

## WORDS OF WARNING.

IT WOULD BE WELL TO GO SLOW ON TARIFF REDUCTION.

With Treasury Surplus Disappearing and Great Public Enterprises Calling for Heavy Expenditure, It Is Not a Good Time for Experiments.

The activities of a great nation such as ours are not to be measured by the same yard stick that would in the dimensions of the business of a little corner grocery. To listen to the spasms of anxiety coming from the minds of the rampant tariff-haters one would think the contrary.

Five years, or even a round decade, is a mere tick of the clock in the life of a nation. One hundred million dollars more or less is only a little bit of pocket money for a gentleman who has on his hands the great enterprises carried on by "Uncle Sam."

The surplus in the treasury at the present time is a large sum of money, and but for the wise action of the Secretary of the Treasury in placing it on deposit with the national banks of the country in the recent days of financial stringency, the locking up of so many million dollars would have greatly embarrassed the business of America.

The unexpected and unmatched business activity of the year and the high point to which the tide of prosperity had run were the causes of this enormous surplus. We did not have long to hold it and wait for a very distinct change in the business and financial weather. Revenues will be a good deal less in the coming year than they were in the past. Already the treasury contemplates the calling of some of this surplus money back from the banks in order to meet the regular expenses of our government. Before the year 1908 has run its course, the treasurer will have no trouble to handle the surplus.

The United States has enormous undertakings before it that will keep down the surplus to a reasonable figure and keep the money moving as actively as the nimblest shilling the retail merchant ever turned over twenty times a year.

We are digging the great ditch at Panama, and it is eating up money in a way quite comparable to that in which the steam shovels devours the sand and mud. We have the reclamation service building dams and constructing irrigation systems at many points throughout the arid regions, also calling for enormous sums of money week by week. We are about to enter upon the improvement of our internal waterways. Here, again, the call for money will be pressing and great. Our Senators and Representatives from the Pacific Coast in Congress are carrying on an active agitation to show the government the necessity of fortifying the western coasts of America, so as to forestall any aggressive movement on the part of any nation on the globe which has a big stick behind its back for any part of our domain. We are building large additions to our already formidable fleet, and this work must not slacken much less stop.

There is not one of these undertakings, calling each for so many millions, and in the aggregate for so many hundreds of millions, that has not come from a popular demand. The people have clamored for each and every one of them, with exceptions so few that most of us are in a humor to neglect the voice of the opposition.

All we have to do, in the plain sight of the surplus now held by the treasury, is to fix our minds for a moment upon these correlated facts—the natural slackening likely to prevail in our business for the coming twelve months, with the natural lessening of the revenues coming into the treasury, and on the other side these enormous public enterprises and the immensely large sums which they will call for during the twelve months.

The tariff is not to be considered at the present session of Congress, and it is just as well to take a pretty broad and far-sighted view of subjects of so great importance. We do not hesitate to make the prophecy that by the time the Sixty-first Congress shall have been sworn in and taken its seat, there will be a very different point of view. It would not surprise us at all if by that date there would arise a condition of factors in the two sides of the equation (income from tariff and outgo for great enterprises) which would disturb the equilibrium between the two members of the equation, leaving a minus quantity on the treasury side.—*Los Angeles Times*.

### That Handy Surplus.

Silly free trade writers are harping on the treasury surplus as one of the causes of the existing situation. They never stop to think that because of this very surplus the government was able to rush \$25,000,000 of currency to the relief of banks which would otherwise have been compelled to suspend payment and close their doors. That treasury surplus has proved an anchor of safety, a fortress of financial strength. The government had no surplus with which to help out the banks in the free trade regime of 1893-97. It was, instead, issuing bonds to the extent of \$260,000,000 to cover treasury deficits. Protection surpluses are sometimes handy things to have.

### Reassuring.

Business will be reassured in the absence of tariff tinkering. If Congress will get into line with the President's recommendation touching trust regulation, the chief objection to the present tariff will be eliminated not by tariff tinkering, but by sincerity in the enforcement of conspiracies against protection led by such gentlemen as Morgan, Rockefeller and Harriman. If the Steel Trust is proposed as an international enterprise by free trade in England and by protection in the United States, the necessary Democratic conclusion would be to eliminate protection from America and free trade from England.—*Lewiston (Me.) Journal*.

**Sentiment of the Great Majority.**

If the protective tariff has harmed the industries of the country those engaged in them have not found it out. Last year, the official figures show, the mills and factories turned out \$15,000,000,000 worth of goods and the figures for the export of manufactured products show a large increase. The protective policy is doing well for the country, and any party that makes war upon that policy will run against the sentiment of the great majority of the people.—*Morrisville (Vt.) News*.

