

# THE DAILY FREE PRESS.

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## STATE OF OUR COMMERCE.

The bureau of statistics presents a report showing a marked change in the share which the various ports have had in the distribution of the exports of the United States.

The Gulf ports show a falling off of about 13 per cent in exportations as compared with last year, and the Atlantic coast ports a decline of about 10 per cent; while the lake and northern border ports show a gain of 3 per cent; the Pacific coast ports a gain of 10 per cent, and the Mexican border ports an increase of 25 per cent.

These marked contrasts, in which the ports tributary to the Atlantic show a reduction, and those on the Pacific or fronting upon contiguous territory show an increase, are in keeping with the general trend of the year's commerce, in which exports to Europe show a marked decline, and those to Asia and to the contiguous territory at the north and south a marked growth.

Exports to Europe especially were affected by the crop failure of last year, since breadstuffs and provisions form the large proportion of the sales of the United States to that part of the world; while our exports to Asia, Mexico and Canada were less affected by crop failures, since manufactures form the bulk of our sales to those parts of the world. Hence the decrease in shipments through Gulf and Atlantic ports and the increase in those through Pacific ports and those fronting upon contiguous territory.

The circular goes on to say that in a comparison of the commerce of 1902 with that of 1901, in the case of the Atlantic ports: New York shows a reduction in exports of 5 per cent; Philadelphia, a fall of 7 per cent; Newport News, a decrease of 10 per cent; Baltimore a fall of 25 per cent, and Boston, a drop of 35 per cent.

Charleston, Wilmington and Savannah, on the other hand, show an increase in exports. This the south Atlantic states may regard with pleasure. The highest increase was that of Wilmington, being from \$8,055,438 to \$12,559,566.

On the Gulf coast, Galveston and New Orleans each show a drop of about 15 per cent. On the Pacific coast the highest gain was reached at Puget Sound, where the increase was 35 per cent.

But because we import so much from Europe, a great gain in the value of importations along the Atlantic coast was shown. All the other ports of our country likewise show an increase in importations.

The above report cannot but remind us of the immense assistance to our commerce on the Pacific that would accrue from the building of an inter-oceanic canal. Truly the whole country needs it, but the south especially would be benefited thereby.

## UNNECESSARY CRUELTY.

Section 4386 of the Revised Statutes provides that railroad companies and other parties transporting cattle, sheep, swine, or other animals from one state to another are prohibited from confining the same in cars, boats, or vessels of any description for a longer period than twenty-eight consecutive hours, without unloading the same for rest, water, and feeding for a period of at least five consecutive hours, unless prevented from so unloading by storm or other accidental causes.

It is proposed to amend this statute so that cattle in transport may be kept crowded together without the possibility of freedom of motion or of safely lying down, from 28 to 40 hours. The amendment is being steadfastly fought, says the Charlotte News in an editorial in which it gives some convincing arguments from Mr. John P. Haines, President of the Society for the Prevention of cruelty to animals.

Mr. Haines writes: "Animals, and many of them ruminating animals, cannot exist without food, water, or the possibility of repose for 40 or even 28, or in many cases, 24 hours together without becoming fevered, so that in the comparatively brief space of five hours their fever will compel them to drink freely, while it makes it impossible for them to rest, and in many cases must make it impossible for them to feed. A repetition, several times in succession, of the same treatment, must land them on the Atlantic coast in a condition of high fever or complete prostration. If they have any latent germs of disease, these are almost certain to become virulent; and it is the flesh of these fevered and diseased animals that is to be sold as food to the people of the eastern states. I submit to you, sir, that such food must produce disease and death in thousands of human beings, so that the whole system, especially as this amendment proposes to aggravate it, is not only barbarous, but murderous in its effects. To say nothing of the sufferings which cattle thus transported endure, is it possible that their fevered flesh can be wholesome food for human beings? And if not, is it sound or good public policy to allow animals to be transported in

any state under conditions which, in many cases, must make their flesh absolutely poisonous on their arrival at their destination?"

It is to be sincerely hoped that the humanity of our legislators will defeat the amendment, and further expunge from our statute books all legislation that would countenance wanton cruelty to our animal friends.

Such cruelty wherever permitted bears its legitimate fruit in brutalizing, not only men, but the rising generation of children who are invited to view the occurrences.

Our laws and ordinances may be brutal in not prohibiting acts of wanton cruelty, and police officers may be brutal in not seeing to the enforcement of the law when enacted. Let us look out for the morals of our people as well as for their material interests.

We call attention to our LaGrange communication in which it is announced that Hon. Shade Wooten is at home suffering from the effects of a fall received recently. We hope that Mr. Wooten's injury is only slight.

We congratulate our neighbor upon the evidence of prosperity and progressiveness shown in her demand for graded schools.

## THE WRITERS.

Miljukov, the well known Russian novelist, is in prison for expressing his liberal views too freely.

The late Mary Hartwell Catherwood, the novelist, died of that woeful disease cancer. Her last book was "Lazarre," and it is not probable that she left any unfinished work. It is said that she thought this book to be her best.

Because the Turks say "there is no one wise but Mohammed" the title of Dr. Henry Van Dyke's "Story of the Other Wise Men," which has just been translated into Turkish, had to be changed to "How the Other Scientist Was Left Behind."

Mr. Jack London, the novelist, is an ardent student of sociology and has lately spent some time in the east end of London busy in observing slum life there. He dressed as an American sailor looking for employment and carried little or no money. Just now he is living in a bungalow near San Francisco with an outlook over the Golden Gate.

## TIMELY TOPICS.

The Naval academy authorities might profitably consider whether breaking a cadet's jaw is "hazing" or a penal offense.—New York World.

