New Berne Weekly Journal.

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STATE OF TRADE.

Steady Improvement Noted in All Lines.

Rise in Sugar and Coffee Expected. Demand for Woolen Goods. Prospects for Higher Prices for Corn. Bullish Indications.

BOSTON, MASS., March 12, 1897.

The outlook in general business continues to show a slow but steady improvement. Every week the number of mills and factories in operation grows larger.

IN RETAIL BUSINESS.

Storekeepers who can take advantage of cut prices on sugar and coffee just now may do so with profit, as a rise in prices is likely to come later in the month. Some time in the latter part of April or May, however, sugar prices are likely to break very serious, judging from certain developments which are not yet to be made public.

Prints of all kinds are cheap, just now and are likely to be so for part of the month anyway. The rush for woolen and worsted goods of all kinds continues under the assurance that prices will advance decided in a few months.

There is an advance of $1.00 a case on kip and split leather boots. Shoe prices are also showing a tendency to advance and will be much higher in a few weeks.

All wool cheviots seem to be the favorite suiting, judging from the rush of orders. The mills are already refusing orders that they would have been glad to get a month ago. Those who sell ginghams find that the high grade goods sell much better then the low grades.

TO FARMERS.

To read any talk an advance in the price of corn may seem astounding; and yet we are inclined to think that the day when corn was "King" are not yet over.

A committee headed by Senator Platt of Connecticut has been investigating the proposition to allow manufacturers to use American-made alcohol without the internal revenue tax of about 250 per cent, which is now paid. A provision to that effect may go into the next tariff bill. If it does and becomes a law, from 40,000,000, to 60,300,000, bushels of corn a year will go into alcohol to be used in manufactures, patent medicines, varnishes, drugs, hats, &c. The entire exports of corn last year were about 100,000,000 bushels. The new feature of the Dingley tariff bill will make a market for perhaps half as much more corn and this surely means higher prices for corn if the law is enacted.

The removal of the tax will not apply to American-made alcohol used in any way but manufacture; alcohol in intoxicants will probably be taxed heavier than it was in the McKinley law. Imported alcohol of any kind will be subject to a very high duty, as before. This seems to promise more real benefit to every farmer than to any other single provision of the Dingley bill.

Of course if corn prices go up after the passage of the bill, pork prices are likely to advance. In the event of the enactment of the recommendation of Senator Platt, the prospects of corn will be better than they have been for years. We hear from a member of the Ways and Means committee that the committee is closely divided but will probably vote for the proposition by a small majority.

The market for hay promises to be little better this month. As we predicted, prices on hides are stronger. Eggs and butter are about the same, but prices are likely to be a little better on cheese, until the output of the factories meets the present demand. Pork prices were strong, last week, as predicted. It is a good time to buy agricultural machinery of any kind. Prices will advance before the spring is over. Some cotton brokers are talking of higher prices in the near future; but we see nothing to justify the talk until the mills are using much more cotton than they are now.

The good business in woolen goods has started the mills to buying in more wool again. Our prediction of still higher prices holds good. Stories are afloat about a "corner in wool," but there is no such corner as yet.

IN OTHER BUSINESS.

Those holders of Southern lumber who hold on to their stock on our advice can already congratulate themselves on the improved tone in the market. Scrap iron should show better prices soon.

The big strike of the granite cutters in the East should help the granite business in the West.

IN SECURITIES.

The week has been dominated not alone by the influences of the inauguration of a new President and the inception of a radical change in the policy that is to govern seventy millions of people for the next four years, but also by the disturbances in European politics that make an international war imminent.

The first was a factor that strengthened still further the underlying condition which make for higher prices and in course of the stock market reflected the fact that the event was largely discounted. The second influence is depressing in its nature at the first, as it means that Europe will unload such American securities as she holds upon this market, but later on a war will be vastly beneficial to our trade as we shall furnish as a powerful stimulus in reviving dropping industries.

A European war means that we shall be called upon to export immense supplies of all kinds, raw materials and manufactured articles, and the stock market must necessarily feel the benefit of this tremendous outside activity. All first-class railroad stocks are looked upon as purchases and the so-called "Vanderbilts" are in special favor since the success of the scheme for refunding certain maturing bond issues of the Lake Shore road.

We can safely advise our readers who

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desire to invest surplus funds in a way to obtain quick and sure returns, to buy Omaha, Burlington, St. Paul, and the gilt edge stocks such as New York Central and Lake Shore while they should avoid getting on the long side of the industrials, especially Sugar and may make money by selling Louisville & Nashville short.

Telegraphic Items.

