

THE FUTURE OF REFORM

VIEW OF CONGRESSMAN WM. M. SPRINGER.

The Democrats Will Keep Tariff Reform to the Front—It Will Be the Winning Issue in '92—The Hopeless Situation of the Republicans—They Cannot Shift the Issue, and Can Neither Go Forward Nor Backward.

Congressman Wm. M. Springer will be a prominent figure in the new Democratic House. He is already a candidate for Speaker, with a show of being elected; but whether he is elected or not, his long and conspicuous service in the Democratic party lends great interest to his views of the outlook for tariff reform at this time. He talked recently to a member of the New York Reform Club as follows:

"The Republican politicians of Washington are now trying to divert public attention from the principal issue upon which they were repudiated at the November election. They seem to be of the opinion that there is but one way open through which success is possible in 1892. Upon the tariff question they have been thoroughly repudiated. They now hope by reviving sectional issues, through and by means of the force bill and appeals to sectional prejudice, to re-form political issues upon other lines than tariff and taxation. In this they will be as much disappointed as they were overwhelmed by the result of the recent election. The people of the country have pronounced against taxation of the many for the benefit of the few. They will not give up this issue until it has eventuated in practical legislation in accordance with their demands. If we were now living under the form of government which prevails in monarchical England, the new Congress would at once be convened, and the McKinley bill would be immediately repudiated; but under our more conservative methods we must abide the constitutional forms required for securing results.

"On the tariff question the Republicans can neither go forward nor backward with any prospect of bettering their condition. To stand still is conceded defeat; to move in the other direction offers scarcely less advantage. If they go forward they must rely upon the fulfillment of pledges made before the election, and pending the passage of the McKinley bill, to the effect that while prices of articles affected by the tariff might be temporarily advanced, yet, ultimately, and in the near future, by means of competition, such prices could be greatly reduced and articles would be sold cheaper than before the passage of the bill—thus placing their reliance in the future for a reversal of the popular judgment in November upon a claim that competition is to come to their relief, and that by the time of the next Presidential election the people will be in the full enjoyment of cheap necessities of life secured through competition. This hope is a flattering one; it can never be realized.

"Competition has already done its perfect work in this country in the matter of reducing prices. So perfectly has competition been carried on that combination for the purpose of arresting competition has been resorted to all along the line. There is scarcely a manufacturing industry in the United States that is not more or less controlled by some kind of combination for the purpose of limiting the output and regulating the prices. In some cases this combination has taken the form of trusts or organized monopolies. These trusts have secured the concentration of nearly all the capital engaged in a given industry, and by this combination a complete control of the output and prices has been secured. In other cases a more mild type of combination has been resorted to. In some cases the combination has been secured by means of correspondence between the various interests and tacit agreement reached as to output and prices, year after year. But, through one form or another, scarcely an industry can be mentioned in which further competition is not prevented or made impossible by the mutual concurrence of those engaged in the business.

"Those, therefore, who look to competition for a reduction of prices will be deceived. Prices of manufactured articles can only be reduced, while the McKinley bill is in force, by the reduction of wages or by the adoption of improved processes. The latter will come without the tariff; it is entirely independent of it. In most lines of industry it would seem that the processes of manufacture were almost perfect at this time; but still we may hope for continued improvement in this direction, although such improvement will scarcely be perceptible in the brief space of two years. Lower prices secured by reduction of wages would be attended with greater disaster than if present prices should be maintained and wages increased; so that, wherever cheapness is secured by reduction of wages, the remedy will be worse than the disease—speaking in a political sense, as it will affect the interests of the Republican party. Hence, it seems conclusive that the Republican party cannot improve its position on the tariff or on taxation by adhering to the McKinley bill.

"If, however, the leaders of the party should determine to reverse their position, overturn the leadership of Harrison, McKinley, and Reed, and put Mr. Blaine forward with the implied promise of the repeal of the McKinley bill, the enlargement of trade through reciprocity and the bettering of their condition by repudiating all that the Republican party has done since it came into power, it will find this latter condition more hopeless than the former.

