

THE MORNING POST

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**THE WEATHER TODAY:**  
Light snow; colder.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1901.

FINE HOLIDAY TRADE

The Post must congratulate its friends the Raleigh merchants upon the excellent holiday trade which all have enjoyed for the past ten days, with only evidence of a greater rush as the happiest day of the year approaches. And it must congratulate them, and those who have yet to buy as well, upon the fact that the constant and large purchases seem to make no vacancy in the extensive stocks, for no sooner is one article taken down and delivered than "something equally as good" takes its place.

Our merchants, one and all, made extra preparations for this Christmas, both as to quality, quantity and variety, and it is gratifying to know that the people are showing their appreciation thereof by liberal purchases. Mail orders have been unusually heavy which shows that our city maintains its reputation throughout a large section of the State.

There are several trading days yet to come, and our readers who have not done so will avail themselves of the attractions and variety to prepare for the one good time of real good cheer of all the year. Our merchants are ready to wait on all.

A good man was once defeated for the high office of President of these United States because just before the election he stated in a letter that the "tariff was strictly a local question to be decided according to local interests," or words to that effect.

Congressman Robertson, of Louisiana, represents a State which produces quite all the cane sugar made in this country, that is in the "mother" part of the country. Mr. Robertson is a Democrat. Because of his "local interests" he supported the measure which passed the House Wednesday evening to "provide revenue for the Philippine Islands," &c., which levies tariff duties on all goods entering, or shipped from the islands to these States.

He insisted that to admit the sugars of the islands into these States free would be to destroy a great and growing industry of his State; that the better paid labor of his State should not be brought in competition with the cheap, largely cool, labor of the Philippines working under the employment of a sugar trust such as would be soon if it was not already in control of the sugar lands.

This position of the Louisiana Democratic statesman moves the Democrats Register to say:

"It is true that Mr. Robertson did what a number of other so-called Democrats did when the Wilson bill was before Congress some years ago. It was

for such reasons that the bill could not be enacted into a law as it was originally offered in Congress. Everybody favored a reduction of the tariff on all the protected commodities of the country save those of his own district. Each one wanted to hold on to protection for the products of his own district and they did not seem to realize that in taking such a stand, they were guilty of an utter abandonment of Democratic principle, that they were sanctifying themselves and sanctioning the principle of protection which they had denounced in the party platform and on the rostrum. No reform movement can be entrusted to men who take such a narrow view of principles. What we would have others do in regard to their local interests, we must be willing to do in regard to our own.

Mr. Robertson abandoned the principles of his party on this question, because free trade with the Philippine Islands would bring the sugar of the islands in competition with the producers of that commodity in Louisiana."

Here is the difference between the application of practical politics and the theorem of party. The Louisiana sugarcane growers and the Northwestern sugar-beet growers are a unit against the admission of sugars free from any country, because elsewhere the labor to produce sugar is the cheapest in the world with no prospect of its elevation, socially, within one or more generations at least. And Florida and Southern Georgia are preparing to raise sugar. How are these people going to vote when it comes to measures directly affecting, threatening as they think, their immediate interests and welfare?

Take the tobacco growers of this State. The admission of Cuban and Porto Rico tobacco free, thus adding to the growing supply of these States, will unquestionably have more or less effect upon prices of the home leaf. What is the duty of the representatives of these home growers? To vote for a measure that tends to lessen the profits of their labor? If representatives so vote, how will the voter whose interest is thus affected vote in the next election?

The sugar trust and the tobacco trust are not opposed to the admission of raw sugar or leaf tobacco free. To admit the raw articles free, and maintain a tariff on refined sugars or manufactured tobaccos is what they prefer and really want, but to maintain the tariff where they want it they are willing to unite with home growers in maintaining a tariff on raw products. To maintain the tariff on the raw products and admit the refined or manufactured goods free in order to "strike the trusts" would be to lessen or destroy the ability of these large purchasers to buy or pay prices for the home raised products, and thus injure the grower after all.

It can thus be seen that this question of tariff is a very complex one, more complex as applied in this than any other country on earth because of the greater variety of conditions and products here.

The correct Democratic theory is a "tariff for revenue only" so adjusted that every branch of industry will receive the incidental protection that secures to our labor just advantages over the cheaper labor of other countries at the same time equalizing the benefits between labor, manufacturer and consumer.

As the Hon. Henry P. Cheatham has felt constrained to resign the office of Recorder of the District of Columbia, a position which seems to have been sequestrated for the benefit of the colored race, we hope Senator Pritchard will succeed in landing as the successor Hon. John C. Dancy, now the collector of the port of Wilmington. The collector is a man of intelligence and character, as creditable a representative of his race as Booker Washington, and an orator of much distinction. We believe our discriminating friend, the Wilmington Messenger, said that the speech of the collector at the McKinley memorial services in that city was the most eloquent delivered.

For several reasons we wish Senator Pritchard success in his efforts in this case.

