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PROTECTION !

INDUSTRY !

ENTERPRISE!

PROSPERITY!

VULUME 30.

HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1898.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

The President Busy-The New Spanish Minister Presented Saturday.

(Regular Correspondent.) Washington, March 14th, 1898,

President McKinley is one of the hardest worked men in the country just now. He has not abandoned hope that peace may be preserved with honor, but he is working night and day to place the country in a position to wage a successful war against Spain just as though he were certain that war is to come. His head has not been turned even a little bit by the extraordinary confidence reposed in him by Congress, in putting by unanimous vote \$50,000,000 in his hands to be used for national defense. He is cool and deliberate, just as he has been from the first. He calmly ignores the sensational reports of this or that European nation being about to form an alliance with Spain, and is as fully determined as ever to maintain National honor at all hazards.

Notwithstanding various contrary

assertions, it is a fact that neither the President nor the Secretary of the Na vy has received from any member of the Maine Court of Inquiry, a single word intimating what the report of the Court will be. They have, of course, like all other intelligent men, formed an opinion from the evidence that has appeared in the columns of respectable newspapers, of what the probable nature of the report as far as it concerns the explosion, will be, but they have no inside knowledge of what the court has done or will do, and expect none, anyone than they would pect advance intimation of what a decision of the U. S. Supreme Court would be in any given case it might have under consideration. There will be to delay in acting as seen as the report, which the President will accept as final, is made, and Spain wil not be allowed to delay responding to the demands of this government, if it be shown that the Maine was blown up from the outside, and of that there is now very little doubt. While the President is keeping his own counse as to the demand that will be made upon Spain, it can be set down as certain that it will be one that will be indorsed by the entire American people, just as the President's policy has been up to the present time, and it is generally believed that it will include a proposition for a definite settlement of the trouble in Cuba. There are al ready strong indications that Spain has adopted a policy of delay, which will seek to carry out, but it will seek in vain. It will either have to meet our demands promptly or fight.

No Quaker could profess greater brotherly love for the United States than does the new Spanish Minister, who was presented President Mckinley Saturday. He talked as though peace were assured and that his greatest anxiety is to complete a rec procity treaty with us. That talk isn't throwing any sand in anybody's eyes.

The confidence felt by Congress in the President is duplicated by that reposed by the President in his Secretaries of War and Navy, and by that placed in their Bureau Chiefs by those Secretaries. An istance of this confidence is the case of Gen. Flagler, Chief of Ordnance, who has been authorized by Secretary Alger to place orders for as much war material as he may deem necessary under existing circumstan-Gen. Flagler has directed all makers of both guns and ammunition to run their establishments to their full capacity unti. further orders, But no waste or eqtravagance is to be countenanced in either, the War or Navy Department; every dollar spent will be upon estimates, approved not only by the Secretary, but by the President, and in writing at that.

Congress is very decidedly opposed to anything that might be construed by the world as an alliance between the U. S. and Great Britian. The feeling against "entangling foreign complications" is quite as strong now as it was in the days of George Washington. We do not need any help from England to fight our battles, and we do not intend to help England to fight her battles. This feeling has been strongly expressed since the idea be-

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came prevalent that England was trying to make use of the probability of a war with Spain to inveigle the U. S. into an alliance offensive and defensive with her. It is all very pretty to talk about an alliance between the English-speaking people being strong enough to dominate the world, but the Statistics Show Many Proofs of U. S. isn't in the dominating business, and has no idea of going into it. Besides, it has many and growing commercial interests that are necessarily directly opposed to those of England, and other European nations. Having successfully played a lone hand for more than a century, and managed to make more progress than any other nation on earth, it isn't likely that the U. S. would care to hamper itself with a partner now,

The building of three new battleships, to be as good as the best now afloat, and one of them to be named Moine, is authorized by the Naval Appropriation Bill.

A Good Day's Work.

