

THE REVIEW.

—BY—
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The opinion of the press at large seems to be unanimous that there is nothing wrong about Labor Commissioner Wright. He is all (w)right except when he is Labor Commissioner, and he is all right when he is Labor Commissioner. The prompt confirmation of Mr. Wright's recent re-appointment by the Senate was quite flattering to that official.

An exchange says that a man who can fall down on a banana peel and not swear is almost an angel. It might be said with equal propriety that a man who willfully throws a banana peel where pedestrians are liable to slip on it is almost a fiend. Hundreds of people are seriously and many fatally injured in this way every year in our cities.

There is a revolt in many sections against the further use of spring scales. A bill has been introduced in the New York Legislature to compel oil dealers to use dead-weight scales. It is a well-known fact that many city butchers would be compelled to go out of business if such a law became general. Large profits can be made by a proper manipulation of the "spring balance" no matter how accurate the instrument may actually be.

One hundred and twenty-five millions of dollars will be expended in the construction of new buildings in New York City during the present year. Never before in the history of the city has there been such activity among architects and builders as at present, and in no previous year has the proposed expenditure of money for new edifices and alterations to old ones aggregated so much. Consequently the prospects for laborers and skilled workmen in the metropolis were never brighter.

The common barn-yard hen has in some way "got into politics" out in Kansas and statutes are being made and provided to regulate her movements. We note also that a "tonic for broken down hens" is being advertised. A western genius a short time ago invented a contrivance to keep hens from scratching. Any perverse dorminicker that insisted on grubbing for worms with these spikes on promptly kicked herself out of the garden. The hen appears to be a very important item in our domestic economy. Long may she cackle.

Chicago people are in almost an open state of revolt against the railroad corporations because of the numerous accidents at grade crossings. Public sentiment is at length aroused at this long-standing evil and a system of track elevation may result that will at least redeem the central part of the city. As usual, the corporations are standing in the way and propose to stave off their evil day as long as possible. So persistent are they in this that Chicago papers assert that the tracks may be "elevated" by the very direct and simple method of using picks and spades.

Medical students in the future are likely to need a superior brand of nerve food while they are experimenting on cadavers. A course in gunshot wounds will be added to the dissecting rooms, and students will be permitted and expected to use the shooting gallery when the class in pyrotechnics is called. Various alleged scientific points are said to be more readily understood after a course of revolver and rifle practice. As a nerve-test the new experiment promises to be success. To a mat at all sensitive the idea of shooting a dead man full of holes along about midnight is about as gruesome a thing as can be imagined.

The French chamber of Deputies was recently the scene of a remarkable performance on the part of a new member, Dr. Grenier, who styles himself the "Prophet of God." Dr. Grenier is a Mohammedian, and was recently elected as a "radical" from the Department Pontarlier. On his arrival at the chamber, attired in full Arab costume, he knelt in every room which he was permitted to enter and kissed the floor and prayed, to the great amusement of the spectators. Dr. Grenier is highly educated, a skillful debater and a doctor of medicine. He never refused a consultation, never accepts a fee and gives largely to charity. He advocates free marriage and polygamy, and practices all the Mussulman rites, including bathing naked in the river. His election is said to be due to the bad management of the moderate Republican committee.

Justice, it appears, has actually at last hanged an insane man. Dr. Arthur Duestrow, the St. Louis millionaire, who killed his wife and child in a fit of drunken rage and fought desperately through the courts for his life, will live in history as the victim of judicial harshness because of the result of a post mortem examination soon after he had exonerated his crimes on the scaffold. Duestrow played the insane dodge from the time he was arrested until the black

cap was adjusted, claiming to be Gen. Brandenburg, but all who knew him, and all who knew his past life, were fully convinced that he was only "shaming." That he got his just deserts no one denies, but there are many people who will now feel that the law for once has made a mistake on the wrong side. Modern humane ideas forbid the execution of madmen, however great their crimes, and yet a few "mistakes" of this character would undoubtedly lessen the number of lynchings and have a salutary and restraining influence on people who feel that they are just about insane enough to safely wreak their vengeance on their enemies and all persons who appear to be obstacles to their happiness.

