

The Democrat

DECATUR, IND.

W. BLACKBURN, PUBLISHER.

In ordinary life the workman is known by his tools, but in politics it's his tools that make the boss.

When an organ-grinder takes off his hat after playing a tune it's no sign of his reverence for good music.

After friendship and love come benevolence and that compassion which unites the soul to the unfortunate.

Let the memory of those over-sights by which we have suffered instruct us; for, though past moments cannot be recalled, past errors may be repeated.

As well might a planet, revolving round a sun, expect to have perpetual daylight in both hemispheres as a man to expect in this life to enjoy happiness throughout unmixed with sorrow or pain.

An Idaho man proposes to set up a bank on a steamboat and do business with several small lake towns which are not large enough to sustain banks of their own. He will carry a floating capital, of course.

MINISTER LINCOLN says that it cost him \$70,000 more than his salary to live in London as the representative of this Government. But the United States is not responsible for his tribute paid to London society.

TWO MEXICANS fought with knives for the hand of beauty. They fought quite energetically. After the hand of beauty has strewn a few blossoms over a pair of graves it will doubtless be bestowed upon somebody who had sense enough to keep out of the row.

A good deal of time and energy is expended in the public schools in teaching children to hold their pens and pencils in a position that is scientific, of course, but which, with the natural depravity of human kind, they are pretty sure to abandon as soon as they get outside the schools.

A GENIUS of Posey county, Ind., thus computes the expense of a day at the Chicago Fair grounds: Street-car fare, 10 cents; admission, 50 cents; milk at milk exhibit, free; fresh rolls at yeast exhibit, free; buttered crackers at butter exhibit, free; total, 60 cents. This is the ingenuity of economy.—N. Y. Press.

A SON of the Czar of Russia has fallen in love with a girl who has nothing to commend her but beauty of person and character. Her blood, far from having a royal taint, is not even blue. But for once the Czar is helpless, and the prospect of having a nice girl for a daughter-in-law appalls him more than a nihilist bomb.

OPPORTUNITIES for doing greatly seldom occur, for life is made up of infinitesimals. If you compute the happiness in any given day, you will find that it was composed of small attentions, kind looks which made the heart swell and stirred into health that rancid film of misanthropy which is apt to coagulate on the stream of our inward life.

It seems pretty well settled that the much-talked of leather trust has actually been formed. One hundred firms are said to have pooled their issues in the scheme, and the capital of the organization is placed at \$120,000,000, represented by stock, all of which, it is said, has been distributed. The trust has not such a complete monopoly of its field as have many, if not most, of the other trusts, and it will be interesting to see what will be its history.

THE recent defeat of the Arabs in the Congo region of Central Africa is good news, for it means another blow at the infamous slave trade, of which in modern times these degenerate Arabs have been the worst fomenters. This time it is to be hoped the blow is final. The present leader of the Arabs is a Belgian, 31 years old, who served several years in the Congo Free State forces. He joined the rebel cause last year, and took part in the battles last November and January. His defeat must convince him that he has sold himself very cheap—which, indeed, must always be the case when any man sells himself.

CLEVELAND LEADER: Georgia's Commissioner of Agriculture proposes to call a meeting of the agricultural commissioners of several Southern States to "devise plans to elevate the standard of farming in the South." They will have an immense field to work in. If there is one thing in the whole industrial world of America which needs reforming more than any other it is the tillage of the soil in some of the Southern States. There millions of acres of grain yield hardly enough for seed, year after year.

THE very strongest argument was made by the American representatives before the conference to decide the seal question in Behring Sea. The argument dismisses entirely any claim that Behring Sea is a closed sea to the vessels of other nations. They may rightfully pass through it in the course of trade. But the seals in Behring Sea are on a different basis. They belong to the United States, because they are bred on islands belonging to this country and

purchased from Russia with the understanding that this control of their breeding places gave us prior claims on all seals bred on our territory.

FRIENDS of Cuba announce that the great uprising that is to turn the island upside down and shake off Spanish shackles has been set for June. Their thoughtfulness is equal to that of a burglar who would send word to the police that he intended at a certain hour to break into a bank. There is reason to fear that the filibuster of the period carries his weapon poorly concealed between his teeth.