"My brother was in such a condition that he could not walk but a short dis tance without resting. He had no strengh and his blood was very poor. He has been taking Hood's Sarsaparilla and can now do a good day's work on the farm. We feel he owes his health to this medicine." MISS EVA Moss, Whitehall, Va.

GOOD BUSINESS IN THE SOUTH.

Bradst-eet Reports Activity in Nearly All Lines of Distributive Trade.

NEW YORK, March 11.—Bradstreet's to morrow will say: Continued activity in nearly all lines of distributive trade, but more particularly at the larger cities of the West, South, and far Northwest, is the most favorable feature coming under notice. Other favorable features include the heavier foreign demand for wheat and flour, as indicated by increased exports over last week and last year, and bank clearing heavily exceeding correspond ing periods of previous years, though smaller than in recent weeks. Less favorable features are few. The vol ume of business in the iron and steel trade is reported very large, with rela tively best reports coming from the West. Pig iron production shows a further gain and stocks a slight in

Large sales of copper are a feature. and prices are reported higher for the week, as are also quotations for Indian corn, and wheat flour. The industrial situation seems likely to be improved by the ending of the New England cotton mill strikes.

Business is generally active at the West. Southern and Southwestern buyers are more active at St. Louis. Kansas City packing houses report de mand one third larger than last year. a perceptible improvement in distri bution is noted in Chicago in many lines of trade. An order for 10,000 tons of steel rails is a feature of the weeks' business at that city. Trade is of a satisfactory volume at the North

Export business in flour and wheat from the Pacific coast shows a considerable gain. Boat building is active on Alaskan account. A good business is doing at the South.

The business failures in the United States this week number 247, against 232 last week, and 227 in the corres ponding week of 1897. The business failures in the Canadian Dominion for this week number 31, against 27 last week, and 36 in 1897.

Larger wheat and flour, but smaller corn shipments are a feature of export trade this week. The total exports of wheat, flour included, from the United States and Canada this week aggregate 4,484,701 bushels against 3,252,002 bushels last week, 1,599,482 bushels in 1896, 2,127,000 bushels in 1895. Corn exports are smaller, amounting to 3,-285,000 bushels, against 5,054,000 bushels last week.

S. B. Moore, of Greensburg, Ky .. says: I was very bilious for a long time; had fallen off and getting in bad health. I had dyspepsia and spit up my food. I began using Romon's Liver Pills & Topic Fellets according to the Doctor's Book, and as a result I increased in weight 13 pounds, and feel like a new person. 25c.

Hood's Pills are the only pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla. Easy and yet efficient.

BUSINESS

REVIVAL.

Prosperity in Past Year.

OF LIVE STOCK VALUE GREATLY ENHANCED.

IMPROVED TRAFFIC BUSINESS PROVES RETURN OF GOOD TIMES.

National Bank Reports Indicate Restoration of Confidence and Flow of Money Into Trade-Remarkable Falling Off in Number of Failures and Amount of Liabilitles.

Special Dispatch to the Globe-Democrat,

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 8.-In reply to the question how far the improvement which has taken place dur ing the last twelve months in trade and agriculture was capable of statis-Statistician tical demonstration. Hyde, of the Department of Agricul ture, stated to day that nothing could be more significant than the official' statistics bearing on this subject which had recently become available.

It could not be questioned, he said that the farmers of the United States have received for their cereal crops of 1897 something like \$130,000,000 more than for those of 1896, and \$80,000,000 more than for those of any preceding year since 1892. The hay crop, not withstanding that it was the largest with one exception ever raised, com manded an increased price per ton wool is higher, and considerably high er, than at any time since 1883, and cotton is the only important product with regard to which there is not a substantial improvement over the conditions prevailing a year ago.

