

The Messenger.

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WILMINGTON, N. C.

SATURDAY, June 10, 1897.

HAS PROSPERITY COME?—A SURVEY.

Some—perhaps many—of the administration organs pipe long and loud in behalf of "prosperity and insist on it as if it were a man. They even denounce the papers that do not shout in the same high key and brand them as "calamity howlers."

But is lovely prosperity, with the golden curls, really with us? Is she indeed in Wilmington? Newspapers like The Baltimore Herald, Philadelphia Inquirer, Boston Post, New York Tribune, New York Mail and Express, and others of like motives and principles proclaim from the house-tops that prosperity is everywhere, and the latest blast from the horn is, that the "calamity howlers were discouraged," and the croakers were dumb, because of the splendid business showing.

The Messenger gave the facts recently for last week as to business as given by Dun that always takes the most hopeful, cheerful look possible. The Baltimore Herald, of Thursday, declares that "prosperity is manifest in various directions." It gives what travels, including the Governor's report of New York, say that in the great west there is returning prosperity. Governor Flower says most positively "that there is improvement in business at all the inland centres of industry and trade which he visited."

These are pointers from divergent sources, but for that reason they are all the more convincing, and they prove that in cotton goods, in iron and steel, and in transportation there is already renewed activity. Grumblers and calamity howlers to the contrary notwithstanding, the wave of prosperity in these departments is not coming, but is here now.

The Boston Post, a gold democrat, avers that the industrial revival is genuine—that the "bull movement" is on and hence, says the hopeful papers, the evidence of solid improvement everywhere. Even The Philadelphia Record, a gold organ, but against high-rocker protection, joins in and is sure we are on the eve of better, more prosperous times. God grant that these prophecies may be realized by all the people and not be confined to a rich few!

The Record quotes from Pullman, the car manufacturer, that the people after all are responsible for the times, if we understand his meaning. He says "after all, prosperity depends upon the people themselves; if they make more than they spend, and keep at it, the country will prosper." That is a miserable half truth. People may toil and sweat and save, but if wages are low, trade dull, money scarce, and legislation is there to hamper and assist the poor, then they cannot escape poverty and distress and maintain prosperity. The Washington Post usually carries a level head, and we believe, aims at the truth. Commenting on The Record's remarks on the Pullman wisdom, it says:

"There are many hopeful indications of improvement in business, and we believe the proper course for every good citizen is to make the most of every sign of revived industrial activity. But with all our habitual and cultivated optimism we find it absolutely impossible to share The Record's faith in the enduring character of the lesson of the last four years. It is true—literally and awfully true—that the people have been taught the lesson of saving in the hardest of schools; but what reason is there for the prediction that they will not speedily forget it? Where is there a peg to which one may fasten a hope that the American people will from this time on be a thrifty, prudent, saving people?"

While legislation alone cannot make a country great or prosperous, as McKinley thinks, it can help no little in advancing good conditions and it can seriously embarrass and even retard prosperity.

opened, and campaign managers gave assurance of a "golden prime" just as soon as Major Mc took his seat. There was nothing left out of the count to induce the workmen to help to put in the Ohioan deceiver.

The what Mr. Wanamaker, the great New York and Philadelphia merchant, has said about the hard times. He declared that "as much as I love quietness and peace, it is not possible for me to be indifferent or silent in the present condition of affairs. Neither can I take or give up. To keep work for the 6,000 and more persons in my employ for whom I am responsible, I have endeavored who apply daily and beg for the privilege of labor to keep the wolf from the door, drives me into a fever, and I must speak out. Any citizen has that right."

In these times campaign speeches are only empty shells without real content. The Messenger gave yesterday that in McKinley's own county in Ohio there had been since the 1st of January last thirty-five failures and fifty-four foreclosures aggregating \$76,828.07. And that is the condition in the great Ohio!

You know that James Creelman is a brilliant northern journalist who travels all around the year. He is still traveling. Recently he wrote from Ohio, and about Canton, McKinley's town:

"Ordinarily, Canton is a very prosperous town. But there is small contentment in Canton now. There are hundreds of families in the town are suffering for want of food and clothing. Times are getting hard, and the year the Mayor has given away in charity out of his private purse more than a million dollars for the relief of the town. These are the times that run make no profits."