Commissioner Eva Booth, of the Salvation Army, who has been seriously ill in Toronto, Ont., is pronounced to be out of danger.

At a fire in the Chicago House, Buffalo, Teddy O'Donnell and William Gardhan, boarders, were suffocated in their beds. Other inmates had narrow escapes.

The keel has been laid at the Union Works, San Francisco, for the battleship Wisconsin, the contract for which was let by the government six months ago.

The japanning department of the tannery of Concern of Blanchard Brothers & Lane, of Newark, N. J., was burned and one employe and four firemen were injured.

The Hoop Iron Association has been dissolved. This was caused by the withdrawal of two leading firms to continue organization, and it expired by limitation. The market is now an open one.

The large store of the Phillipsburg Fire Brick Company and three dwellings adjoining at Phillipsburg, Pa., were destroyed by fire. The fire originated in the store. The loss will reach $17,000.

The Jenny Electric Motor Works, at Indianapolis, Ind., was entirely destroyed by fire. The loss is $80,000 to $85,000 and includes building, machinery, and patterns. The total insurance amounts to about $35,000.

Allen A. Alford, son of Gen. Alford, of Texas, has been sentenced to two years in San Quentin. Young Alford got in jail in having placed to his credit in the First National Bank of Los Angeles, Cal., a forged draft for $1,000.

Three members of the government commission to inspect steel plants around have been slightly injured in an explosion at the Carbon Steel company's works, at Pittsburg. One of the party struck a match in a cold furnace, and an explosion of gas followed. The three men were burned about the face, but not seriously.

Cost of War in Cuba.

HAVANA via KEY WEST—Captain-General Weyler has forwarded to Spain for approval by the Spanish Cortes the public budget bill, amounting to $35,000,000, in addition to an appropriation bill reaching the high water mark of $93,000,000. The latter bill, it is said, will be carried through to meet the extraordinary expenses of the war and navy department incurred on account of the Cuban insurrection. The income revenue for the new fiscal year beginning in July will hardly reach $14,000,000, which amount will shrink considerably should the proposed treaty with the United States be carried out. Therefore, there will be an enormous deficit, reaching probably $100,000,000, to meet which the Madrid cortes must decree new taxes in Spain and vote for another public loan to meet the interest on the same. The figures in the budget show that the real estate tax in Cuba are to be increased 10 per cent. There will also be a special tax placed on manufacturing, notwithstanding opposition of the planters to whom special taxes will be renewed.

Time for the Fight.

CARSON CITY, NEV.—Tom Stuart says he will endeavor to start the Corbett Fitzsimmons fight as near 11 o'clock in the morning as possible, and the men have been ordered to be in their dressing rooms by 10.

Stuart will have the Hawkins-Flaherty contest and the one between Smith and Greenhalgh the same day.

He says that if the sun is not favorable for the taking of pictures, the Smith-Greenhalgh will be put on and he will wait while made in the way until the sunlight is favorable. If conditions to suit the kinetographe exist at the end of the first fight, then the big one will be called, if all probability, though the sun may be given a second chance by putting in Flaherty and Hawkins before Fitzsimmons and Corbett have been called into the arena. No matter what the conditions may be at the termination of the Flaherty-Hawkins fight, the event of the day will be called and the photographers will take chances. If the great fight should be first, the other two will follow in succession.

Earthquake Shocks in Mexico.

MONTEREY, MEXICO.—The mountain districts of the States of Michoacan and Colima have experienced severe earthquake shocks during the three days and there is much alarm among the inhabitants.

The Colima volcano is becoming active again and dense clouds of smoke are pouring from its crater. If the threatened eruption takes place it will result in great damage to property in the adjacent valleys.

THE STATE CAPITAL.

State Legislature of 1897 Cost $72,000. Same as 1895.

Skinner Put in Republican List. Strained Relations Between Russell and Pritchard. Lively Contests for Offices.

JOURNAL BUREAU, RALEIGH, N. C., March 13, '97.

The cost of the State legislature will very closely approximate that of the legislature of 1895—$72,000. It serves would be without pay.

The Republicans have blacklisted Representative Harry Skinner and now put him down as a Republican.

There is some comment on Gov. Russell's delay in giving out the names of the extra State Directors of the North Carolina Railroad. It is said at the executive department that the lists will be printed and given out at once. The Railroad directors have been notified of their removal.

The strained relations between Gov. Russell and Senator Pritchard become more pronounced day by day.

On account of the Republicans now occupying Democratic offices, which are in a minority, there will be a lively contest in progress for State, U. S. and postmaster ships of the eastern and Western districts, as well as for the assistant attorneyships. The hand of Governor Russell is said to be felt in this matter too.

