

The Democrat

DECATUR, IND.

H. BLACKBURN, PUBLISHER.

Is there were a "strike" at a clock factory now, one could see weighty reasons for it.

Full many a can of purest kerosene
Doth expedite the slowly kindling fire;
Full many a Bridget, Maggie, or Kathleen
Doth by its aid join the celestial choir.

A FEW theatrical men are talking of abolishing bill boards. If they could do away with board bills it would be more to the purpose.

BERNHARDT, Langtry, Patti, and Mary Anderson are writing books. They will be offered to the soap trade at a liberal discount for use as premiums.

The man who has the courage to fail in trying to do right, rather than succeed in wrong, is the real hero, no matter whether he wears a paper cap or a crown on his head.

That war cloud in Europe has become so dense and threatening that there is no telling what might happen if an American rainmaker with a few bombs should go over there and begin experimenting.

Puck has been cut off the list of papers in the reading-rooms of the Boston Public Library, because it is not considered healthy reading for the young. Boston takes life too seriously to laugh at jokes.

AFTER a five-years' term in the penitentiary, Mr. J. Finley Hoke, the thrifty bank cashier who robbed a Peoria bank of \$200,000 and fled to Canada, is now free and can go where he pleases with his money. Forty thousand dollars a year is a good salary for a man to earn in prison.

When men, weary with the world's battle, return to the shelter of their own home, they need the kindness, the refinement, the high cultivation, the usefulness, the gentle piety which woman as she was meant to be knows how to afford him. The cultivation of a woman's mind cannot be a cultivation proper to her—to her constitution, her marked gifts, her work in the world.

The latest thing is a "repairing outfit" of shoemakers' tools that enables the thrifty father of a family to do his own shoe mending and dispense with the services of cobblers entirely. The worst thing about this invention is that it seems to be the work of some experienced shoemaker who wants to get rich at the expense of his brethren.

The numerous accidents which befall people who confide in the happy-go-lucky ministrations of boy drug clerks ought to serve as warnings, but they do not. Some additional legislation seems needed before the public can feel certain that no ignorant or person of immature judgment will be found in the position of a dispensing clerk. Children cannot be allowed to clerk.

The conduct of that spirited girl in a town close to New York City, who publicly horsewhipped a man because he had followed and accosted her on the streets on every possible occasion for three years, will meet with general approval. But it is too much to hope that it will serve as a salutary lesson to the race of "mashers." Those unworthy persons are possessed of such overweening conceit that each thinks such a mishap could never occur to him. Yet horsewhips are cheap and American girls are plucky.

WHAT will Stanley Africanus say to the news that Emin Pasha claims to have discovered the real and only Simon-pure source of the Nile? There is a touch of bitterness in Emin's triumphant announcement, as much as to imply, "Oh, yes; you thought a bug-hunter couldn't find sources! But here they are, and all the others are spurious." Having thus set his trademark at the springs of ancient Nile, Emin is getting warlike, and talks of engaging the Mahdi of the moment in battle. But twice well to be prudent, for the Mahdi is a bad man with a bad eye, and he and his have already brought more than one white exploring expedition to grief.

THAT ancient suggestion that railway accidents be avoided by strapping a member of the board of directors to the engine might, not it appears, prove effective after all. The ex-president of the road and his wife were on the Monon train which met with a serious accident at Crawfordsville, Ind. In the reports of the disaster, which was a horrible one, the statement is made that "it was due to a loose rail, two section-hands being at work on it at the time." That the condition of the rail should have been known and still no effort made to warn an approaching passenger train is a startling evidence of the happy-go-lucky system which prevails on too many railroads.

STANLEY is lecturing in Australia, and tells an interviewer there that "Emin Pasha is an utterly indecisive man—a man with no mind of his own—a man just suited, for instance, for a lady's afternoon tea party." The fact that immediately after escaping from Stanley's janitories, Emin made his way back to the very spot in the depths of the African jungle whence he had been "rescued," while Stanley has ever since been dangling at the apron-strings of rich women on the

outlook for celebrities, or chasing the almighty dollar to its lair in the lecture bureau, suggests that the pseudo-American explorer is snapping and snarling at the heels of a great man.