Antent the inauguration of President McKinley, it is said that the people of Canton view with alarm the present condition of their town. For more than a year there has been a "boom" in the hotel business in that place because of Mr. McKinley's campaign and election. Visitors in great numbers have thronged the streets of the little city and everybody enjoyed the life and activity thus infused. Now all this is changed. With the departure of Mr. McKinley for Washington foreign interest in the Ohio town ceases, and all things have dropped back into the old humdrum existence. Canton became a Mecca for party workers and Republican statesmen of every degree.

Sneak thieves are making Chicago grain gamblers green with envy by their persistency and enterprise. Door-mats, hitching straps, lap robes, whips, potted plants, wash boilers and all sorts of miscellaneous portable property have for years disappeared as if by magic. Lately, however, these common-place articles appear to have become stale, flat and unprofitable and really up-to-date "sneaks" no longer waste time on such impediments, but carry off instead all the iron statuary from the lawns of the wealthy and all other accessible works of art. Lions, deers, gods and goddesses—many of the figures weighing from 200 to 500 pounds each, and bolted to stone blocks at that—have vanished in a night. How they were moved without a derrick is a mystery.

An astronomer with a great head for theories has recently observed symptoms which lead him to the conclusion that the earth was originally a ring of "stuff" shot off from the sun like smoke from a locomotive smoke-stack on a cold day and afterward solidified by the processes still at work on this unfortunate item of the universe. Lacking data as far back as that imaginary epoch we are compelled to let it go at that, but may be permitted to doubt the essential features of the astronomer's program. Such mysteries are rather beyond the range of human intelligence. Fortunately it is not necessary for us to know how the old thing got started. The main idea would seem to be to be able to hold on to the whirling mass as long as possible, get as many good things to eat as possible, gaze upon the glories of the landscape as often as we may and view the splendors of the setting sun in profound thankfulness that our "lines have been cast in pleasant places" while the teeming millions of the Orient are starving for lack of the commonest necessities and are dying by the tens of thousands from the ravages of a plague that has never yet secured a victim on American soil.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS.

Enterprising scientists may be said to be imbued with a spirit of "pernicious activity." At all events they can safely be called "offensive partisans" if their theories are not to our liking. The year 1897 promises to be unusually prolific in scientific surprises even if real achievements are not altogether up to the average. The month of January left us struggling with a variety of new ideas. Dr. Arthur MacDonald, of Washington, D. C., is engaged on an analysis of love and believes that he will shortly run down the microscope that causes people to profess undying attachment for each other. Professor R. A. Wilde, of England, rushes into print with the startling announcement that this terrestrial ball is but a hollow shell and that another globe floats in fiery vapor within our hollow earth. Prof. Wilde (and his name seems appropriate) asserts that the outer shell and inner sphere of the earth act as electric generators and he thus accounts for many hitherto inexplicable phenomena; especially the erratic movements of the compass needle. Dr. Nersin, of Paris, claims to know the bacilli by sight that are producing the bubonic plague in India and says he has the stuff that will "knock 'em out" at the first round. Astrologists are also busy predicting dire disasters during the year because of the conjunction of Saturn and Uranus. Ordinarily these planets meet but twice in a century. This year of grace will see them in this position three times: Jan. 6; June 1; Sept. 9. Following this Saturn has an appointment with Mars, Nov. 27. All of which is held to indicate great calamity for the human race.

A quart of oysters contains, on the average, about the same quantity of active nutritive substances as a quart of milk, or a pound of very lean beef, or a pound and a half of fresh codfish, or two-thirds of a pound of bread.

NEW TARIFF BILL.

ADDITIONAL REVENUE TO THE EXTENT OF \$75,000,000 EXPECTED.

Mr. Dingley Chairman of Ways and Means Committee Explains—How the Bill Affects Indiana Interests.