FROM present indications the whisky trust will soon be a thing of the past. Somebody made a great deal of money out of the concern, but somebody lost a great deal, too. In their endeavor to defraud the government they have defrauded themselves. A few months ago it was generally believed that Congress would increase the whisky tax. The distilleries commenced to run double time, on the theory that all the spirits manufactured before the taking effect of the new law would be exempt from the increased duty, and the whisky trust would make the difference. But the duty was not raised and the trust is in the "soup."

FARM improvements often pay when the value of the land they reclaim is not worth the cost of putting in the improvement. We have in mind cases where wet sloughs in the center of an otherwise dry field were under-drained at a cost greater than the value of the land owned. But it enabled the owner of the land to get to work on it one or two weeks earlier than would otherwise be possible. In that way the whole field was made more productive and the improvement paid. In another case an open ditch that ran diagonally through a fine field was made into an under-drain. Then the whole field could be and was worked at greatly lessened expense.

THE foreign governments which took part in the naval review off Hampton Roads and in New York harbor lost, it is said, 300 seamen by desertion. It is the natural desire of residents of all European countries to become citizens of the United States, and it was certain from the first that if European governments sent ships here a considerable proportion of the men when they arrived in United States waters would improve the opportunity to desert. It is a loss which all foreign vessels expect when they visit the harbors of the United States, and as the deserters come in without paying any head tax, they have some advantages over those immigrating in the usual way.

AN accidental discovery and seizure of counterfeit money, recently made at Bridgeport, Conn., furnishes some startling information in regard to the extent of the "green goods" business. The seizure embraced the complete outfit, books, accounts and memoranda of a firm which has been carrying on its business in New York for several years. Among other things there were 240,000 circulars, three in each envelope, addressed to 80,000 persons, all over the country. The circulars were ready to be mailed, and gave fictitious addresses in New York for replies. Among the papers seized was a list containing the names of 110 "customers" since April 1, 1893, with the amounts obtained from them. The sums vary from \$200 to \$600, the total amount obtained from 110 victims being \$40,185. The list as published contains names from nearly every Western and Southern State.

THE rapid depreciation of values in what are called the industrial stocks, which caused the monetary tightness, has worked no real harm to the country. All these stocks are controlled by trusts, and fortunately it is only the fictitious value put upon the property by the trust officials that has been wiped out. That is a positive good in more ways than one. Each individual corporation is now working away as vigorously as ever, paying its money over to the receiver, instead of to the President and Treasurer. What the country now needs is a more vigorous enforcement of the laws, both State and national, against trusts. In that event the public will save all that the useless trust must have charged as profit to itself. Hence the country looks on complacently, while the inflated values of the stock market are scaled down. All the property these stocks represent is intact. That is the main thing to be considered.

Original Method of Theft. An ingenious method of theft is thus described as taking place on the coast of South America. It is needless to say that the perpetrators are, of course, "professionals."

"One sailor is sitting, half asleep, on his sea-chest. A gauchito quietly comes up and taps him on the back. 'Bueno, Johnny; bueno, Johnny.' 'If you are not off, I'll send a bullet into you,' says Jack. 'Bueno, Johnny; bueno; till to-morrow,' and off skulks the gauchito to his horse, which he mounts. With a sardonic smile he takes off his hat to Jack, bids him farewell, and digging his spurs into the flanks of his wiry little horse, leans over his neck, and is off at full gallop over the short grass of the sandy plains. At the first stride of the horse, to Jack's intense surprise, his box is wrenched violently from under him. He jumps up, rubs his eyes, and before he can recover his senses, he sees his property rolling and bumping away over the sand-hills, at the heels of the gauchito; for this clever gentleman had managed to make one end of his lasso fast to the handle of Jack's box while engaged in conversation with him."

BITS OF CHICAGO LIFE.

POINTS OF INTEREST TO THE WORLD'S FAIR VISITOR.

Strangers Can Spend Several Days Sight-seeing in the Center of the City—The Board of Trade, Water System, Police and Fire Departments, Etc.

Few Historic Points.