That is bad for Canton, bad for Clark county, bad for Ohio. Ohio is prosperous says ex-Governor Republican Party. Mr. Creelman is on the ground and writes:

"It is impossible to exaggerate the distress in this state. Farms have actually shrunk to half their value, and houses that once were worth \$10,000, McKinley's election values have shrunk not less than 10 per cent. The depression is such that every man who has mortgages, which they do not dare to foreclose, because they fear the loss of the farm, is holding thousands of overdue mortgages, which they do not dare to foreclose, because they fear the loss of the farm."

McKinley was the advance agent of prosperity," McKinley, so he said, would start the manufacturing of the country rather than the mining here in the midst of manufacturing and labor, and bear witness how well he has done in this respect.

"I find work scarce and pay small, and many idle men. No concern is shown for the unemployed. No one here in the midst of manufacturing and labor, and bear witness how well he has done in this respect. I find work scarce and pay small, and many idle men. No concern is shown for the unemployed. No one here in the midst of manufacturing and labor, and bear witness how well he has done in this respect."

At Middletown, Conn., a McKinley statement also, on the 14th of June the announcement of a 10 per cent. reduction of wages by the Worcester Cycle Works caused 100 of the employees to strike. Such signs of the sweeping over our country of the mighty wave of prosperity are not lacking any day of week. While we are considering them, let us add a few more of recent date. A few days ago an actual reduction of 10 per cent. of wages went into effect at the American Iron Works at Pittsburg, Pa. By this 3,500 men refused to accept the reduction, and went out on a strike, and have failed, we think. Again, more than five hundred men employed in different parts of the Reading Iron Works, at Reading, Pa., went out on strike on Tuesday because of a reduction in wages—paudders from \$2.70 to \$2.40 and others in proportion—about 10 per cent. This confirms Lewis, in Nashua, N. H., the Vale mills have closed, turning about 200 hands. At Altoona, Pa., the Altoona Iron Works have reduced wages from 10 per cent. to 20 per cent, beginning with the 7th instant. In this reduction a dozen companies or so are involved, and among them Mark Hanna & Co. Hark's Hark's Mark is in it. The great old deceiver and fraud!

At Paterson, N. J., 300 silk weavers employed by William Strange Co., were discharged because they asked for an increase of pay. These are not hopeful, cheering signs and do not indicate prosperity. The workmen were devoted all over the north by promises that are not realized. The mills would all run and wages would be increased.

PROTECTION DEMOCRATS. Senator Mills we once admired and respected. In 1896 he is now disapproving of both houses. He is shooting wild we suppose from a criticism of The Washington Post. It praises the ability and eloquence of the Texan, but thinks him a poor marksman when he fires at what he calls the "necessaries of life." It only shows that the democrats—with perhaps a few exceptions—know very little about the principles of their policy. The descriptive titles of articles of The Post aptly hits off the Texan blundering in this: "We are bound to say, however, that we cannot follow Mr. Mills when he develops the development of sympathy throughout the country. There are some who are 'There are some who are...'"

...of the rates of taxation imposed upon the necessities of life, and then gives us a list including 'alcoholic beverages,' 'sulphuric ether,' 'opium for smoking,' 'razors and razor blades,' 'perfumery,' 'bay rum,' 'shoddy,' 'curtains,' 'woolen rags,' and a dozen other such articles, we feel that he is leaving us far behind with his philosophy. Why have we never realized the indispensability of human life or happiness of the masses upon these 'necessaries of life'?

Poor Mr. Mills! Fine "necessaries" those named. But there are six or eight so-called democratic senators who do worse than utter nonsense. They vote for protection. The republicans in the congress have taken heart, and rejoice in the fact that protection "is growing" and they have allies in the senate among the alleged democrats. The northern protection papers are in high glee over the recruits for protection from the ranks of democratic congressmen of both houses. They feel that even in the south the vile robber is upward and onward. Take this from The New York Mail and Express, a very extreme robber:

"Senator Bacon's proposition for a 20 per cent. increase in duties on cotton goods is heartily endorsed by the Vicksburg-Ton exchange. It looks more and more as though the Georgia senator had sounded the bugle for a further advance of the protectionist movement in the old free trade states of the south." There are newspapers in Georgia and Alabama that pretend to democracy that approve of and defend Bacon and the other bolters and supporters of a protection scheme of robbery. The watchful independent but tariff advocate, The Washington Post, notes that "those southern senatorial votes for the pending tariff bill are reviving republican hopes in several quarters where they were disposed to droop."

