

# The Democrat

DECATUR, IND.  
W. BLACKBURN, PUBLISHER.

ADVICE is not the cheapest thing in the world—that is, if you get it from a lawyer.

The size of the man's salary does not necessarily indicate the amount of work he does.

To pull the wool over a man's eyes has a tendency toward making him feel sheepish.

A farmer in Connecticut has been married six times. His rule seems to be "the more the merrier."

If Mr. Edison would bring his inventive genius to bear on a fire-escape he would receive blessings and ducats.

CHICAGO groans because it has a "gang" council. Throw out the gang plank and let the offenders walk it.

Even Greece is having a little Cabinet matinee and party feeling runs very high in the classic environments at Athens.

AND now a coffin trust has been formed. In the face of this can any one deny that the trust question has become a grave one?

The Poorman Mine owners in Idaho say that their electric light plant saves them \$3,000 a year. Why not put in another one?

How people dislike to obey the laws of nature! How fortunate a pig is; he never wants to do anything that is not good for him.

THERE may be something in a name after all, for not only the Russian people but the Hungarians are starving by the score.

It is an indignity placed upon the American hog that it is now sold in competition with mule beef at Parisian meat markets. The hog should squeal.

In this country should go to war over a matter of sealings, the fight will be a bitter one. Heads of families are wrought up to the last pitch of endurance already.

SOME writer, struggling to get out of the worn rut, has been dilating upon the antiquity of gloves, yet every one knows that a majority of them are "kids" yet.

THE riding bed promises to succeed in prominence the use of kerosene as a fire kindler and the deadly family pistol that is always supposed to be without a load.

THE groundhog, the lion, the lamb, and their relations to the freckled character of weather we are having cause more newspaper talk than anything outside of politics.

MR. DEACON and Lieut. Hetherington must not be accepted by foreign nations as typical Americans. The sanctity of the American home is not guarded by the husband's rifle, but by the wife's loyalty.

THE Dubuque News is said to be the smallest full-fledged weekly paper in the country. Its size is about 6x9 inches, and it has two editors. Persons who dislike "blanket sheets" should try the Dubuque News.

IF John L. Sullivan can be persuaded to put himself in good shape and knock the everlasting mouth of one Mitchell before he dies he will confer an immense relief on a tired country and can die as soon as he pleases.

A Boston lady writes to one of the papers of that city: "Will some of your readers be kind enough to tell me what to do for a canary bird that has lost its voice?" Keep it, dear madam, care for it tenderly, and be thankful.

IT was the consensus of opinion among sporting men that Maher was a coward because he refused to be "finished" by Fitzsimmons, but the greatest evidence of cowardice appears in his subsequent attempt to commit suicide.

PHILADELPHIA has at last "got the bugle" on New York. The latter has always sneered at the former as slow-going; but in the matter of aiding the famine-stricken Russians it is miles ahead of its "fast" sister. New York ought to apologize and hurry up its Russian contribution.

PROFESSOR JOHN L. SULLIVAN'S arms have been tied up for some months by a contract which required his exclusive devotion to the historic art. But now Mr. Sullivan's arms are free and have begun to swing. Gentlemen seeking a fight need not go to the expense of advertising. Call early and avoid the rush. Also, look out for that tremendous Sullivan-esque rush when the fight opens.

MONTREAL has a very interesting lawsuit over the responsibility of a theater manager. When the Abbey-Grain Opera Company went to Montreal the manager advertised that Mme. Scalchi would sing in a certain performance. As Mme. Scalchi is very popular in Montreal, there was a big sale, and a great many people were disappointed when it was announced that the favorite contralto was too ill to take her part. Their disappointment changed to indignation when they found that Scalchi was well enough to sing in Boston that same night, and that she had no

intention of singing in Montreal. Several wealthy patrons of the theater have brought suit against the management for obtaining money under false pretenses, and they propose to test the law as to whether a theater manager is responsible for his announcements.

ETHEL OSBORNE, the unhappy London society woman self-convicted of perjury, has been sentenced to nine months' imprisonment at hard labor. The deplorable scandal has served at least to show in Captain Osborne, who has loyally and gently sustained and cheered his wife throughout the whole affair, a gentleman such as London society seldom offers for the admiration of the world. The trial and its end have also demonstrated that English law is inflexible and remorseless—when the culprit does not wear a title.