"President Harrison, in his message to Congress 'pointed with pride' to the fact that there had been, recently, an increase in the prices of agricultural products, such as corn, wheat, etc.; and he endeavored to convey the impression that such increased price of agricultural products was the result of the McKinley bill. Nothing could be further from the truth. If he had taken pains to examine the reports on the condition of crops, which issued from the Agricultural Department almost simultaneously with his message, he would have found that in Kansas the average yield of corn per acre was only eleven bushels, whereas it ought to have been thirty. The very fact that there is almost a total failure of the corn crop in Kansas was one of the reasons which produced the political revolution in that State. The failure or shortness of the corn crop in the great corn belt of the country caused scarcity of this product, and scarcity resulted in higher prices for corn. But the trouble with the farmers was that they had little or no corn to sell, and many of them who had stock to feed became buyers at the higher rates.

which scarcity had produced. The prices of agricultural products are determined entirely by the extent of production, and this is governed by natural causes, not by legislation.

"A failure of crops in this country is regarded by the farmers as the greatest calamity that can befall them. But such failure inevitably results in higher prices of farm products, and therefore the President has cited as an evidence of prosperity that which the farmers themselves regard as a calamity, namely, higher prices resulting from crop failure. There can be no combination among farmers to reduce the output of agricultural products; such combinations are not even desirable. Farmers universally strive for bountiful harvests, the pious ones among them praying as well as laboring for them. They regard a bountiful harvest as essential to their prosperity, notwithstanding the fact that the greater the crop the less will be the price of the products. They are political economists who believe—who realize, in fact—that abundance is wealth, and that scarcity can never tend in that direction. If the next season should be favorable, and large crops of wheat, corn, oats and other products of the farm should be realized, there will be a corresponding depression of prices, and the larger the crop the lower the prices. If such should be the result a year from this time the President in his annual

TARIFF LETTERS TO FARMER BROWN.

NO. 12.

Does a Tariff Restrict Foreign Trade?

DEAR FARMER BROWN: The question which I put at the head of this letter may seem to be an entirely needless one; since most intelligent men, whether protectionists or tariff reformers, are agreed that protection does not restrict importation, and most of those accepting this conclusion agree also that the restriction of importation must necessarily, in the long run, restrict exportation. I say the question may seem a needless one, but when I take up the protectionist journals and see what they are trying to teach the people, and when I read the utterances of their leading men, I cannot regard the question propounded as being unworthy of treatment in these letters.

Two such eminent protectionists as President Harrison and Maj. McKinley are not agreed as to the simple question whether a tariff diminishes imports. In his speech in the House of Representatives on the 7th of last May, McKinley combated the opinion of the Democratic minority of the Ways and Means Committee that the proposed tariff bill would not reduce the revenue, saying: "The very instant that you have increased the duties to a fair protective point, putting

previous decade than in the earlier decades.

You are not a horse-racer, but you know what a handicap is. When one horse is lighter or swifter than its competitor it is sometimes agreed to handicap the former. A certain quantity of lead is fastened to the saddle in order to diminish the speed and give the other horse a chance to win. Now if the handicapped horse wins the race, notwithstanding that it is weighted with lead, who but a fool would claim that the handicap had not lessened its speed? Yet it is such a monstrous claim as this that the protectionist sets up who claims that the tariff does not diminish imports.

Such a claim was made in the latest number of the *American Economist*, the organ of the Protective Tariff League, in an article entitled, "Does Protective Tariff Curtail Foreign Trade?" Its answer to this question is, "Never was a greater fallacy promulgated." Yet in another column this organ of protectionist heresies prints as an article of its own an extract from a speech of Senator Jones, of Nevada, in the United States Senate on Sept. 10, in which Senator attempts to show that foreign trade is in itself bad, and is, therefore, not to be desired.

"Foreign trade," he says, "spoils the equilibrium of a nation's industry; it leaves them one-sided and disjointed, and postpones indefinitely the period of their

LIGHTS AND SHADOWS

IN THE EVERYDAY LIFE OF THE INDIANANS.

Slashed With a Razor—Shot His Eye Out, Robbed by a Fool—Brutally Pounded—Suicides—Fort Wayne Raising a Purse for Brave Officers.

—Crawfordsville's live with tramps. —Peru is now routing out her gamblers.

—Scarlet fever is epidemic at Willow Branch.

—There's a genuine case of smallpox in Lodi.

—Covington has many severe cases of the grippe.

—Adeline Guthrie, aged 80 years, died at Lebanon.

—There are two cases of spotted fever in Washington.

—Jeffersonville is being tortured with the grippe again.

—Counterfeit two-dollar bills are circulating in Franklin.

—Emanuel Kinsey, of Claypool, was fatally hurt by a fall.

—Miners' State Convention will be held in Terre Haute, March 3.

—Terre Haute's new electric street-car system is in operation.

—Brazil has a fighting chance of seizing the Indianapolis car works.