A Washington special says: The Dingley tariff bill was introduced in the House Monday afternoon. As it comes from the ways and means committee it will produce about a hundred million dollars additional revenue annually, although the authorized estimates put the figure much smaller, between \$70,000,000 and \$75,000,000 being the amounts usually mentioned. Wherever it is possible specific duties are substituted for ad valorem. The full ways and means committee will begin work on the bill at once, and it is expected that a vote will be reached in the House early in April. When it reaches the Senate the finance committee will take it up, and in all probability it will stay in that committee from six weeks to two months, which will bring it before the Senate about the 1st of June. How long it will be discussed in open Senate is a question, possibly not less than a month and more likely two months. There is small prospect of the passage of the bill before July 1, and more likely it will not become a law before the 1st or middle of August. Mr. Dingley made the following statement concerning the new bill:

"The bill has two purposes, namely, to raise additional revenue and to encourage the industries of the United States. On the basis of the importations for the last fiscal year the bill would increase the revenue about \$12,000,000, divided among the several schedules roughly, as follows:

A—Chemicals	\$ 3,500,000
B—Crockery and glassware	4,000,000
C—Metals	4,000,000
D—Wood	1,750,000
E—Sugar	21,750,000
F—Tobacco	7,000,000
G—Agricultural	6,300,000
H—Liquors	1,800,000
I—Cottons	1,700,000
J—Jute, linen and hemp	7,800,000
K—Wool	17,500,000
Manufactures of wool	27,000,000
L—Silks	1,500,000
M—Pulp and paper	58,000
N—Sundries	6,200,000

"This estimate is on the supposition that the imports of each class of goods would be the same the next fiscal year as in the fiscal year ended last June. But as the imports of wool were three times as great and those of woollen goods more than twice as great in pounds as in 1893, the committee assumes that the excessive importation would be largely reduced by the proposed bill, although the fact that our domestic production of wool has diminished eight million pounds since 1893 will necessitate the importation of much more wool now than in the latter year. Assuming that the importations of wool will fall off at least one-third from those of 1896 on account of antecedent imports to avoid duties, we place the increased revenue from this source at \$11,000,000. Anticipating also that the imports of woollens will fall off nearly 50 per cent. from the enormous imports of 1896, we estimate the increased revenue from this source under the proposed rates at about \$14,000,000. From sugar we estimate \$20,000,000 additional revenue. Anticipating a considerable falling off of imports of Havana tobacco, because of the revolution in Cuba, we reduce the estimates of additional revenue to be derived from the tobacco schedule to \$4,000,000. The remaining schedules would afford a revenue of about thirty-nine and a half millions on the basis of the imports of 1896, but as there would probably be diminished imports at some points, although the gradual restoration of business activity would offset this by increasing the consumption of imported luxuries, we reduce the estimates on these to \$31,000,000. These would aggregate an additional revenue of \$80,000,000, the first year. A further reduction of five or ten millions for contingencies would leave \$70,000,000 to \$75,000,000 as the probable increased revenue from this bill the first year, which would undoubtedly rise to \$100,000,000 the second year.

"These estimates are below rather than above the probable result, unless a considerable delay in the enactment of the bill should greatly enlarge the opportunity for imports of articles on which duties are to be raised—particularly wool and woollens—for speculative purposes. Undoubtedly any delay beyond the first of May in placing the bill on the statute book would result in a large loss of revenue. "This increase of revenue is secured by transferring wool, lumber, crude opium, argols, paintings and statuary, straw ornaments, straw matting, burlaps and various other articles from the free list of the present law to the dutiable list; by increasing the duty on woollens to compensate the manufacturer for the duty placed on wool; by raising the duty on sugar about three-fourths of a cent per pound in order to encourage the production of sugar in this country, which it is believed, can be done, and thus give our farmers a new crop which we now import mainly from abroad; by increasing the duty on agricultural products affected by Canadian competition and on fine cotton goods, some advanced manufactures of iron and steel, manufactures of jute, flax and hemp, in order to encourage these and other industries here, and especially by increasing duties on such luxuries as liquors, tobacco, silks and laces etc. As a rule, the rates of duties proposed are between the rates of the tariff of 1890 and the tariff of 1894, such reduction of rates from the former law, while continuing preservation of the protective principle, being made feasible by changed conditions.