The New York Court of Appeals has rendered an opinion which shows that married women in that State are still in bondage. A woman fell down a coal-hole and sued for damages, recovering \$500. The defendant asked for a new trial on the ground that the woman was working for her husband, and that the court had taken into account her loss of wages. The Court of Appeals reversed the decision and sent the case back for a new trial. It held that the services of a wife belonged to her husband, and she cannot recover any wages even if she holds his written promise to pay. He cannot compel her to perform any work for him except household duties, and if she does any other case can not compel him to pay for it. Therefore, all the plaintiff is entitled to recover is such sum as will compensate her for personal injuries, but nothing for loss of wages.

SCHWEINFURTH, the unspeakable leader of that refuge at Rockford impiously called "heaven," is defendant in the Circuit Court to a charge of alienating the affections of a Chicago matron, and will be called upon to defend a suit for \$50,000 damages. The false prophet announces as his line of defense the "showing up" of the husband's character. That husband, the plaintiff, is a man of wealth and comfortable income, whose home has been ruined by the influence of the bogus christ. His wife has gone from him in a manner worse than death. His daughters are poisoned with the baneful doctrine, and all the earth holds dear for him is sinking in the bottomless slime of that "prophet's" following. The mormons at Nauvoo were never more dangerous to society than is George J. Schweinfurth. Within or without the law there should be some method of whipping him out of the country. The admitted right of all men to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences grants to no man immunity in this wholesale debauching of women.

Two citizens of Chicago have returned to this country after an enforced absence of twenty years. When they went abroad in 1872 they embarked in extensive financial transactions, making the Bank of England their base of operations. After a brief period of prosperity their careers as financiers were abruptly terminated, and they were compelled to resort to the business of oakum picking, which was not so agreeable as bank plucking, though attended with less risks. They would be picking oakum at this time if it had not pleased the British Government to grant them tickets-of-leave, which have enabled them to secure greatly needed recreation. It is possible, of course, that Messrs. George and Austin Bidwell have sincerely repented of the crimes which condemned them to penal servitude for life in British prisons. All things are possible, and their repentance may be included among the possibilities. But nothing in the conversation of the Bidwells points to penitence. Austin Bidwell is reported as even boasting of their crimes, and he takes pride in the fact that they taught the great moneyed institution of the enemy of their country a lesson. No one certainly would desire to interfere with honest efforts by these men to accomplish a reformation of their lives, or to atone as far as possible for the mistakes of the past. But it is not out of place to suggest that under all the circumstances they would do themselves and their cause no harm by being a trifle more modest when speaking of the operations which have made them notorious. An affected modesty, no matter how patent its insincerity, would become them better than the boasting in which they indulge.

A Geological Puzzle.  
Rev. Owen Watkins has been prospecting in Mashonaland in the interests of the Wesleyan Missionary Society. In a recent letter he says he is presumably the first white man to see the Mount of Footprints, which he thus describes: "At last we came to one large mound of folks on the top of the hills. Here are thousands of impressions on the granite rock. Hundreds of human footprints, thousands of footprints of animals—lions, jackals, wolves and antelopes. On the top of the mound the appearance is as if a crowd of animals and men had rushed together in fright. At whatever period these footprints were made, it must have been before the outer surface of the rock had hardened. The distance from where the footprints begin to where they culminate on the mount is 200 yards."—St. James Gazette.

Only for Visitors.  
Miss Breezy (of Chicago)—How many times have you been at the top of Bunker Hill monument?  
Miss Beaconhill—I was never there; I live in Boston.—Jester.

## THE CORDAGE TRUST.

AN ABSOLUTE MONOPOLY OF PRODUCTION.

It Manipulates the Markets and Gets from Its Tariff Tax an Enormous Profit—Where's That American Tin Plate?

A Veritable Octopus.

Hemp and its substitutes, manila, sisal grass and jute, constitute the raw material of two important industries, those of cordage and bagging manufacture. The most important of these is the cordage industry, which comprises the production of all classes of ship and other cordage, rope and binding twine. It is seldom that these products are manufactured in separate establishments. Nearly all the materials used are imported, and the establishments in the industry are quite widely diversified throughout the country. A scheme to combine all these establishments into a gigantic trust would have been considered impossible several years ago. Now, however, after the people have become accustomed to the sight of trusts and combines, its successful accomplishment excites little comment.

The growth of the present Cordage Trust from the so-called association which loosely bound the tin plate manufacturers together prior to 1887, when the present trust was formed, has been so gradual that except among the interests directly affected it has excited but little interest.