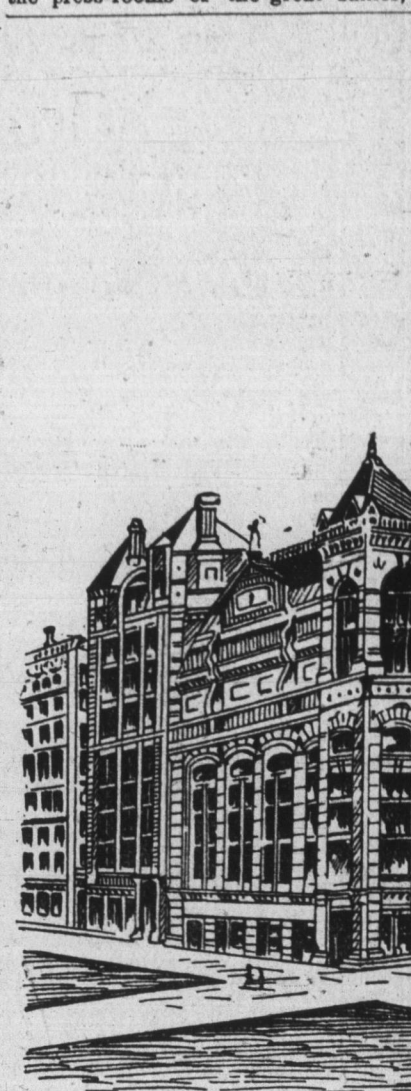
Chicago correspondence:

F the visitor starts out to see the town and all its sights, he will find in the immediate center of Chicago a sufficient to occupy his time and interest for several days. The skyscraping office structures, the retail stores of State street, the wholesale district, the produce quarter, the lumber market—all these may be taken in at a cursory glance; but the great grain elevators, the safety-deposit banks, the new Art Institute on the lake front, the lookout tower of the Maseno Temple, the press-rooms of the great dailies,

handsome doorways and projections, and the tower that caps the massive structure tapering in a pinnacle over 300 feet above the pavement. The main hall has two spacious galleries, and to these visitors are admitted at all times. The view from the same, when trading is going on below on the main floor, something never to be forgotten by the inexperienced spectator, little suggesting to him that the uproar and bustle, the hoarse outcries and frantic gestures are an accompaniment of transactions during which millions of dollars change hands in a single day. The building cost nearly \$2,000,000, and it requires often as high as \$10,000 to secure the privilege of trading in the wheat or corn pit. The clearings of a year have aggregated over \$104,000,000. Trading is permitted in not less than 1,000 bushels of grain or 250 barrels of pork—all on paper—and fortunes are made and lost every day in the year, often nearly every hour in the day.

City Waterworks.

A visit to the city waterworks is well worth a mile ride or walk over into the North Division. The system of which it is the foundation has grown to a remarkable magnitude. The main works are located at Chicago avenue and Pine street, and comprise a series of structures embracing a tower, free to visitors, affording a fine view of the city,



CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE BUILDING.

turning out over 50,000 papers an hour, are novelty of more detailed attention.

Of commemorative points there are comparatively few, Chicago being too young as yet to boast of many statues, but the site of old Fort Dearborn, near



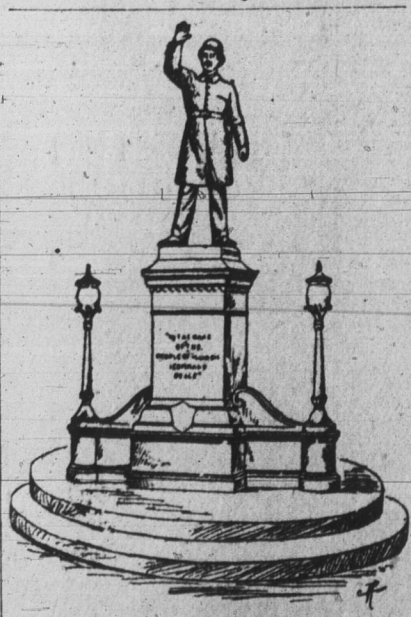
THE CRUISE IN LAKE MICHIGAN.