"The iron and steel schedule is changed very little from that schedule in the tariff of 1894, the change being entirely in the more advanced articles. The same is true of the cotton schedule. In the agricultural, wool and glass and earthenware schedules alone are the duties of the act of 1890 fully restored, as a rule, and in a few cases increased. While the duty on clothing wool is larger in proportion to the foreign value than on manufactured articles, yet it is thought desirable for the public interest and for our agriculture that we should produce this prime necessity for ourselves. The duty on car-

pet wools, as well as on many other articles, is imposed mainly for revenue.

"The reciprocity provisions of the act of 1890 have not only been fully restored, but this policy has been extended by adding to sugar, tea, coffee and hides as articles on which to make reciprocal agreements, such articles as champagne, brandy, wines, artificial and natural mineral waters, chickie, argols and silk laces. In adding these articles the reciprocity provision is strengthened greatly by providing for a reduction of duties to countries giving us similar concessions."

INDIANA INTERESTS.

Representative Steele, the Indiana member of the ways and means committee, says that Indiana interests are very well taken care of in the new tariff bill. Agricultural products, minerals, coal, stone and all of the manufactures are protected, as well as those of any other section and wherever it was possible Mr. Steele procured for his home people a shade the advantage in a competitive sense. In the face of a strong demand from leading Eastern newspaper and publishing houses for free wool pulp, he induced the committee to make a reduction of 2½ cents, which brings the duty down to 12½ cents per hundred in the place of 15 cents, as at present. Wool pulp is an important Indiana interest. The glass manufacturers secure added protection on some of the large sizes of glass, and manufacturers of bottles (flint and green) have secured a new classification on sizes between pints and quarts. This is an official recognition of the legitimacy of "short quarts." The plate receives important recognition in the way of a repeal of the drawback clause and an increase in duty from 1½ to 1½. The manufacturers of rattan chairs, a large industry in eastern Indiana, will in the future have free rattan. The protection accorded all the productions of the farm is fully equal in the Dingley bill to that granted under the McKinley. The stock interest in particular receives all the protection it demanded against the importation of cattle from Canada and Mexico. Under the existing law importers of Mexican cattle paid about \$2 per head on all the cattle they brought across the border. The average valuation per head was under \$7. Stone and coal get valuable help. Barytes, a native constituent of paints, found in the northern part of Indiana, is protected by a duty on imports.

THE 55TH CONGRESS

(Special Session.)

The Fifty-fifth Congress convened in special session Mar. 15, pursuant to a proclamation by President McKinley.

The organization of the House was accomplished by the election of the Republican caucus nominees. The vote on speaker resulted: Reed, Republican, 199; Bailey, Democrat, 114; Bell, Populist, 21, and Newlands, silverite, 1. aligned several heretofore unclassified members. All the Populists voted for Bell. Of the fusionists, three—Baker and Jett, of Illinois, and Marshall, of Ohio—voted for Bailey; one—Maxwell, of Nebraska—voted for Bell, and three—Jones and Lewis, of Washington, and Todd, of Michigan—did not vote. Two of the silverites—Newlands of Nevada and Shafton of Colorado—did not vote, and Hartman of Montana voted for Newlands. Speaker Reed was enthusiastically received in the House after his election and made a graceful and dryly humorous speech in assuming the gavel.

Mr. Grosvenor then presented a resolution, which was adopted, for the election of the candidates for the other officers of the House selected by the Republican caucus, as follows: Clerk, Alexander McDowell, of Pennsylvania; sergeant-at-arms, Benjamin F. Russell, of Missouri; doorkeeper, William J. Glenn, of New York; postmaster, Joseph C. McElroy, of Ohio, and chaplain, Henry N. Condon.

The usual formal resolutions of notification of assembling were adopted. When Mr. Henderson offered the usual resolution for the adoption temporarily of the rules of the last House an ineffectual attempt was made, under the leadership of Mr. Hepburn, an Iowa Republican, to limit the operation of the rules of the last Congress, which were adopted temporarily, to thirty days. The Democrats, Populists and fourteen Republicans supported him, but they were defeated—133 to 152.