Previous to October, 1887, the cordage manufacturers were in a combination or pool, the object of which was to fix prices. But, like other pool arrangements of this kind, the members were not slow to break the agreements made when they found it to their advantage to do so. Early in 1887 this pool fell to pieces of its own weight and an era of free competition followed. But October, when the nucleus was composed of the following concerns: Elizabethport Cordage Company of New Jersey, and the Tucker & Carter Cordage Company, L. Waterbury & Co. and William Wall's Sons, all of Brooklyn.

Around this nucleus of four concerns have been gathered forty-five other establishments in the United States and Canada, until now the trust controls over 90 per cent of the production of cordage, rope and binding twine. At the time of its organization in 1887, the trust announced as the object sought by its formation, an increase in the profits to be derived from a lower cost of materials by the removal of competition. The members of the trust have not been slow to derive from a decrease in the cost of production. It was asserted time and again that no attempt would be made to raise the prices of its finished products. These claims were repeated at the time of its reorganization as a corporation, and finally in the last year of its annual report, which was given in the following terms: "Through these advantages secured by the control of many mills, and their management under one direction, the company hopes to be enabled to secure an increased margin of profit without increasing the prices of its product to the consumer."

Has the trust up to the present carried out this promise, or if not, is there any likelihood that it will do so in the future?

In the following tables are shown the average monthly prices since 1885 of the raw material and finished product. The annual report of the trust for 1890 shows that the prices of the raw materials, hemp and manila cordage 7-16 of an inch in diameter and larger:

MONTHS.		1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
January	Cent.	7.72	8.11	8.64	12.11	14.11	9.81
February	Cent.	7.72	8.11	8.64	12.11	14.11	9.81
March	Cent.	7.72	8.11	8.64	12.11	14.11	9.81
April	Cent.	7.72	8.11	8.64	12.11	14.11	9.81
May	Cent.	7.72	8.11	8.64	12.11	14.11	9.81
June	Cent.	7.72	8.11	8.64	12.11	14.11	9.81
July	Cent.	7.72	8.11	8.64	12.11	14.11	9.81
August	Cent.	7.72	8.11	8.64	12.11	14.11	9.81
September	Cent.	7.72	8.11	8.64	12.11	14.11	9.81
October	Cent.	7.72	8.11	8.64	12.11	14.11	9.81
November	Cent.	7.72	8.11	8.64	12.11	14.11	9.81
December	Cent.	7.72	8.11	8.64	12.11	14.11	9.81

The following are the average yearly prices of the raw material and finished product (cents per pound):

MONTHS.		1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
January	Cent.	11.75	12.00	13.00	14.25	14.00	11.00
February	Cent.	11.75	12.00	13.00	14.25	14.00	11.00
March	Cent.	11.75	12.00	13.00	14.25	14.00	11.00
April	Cent.	11.75	12.00	13.00	14.25	14.00	11.00
May	Cent.	11.75	12.00	13.00	14.25	14.00	11.00
June	Cent.	11.75	12.00	13.00	14.25	14.00	11.00
July	Cent.	11.75	12.00	13.00	14.25	14.00	11.00
August	Cent.	11.75	12.00	13.00	14.25	14.00	11.00
September	Cent.	11.75	12.00	13.00	14.25	14.00	11.00
October	Cent.	11.75	12.00	13.00	14.25	14.00	11.00
November	Cent.	11.75	12.00	13.00	14.25	14.00	11.00
December	Cent.	11.75	12.00	13.00	14.25	14.00	11.00

These figures would be misleading without explanation. The price of the raw material prevailing in 1889 was in part due to a shortage in the crop, but chiefly to the manipulation of the market by a combination of the Cordage Trust and English brokers. In the fall of 1888 this combination began to corner the product with such complete success that it drove a large part of the stock they controlled nearly all of the stock. The prices prevailing in 1889 were those at which the trust was willing to sell, and not the prices which it paid for the raw material. By this corner of the material the trust was able to keep up the price of cordage to the high averages shown for 1889 and 1890, until it had succeeded in working off the whole stock on hand. The difference between the price of the finished product and of the raw material for 1890, as shown above, was about the actual average difference in 1889 also. This shows that the trust succeeded in making enormous profits entirely at the expense of the consumers.

The reduction in the price of cordage in 1891 was made for a purpose. During the whole year the Trust was negotiating for the control of the independent establishments, and its success depended upon its ability to force these outsiders to terms. For had the Trust kept prices up, the outside establishments would either have refused to join the Trust, or would have held out for more favorable terms than they would have been willing to accept under other circumstances.