NEW SOUTH WALES is fortunate in the possession of a jurist who for a clear insight into the principles of justice out-Daniels Daniel. The biographical encyclopedia dodge for making money out of the vanity of men is as popular in that antipodean region as it is here. Into the court of this worthy judge came the publisher of "Australian Men of Mark," suing a subscriber. The defendant pleaded that he had subscribed for the work on the representation that it would contain his biography, but found it did not and refused to accept it. The judge, however, took a comprehensive view of the case and ruled all contracts for the work void on the ground that its title "Men of Mark" was a humbug and a fraud, as the biographies were those of nonentities willing to pay the price. Carried to its logical conclusion that decision would make life miserable for the theatrical managers who advertise competent actors and clever comedies.

While the horrible and criminal railroad slaughters of late are receiving such universal condemnation, there is another matter directly connected with them that should be denounced, and for which prompt remedy should be provided. Immediately after the disastrous rear collision at Hastings, word that it had occurred flashed over the country, and thousands, whose relatives were imperiled in the accident, were eager to learn the fate of their loved one. Many of those who came out of the wreck alive hastened at once to telegraph assurance of their safety to those so anxiously awaiting it. But the operator at Hastings would receive no such telegrams. He coolly and unfeelingly refused them, saying that it was in accordance with orders from headquarters. Fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, were at home stricken with fear, and enduring the agony of terrible suspense, but no word of comfort could be sent them. The railroad company had ordered otherwise. Had the wires been burdened with messages for surgeons, medicines, nurses, and other means of relief, there might have been some excuse for the cold-blooded order, but no such explanation is offered. When a corporation becomes thus soulless, some way should be found to force upon it a semblance of feeling.

We have been inclined to give to Dr. Leslie E. Keeley no small credit for the good he has apparently done in curing thousands of inebriates of the disease of drunkenness. It makes no difference whether his remedy is truly bi-chloride of gold or permanganate of potash; it does the work he claims for it, and thousands testify to his sincerity of purpose. But there must be something malevolent in the man's make-up, after all. He announces that he has been highly successful in the prevention and cure of the grip, and, unlike his attitude on the grip, specific, he is willing to disclose to the public the remedy he uses. But horrors! It's assafetida! The Doctor's prominence in the medical world insures that a multitude of people will adopt his suggestion. And just think of the stupendous joke he will enjoy! We can all remember when, in our school days, a bag of assafetida hung around the neck was an infallible protection against measles, scarlet fever, whooping cough, diphtheria, chicken pox, or whatever else may have been prevalent. It surely was a protection, for no one with the olfactory-paralyzing odor was allowed to get within gun-shot distance of anybody else, sick or well, unless the second party, taking advantage of the similibus similibus curantur idea, was also fortified by the magic bag. And now Dr. Keeley proposes that four grains of the unspeakably stinking stuff should be taken four times a day, by any one who either fears or experiences the grip. And hundreds will do it! So whenever you meet a man who smells like a combination of bi-sulphide of carbon, glue factory, and the modern society girl, you may know that Keeley, the exorciser of the drink demon, has scored another victim. After all, we shouldn't wonder if he was a long-headed scheme on his part. He may have pretty thoroughly exhausted the supply of inebriates, and be alarmed at the prospect of empty infirmaries. And if he can induce a part of sober mankind to adopt his cure for the grip, there is certainly nothing that would drive the balance to drink any more quickly or persistently.

Cotton in Turkestan.
Turkestan is beginning to develop her resources in the matter of growing cotton, just as the Southern States are giving less attention to the staple and more to other crops. Turkestan produced 97,200,000 pounds of cotton last year, but her crop this year is 30 per cent greater, reaching 126,000,000 pounds. It is expected that a still more rapid development will take place in the future, as labor-saving machines have been introduced, and more attention than heretofore is being given to irrigation and planting. Philadelphia Ledger.

A Scrubbing Brush for Potatoes.
It is next to impossible to wash potatoes perfectly clean by hand. The use of a little scrubbing brush, such as may be purchased at from 5 to 10 cents, will soon make their jackets fresh and clean, so that they will be fit to be brought on the table roasted.

Old Furniture Restored.
Cracks in furniture may be filled with Indian red or burnt umber to give the desired shade. When dry it will take on equal polish.

WE EAT MORE SUGAR.

REMOVAL OF THE DUTY LOWERS PRICES.

A Reduction in Price Causes an Increase in Sugar Consumption—Falling off in the Pig Iron Production—High Tariff Methods.