Rush street bridge, marked by a tablet, the bust of the railway postal service pioneer, Armstrong, at the postoffice, the Douglas monument at Kenwood, the Drake Columbian public drinking fountain at the City Hall, and the monument at Haymarket Square indicating the scene of the famous Anarchist massacre, are all associated with interesting reminiscences and pave the way for comparison when the sojourner later inspects the statues in Lincoln Park.

The stranger seeking pleasure need only consult the amusement columns to find every kind and class of theater, a variety of museums and "magic mazes" shows, cycloramas, panoramas and historical curiosities, such as Libby prison. If a day on the water is scheduled, there are steamers leaving many river docks for points across the lake, such as an excursion to Michigan City in eight hours at only 50 cents for the round trip, while long journeys may be made swiftly and with profit to the wonderful industrial town of Pullman or to the military post at Fort Sheridan. Some of the best obtainable musical and dramatic talent will be found on the boards of the various theaters during the World's Fair.

The Board of Trade.

One great central point of interest is the Board of Trade; as famous as the Bourse or the Exchange of the old world. The headquarters of this aggregation of grain and produce speculators is found in the Chamber of Commerce, one of the truly palatial edifices of the world. Occupying half a square, its tower and entrance portal stand exactly in front of LaSalle street, where that thoroughfare ends at Jackson street, with an environment forcibly suggestive of Wall street, New York. The building is in two



HAYMARKET MONUMENT.

sections, the one facing north being used for trading, the rear one for offices. Emblematic figures mark the

UNTAX THE PEOPLE.

PROSPERITY WILL THEN GO ON WITH A RUSH.

Statements Made in the New York Sun Shown to Be False—Protecting the Cholera Industry—Tariff for Wage-Earners a Sham.

The Manufacturers and the Tariff.

Letters like the following appeal strongly to personal sympathy, but they have no part in political argument under the Democratic creed of 1892:

To the editor of the Sun: Sir—The proposed tariff changes are ruining the manufacturers of articles where labor enters largely into the cost. Many of us do not dare make our losses known, as our credit would be impaired. I am the president of a company recently employing 50 hands, now 20, in an industry where labor is 90 per cent. of the cost of the goods.

Any proposed change of importance in the tariff produces more or less distress in industrial circles.

The principle enunciated at Chicago, and approved and accepted by the people in the vote which elected Mr. Cleveland, is that the Federal Government has no power to shape its tariff legislation with regard to the prosperity or distress of American manufacturers, or of the American workmen whom they employ. The sole constitutional purpose of the tariff is to raise revenue, and the only constitutional tariff is the tariff into which the question of the prosperity or distress of American industries does not enter.

This is a broad, manly, definite and intelligible declaration of principle. This is the principle on which the new tariff is to be made, unless promises are broken. Somebody may suffer, but suffering is a condition of human existence. The principle on which the tariff is to be revised takes no account of such sufferings as the cost, wind takes of the welfare of men and women with bronchial difficulties.

Although the question of consequences to American manufacturers and laborers is not pertinent, it is, nevertheless, urged in behalf of the strict application of this relentless principle of taxation that great general good will result from the experiment. Incidentally, some manufacturers may have to close their shops and seek a new business, and some branches of production may disappear. But these incidental losses, it is maintained, will be more than balanced by compensating gains in other directions, and the giant wheels of industry will continue to revolve as smoothly as ever, and more than ever for the greatest good of the greatest number. That is why the experiment is to be tried.—New York Sun.

The letter which gives the Sun another opportunity to stab the Democratic party in the back may be genuine or it may be a pure fake; in either case its statements are false. The census bulletins for 1890 thus far issued show no industry in which the cost of labor is 80 per cent. of the cost of the product. The only industries in which labor cost exceeds 70 per cent. of the product are mining and quarrying. In most industries the figures vary from 12 to 50. The average for all is probably less than 20 per cent. In 1880 it was 25; in 1890, 23; and in 1890, 22 per cent., thus showing that in spite of increasing tariffs the share of the wage-earner has been steadily diminishing. The Sun should be more careful and require greater accuracy on the part of its correspondents or editors responsible for such statements.