By every reason of right, justice and public utility, the measure introduced in Congress by Hon. John H. Small, looking to the proper improvement of the inland waterway from Norfolk through the sounds to Beaufort Inlet in this State ought to pass. The measure provides for a uniform depth of sixteen feet, which would ad-

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mit of war or commercial craft of gold tonnage, would be indispensable for our domestic commerce in time of war, and of the greatest benefit in time of peace as well by avoiding the dangers of Hatters.

This improvement has been urged upon Congress at every session we think since the war between the States, and has been the subject of numerous reports, all favorable. It is an improvement that the government should long since have made because of its importance and value, and further delay now, with millions of dollars of surplus in the treasury, will amount to criminal folly. We hope that the able gentleman who now so well and faithfully represents the Sound District will add the success of this present movement to his already well-crowded chaplet.

The Philippine Commission—the governors-general of the islands with power to establish civil governments throughout those possessions—is composed of four Republican statesmen and one Southern Democratic statesman. In providing for the exercise of the suffrage by the inhabitants—we use the word inhabitants rather than citizens—this august commission has prescribed certain qualifications for each elector, which must be possessed before the privilege or right to vote may be exercised. The suffrage is limited "to those who can read and write English or Spanish, or who own property of the value of \$250, pay an annual tax of \$15, or have been municipal officers. Thus far only 49,523 electors have qualified under these provisions out of a population of 2,695,801."

Comment on this is unnecessary. We simply wish to invite the prayerful consideration of Mr. Crumpacker to this "outrage" upon the "rights" of his fellow countrymen, perpetrated in cold blood by a commission four-fifths of which are of his own household of faith.

The Charlotte Observer thinks that Senators Pritchard and Simmons should resign from the chairmanship of the Executive Committee of his respective party.

We believe Senator Gorman has served and Senator Jones is now serving as chairman of the National Committee of the Democracy, and Senator Hanna is serving as the chairman of the Republican party.

We really fail to see any impropriety in such service being rendered by a member of the Senate, any more than by a member of the House or the occupant of any other office. Members of Congress constitute a Congressional Campaign Committee at each election. There may be personal reasons why gentlemen who fill high places should not wish to serve in the capacity, but we can see no objection otherwise.

The late Charles Kingly is quoted as having written:

"What we wish to do for our fellow-creatures we must do first for ourselves. We can give nothing save what God has already given us. We must become good before we can make them good, and wise before we can make them wise."

We do wonder if the above was included in the creed given the Philippine Commission for its guidance in establishing good government in the islands. Or did the Republican majority ever read this before voting for the tariff bill which dislocates the connection of the islanders with their "Mother Country"? Or when thus voting to tax those islanders did said majority recall the occurrence in Wilmington and Boston Bay something over an hundred years ago which led up to the full and complete independence of this people? In full, are we as good and wise as we ought to be in our treatment of these people? If not, what will the harvest be?

Hurrah for Teddy!

His message yesterday giving emphatic approval to the Appalachian Park measure which will be found in The Post of this morning will be read by our Western North Carolina friends with special pleasure. After reading his earnest plea in his regular message in favor of forest preservation the message yesterday was what might have been expected. This specific endorsement by the President will no doubt settle the question of the early passage of the bill to protect, maintain and promote the magnificent forests of the mountain region extending from West Virginia to Alabama. And the protection comes none too soon. The President renders an incalculable service by thus urging the purpose of the measure now pending in Congress.

The pictures of Hon. Henry C. Payne, the new Postmaster General and western political manager, represent him as a mild-mannered man who can beat even old General Alger in scuttling the use of an adversary in a national convention when it comes to the last chance at the Southern delegations.

An exchange notes the enormous shipments of Christmas presents now being made by people of this country to friends abroad, but insignificant return cargoes of like character from abroad.

This at least shows a very healthy condition of affairs in this country, by which those here are enabled to indulge in such expressions of remembrance.

Senator Jones of Arkansas, recently re-elected to the chairmanship of the Democratic caucus of the Senate, meets the rumor that there was or is opposi-

tion to his continuing in that position in the usual Southern manner of dealing with canards, with few but very expressive words.

PROGRESS OF LABOR ARBITRATION

(New York Evening Post.)

A very important step toward the settlement of labor troubles in this country was taken last evening in the appointment of a permanent committee to consider methods of treating such difficulties as they may arise in the future. This was the result of a meeting of the National Civic Federation, which has been in session in this city during the present week and has been attended by the leading representatives of organized labor and by a number of the largest employers of labor in the country, and whose proceedings have been reported from day to day in the press. The motion for a standing committee was made by Mr. Sargent, the chief of the Locomotive Firemen, and was supported by Mr. Gompers, Mr. Mitchell, and other well known leaders of workingmen's organizations, as well as by Senator Hanna, Mr. Scwab, and other employers. The standing committee consists of an equal number from either side and a chosen number of citizens, who are neither employers nor employed, but whose reputation guarantees their impartiality, as well as their mental equipment and fitness for this kind of service.