It has been announced that Tillman is a protectionist, and Marion Butler declared at Boston that he was one. And yet these men have been howling the other way. It really begins to look as if the democrats would have to drop the tariff altogether from its platform. The tariff after having been the platform of the democrats for years has now become a platform for the republicans. When ever the democratic party ceases to be a genuinely low-tax party and takes up with the republican robber tax you will see the real democrats deserting not by squads as in 1896, but by the hundreds of thousands. He is a sorry democrat who can favor for any reason or under any plea a robber tax for class parties. In this connection we mention that an ugly, disgraceful report is out about the protection southern senators. The reputable Springfield (Mass.) Republican says that "southern democratic senators—supposed to be the four from Georgia and South Carolina—are having a conference for a consideration (the duty on cotton for one thing) to be absent from the chamber without pairs on the tariff bill. This reduces the opposition materially, and makes it less necessary for the republicans to heed the dictations of the far western silver independents. Some of the Aldrich bargains consequently will not need to be made, and there is a probability that the bill will pass the senate much more nearly like the house bill than when it came from the finance committee."

If true it is disastrous not only to the democrats in the senate, but to them in the shameful business. It would be better for them never to have appeared in public life than to have appeared in public life with such a stain. What can the honest men of any party think of these traders, if the Republican states a truth?

SO CURE—NO PAY. That is the way all druggists sell Sarsaparilla. It is simply Iron and Quinine in a tasteless form. Children love it. Adults prefer it to bitter, nauseating Tonics. Price, 50c.

HOME FOLKS. We regretted to see the death announced of an old schoolmate—Captain Benjamin H. Sumner, who was born in Person county on 27th July 1827. He was the son of the late Benjamin Sumner, a good scholar, a Presbyterian, who had charge of the once famous old Oxford Female seminary, about 1840-45. We have not seen Captain Sumner since 1845. He was an excellent boy and a very popular. We were in his class and hold him in very high esteem. He married Miss Mary A. Ramsuer, in 1852. The Lincoln News announcing his death, said:

"He was a brother to Mr. George L. Hoke and Mrs. V. A. McBeck, of this county, and to Mr. Julian Sumner, Esq., of Thomastown. He went through the war, during the latter years of which he was quartermaster on the staff of Colonel William Hoke. He was a good man and a valuable citizen, and served several terms as county commissioner."

The state auditor after surveying the field gives it his deliberate judgment that the radical revenue acts are "the cause of the present depression. How could they be otherwise? How could such a body of ignorance do anything well? With Russell playing the role of the tsar, and such a legislature to frame laws for North Carolina, what sort of showing can North Carolina have? When North Carolina was in the backwoods, and her children were

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Wholesale corruption is charged in the Kansas legislature. The majority committee so reports squarely. The minority report intimates there was not so much hoodluming done during the legislation as there was perjury on the witness stand before the committee.

Sarsaparilla Sense. Any sarsaparilla is sarsaparilla. True. So any tea is tea. So any flour is flour. But grades differ. You want the best. It's so with sarsaparilla. There are grades. You want the best. If you understood sarsaparilla as well as you do tea and flour it would be easy to determine. But you don't. How should you? When you are going to buy a commodity whose value you don't know, you pick out an old established house to trade with, and trust their experience and reputation. Do so when buying sarsaparilla. Ayer's Sarsaparilla has been on the market 50 years. Your grandfather used Ayer's. It is a reputable medicine. There are many Sarsaparillas—but only one Ayer's. It cures.

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A Card. WILMINGTON, N. C., MARCH 6, 1897. MR. WALKER TAYLOR, AGENT, CITY. DEAR SIR: I TAKE PLEASURE IN TESTIFYING BY MY OWN EXPERIENCE TO THE PROMPTNESS OF YOUR COMPANIES IN THE ADJUSTMENT OF INSURANCE CLAIMS. MY LOSS ON BUILDING OCCUPIED BY MESSRS. POLVOGT & CO. WAS SATISFACTORILY ADJUSTED, AND I WILL TAKE PLEASURE IN RECOMMENDING ANY ONE NEEDING INSURANCE TO CALL ON YOU.

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