But supposing the letter were genuine, and the "suffering American manufacturer" had not lied! What then? Must a thousand other industries and 65,000,000 people continue to tax themselves to support this weak, trembling industry that has the life scared half out of it by the mere suggestion that its supply of pap will be reduced some time in the future? Hardly. It is time to cease to foster artificial industries, which will always be sickly here, and to lift the burden from the many sturdy, independent industries that ask no odds of any country. Take the brakes off these naturally healthy industries and they will soon show the world what kind of stuff Americans are made of. Five new mills will go up for every one abandoned and soon the recently discharged workmen and the chronic unemployed will be at work at higher wages than ever before. Untax the people and prosperity will go forward by leaps and bounds.

Gov. Hogg on Bounties.

The State of Texas raises sugar on its convict farms. Under the law passed by the Fifty-first Congress it is entitled to draw from the United States Treasury a bounty of 2 cents a pound upon its crop. The Legislature of the State recently passed an act to enable the superintendents of penitentiaries to apply for and receive the bounty. Gov. Hogg has vetoed the bill, and given his reasons in a very vigorous document. He declares that the United States Government has no right to tax the people of the country in order to give the money to the State of Texas or to anybody else. He finds nowhere any authority by which Congress can properly give bounties to men for engaging in an unprofitable business. He declares that Texas makes sugar-growing pay, and that if it did not the remedy would be to quit raising sugar. He very plainly intimates that the same principle is applicable to individual sugar-growers. In brief, Gov. Hogg rejects for Texas the position of a dependent upon the national bounty, and contends that there is no constitutional warrant for Federal bounties in any case. Whether he is right or wrong in his interpretation of the Constitution, the sturdy Texan is certainly right upon grounds of morality and manhood. Bounties are wrong in principle and unjust in effect.—New York World.

Untax American Industries.

All genuine American industries will be promoted and encouraged by a prompt and thorough reduction of the tariff to a strictly revenue standard; and in my judgment they will be even more encouraged by a much more radical reform. The chief burden of the tariff always has been and always will be laid upon American industries. More than three-fourths of all the articles which are

UNTAX THE PEOPLE.

PROSPERITY WILL THEN GO ON WITH A RUSH.

Statements Made in the New York Sun Shown to Be False—Protecting the Cholera Industry—Tariff for Wage-Earners a Sham.

The Manufacturers and the Tariff.

Letters like the following appeal strongly to personal sympathy, but they have no part in political argument under the Democratic creed of 1892:

To the editor of the Sun: Sir—The proposed tariff changes are ruining the manufacturers of articles where labor enters largely into the cost. Many of us do not dare make our losses known, as our credit would be impaired. I am the president of a company recently employing 50 hands, now 20, in an industry where labor is 90 per cent. of the cost of the goods.

Any proposed change of importance in the tariff produces more or less distress in industrial circles.

The principle enunciated at Chicago, and approved and accepted by the people in the vote which elected Mr. Cleveland, is that the Federal Government has no power to shape its tariff legislation with regard to the prosperity or distress of American manufacturers, or of the American workmen whom they employ. The sole constitutional purpose of the tariff is to raise revenue, and the only constitutional tariff is the tariff into which the question of the prosperity or distress of American industries does not enter.

This is a broad, manly, definite and intelligible declaration of principle. This is the principle on which the new tariff is to be made, unless promises are broken. Somebody may suffer, but suffering is a condition of human existence. The principle on which the tariff is to be revised takes no account of such sufferings as the cost, wind takes of the welfare of men and women with bronchial difficulties.

Although the question of consequences to American manufacturers and laborers is not pertinent, it is, nevertheless, urged in behalf of the strict application of this relentless principle of taxation that great general good will result from the experiment. Incidentally, some manufacturers may have to close their shops and seek a new business, and some branches of production may disappear. But these incidental losses, it is maintained, will be more than balanced by compensating gains in other directions, and the giant wheels of industry will continue to revolve as smoothly as ever, and more than ever for the greatest good of the greatest number. That is why the experiment is to be tried.—New York Sun.

The letter which gives the Sun another opportunity to stab the Democratic party in the back may be genuine or it may be a pure fake; in either case its statements are false. The census bulletins for 1890 thus far issued show no industry in which the cost of labor is 80 per cent. of the cost of the product. The only industries in which labor cost exceeds 70 per cent. of the product are mining and quarrying. In most industries the figures vary from 12 to 50. The average for all is probably less than 20 per cent. In 1880 it was 25; in 1890, 23; and in 1890, 22 per cent., thus showing that in spite of increasing tariffs the share of the wage-earner has been steadily diminishing. The Sun should be more careful and require greater accuracy on the part of its correspondents or editors responsible for such statements.