Holding, as we do, that this is the right road towards industrial peace, we do not expect that all labor difficulties will be put to rest, or that strikes will soon disappear from the land. In the nature of things, differences between employers and employes must arise. The progress of industry causes inequalities. The distribution of the joint product of labor and capital which is fair and satisfactory to both sides today becomes unfair after a time. Prices change. The wages of any given period may bring to the wage-earner less of consumable goods after a while. The earnings of the employer may increase so that he ought to pay more. They may decline to a point where he must pay less, or stop altogether. Wages and profits are in a state of flux and reflux. Not only are they changing relatively to each other all the time, but some trades actually go out of existence. Canal-boating, for example, once the principal mode of transportation in the country, has disappeared from some of the States entirely, and in others lingers only in a comatose condition. The whaling industry, which once employed large fleets, is now barely alive. Already we are wondering whether the manufacture of submarine cables and overhead telegraph wires may not be superseded by a system of wireless electric communication.

Nature does not allow industry to stagnate. The relations of labor and capital have always been in a state of unrest, and always will be. The conflict between them will always continue, and, paradoxical as it may seem, ought to continue. Capital will grasp all that it can get, and labor must fight for its rights, or lapse into servitude. This is the testimony of the ages. The true interest of the human race lies in the equalization of opportunities and rewards, and to this end all public effort should be directed.

That the movement inaugurated yesterday is in the right direction may be inferred from the fact that it looks to the instruction and guidance of public opinion quite as much as to the settlement of disputes between employers and employed. If the gentlemen named as the standing committee accept the task assigned to them, they will assume a great responsibility, but the fruits of their labor will be of corresponding value to the country. It can hardly happen that a committee so constituted should fail in any given case to satisfy public opinion that its decision is the best and most equitable one possible under the circumstances. It is true that the decisions so rendered will not be binding in law. This is not a plan for compulsory arbitration. It is a voluntary, an advisory tribunal, but its judgments, if accepted by public opinion as impartial, and as based upon intelligent investigation, will be just as valid as those of a court of law, and as easily executed.

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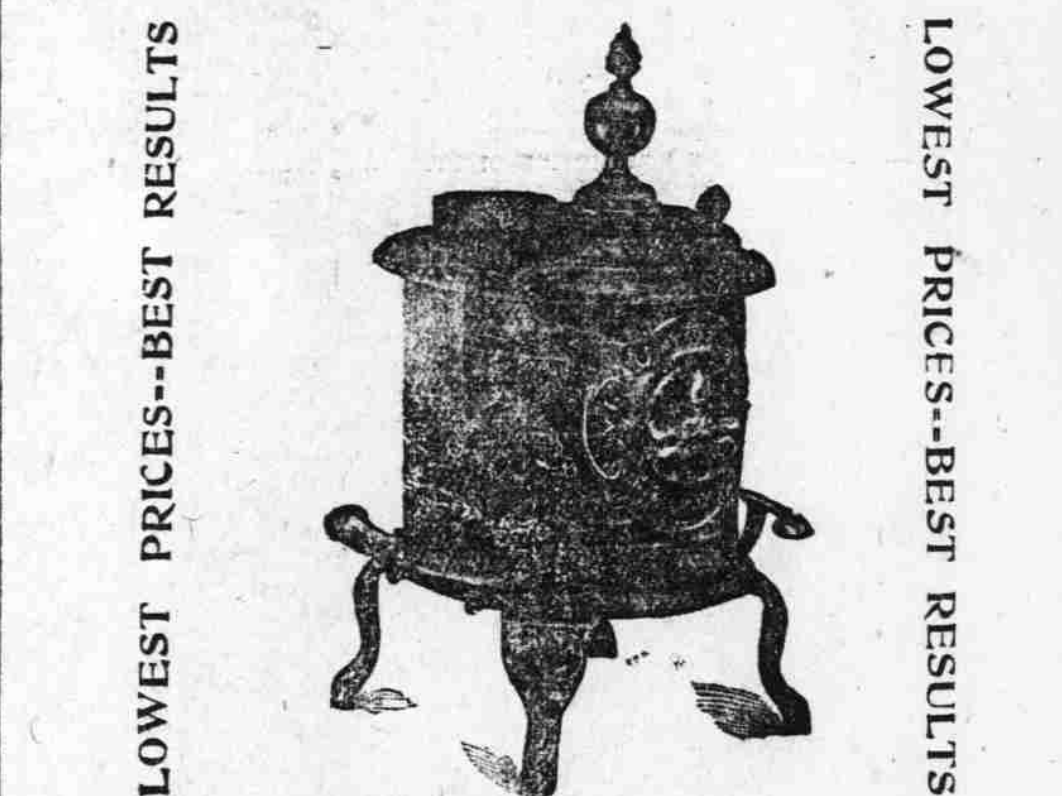
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- JAPANESE STANDS, - - - - - 75 to 5.00
- TABLES, - - - - - 75 to 15.00
- ROCKERS, - - - - - 1.25 to 20.00
- LEATHER AND VELVET COUCHES, 12.50 to 40.00

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