The world's sheep shearing record is 2,394 animals in nine hours. It was made in Australia.

## HEWERS OF WOOD AND MAKERS OF HISTORY.



AN EVOLUTION OF THE BIG STICK.

### THE LEVEL OF COST.

#### Prices Have Advanced Throughout the World.

Many persons in our own country who have complained of the increased cost of the necessities of life have talked and written as if the condition were peculiar to the United States and affected us alone. The fact, as is known to students of broader view, is that high prices have been and are worldwide. Increased cost here is coincident with increased cost abroad. If prices had risen in the United States only we might blame the tariff or the trusts or anything else prominent in the political discussions with better show of reason, but since the foreign suffers with the American consumer it ought to be clear that the things most devout upon here as underlying causes of greater cost are not the responsible ones.

A deputy speaking in the German Reichstag recently on the increase in the cost of living in Berlin, said that it amounted to 33.3 per cent in the last ten years; that the price of articles of general consumption had in some instances advanced over 60 per cent, as, for example, in the case of rye, which had gone up 62.7 per cent, while wheat had risen 45 per cent since 1901 and flour 34 per cent since September, 1906; barley had risen 10 per cent and potatos 12 per cent since last year; in 1906 the price of beef had risen 36 per cent, veal 41.5 per cent, mutton 50 per cent, and pork 40.6 per cent, compared with what they had cost ten years before; during the last twelve months all these prices, except in the case of pork, the price of which had slightly decreased, had recorded further advances.

The birth of Tammany Hall.

William Maclay and Robert Morris were the first senators from Pennsylvania, and both attended the initial session of Congress in New York City. Senator Maclay kept a journal of its proceedings, and his comments and deductions are the delight of close students of history. Under date of May 12, 1790, we find this entry:

"This day exhibited a grotesque scene in the streets of New York. Being the old First of May, the Sons of St. Tammany had a grand parade through the town in Indian dress. I delivered a talk at one of their meeting houses and went away to dinner. There seems to be some sort of a scheme laid off erecting some sort of order or society under this denomination, but it does not seem well digested as yet. The expense of the dresses must have been considerable, and the money laid out on clothing might have dressed some of their ragged beggars. But the weather is now warm."

This rugged and fearless old master of royalty and aristocracy had participated in the celebration of the first anniversary of the founding of the Society of St. Tammany, and we know little more to day of that embryonic organization than did then, but we need not seek far for the causes which inspired its forming. Tammany was the political successor of the "Sons of Liberty," called in some sections of the country "The Liberty Boys."—*Success Magazine*.

## Editorials

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

### TRAGEDIES OF THE MINES.

**A** BULLETIN of the Geological Survey makes by its cold statement of facts a powerful indictment against the murderous methods of coal mining permitted in the United States.

The great increase in the production of coal in this country is not responsible wholly for the shocking number of lives lost in the mines. There has been a great increase in coal production in Europe also, and there the deaths have diminished, owing to the enforcement of laws for the protection of the men working underground.

There is certainly criminal neglect of some sort in our methods when the death rate of miners by accident has increased here from 2.67 per thousand in 1895 to 3.40 per thousand in 1906, the death rate from the same causes steadily declining in European countries during the same period.

Our coal mines kill nearly four times as many men per thousand as do those of Belgium, more than four times as many as the mines of France and nearly three times as many as those of Great Britain.

In no country of the world are the conditions for the safe extraction of coal so favorable as in the United States, and yet this murderous record stands against us as a result of neglecting the safeguards that ought to be enforced. We are not so strict as we should be in making compulsory the use of safety lamps. We do not limit as we should the charges of explosives that may be fired. We are not so careful as the Europeans in shot-firing at times when the miners are unoccupied except for the presence of the expert shot-fires.

Taking this bulletin of the Geological Survey as a guide, the laws of every coal-mining State should forbid many of the practices tolerated in our own mines, and command the observance of the rules and precautions quoted from the laws of European countries. Our list of criminal tragedies is already too long.—*St. Louis Republic*.