But supposing the letter were genuine, and the "suffering American manufacturer" had not lied! What then? Must a thousand other industries and 65,000,000 people continue to tax themselves to support this weak, trembling industry that has the life scared half out of it by the mere suggestion that its supply of pap will be reduced some time in the future? Hardly. It is time to cease to foster artificial industries, which will always be sickly here, and to lift the burden from the many sturdy, independent industries that ask no odds of any country. Take the brakes off these naturally healthy industries and they will soon show the world what kind of stuff Americans are made of. Five new mills will go up for every one abandoned and soon the recently discharged workmen and the chronic unemployed will be at work at higher wages than ever before. Untax the people and prosperity will go forward by leaps and bounds.

Gov. Hogg on Bounties.

The State of Texas raises sugar on its convict farms. Under the law passed by the Fifty-first Congress it is entitled to draw from the United States Treasury a bounty of 2 cents a pound upon its crop. The Legislature of the State recently passed an act to enable the superintendents of penitentiaries to apply for and receive the bounty. Gov. Hogg has vetoed the bill, and given his reasons in a very vigorous document. He declares that the United States Government has no right to tax the people of the country in order to give the money to the State of Texas or to anybody else. He finds nowhere any authority by which Congress can properly give bounties to men for engaging in an unprofitable business. He declares that Texas makes sugar-growing pay, and that if it did not the remedy would be to quit raising sugar. He very plainly intimates that the same principle is applicable to individual sugar-growers. In brief, Gov. Hogg rejects for Texas the position of a dependent upon the national bounty, and contends that there is no constitutional warrant for Federal bounties in any case. Whether he is right or wrong in his interpretation of the Constitution, the sturdy Texan is certainly right upon grounds of morality and manhood. Bounties are wrong in principle and unjust in effect.—New York World.

Untax American Industries.

All genuine American industries will be promoted and encouraged by a prompt and thorough reduction of the tariff to a strictly revenue standard; and in my judgment they will be even more encouraged by a much more radical reform. The chief burden of the tariff always has been and always will be laid upon American industries. More than three-fourths of all the articles which are

UNTAX THE PEOPLE.

PROSPERITY WILL THEN GO ON WITH A RUSH.

Statements Made in the New York Sun Shown to Be False—Protecting the Cholera Industry—Tariff for Wage-Earners a Sham.

The Manufacturers and the Tariff.

Letters like the following appeal strongly to personal sympathy, but they have no part in political argument under the Democratic creed of 1892:

To the editor of the Sun: Sir—The proposed tariff changes are ruining the manufacturers of articles where labor enters largely into the cost. Many of us do not dare make our losses known, as our credit would be impaired. I am the president of a company recently employing 50 hands, now 20, in an industry where labor is 90 per cent. of the cost of the goods.

Any proposed change of importance in the tariff produces more or less distress in industrial circles.

The principle enunciated at Chicago, and approved and accepted by the people in the vote which elected Mr. Cleveland, is that the Federal Government has no power to shape its tariff legislation with regard to the prosperity or distress of American manufacturers, or of the American workmen whom they employ. The sole constitutional purpose of the tariff is to raise revenue, and the only constitutional tariff is the tariff into which the question of the prosperity or distress of American industries does not enter.

This is a broad, manly, definite and intelligible declaration of principle. This is the principle on which the new tariff is to be made, unless promises are broken. Somebody may suffer, but suffering is a condition of human existence. The principle on which the tariff is to be revised takes no account of such sufferings as the cost, wind takes of the welfare of men and women with bronchial difficulties.

Although the question of consequences to American manufacturers and laborers is not pertinent, it is, nevertheless, urged in behalf of the strict application of this relentless principle of taxation that great general good will result from the experiment. Incidentally, some manufacturers may have to close their shops and seek a new business, and some branches of production may disappear. But these incidental losses, it is maintained, will be more than balanced by compensating gains in other directions, and the giant wheels of industry will continue to revolve as smoothly as ever, and more than ever for the greatest good of the greatest number. That is why the experiment is to be tried.—New York Sun.