Still more significant are the statisties of farm animals, which show that during the year 1897 the. farm horses of the country increased in value over \$25,000,000, the inules over \$6,000,000, the milk cows over \$65,000,000, other cattle over \$104,000,000, sheep over \$25,000,000 and swine over \$8,000,000a total incresse of value during the year of over \$236,000,000. This re markable increase in value is well dis tributed, there being 'not a state or territory in the union that does not report an increased average farm price per head of cattle and sheep, and but few where an equally satisfactory re port is not made as regards all other

farm animals. There is scarcely a better index to business conditions, he continued, than is afforded by transportation receipts. A recently published statement of the traffic through the canals at Sault Ste. Marie showed an increase of no less than 17 per cent in freight tonnage over the preceding year. This was not due to the large wheat crop, for the shipments of wheat by way of the great lakes were somewhat less than in the preceding year. It was made up largely of an increase of 34 per cent in the tonnage of iron ore, and there was also an increase of 35 per cent in the amount of hard coal and of 18 per cent in the amount of lumber transported, the total tonnage transported being great ly in excess of that of any previous

While Mr. Hyde was not in possession of recent statisties of railroad earnings, a comparison of the prices of railroad stocks on March 1 with those of the corresponding date last year showed a most remarkable increase, not only in the granger roads, but in the most stable railroad properties of the Eastern states.

Millions Given Away

It is certainly gratifying to the publie to know of one concern in the land who are not afraid to be generous to the needy and suffering. The proprietors of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds, have given away over ten millions trial bottles of this great medicine and have the satisfaction of knowing it has absolutely cured thousands of hopeless cases. Asthma, Brenchitis, Hoarseness and all diseases of the Throat Chest and Lungs are surely cured by it. Call on Shuford Drug Co. Druggist, and get a trial hottle free, regular size 5 k. and \$1. Every bottle guaran-teed, or price refunded. THE SITUATION CRITICAL.

Naval Officers Forbidden to Furnish Any Information to the Press.

WASHINGTON, March 14.-Evidence that the Administration is anticipating hostilities in a very short time was given to-day in the issuance of an order by Secretary Long forbidding officers on duty at the Navy Department to furnish any information to the press without his consent. In explanation of this order, a prominent officer said:

"Matters are now so critical that it would be unwise to allow any of our plans to be made public. Heretofore we went ahead in preparation for any emergency. Now we are afraid that the emergency may not be avoided, and are determined that our preparations shall be kept as secret as possible.-New York Sun.

SOUND BUSINESS SITUATION

NO RESTRICTIONS OR HINDRANCES.

The Country Assured That Its Resource Are Beyond the Reach of Any Foreign Power.

NEW YORK, March 11.-R. G. Dun Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade will say in its issue tomorrow: It is most gratifying that no industry or branch of business shows any restriction or hindrance, but some have been rapid ly gaining for the past week and month. The railways are gaining, even while speculators are selling their stocks, and the demand for products for all the great industries is increas ing. More gold is coming from Europe than is needed, \$10,868,000 having been ordered during the past week, and money markets are nowhere alarmed or stringent, though reasona bly more cautious. The country rests assured that its industries, almost all of its business, the foreign demand for its products, and especially all its re sources are beyond the reach of any foreign power and that its honor and foreign interests are in safe hands.

The greatest of all industries is send ng grain forward as if it there were no limit to the supply. Wheat ex ports have been 4,171,497 bushels flour included, against 1,268,171 last year from Atlantic and Pacific ports, and for two weeks 7,462,730 bushels, against 3,016,546 last year. Exports of corn, in spite of smaller yield, have been 7,706,494 bushels in 'two weeks. against 9,336,699 last year, when they far surpassed all records. Wheat de clined 41 cents, but corn did not change during the week. Cotton de clined an eignth, sales of fertilizers in dicating less reduction of acreage this year than was expected. Exports of principal products in February were \$61,634,091 in value, with an increase over last year of 50 per cent, in breadstuffs, in cotton 25 per cent and 25 per cent in the aggregate.