By October, 1891, the Trust had so far succeeded in securing control of the competing mills that it was able to advance prices again. As a result, the price of cordage has been raised from 8 1/2 cents per pound to the present price of 14 cents per pound. And this advance has been made directly in the face of a declining market for the material. The present price of manila for shipment is 6 1/2 to 7 cents per pound. The difference between this price and that of the finished product is, therefore, 7 1/2 to 8 1/2 cents per pound. Made by the Trust, that the increased profit which it hoped to secure from organization would not be at the expense of the consumer, has been completely forgotten.

In spite of the fact that the Cordage

Trust engaged in open war during the whole of last year with the independent manufacturers for the purpose of forcing them into the Trust, it was able to make very large profits. During the fiscal year ending October 31, 1891, the Trust made a profit of \$1,000,000, which enabled it to declare dividends of 8 per cent on the preferred and 9 per cent on the common stock, and at the same time left a balance of \$100,000. As a result of the higher prices since October, the Financial Director of the Trust felt that in making the following report for the quarter ending January 31 last: "It is very difficult at this time to give an accurate estimate of the profits of the business for the quarter ending January 31. I feel safe in stating, however, that after deducting expenses, rentals, and all fixed charges, the profits will be found sufficient to pay the entire annual dividend of \$400,000 on the preferred stock and a quarterly dividend on the common stock, besides leaving a large surplus." Should this statement be true, the Trust would be able to pay the dividend of 8 per cent on the preferred stock, 13 per cent on the common stock, and have \$1,000,000 besides to be added to the "large surplus" earned during the past quarter, which later will be increased 30 per cent.

Just so long as the high tariff on the production of tin plate is maintained and prevented competition, just so long will the trusts use it to exact from consumers all the profit it allows.

Tin-Plate Truths.

In order to determine the much mooted question whether tin plates are yet made in this country except for political purposes, the Secretary of the Tin Plate Consumers' Association has sent out to the members of the association the following circular:

"In furtherance of the objects of the Tin Plate Consumers' Association the directors respectfully request the members of the association to furnish monthly returns of all American-made tin plates purchased by them, beginning with the month of January, 1891; also stating whether any American-made tin plates have been bought by them previous to the first of same month, and, if so, what quantity, sizes and kinds."

"The names of those forwarding the returns should be given as confidential by the directors, and will not be published. Respectfully yours,"

"ROBERT GANZ, Sec'y."

In response to this circular 115 replies have been received, of which exactly 100 declare that the writers have not bought American tin plate. Here are a few samples of the replies received up to date:

California—San Francisco: We have not been able to obtain any American-made tin or terne plates so far.

Connecticut—New Haven: We use only highest-grade tin plate, and we have not heard of any of these being manufactured.

Illinois—Chicago: Haven't been able to find any.

Dundee: The tin plate which we use is not yet made in the United States.

Highland: Obtained none up to date.

Chicago: None up to date except a sample lot of 20 by 28 terne.

Indiana—Vincennes: We have not had any American-made tin plate yet.

Indianapolis: We have obtained no American tin plates whatever.

Kentucky—Louisville: I cannot buy any that I know of.

Louisiana—New Orleans: As yet have not been offered any.

Maryland—Baltimore: Have not been able to obtain any. Have neither bought nor been offered any American tin plate.

Ridgely: We have never seen a sheet of American-made tin plates, and never had any offers or quotations.

Massachusetts—Boston: Have not seen or heard of any American tin plates in this market.

Boston: We have not bought nor have we been offered a single sheet of American tin plate.

Michigan—Adrian: We have not been able to find any suitable for our use, except imported articles. If you know of any manufacturers of the article, we would like to have their address.

Missouri—Kansas City: On Dec. 3 last we ordered a carload of tin plate for delivery from an American manufacturer. There is no immediate prospect of getting same, and we will cancel order.

Nebraska—Omaha: None offered, and we do not believe there is any in the market.

Ohio—Cincinnati: We have not bought or seen any American-made tin plates for commercial use, only political.

Pennsylvania—Philadelphia: We have not been able to buy a single sheet of American tin plate.

Pittsburg: Cannot get any. Would like to.

Wisconsin—Milwaukee: We have not had any American-made tin plates offered to us, consequently have not made any purchases.

## GOOD MEN AND TRUE.

INDIANA STATE OFFICIALS ARE POPULAR.