The President's message was applauded vigorously, as was Mr. Dingley when he introduced the new tariff bill.

The speaker announced the members of the committees on rules, ways and means as follows:

Rules—The speaker, Henderson of Iowa, Daizell of Pennsylvania, Republicans; Bailey of Texas and McMillin of Tennessee, Democrats.

Ways and Means—Dingley of Maine, Payne of New York, Daizell of Pennsylvania, Hopkins of Illinois, Grosvenor of Ohio, Russell of Connecticut, Dilliver of Iowa, Steele of Indiana, Johnson of North Dakota, Evans of Kentucky, Tawney of Minnesota, Republicans; Bailey of Texas, McMillin of Tennessee, Wheeler of Alabama, McLaurin of South Carolina, Robertson of Louisiana and Swanson of Virginia, Democrats.

The ways and means committee then secured leave to sit during the sessions of the House, after which, at 4 o'clock, the House, on Mr. Dingley's motion, adjourned until Thursday.

A Friend in Need is a Friend Indeed.

It is a cat and dog story, for the truth and accuracy of which the proud inhabitants of the Swiss village where it occurred quite recently are one and all ready to vouch. A troublesome cat in the village had been doomed to a watery death, relates an English journal, and the children of the owner had been told to take it in a sack to the River Aar and there to drown it. The house dog accompanied the party to the execution, which was carried out according to instructions.

But, much to the surprise of the inmates, a short time after, the cat and dog, both soaking wet, reappeared together at their owner's door. This is what had happened. The dog, on seeing that the sack containing the cat was thrown into the river, jumped after it, seized it with his teeth, dragged it to the bank, tore it with his teeth and restored his friend the cat to life and liberty. It goes without saying that the death warrant of the cat was destroyed after this marvelous escapade.—Chicago Record.

M'KINLEY'S MESSAGE.

A KEYNOTE FOR FUTURE TARIFF CAMPAIGNS.

Urge Immediate Legislation That Will Increase the Revenues—Bond Issues Condemed.

Washington special: The first day of the special session was a record breaker in the popular branch of Congress. A speaker and general officers elected; members sworn in; the old rules adopted after a fight; seats apportioned by lot among members; the President's message read; the tariff bill introduced; the ways and means committee appointed, and a basket of miscellaneous bills put into the hopper.

The above is a chronological enumeration of the important events in the House during its initial sitting of three hours and a half. The President's message is the keynote of the whole future tariff campaign. It sets forth precisely the amount necessary for a new law, presents the causes creating such necessity and names the remedy. The message follows:

M'KINLEY'S FIRST MESSAGE.

"To the Congress of the United States:

"Regarding the necessity which has required me to call to you all I find that your assembling in extraordinary session in which we find the revenues of the government. It is conceded that its current expenditures are greater than its receipts and that such a condition has existed for more than three years. With unlimited means at our command we are presenting the remarkable spectacle of increasing our public debt by borrowing money to meet the ordinary outlays incident on even an economical and prudent administration of the government. An examination of the subject discloses this fact in every detail and leads inevitably to the conclusion that the condition of the revenue which allows it is unjustifiable and should be corrected.

"We find by the reports of the Secretary of the Treasury that revenues for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1892, from all sources, were \$42,568,260,22 and the expenditures for all purposes were \$41,953,506,56, leaving an excess of receipts over expenditures of \$9,514,553.66. During that fiscal year \$40,570,467.88 were paid on the public debt, which had been reduced since March 1, 1893, \$25,076,750 and the annual interest charge decreased \$11,684,576.60. The receipts of the government from all sources during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1893, amounted to \$461,716,561.94 and its expenditures to \$459,374,857.65, showing an excess of receipts over expenditures of \$2,341,674.20.

"Since that time the receipts of no fiscal year, and, with but few exceptions, of no month of any fiscal year, have exceeded the expenditures. The receipts of the government from all sources during the fiscal year ending