The weekly output of pig iron was 228,338 tons, February 1st, but 234,430 March 1, and the increase of unsold stocks in February was only 5,852 tons weekly for export or consumption against 218,457 in January and 215,349 in November 1895, the month of great est consumption for railroad cars, for vessels on the lakes, for, elevators and oil pipe lines, for agricultural imple ment works and for sheets, is beyond precedent, and structural and rail works are crowded with orders, though now receiving few. The minor metals are generally stronger in de-

Sales for wool for this week have been the smallest since the week of greatest alarm in August, 1896, but not because any mills have stopped work.

Cotton goods have a large distribution and prices are generally steady, though in outside dealings, print clotus are a shade lower. Prints are in better demand.

The failures for the week have been 248 in the United States against 256 last year, and 36 in Canada, against 61 last year.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children

A WORD IN SEASON.

Charlotte Observer Calls the Times-Mercury a Fool and a Liar

The following editorial appeared in the Charlotte Observer of March 15th,

and speaks for its self: We find the following copied in the Asheville Citizen from the Hickory

Mercury, a paper which we never see: The Semi-Weekly Charlotte Observer is being sent out to men who have not subscribed for it. Some believe it is a trick of the goldbugs and railroads to send out literature that will educate the people to oppose any co operation on silver as marked out by Bryan and endorsed by Jones, and to keep the people from making any fight in the State against the railroad 99year lease and for lower freight and passenger rates. If this is a trick of the goldbug Democrats-and it looks that way and will have the same tendency-we warn the people against this trap into which they are being led, purposely.

Thanking the Citizen for the kindly spirit of its comment upon the above, we have to add that the statement that "come believe" that the sending of copies of the Semi-Weekly Observer to men who have not subscribed for it is "a trick of the goldbugs and railroads," is a lie. Nobody believes it, not even the poor fool who wrote the above paragraph in the Hickory Mercury. Latterly, sample copies of the Semi-Weekly Observer have been sent to a great many people in western North Carolina, though none have so gone out for perhaps two months past. It is a gratification to say, parenthetically, that as a result of this direct advertising, coupled with whatever merit the paper may bave, the Semi-Weekly Observer has increased its circulation by about 750 subscribers in about six months, while the circulation of the daily, paid for by the people to whom it is going, is larger by hundreds than ever before in the history of the paper. At the present tine the Semi-Weekly Observer has a certain contract from a Charlotte house, calling for a page advertisement once a month for six months, and for 18,000 copies of each paper in which this advertisement appears. These papers are being distributed far and wide by the firm doing the advertising referred to, and this statement will explain to a good many people why it is that they are receiving once a month a copy of a semi-weekly paper for which they have not subscribed. It is the work of the firm in question.

The quotation above is of a piece with suggestions which appear every now and then in the blackguard press, edited by fellows who are themselves purchaseable, to the effect that this paper is subsidized by, under obligation to, or in some way influenced by the goldbugs, the money power, the corporations and monopolists. It is as good a time as any to say-and this is a blanket statement, intended to cover whoever is guilty,-that the man or paper bringing such accusation and offering such intimation is a con-cious liar. Since nobody connected with it wants any of the people's offices or any public favors of any kind whatever, this paper can afford to look the people straight in the eye, and tell them the truth as it sees it. The detraction of time-servers, weather-vanes and demagogues, together with that of a few of the honest ignorant, is the penalty that it pays for its sincerity and its refusal to change with every wind that blows; but its rest is undisturbed by the traduction of the vicious, since it has demonstrated that it can call its soul its own, and still enjoy a living, and not only a living but a business which is steadily increasing in each of its several departments. Thank God there remain in North Carolina enough people to support it-counting those who agree with it, and those who, disagreeing with it, value it for its news, and are broad enough to give it ground to

T'ell, then, with its enemies, persecuters and slanderers. It asks none of them, nor the entire aggregation, any odds.

If you are not feeling well, why don't you take Hood's Sarsaparilla? It will purify and enrich your blood and do you wonderful good.

CASTORIA.