The letter which gives the Sun another opportunity to stab the Democratic party in the back may be genuine or it may be a pure fake; in either case its statements are false. The census bulletins for 1890 thus far issued show no industry in which the cost of labor is 80 per cent. of the cost of the product. The only industries in which labor cost exceeds 70 per cent. of the product are mining and quarrying. In most industries the figures vary from 12 to 50. The average for all is probably less than 20 per cent. In 1880 it was 25; in 1890, 23; and in 1890, 22 per cent., thus showing that in spite of increasing tariffs the share of the wage-earner has been steadily diminishing. The Sun should be more careful and require greater accuracy on the part of its correspondents or editors responsible for such statements.

But supposing the letter were genuine, and the "suffering American manufacturer" had not lied! What then? Must a thousand other industries and 65,000,000 people continue to tax themselves to support this weak, trembling industry that has the life scared half out of it by the mere suggestion that its supply of pap will be reduced some time in the future? Hardly. It is time to cease to foster artificial industries, which will always be sickly here, and to lift the burden from the many sturdy, independent industries that ask no odds of any country. Take the brakes off these naturally healthy industries and they will soon show the world what kind of stuff Americans are made of. Five new mills will go up for every one abandoned and soon the recently discharged workmen and the chronic unemployed will be at work at higher wages than ever before. Untax the people and prosperity will go forward by leaps and bounds.

Gov. Hogg on Bounties.

The State of Texas raises sugar on its convict farms. Under the law passed by the Fifty-first Congress it is entitled to draw from the United States Treasury a bounty of 2 cents a pound upon its crop. The Legislature of the State recently passed an act to enable the superintendents of penitentiaries to apply for and receive the bounty. Gov. Hogg has vetoed the bill, and given his reasons in a very vigorous document. He declares that the United States Government has no right to tax the people of the country in order to give the money to the State of Texas or to anybody else. He finds nowhere any authority by which Congress can properly give bounties to men for engaging in an unprofitable business. He declares that Texas makes sugar-growing pay, and that if it did not the remedy would be to quit raising sugar. He very plainly intimates that the same principle is applicable to individual sugar-growers. In brief, Gov. Hogg rejects for Texas the position of a dependent upon the national bounty, and contends that there is no constitutional warrant for Federal bounties in any case. Whether he is right or wrong in his interpretation of the Constitution, the sturdy Texan is certainly right upon grounds of morality and manhood. Bounties are wrong in principle and unjust in effect.—New York World.

Untax American Industries.

All genuine American industries will be promoted and encouraged by a prompt and thorough reduction of the tariff to a strictly revenue standard; and in my judgment they will be even more encouraged by a much more radical reform. The chief burden of the tariff always has been and always will be laid upon American industries. More than three-fourths of all the articles which are

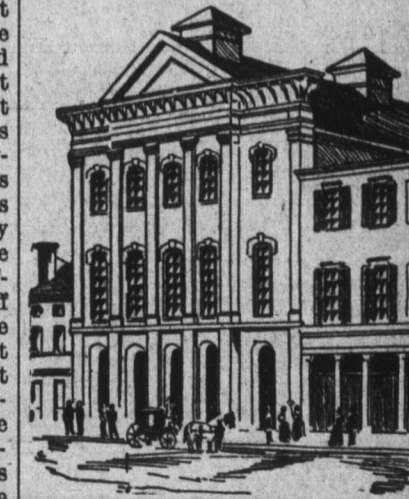
A FEARFUL DISASTER.

FORD'S THEATER THE SCENE OF A NEW HORROR.

Awful Catastrophe Attending the Collapse of the Building—Four Hundred United States Government Clerks Barred Under Heavy Timbers—Few Escaped Injury.

Scores Are Killed.