—Michigan City is going to have a German paper, the *Freie Lanze*.

—A young Shelbyville claims to have smoked 7,000 cigarettes last year.

—Hoosier cannery factory put up 216,720 cans of pumpkins this year.

—Five hundred thousand pike have been placed in a pond at Rome City.

—A new and unusually powerful gas well has just been drilled at Muncie.

—Fort Wayne mail carriers have organized a mutual protective association.

—Shelbyville's new natural-gas company will get its supply near Fountain town.

—John Anderson, a tramp, was found in a badly frozen condition at Martinsville.

—Tell City will give a square and \$20,000 if they'll let it be the county seat of Perry.

—During the past year the city of Crawfordsville paid \$5,810 to salaried officers.

—Benjamin Alvis, miner, was fatally hurt by a fall of slate in the mine near Newburg.

—The 8-year-old son of Thomas Anderson, of Owen County, is said to weigh 200 pounds.

—Harry Robins, a 6-year-old Shelbyville boy, was blinded while playing with fire-crackers.

—The steamer Gen. Pike met with a disaster at Madison and sank in twenty feet of water.

—Little Harry Robins, playing with fire-crackers in Shelbyville, shot out both of his eyes.

—T. R. Johnson, of South Bend, is dead at the age of 77. He settled in South Bend in 1843.

—James Wales, a Union County farmer, has failed, with liabilities of \$12,000 and assets of \$7,000.

—Nine hundred volumes of standard works have been added to the library of the prison south.

—Samuel Little, Pike County, has brought suit to eject the striking miners from the houses near his mine.

—Fire in H. D. Pixley & Co.'s establishment in Terre Haute destroyed about \$15,000 worth of property.

—Lewis Summers, of Providence, was accidentally shot by a companion while hunting. His wounds are fatal.

—It is a positive fact that gold has been discovered in paying quantities in Blount Township, near Danville.

—L. Barber, a brakeman on the C. & E. Railroad, lost his right hand while making a car coupling at Decatur.

—Miss Lizzie Snowberg, who was so badly injured while crossing the railway track near Camden, has since died.

—John Fitzgerald, sr., wholesale grocer of Logansport, well-known in the northern part of the State, died suddenly.

—Mrs. John W. Mullen slipped and fell on the icy sidewalk at Madison, suffering a double fracture of bones of her leg.

—Henry Underwood, near Groveland, lost his fine barn, with many horses and cattle by fire. Partially insured. Incurably.

—Noah Hoffman slipped off a load of hay, near Lebanon. A shotgun he was carrying was discharged, tearing off his left arm.

—A fox-drive near Logogoot resulted in the capture of five foxes and about two hundred rabbits, nothing but clubs being used.

—The German National Bank, of Evansville, has been reorganized under the State laws, and increased its capital stock \$150,000.

—Mrs. Harvey Moore, Greencastle, attempted to eat one quail a day for 30 days. She ate 20, but could not manage the thirtieth.

—B. L. Schrot's 11-year-old son was drowned while skating near Emma. His companions were too badly frightened to try to save him.

—A mineral, gas and oil-well company was incorporated at Greenwood, with a capital of \$10,000. Boring will commence immediately.

—Lexington jokers put a rope around the neck of Charles Madden, who was intoxicated, and suspended him from a coat-hanger. He was nearly lifeless before the jokers realized the gravity of their prank and cut him down.

—Mrs. Williamson and Mrs. Ely, returning to their homes in the country after shopping in Wabash, were overtaken on the way by a footpad, who deliberately reached in the back of their buggy and took their packages of dry goods, and escaped.

—A movement is on foot in Fort Wayne among the citizens to raise \$1,500 for Officers Kennedy and Wilkinson, who captured Kuhns.

—John Buchanan and Fittie Bender, of New Market, were found nearly dead in their room at a Jefferson hotel. They had blown out the gas.

—Frank Carr and Robert Messie, Noblesville children, furnished with powder for New Year's fun, are now laid up with faces burned beyond recognition.

—It is proposed to erect a monument to the memory of the late W. D. Robinson, of Washington, founder of the Brotherhood of Engineers.

—The Midland Railroad promises to remove its shops from Lebanon to Brazil if Clay county will vote a \$23,000 subsidy to its proposed extension.

—Charles Parker, mulatto, in trouble with Lawrence Wagner, slashed him with his razor in Fort Wayne. Jailed on charge of assault with intent to kill.

—William Law and Benjamin Law, each in State's prison serving twelve-year sentences, make application in the Franklin courts for divorces from their wives.