How Free Sugar Works.
Free sugar is continuing to teach the people the truth about the tariff. Messrs. Willett & Gray, of New York, the greatest authority in the country on sugar statistics, have recently published their annual statement showing the sugar consumption of the United States, and their figures show how the cheapness of sugar has increased the consumption of that article.

Raw sugar became free on April 1, 1891, and during the remaining nine months of the year the consumption of sugar was enormously increased. The total consumption for three years was as follows:

Year	Consumption (Tons)
1889	1,432,701
1890	1,528,294
1891	1,583,994

The increase of 1891 over the previous year was 363,293 tons, while the increase of 1890 over 1889 was only 95,593 tons. Expressed in percentages the matter stands thus: The year 1891 showed an increase of 25.38 per cent. more sugar than in 1890, but in 1890 we consumed only 5.76 per cent. more than in 1889. In 1890 we consumed 54,556 pounds of sugar for each individual; last year, with free sugar three-fourths of the year, each one of us made away with 64 pounds. This increase of consumption was directly caused by lower prices. On the very day that the duty was lowered 2½ cents, granulated sugar fell 2 cents per pound, and prices have since been from 2 to 2½ cents lower at wholesale, and still more at retail. The people now playing see that they have years been paying a big tariff tax on sugar.

If they will study the following table of prices, remembering that sugar can be refined as cheaply here as anywhere, they may confirm their suspicions. The prices in London are taken from the quotations in the first issue of the London Economist for each month. The prices in New York are from the American Grocer, and are averaged for each month:

PRICES GRANULATED SUGAR (CIS PER LB.)			
Month	Eng. U. S.	Eng. U. S.	Duty
January	7.15	7.25	0.10
February	7.15	7.25	0.10
March	7.15	7.25	0.10
April	7.15	7.25	0.10
May	7.15	7.25	0.10
June	7.15	7.25	0.10
July	7.15	7.25	0.10
August	7.15	7.25	0.10
September	7.15	7.25	0.10
October	7.15	7.25	0.10
November	7.15	7.25	0.10
December	7.15	7.25	0.10

1890.
January.....2.97 6.48 3.51 3.00
February.....2.97 6.48 3.51 3.00
March.....2.97 6.48 3.51 3.00
April.....2.97 6.48 3.51 3.00
May.....2.97 6.48 3.51 3.00
June.....2.97 6.48 3.51 3.00
July.....2.97 6.48 3.51 3.00
August.....2.97 6.48 3.51 3.00
September.....2.97 6.48 3.51 3.00
October.....2.97 6.48 3.51 3.00
November.....2.97 6.48 3.51 3.00
December.....2.97 6.48 3.51 3.00
1891.
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February.....3.02 6.50 3.48 3.00
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September.....3.02 6.50 3.48 3.00
October.....3.02 6.50 3.48 3.00
November.....3.02 6.50 3.48 3.00
December.....3.02 6.50 3.48 3.00

Add about 4 cent per pound to the duty for the cost of importing sugar from England, and you have the home price corresponds to the foreign price, with the duty added. From 1887 to 1890, inclusive, over \$220,000,000 duty was collected on sugar. Add to this the increased price on the sugar produced in this country (about one-eighth of all consumed here), and it comes to the consumers of sugar having been paying \$65,000,000 a year of tariff tax, besides the wholesalers', jobbers', and retailers' profits on this amount, a total of between \$5 and \$6 per family tax on this one article.

But this is not the only salutary lesson to be learned from the duty on sugar. This duty upon the raw sugar is granted by tariff to home manufacturers to levy still further tribute upon consumers. Previous to April, 1891, the average duty on raw sugar was about 1½ cents. As our refiners get their raw sugar in the same markets as English refiners, and as the cost of refining is nowhere less than here, the price of sugar here, even under the old tariff, ought not to have exceeded the foreign price by more than 2 cents per pound. The refiners, however, were protected by a duty of three cents and by cost of transportation from Europe about 1 cent per pound. As we well know, the average price of refined sugar is now about 2½ cents above the foreign price and obtained a clear profit of about 1½ cent per pound or between \$26,000,000 and \$30,000,000 per year. That the profits were exorbitant was demonstrated by the Senate Committee, of New York, which investigated this trust in 1888.

