been but 52, compared with 88 last year. Exclusive of the banks the aggregate number of failures for the twelve months is 9,700, and this is the smallest number recorded since 1887. In aggregate amount the failures were \$89,292,750, and that is the lowest it has been since 1881. There is some difference between that report and the one which was made in 1896.

That year, when the whole nation was in an uproar bordering on a panic, and the affairs of our country had reached a serious crisis, the aggregate of the failures was \$226,096,834. It is a magnificent triumph for the late Mr. Dingley of Maine, the great statesman who was slandered. The New York "World" has always been one of the most bitter enemies of the Dingley Protective Tariff, and it is now very gratifying to the friends of decency that that paper has to eat its crow. After maintaining from the very first day of its passage that the Dingley law would not furnish sufficient revenue it predicted last July that by the end of 1899 we would have a deficit of \$45,000,000. Instead of that deficit we have millions in surplus, and it is still piling up. It has been a prosperous year, and we shall have many more of them if the republican party is kept in power. Republicanism stands for Protection, Progress and Prosperity.—Des Moines, Ia., State Register.

### THEY SAY THAT

Figures won't lie; but liars may figure.

People who make the least noise have generally got the most brain.

The dog that insists on sleeping on the mat may be said to be dogmatic.

Talk is cheap but not Billy Bryan's kind; he gets \$600. per night per speech.

The Israelites made a golden calf because they didn't have gold enough to make a cow.

One full dose of democratic rule is enough to last Uncle Sam for a quarter of a century.

The pen may be mightier than the sword, but it is not mightier than the new naval guns.

The democrats stand on their platforms before they are elected and sit down on them afterward.

A southern democratic count of the ballots would carry Heaven for the use of brimstone.

Being hugged by a bear is fun compared with passing through an era of democratic prosperity.

Some people don't know anything because they are so far ahead of the world that they have to wait for it to catch up.

The man who asks the Lord to do what he can do himself is too lazy to catch flies and too mean to go to Heaven.

The future of democracy grows brighter as it approaches the sulphurous auroraborealis of the North side of Hades.

The man who asserts that woman hasn't got as much brains as man wasn't born right. He is one of the accidents of nature on the man's side of the house.

Afternight drives, on the luxuriant cushions of a closed carriage, are delightfully pleasant; at the particular moment; but, oh! remember the fate of poor Willie and Madline.

West Virginia has a boy who makes a specialty of coughing up tacks and wire nails, and his parents are besieged by agents of the nail trust who want him to become a member of the combine.

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