Graduate will arrive here next week to go into headstones for the graves of the North Carolina soldiers buried at Winchester, Va.

Secretary of State, Cyrus Thompson received a letter today addressed Dr. Cyrus B. Watson, Secretary of State, instead of addressed Hon. John C. Newman, Secretary of State of N. C.

The steam fitters are now at work in the Agricultural Department building which is to have an indirect heating system.

Dr. Monroe, who is selected by Gov. Russell to be head of the Western hospital for the insane, at Morganton, is said to be a Democrat.

The legislature fixed the license tax on fire and life insurance companies at $200 and on life companies at $250. The tax on all gross premiums is 2 per cent.

The cost to the State of the election contests in the legislature was $1,591.

Gov. Russell is manifesting much interest in having North Carolina make a highly creditable display at the Tennessee Centennial Exposition, opening in April.

Mr. Monroe of Davidson College will be appointed as the one to succeed Dr. Murphy as superintendent of the Morganton Insane Asylum, declines the appointment. It seems strange that one Democrat should be removed to be succeeded by another, for Dr. Monroe is a Democrat.

The majority populists are now looking to fuse with the democrats, but the vacant the name of "democrats" dropped. They declare there will be wonderful political changes within the next two years.

Congress Convenes.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—When Senator Hill the galleries were filled to overflowing. Sixty-eight Senators were present. W. A. Harris (Populist) was sworn in as the successor of Mr. Peffer, of Kansas.

The credentials of Henry W. Corbett appointed by the Governor of Oregon to succeed Mitchell, were presented by Mr. Pride.

On motion of Senator Gray, they were referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

The opening of the Fifty-fifth Congress a extraordinary session was witnessed by an immense crowd of spectators.

Of the 357 men who constitute the membership of the House, 122 have never before served in that capacity while sixteen more have served in former Congresses, making, altogether, 138 new members and 219 who served in last Congress. There are 206 Republicans 127 Democrats, and 20 fusion silverites and Populists.

The election of Speaker was proceeded with, the result being: Reed, 130 votes; Bailey, 114 votes; Bell, 21 votes, and Newlands of Nevada, 1. The announcement of the result was applauded on the floor and in the galleries.

Mr. Reed was conducted to the chair and addressed the House.

He was then sworn in and the oath administered to members four of whose certificates had not arrived, being sworn in by unanimous consent.

The rules of Fifty-fourth Congress were adopted until otherwise ordered.

Germany and Austria Out.

LONDON.—A dispatch from Berlin says that the governments of Germany and Austria have declined to take part in the mixed occupation of Crete by the powers.

Russia was the power which requested the mixed occupation referred to. Her proposal was that each of the Powers send 2,000 soldiers to Crete to restore order and compel the Greek troops to evacuate the island.

A dispatch from Vienna says that the other Powers made a proposal to France and Italy for a mixed occupation of Crete each Power contributing an equal number of men sufficient to bring the total army of occupation up to 25,000 men, but that the proposal was rejected by these governments on the ground of the expense involved. Germany and Austria, the despatch says, will take a merely nominal part in the occupation of the island.

THE STATE CAPITAL.

Saloons Must Close at 11 p. m. X Ray Machine for Trinity College. Talk of Fusion.

JOURNAL BUREAU, RALEIGH, N. C., March 15, '97.

An ordinance requiring all saloons to be closed by 11 o'clock every night except Saturday when they can be kept open until 12 has been passed and today notice was served to that effect on all saloons. Some have been running an all night house.

The aldermen have ordered a city election to be held May 3rd. For many years we have had democratic government here. With our present board of progressive aldermen Raleigh has gone forward and many improvements started, opened or are now realized.

The street car company says electric cars will be running by May 1st.

Mr. B. W. Duke, of Durham, has shipped to Trinity College from New York, one of the best X ray machines of the fleet.

The legislature cost the State about $72,000. This is about the cost of the legislature two years ago.

Quite a party of Raleigh people went up to spend Sunday at Southern Pines. Fishing is a feature of the Saturday travel out summer.

SAM SLOCUM'S LETTER.

How Minnesota Looks to a New Bernian in Winter.

ST. PAUL, MINN., March 2, 1897.