Their Services Have Been Invaluable, and They Will Be Reappointed by the Democratic Convention What They Have Done for the State.

May Be Governor.

Indianapolis correspondence: Time out of mind in Indiana it has been customary to reward with a second nomination the faithful public servant who has borne the heat and burden of one campaign for office, and the present Democratic State officers are therefore looking with a good deal of complacency upon the approaching State convention, party, whatever may be the result of the election, is sure. In the present instance custom has been doubly strengthened by the personal popularity of the men who will ask reappointments at the hands of the party, and the doubt is not whether each will be nominated for the present position by acclamation, but whether the Secretary of State, who headed the ticket two years ago, will not be taken from the list and nominated for the governorship. This would be to make the custom the custom, but it would be such an innovation as the party would deem it wise to make, and one, certainly, to which the beneficiary could not in conscience object.

As it is, Claude Matthews is a candidate for Secretary of State, and to him the nomination is conceded to belong. He was chosen two years ago as a representative farmer, and in obedience to the demands of his class, who have long claimed that their interests have suffered by reason of the fact that State positions of honor and emolument were not open to the farming classes. Matthews is not only a farmer but is one of the very best in the State.

A Capable Auditor.

J. O. Henderson, Auditor of the State, is a native Hoosier, having been born in Howard County forty-two years ago, and lived there continuously until he was elected to his present position. His father founded the Kokomo Dispatch. In 1876 the son entered upon an active career of journalism that has made him one of the best-known newspaper auditors in the State.

About the same time he entered into politics, and for ten years past has been regarded as one of the brightest young leaders of the Indiana Democracy. For several years he was Chairman of the County Committee of Howard County, and in 1885 was appointed by President Cleveland as Internal Revenue Collector for the Eleventh Indiana District. Mr. Henderson possesses in a rare degree those qualities which make men favorites with all their met.

Abundantly Qualified.

State Treasurer Albert Gall is a German-American citizen, and for a number of years has been known throughout the State as a business man of more than ordinary popularity. He was educated in the public schools of this city, and in 1864 engaged in the carp and drapery business, which he still carries on, having been remarkably successful and having made a large number of friends throughout the State.

He never aspired to office, but some of his friends brought him out as a candidate for State Treasurer in 1890. Though there were several candidates before the convention, he was nominated on the second ballot, and proved as popular as a candidate as he had been as a business man.

A. G. Smith, Attorney General, is possibly the best known of the several State officers, for the reason that he has been before the State more prominently than any of the others. In 1884 he was elected Senator from Jennings and Jackson Counties, and was one of the most energetic members of the Judiciary Committee during that session. Before the Senate adjourned he was chosen President pro tem of the body. This opened up an entirely unexpected field, and led to some of the most sensational scenes that have ever enacted in a legislative body. In 1886 Lieut. Gov. Manson Attorney General resigned to accept a government appointment, and in the election that year R. S. Robertson was chosen to succeed him. The Democrats claimed that a Henderson could be elected to fill a vacancy, and when Robertson appeared to preside over the Senate his claims were ignored and he was elected from the Senate chamber by order of Smith, who was presiding. The case was carried into the courts, but the Senate refused to surrender its prerogative of judging of the qualifications of its own members, and Robertson never had the honor of presiding over the body. Mr. Smith has done more, perhaps, than any other man in the State to unlearn the taxables of corporations, and is now engaged in a legal fight to prevent the law from being declared unconstitutional.

Other Offices in Litigation.

William A. Peelle, Jr., Chief of the Indiana Bureau of Statistics, is a native of Wayne County and has lived in this city since 1874. When Peelle was elected Secretary of State in that year, he came here as his deputy and served two terms under J. G. Shanklin, who succeeded Peelle in 1878. In 1883 Peelle was elected Chief of the Statistical Bureau of the Legislature, and re-elected in 1885, 1887, and 1889. In 1890, the latter year Gov. Hovey denied the right of the Legislature to elect the Statistician, and suit was brought by his appointee for the office. The litigation thus inaugurated dragged on for two years, when the Supreme Court decided that the office should be filled by popular election. Peelle was nominated in 1890 and elected in November of that year.

In a criminal lately beheaded in France the beats of the heart were noted during more than six minutes, and experiments were made to demonstrate the independence of the ventricular and articular contractions; this is the first time such observations were ever made on man.

STATISTICIANS estimate that there are over 3,000,000 women in this country who are engaged in work which is not domestic. Of this number 275 are ministers and 75 lawyers.

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