### THE VALUE OF PREACHING.

**I**NDIVIDUAL cases, at least, the breaking down of the preacher by the cares of the administrator, seems clearly traceable. It may have happened in the old days that a clergyman was invisible all the week, and incomprehensible on Sunday; but to-day the trouble is apt to be that he is only too visible all the week, "running" the church, and exhausting his nervous energy in serving tables to such an extent that he is in species uncontrollable on Sunday. You cannot plow with a race horse and expect him to keep his speed. A man absorbed in business for six days cannot emerge as an uplifting speaker on the seventh. An orator must be plus who hopes to be a true master of assemblies—not ones whose thoughts and spring have been drawn down to minus by exacting la-

### THE TREE'S ROOTS.

#### Something About What Is Called Plant Intelligence.

As the animal is nearest to us than the vegetable, so is animal intelligence nearer akin to our own than plant intelligence. We hear of plant physiology, but not yet of plant psychology. When a plant growing in a darkened room leans toward the light the leaning, we are taught, is a purely mechanical process. The effect of the light upon the cells of the plant brings it about in a purely mechanical way, but when an animal is drawn to the light the process is a much more complex one and implies a nervous system. It is thought by some that the roots of a water-loving plant divine the water from afar and run toward it. The truth is the plant or tree sends its roots in all directions, but those on the side of water find the ground moist in that direction and their growth is accelerated, while the others are checked by the dryness of the soil. An ash tree stands on a rocky slope where the soil is thin and poor twenty or twenty-five feet from my garden. After a while it sent so many roots down into the garden and so robbed the garden vegetables of the fertilizers that we cut the roots off and dug a trench to keep the tree from sending more. Now, the gardener thought the tree divined the rich pasture down below and reached for it accordingly. The truth is, I suppose, that the roots on that side found a little more and better soil and so pushed on till they reached the garden, where they were at once so well fed that they multiplied and extended themselves rapidly. The tree waxed strong and every season sent more and stronger roots into the garden.—John Burroughs, in *Outing Magazine*.

The birth of Tammany Hall.

William Maclay and Robert Morris were the first senators from Pennsylvania, and both attended the initial session of Congress in New York City. Senator Maclay kept a journal of its proceedings, and his comments and deductions are the delight of close students of history. Under date of May 12, 1790, we find this entry:

"This day exhibited a grotesque scene in the streets of New York. Being the old First of May, the Sons of St. Tammany had a grand parade through the town in Indian dress. I delivered a talk at one of their meeting houses and went away to dinner. There seems to be some sort of a scheme laid off erecting some sort of order or society under this denomination, but it does not seem well digested as yet. The expense of the dresses must have been considerable, and the money laid out on clothing might have dressed some of their ragged beggars. But the weather is now warm."

This rugged and fearless old master of royalty and aristocracy had participated in the celebration of the first anniversary of the founding of the Society of St. Tammany, and we know little more to day of that embryonic organization than did then, but we need not seek far for the causes which inspired its forming. Tammany was the political successor of the "Sons of Liberty," called in some sections of the country "The Liberty Boys."—*Success Magazine*.

### AMBROSE CHANNEL

#### Why Gotham's New Harbor Water-Way Received Its Name.

The name of Ambrose channel was given the new waterway by an act of Congress passed in May, 1900, one year after my father's death, says Catherine Ambrose Shadry in the New York Sun. The action of Congress was inspired by the Legislature of New York from which the following is quoted:

"Whereas, During the last year

Providence has seen fit to call from the

midst of us the late John W. Ambrose,

of the city of New York, whose life of

useful public service has proved of

such inestimable advantage to the citi-

zens of that city and of the entire State

by reason of his securing new and ade-

quate channels leading from the ocean

into the port of New York, for the ac-

commodation of our rapidly increasing

commerce, he having for that purpose

secured from the Federal government

during the past eighteen years ap-

propriations for the harbor of New York

aggregating the enormous sum of \$8,

000,000; whereas, Mr. Ambrose, having held

no public office, but animated solely by

patriotic motives, to which he gave his

pre-eminent abilities, by arousing gen-

eral interest in such public improve-

ments, not only of the harbor facilities

or New York, but also of the water-

ways of the State at large, and by his

useful labors for the advancement

of trade and commerce;"

"Resolved, That the State of New

York recognizes with gratitude and

warm appreciation the efforts of the

late John W. Ambrose, and commends

his unselfish labors for the ad-

vancement of trade and commerce."

"Resolved, That a new water-

way be constructed in the harbor of

New York, and that the same be

named the Ambrose channel; and

be it further resolved, That the

name of the channel be Ambrose

channel; and be it further

resolved, That the name of the

channel be Ambrose channel; and

be it further resolved, That the

name of the channel be Ambrose

channel; and be it further

resolved, That the name of the

channel be Ambrose channel; and

be it further resolved, That the

name of the channel be Ambrose

channel; and be it further

resolved, That the name of the

channel be Ambrose channel; and

be it further resolved, That the

name of the channel be Ambrose

channel; and be it further

resolved, That the name of the

channel be Ambrose channel; and

be it further resolved, That the

name of the channel be Ambrose

channel; and be it further

resolved, That the name of the

channel be Ambrose channel; and

be it further resolved, That the