Death visited the national capital Friday in its most terrible form and reaped a mighty harvest. Ford's Theater, where a little over a quarter of a century ago a tragedy startled the nation, was the scene of the black angel's visit. Without a moment's warning the building collapsed, and 500 Government clerks and a cellar full of laborers were buried in the awful mass of wreckage which was piled in the cellar. The front half of all three floors fell, carrying everything in its path. Then the air was split by the shrieks and groans of the frightened, wounded, and dying hundreds who, like a mass of worms, struggled, twisted, and fought to free themselves from one another and from the heavy iron beams and timbers and furniture and government records which pinned them to their places. The people in the neighborhood were for the moment stunned. The horror of it all had robbed them of their senses. Then in a few moments, but what to the wretched pinions in death's embrace seemed ages, the truth burst upon their befuddled brains, and they joined their cries with the unfortunates within the collapsed building. Then, dividing, some rushed for help, some ran to the slabs of death itself to lend their hands, while others, with selfish regard for their own safety and curiosity, stood where they were to look upon the scene.



FORD'S THEATER.

With the speed of the electric messenger the news seemed to fly from mouth to mouth, and in a few minutes by the time the first ambulance reached the street that fronted the theater the thoroughfare was choked with people. It was like breaking into a mob to get through the crowd to the building, for many there had fathers, husbands, brothers, and sons, and the sight of the wreck, and they fought to retain the places they had gained and fought to get nearer. Meanwhile the cries of the wretches within the trap—for it was but little else—were becoming weaker. Many whose voices had blended with the shouts of the first rush, died a miserable death, others had fainted from fatigue. Some in their terror jumped from the third story windows and were crushed into a mass of lifeless pulp on the concrete below.

At the time this dispatch was sent it was in doubt whether the first fire had been killed outright, but the number was conservatively placed at seventy-five. Many others will die.

Awful Tangle of Debris. The tangle of stuff inside of the building that had to be cleared away in getting at bodies was terrible. Girders, bricks, beams, and furniture, all twisted and broken together, kept several hundred men at work for clearing away, heedless of the danger that menaced them from the possibility of falling walls. It was a difficult as well as dangerous task, but there was far less concern than one would have expected. Men turned round and sick at the horrible spectacle presented by the injured. General Schofield promptly ordered two troops of cavalry from Fort Meyer, just across the river, and two companies of infantry from the Arsenal to the scene of the disaster. The Secretary of the Navy also ordered out all the naval medical officers stationed there, and opened the naval hospital to receive the injured. The Commandant of the navy yard was ordered to render all assistance in his power, and every hospital in the city was called into requisition to care for the wounded.

Cause of the Accident. An investigation of the cause of the accident discovered that it was apparently due to criminal carelessness. A number of laborers were at work beneath the first floor excavating for a new sewer. The building rested on underpinning and the earth, and as the earth was dug away the pressure of the building rested on the unsupported beams of the first floor. The weight proved too much, and the floors collapsed and fell into the excavation burying the laborers and clerks beneath them.

The building was acquired by the Government some years ago because of its historical associations, and, although it had been condemned as unsafe and unsuitable for the purpose for which it was occupied, the Government kept it unchanged. The floors were heavily loaded with the records of the pension division of the War Department. The clerks employed there were all men.

How the World Wags.

A PENSION revision board of twenty three members has been appointed.

THE B. Goodman Company suspended, failed at New York for \$63,000.

The debts of Barr Co., The New York coffee merchants who failed recently are \$1,000,000.

The new coast-defense vessel Monterey has been ordered from San Francisco to Puget Sound.

STUART McBERT, for twenty years missionary among the Nez Percé Indians, died in Idaho.

FIFTY-SEVEN waiters in John Wanamaker's restaurant at Philadelphia are on a strike for better food.

THE Bradstreet-Thurber furniture store at Minneapolis was destroyed by fire, with a loss of \$160,000.

CHOLERA is spreading among the Arabs of Turkey. Twenty deaths a day are reported at Bassorah.

OWING to the corn famine, 6,317,000 bushels of corn from the United States have been shipped into Mexico.

W. W. JOHNSON & Co., whose plan is one of the largest in Cincinnati, withdrew from the Whisky Trust.

RUSSIA will raise its Washington mission to an embassy, and probably send some older diplomat as ambassador.

THE Gould pleasure party has returned to New York from its three-week trip to the World's Fair and to the Western Southwest.

REPORTS from several cities of Asia Turkey say that the cholera has appeared in many districts and is spreading rapidly.