—Maria B. Woodworth, the faith-cure evangelist, has filed in the Deaware Circuit Court a petition for divorce from Philip H. Woodworth, alleging cruelty and unfaithfulness.

—A Green County farmer died all of his valuable property to his twelve stalwart sons, with the understanding that they would in future support him. He is now engaged in hauling rails.

—Capitalists from Detroit and Muncie have leased twenty acres of James Frazer, near Hillsboro, for the purpose of using the sand there for the manufacture of glass. The intention is to locate a factory there.

—H. M. Bercaw and George W. Myers, stock buyers, living in Boone County, were called to Frankfort to answer to six indictments charging them with placing a thin piece of lead under the weight on their scales, therefore making 100 pounds difference every time the beam was balanced. They were fined \$350 and severely censured.

—The trestle of Sam's Lick, on the French Lick branch of the Monon, gave way while a passenger train was crossing. The engineer put on a full head of steam and got the train over, but it went down the embankment. The engineer, Andy Erwin, was severely bruised and Mrs. J. A. Ritter, of West Baden, and the baggage-master, William Price, were slightly injured.

—George Ellis, of New Albany, while hunting ducks in the Louisville and Portland Canal, was instantly killed by the accidental discharge of his gun. He had laid the gun in the bottom of his boat, and, in picking it up, the hammer caught against an oar. The contents of both barrels struck him under the chin and almost literally blew off his head.

—While workers were engaged in rebuilding the O. & M. Railway bridge over White River at Shoals, a girder was let fall, which knocked a stationary derrick down on the workmen. It crushed Theodore Wiseman, aged 45, of North Vernon, to death, and seriously hurt three other workmen, Lewis Long, P. W. Jackson and Isaac Little. No blame is attached to the railroad company.

—Marlon Potts, a section-hand on the C. C. C. & St. L. Railroad, was killed by the west-bound passenger train, about three miles west of Wilkinson, while working on the road. He was struck by the engine and thrown the length of four rails, and his body struck the handle of the hand-car and broke it off. His death was instantaneous. He was a married man and left a family.

—The celebrated case of the State vs. A. T. Howard was settled by compromise for \$6,000 in the Floyd Circuit Court. Howard was Warden of the Prison South, and at the expiration of his term of office it is claimed that he was short in his accounts between \$15,000 and \$20,000. Suit was at once instituted, and the matter has been in the courts for years. A year ago judgment was rendered for the State for \$2,500 in Clark County, and the payment of this judgment is included in the compromise.

—William Reed, Arthur Hubbard, Orville Wood, Charles Heffner, and Henry Hunch, of Fairland, were in Muncie spending New Year's. At night they boarded a freight train to ride home. When a mile from Fairland, Reed fell from the top of a box-car and had his head cut off. His body was found alongside the track by the section men. His companions had not missed him. He was a sober, industrious young man, aged 25. His father was killed at Anderson a year ago by falling on a circular saw.

—Robert H. Mitchell, of St. Louis, Mo., recently advertised for a wife, and Miss Alice V. Cammer, of Pennsylvania, a guest of relatives at Clay City, answered. He lost no time in reaching Clay City and making investigations. He found Miss Cammer young, handsome, and of excellent social standing. He had brought with him satisfactory reference. License was procured and the two were married at once. They left for their new home in St. Joseph, followed by a hundred or more Clay City people, who wished them well. Mr. Mitchell is a school-teacher. The marriage, though on sight, appears to be a happy one.

—Six unknown men inveigled William Vorhees out of his house in Peru, and beat him over the head with clubs. Mrs. Vorhees found him unconscious and helped him home. No explanation can be made of the outrage.

—A package containing 10,000 postage stamps, valued at \$200, was found in the vault of the Howard National bank, of Kokomo, the other day. The stamps were the property of ex-Postmaster Somers, and they had been laying in the vault forgotten for five years.

Chief Robber—Hey! you, recording secretary! here's a newcomer; it's a New Year. See if New Years are on the Free List. No? Well, tax him 149 per cent. ad valorem and let him remain for twelve months.—Chicago Herald.

message would—following the lines of his late one—deplore the unfortunate condition of the country brought about by the low prices for farm products caused by abundant harvests.

The Republican leaders cannot hope to divert the attention of the country from the tariff question whatever they may do, that duty consists in moving steadily onward and pressing the advantage which it has already obtained. It will keep this question before the public until the fruits of victory have been realized, until the McKinley bill has