Now, with the free sugar law, the prices here and in England should agree. But the refiners are still protected by a duty of 1 cent and the cost of transportation. Hence the price is kept about 1 cent above the price abroad, while it is estimated that the refiners in the trust received less than 10 per cent. on the profit is unsatisfactory to the American consumer to a far greater one, and on Jan. 13 the stockholders of the American Sugar Refining Company approved the recommendation of the directors to increase the capital stock from \$50,000,000 to \$75,000,000. It is well understood that the \$25,000,000 increase was for the purpose of buying up the independent plants. The President of the trust said, in an interview: "We want the \$25,000,000 to enlarge our plants. Whether our system shall be increased by purchase or by construction remains to be seen. At the present time there are four large concerns outside of the American company, and the Refiners of Boston, and the Sprinkles, Harrison, and Knight of Philadelphia."

There is really, however, but little competition from any except the Sprinkles company. The trust will feel more secure when it has no rival, and when it is able to buy up and close up new refineries, as it is supposed to have done with the one recently built in Baltimore. Some unknown persons are said to have gotten control of the stock of this company and to have mysteriously closed it. The remaining duty of 4 cent on refined sugar is yielding no revenue to the Government, and serves no purpose except to enable the sugar trust to continue to exact large profits from the consumers of sugar.

High tariff Methods.
Ever since the war tariffs were enacted it has been characteristic of the high protected trusts and combinations to use all means possible and to resort to the most unscrupulous methods to retain the advantages already secured, or to obtain still more favorable ones in the form of high tariffs on competing foreign products. During the war when the Government found it necessary to tax manufactured products to increase its revenues, these interests were able to have the tariff raised to offset such tax. Said Mr. Morrill, who had charge of the tax bills in the House during the war: "If we bloated manufacturers we must see that the proper tone is administered in return," i. e., give them power to bleed the people. This policy of bleeding the people was justified during the war by the necessities of the revenue. When, however, the war was over and the internal taxes were taken off, thus stopping the "bleeding" of the manufacturers, these very manufacturers were powerful enough to

secure the retention of the war tariffs as they were, and in many cases to have them increased. In this way their power "to bleed" the people has been increased and perpetuated.

Now that the people are awakening and are gathering about the free trade policy to a campaign to reduce the "bleeding" power given by high tariffs, these high tariff beneficiaries are perfecting their organization, known as the American Protective Tariff League, so as to be able to resist any reduction whatever of their tariff privileges. Knowing that the present administration is favorable to their cause, they do not hesitate to use the officers of the National Government to assist them in accomplishing their ends. The following extracts from a circular letter to new postmasters sent by Mr. Wilbur F. Wakeman, Secretary of the League, will show how unscrupulous are the methods resorted to.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29, 1891.
DEAR SIR—Accept our congratulations upon your recent appointment. Situated as you are you can feel like persons who are the cause of protection of any one in your locality. It is our plan to have at hand one official correspondent of the League in each district, and through his secure information, obtain the distribution of our documents, and exert every legitimate influence in favor of protection and reciprocity.

It is impossible for us to bear all the expense of this work, for this is a big country. Every intelligent voter should be educated in the principles of protection. We wish to have you act as our confidential agent and correspondent to assist in this work.

We expect that each correspondent will either personally, or with the aid of friends, furnish at least \$5 before the next election for circulation of our literature at his home, and also \$5 for the amount suggested as contributions to help. They will do it. If you accept we will outline a plan to secure the co-operation of Americans. Will you aid us as our correspondent?

It is imperative that every friend like you put his shoulder to the wheel and work in season and out of season, until the election of 1892. Yours very truly,

WILBUR F. WAKEMAN, Sec.

This is nothing but blackmail, pure and simple. Shall it be allowed to succeed?

McKinley Prices.

The Association of American Manufacturers of Cutlery asked permission of the Ways and Means Committee to propose a schedule on cutlery for the McKinley bill. Their request was granted, and the duties which they wanted were enacted into law. These duties, compared with those of the tariff of 1883, are as follows:

Value of Goods	McKinley Bill	1883
Under \$100	10c per doz.	74c plus 50c per doz.
\$100 to \$500	5c per doz.	50c plus 50c per doz.
\$500 to \$1,000	5c per doz.	50c plus 50c per doz.
\$1,000 to \$5,000	5c per doz.	50c plus 50c per doz.
\$5,000 to \$10,000	5c per doz.	50c plus 50c per doz.
\$10,000 to \$50,000	5c per doz.	50c plus 50c per doz.
\$50,000 to \$100,000	5c per doz.	50c plus 50c per doz.
\$100,000 to \$500,000	5c per doz.	50c plus 50c per doz.
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