The peach crop in Connecticut is the first in the field to be killed by the frosts. The other states will follow as usual.—Baltimore American.

We have horseless carriages and wireless telegraphy. Now, if some genius would only invent noiseless city streets!—New York Tribune.

The far famed "European concert" possibly might not be any more successful in an American venture than our worthy friend Mascagni has been.—Chicago Tribune.

That consumption can be extirpated seems too good to be hoped for, but smallpox is no longer a terror, yellow fever has been controlled and diphtheria has been partially disarmed.—Philadelphia Record.

## A DIPLOMATIC BLUNDER.

That terrific creature the British lion is in the present instance but too plainly become the German tame cat.—St. James Gazette.

Whoever believes that by the joint action of England and Germany against Venezuela English dispositions toward Germany have grown better is profoundly mistaken.—Die Zeit, Vienna.

It is difficult to see what the government has gained by ignoring the lesson very plainly taught us in China—that Germany is not a particularly desirable partner for England in business matters of this description.—Pall Mall Gazette.

## THE HAWAIIAN CABLE.

We have had a string to Hawaii a long time, but the cable is more substantial.—Omaha World-Herald.

Having cable communication established with Hawaii, we are now realizing the fact that the amount of news Hawaii has to send us is not overwhelming.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

The Hawaiian cable is certainly all right. These two names were signed to the first message to President Roosevelt, and they came over whole: J. Kalaniana'ole, D. Kawanakoa.—New York Commercial.

## BRET HARTE.

Bret Harte left only \$1,800 and a name that is sure to live.—Boston Globe.

Bret Harte left an estate which was valued at \$1,800. His publishers can probably do better than that.—Omaha World-Herald.

Bret Harte wrote many pathetic stories, but the most pathetic story connected with his life is that he died poor.—Sterling Standard.

## Winks.

It has been calculated that the eyelids of the average man open and shut no fewer than 4,000,000 times in the course of a single year of his existence.

## Considerate.

Nightcaps and cotton ear wads are provided by the proprietor of a hotel at Vytra, Hungary, for those of his guests who retire early and do not wish to be kept awake by a gypsy band which plays nightly at the hotel.

## CHAT ABOUT AUTHORS.

Jack London and His Unconventional Ways.—Mrs. Humphry Ward.

[Special Correspondence.]  
New York, Jan. 24.—Mr. Jack London appeared in this city not long ago after a prolonged absence from the United States. No one who did not know his habits would have suspected him of being a successful author returning from a trip abroad. He wore a wrinkled sack coat, the pockets of which bulged with letters and papers. His trousers were bagged at the knees. He was minus a vest, and his outing shirt was far from immaculate. A leather belt around his waist took the place of suspenders. On his head he wore a "dinky" little cap, and he was sadly in need of a clean shave.

But that is Jack London's way. He is a refreshing person at all times, yet



THEY WERE DELIGHTED TO SEE HIM.

his short stories are ranked with those of Kipling, and his new novel, "A Daughter of the Snows," is one of the popular books of the year.

Jack London is only twenty-six years of age, but he has been earning his living since he was sixteen—before the mast on a whaler, as a tramp or journeyman laborer and in the Klondike mines. When his London publishers were putting out his first book in England, they wrote and advised him to come to Europe and see something of the old world, especially of the east end of London, where, they thought, he would find endless material of the kind that he would know how to use. This was some time last spring. He wrote from his home in California saying that he hoped to do it—some day.

Along last September he walked into the publishers' offices. They were delighted to see him and asked him when he arrived in England.

"About two months ago," was the reply.

"But where have you been all the time?"

"In the east end—down by the docks. This is the first call I have made."

And it was a fact. He arrived in London, told no one, went straight to an old clothes shop, rigged himself out in a shabby secondhand suit and promptly lost himself somewhere "down by the docks" and stayed lost for two months. The sequel will probably be a set of new stories located in the London slums.

Stirred by Gabriele D'Annunzio's good example, Mark Twain announces that he is giving his skull to Cornell university, where it can be studied for the enlightenment of future generations.

"I am getting pretty old," said Mr. Clemens, speaking on this subject, "and shall probably not need the skull after next Christmas, I dunno. But if I should, I will pay rent."

He modestly declined to state what rental he thought a skull like his ought to bring in the open literary market.

The story of how Lord Tennyson came to write "Crossing the Bar," as told by Canon Fleming, is interesting reading. When asked the question by Dr. Butler of Cambridge, the poet, pointing to a nurse who had been with him some eighteen months and had great influence over him, replied: "That nurse was the cause of my writing 'Crossing the Bar.' She asked me to write a hymn, and I replied, 'Hymns are often such dull things.'" But at last he consented to write one, adding, "They say that I compose very slowly. 'They say' that I composed very slowly, but I knocked that off in ten minutes."

An observing writer who has just made a literary pilgrimage to England says: "Buried amid rural scenes Mrs. Humphry Ward, the great novelist—the modern George Eliot, as some have called her—lives a life of ideal work at the pretty little village of Tring, Stocks House, the name of her country estate, rests on the crest of a high hill, from which a magnificent sweep of the surrounding country can be seen. Mrs. Ward's books are full of word pictures of this country.

"For many years previous to taking up a country residence Mrs. Ward lived in dingy London. But, even while residing in an old, rickety mansion of Russell square, her mind was full of country life. One would never suspect that 'Robert Elsmere' could have been produced by a person who looked down upon a London park, where even the leaves of the trees wear on their upper sides a coating of gray smoke."

RICHARD TUPPER.

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