Editor Journal:

The inhabitants here fell into a state of the installation of a new president given to prophesying in politics. Perhaps your reliable and veracious Washington correspondent, who has been so substantially at the front, will enjoy a cooling breeze from the North. Certainly we are having a peculiar winter experience up here in the Antipodes, which is altogether a novelty to one who seldom winters north of Mason and Dixon's line. It has been cold here, very cold, but still not severe. Frost does not pinch here as it does in New Berne. Why a temperature of minus 20 degrees as we have had it today, March 2, with the thermometer marking 19 degrees, or thirteen below freezing, I find my light spring overcoat, made by Chadwick, quite too warm for comfort, but my toes and finger tips are aching and I have to rub my ears a times to keep them from freezing. The sun comes out with solar power at noonday. On the side of the street where his concentrated rays strike, there are puddles of water and the wooden sleeps are steaming. The old house dog sits there dozing and thinks it is summer, and wonders why the flies don't be there. On the other side it is freezing stiff, the snow creaks and the nubbins of ice trip the unwary feet. Why actually, the other day, a man who was sawing wood in a sunny corner in his shirt sleeves, froze the tips of his ears which were in the shade of his cap.

One regular phenomenon of the entire past month has been a light snowfall every morning, with blue sky after 10 o'clock. A wave of humidity and moderate warmth seems to blanket the earth like a morning fog in August, lasting only a few hours, and then with a falling temperature incrusts the landscape with frost. The first opening dawn revealed that an emotional artist would term it "a symphony in gray," to wit, a dull leaden sky with a dead metal tint, and everything else within sight as pallid and ghostlike as a church yard full of gravestones. As the day advances and the light increases, the Eastern sky becomes successively dove-colored, lavendar and opaline, unfolding more and more with each transition the beauty of the landscape, till finally the glaring rays of the rising sun light up the whole resplendent panorama with a glitter and glory to dazzling to behold, except with protected eyes.

In this supreme moment the sky becomes intensely blue, and every pendent frost work on trees and shrubbery and on telegraph wires is sharply cut against the background in tracery of lace, white vines and trellises, and along with crystal drapery. Pendrils of weeping birch and willow depend like spray of fountains stilled in mid air. The wire meshes in closing the lawn tennis courts vie in filmy texture with valenciennes lace. The massed lines of telegraph wires stand out in space overhead like parallel threads in a weavers loom here, there, and everywhere the sunlight touches up the foliage and salient points with prismatic hues which flash like gems; and later on as the solar heat increases, the frostwork on the tree expands, until the branches resemble blossoming pears and plums in springtime, and all the while the air is so still and calm, and the sun so bright, and the sky so clear, that one does not realize the great degree of frost which often splits the clapboards off the houses with a noise like pistol shots, or rends the ice on the ponds with the rattle and roar of artillery. But he notices when his ears and fingers begin to tingle, and his toes to ache and perchance consulting the mercurial tube finds the temperature down below zero.

These frost phenomena, though beautiful are harmless and not like those of lower latitudes which lurk in the flakes which they bespangle. There is nothing more exquisite in nature's realm.

With the whole country buried in snow and still with ice English sparrows are even now nesting. They commence carrying straws on St. Valentine's Day, February 14, and will be ready for housekeeping as soon as the weather warms up a little. A large percentage of the local colony have wintered here and kept themselves alive in zero weather by hugging the lee side of chimney stacks. They are a sturdy lot, but their room is better than their company.

SAM SLOCUM.

WASHINGTON NEWS.

Fifty Fifth Congress Convenes At Noon.

Bulletin on Applicants for Office. Policy Toward Cuba. Dingley Tariff Bill. Interesting Speech in Senate.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 15, 1897.

The Fifty-fifth Congress convened at noon today. The Senate was called to order by Vice President Hobart, who announced the death of Senator Palmer, of Illinois, and Senator Gear, of Iowa, and laid before the Senate the credentials of Senator-elect Corbett, of Oregon, for the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Cornelius, of Oregon, and the latter's successor, Senator-elect Pritchard, was sworn in and took his seat. Senator Pritchard is a Republican.

Senator Mitchell, of Oregon, who is now serving his second term, was also sworn in and took his seat. Senator Mitchell's seat was contested on the ground that his election was secured by the use of money, but the contest was dismissed by the Senate committee on privileges and elections, and he was sworn in today.

Senator Pettigrew, of South Dakota, presented the credentials of Senator-elect Kyle, Populist, who succeeds Senator Pettigrew, and Senator Kyle was also sworn in and took his seat.

Senator Morgan, of Alabama, presented a resolution for the recognition of the Cuban insurgents as belligerents, which was referred to the committee on foreign relations.

Senator Morgan also presented a resolution for the recognition of Cuban independence, which was referred to the committee on foreign relations.

Senator Morgan also