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WASHINGTON, 29.—Jarvis Hatten, Commissioner of Navigation, in his first annual report, says:

"The American merchant marine at the present time, although it has not, in later years, kept pace with that of Great Britain, is second only to hers. Notwithstanding the disadvantages American shipbuilders have had to contend against, the high character of their vessels has been maintained. Our wooden ships are probably the best and safest vessels afloat, and the comparatively new iron-building works of the country are beginning to turn out steamships and other iron craft of a very high class."

In reply to assertions in some quarters, that we have no ships, the Commissioner states that we have the finest coastwise trade in the world and the best fleet of sailing ships is now engaged in California wheat transportation under the United States flag. It is a mistake, says the report, to accept the opinion that the day of wooden ships is entirely past. Two-thirds of the tonnage of the world is probably composed of wooden vessels, while their numerical preponderance is much greater, notwithstanding the fact that for screws and many other kind of craft iron possesses certain advantages.

In round numbers the total of our seagoing marine was on June 30th, 1884, vessels, 6,636; tons, 37,000,404. Of this number 422, of 601,186 tons, were steamers, and the rest sailing vessels. But the entire number of vessels of all kinds under the flag on June 30th, 1884, was 14,082, measuring 4,271,228 tons. The value of the total tonnage of the United States is at present \$180,000,000; value of the seagoing fleet, \$122,500,000. Compared with the preceding year the total tonnage of the country exhibits an increase of 35,742 tons, the enrolled and licensed tonnage having increased 2,126 tons. The relief afforded the shipping interests by the bill passed last session is, the Commissioner thinks, sufficient to place American sailing ships on an equality with the vessels of other flags in so far as expenses of navigation are concerned. A counterpart of that wise enactment would seem to be a measure equalizing the cost of construction of iron ships, a business comparatively new in this country. A tariff which operates to raise the price of labor makes the cost of American ships higher, while it gives no support and can afford no protection to those engaged in the foreign freighting trade, since their business is one of competition with the shipowners of all nations in a field beyond the reach of our laws. It is important that this country should be prepared to compete for the supply of the world with ships, and equally important that our ships should start with the same advantages their competitors enjoy.

The commissioner recommends the offering of bounties sufficiently large to encourage the construction, by private enterprise, of a fleet of first-class powerful mail steamers, which could be used with good effect in time of war as light-armed cruisers and transports. A strong argument is also made in favor of having American seamen for American ships, the crews of which are now composed mainly of foreigners. On this point the commissioner says: "In order to induce American lads to follow the sea for a profession, some inducement might be offered with great advantage to the merchant service, as well as to the national, by a provision for trained seamen." A system of apprenticeship is recommended to be established, in pursuance of which American merchant vessels engaged in foreign trade might receive a certain fixed sum from the Government for the support and instruction of apprentices carried on board for a stated term of years. Such a system would, it is thought, do much to improve the average standard of American seamen and repay the National expense in affording an available corps of loyal seafaring men who could be relied upon in case of emergency to help man the navy. Further legislation is suggested in the direction of making more efficient laws for the protection and punishment of sailors; and the institution of courts of inquiry in this country is recommended, with power to punish officers and seamen, who, by carelessness or incompetency, cause collision at sea.

LOUISVILLE, 29.—A large crowd of representative business men gathered in the Board of Trade rooms to take part in the reception to Congressman Samuel J. Randall at noon to-day. Among those notable for their presence were Capt. Silas F. Miller, Col. J. F. Faulkner, Col. James F. Buckner, Jr., Capt. M. T. Fishback, D. L. Graves, Gen. Green Clay Smith, Bishop T. U. Dudley and others. Mr. Randall's arrival at the Board of Trade rooms was slightly delayed, and the crowd expressed their impatience by thumping the floor with canes and raising a noisy disturbance with their feet. The party were accorded a hearty reception. In his words of welcome Mr. Green was very complimentary to Mr. Randall. He said that the visitor was engaged in the honorable and commendable task of working to secure the best interests of business men and laborers everywhere; that it was his mission in the South to acquaint himself with its business, its prosperity and depression, that he might be better qualified to assist in national legislation and advance measures in relation to the im-

portant question of tariff that would adequately and satisfactorily meet the wants of the people. At the conclusion Mr. Green introduced Mr. Randall. There was wild clapping of hands, and after the excitement had died away, Mr. Randall advanced to the front of the platform and in a slow, measured voice, began a speech of 20 minutes. While he spoke, Mr. Randall's hands explored the depths of his pantaloons pockets.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Board of Trade of Louisiana:

"Reared as I have been, in a mercantile life, like most of those around me, you can understand why I appreciate more than might be under different relations the honor which this body of men tender, and I say that it is proper, in the outstart, that you—being a body of men composed of every political party—should be given to understand that I am here present to-day without any personal or political motives. I am among you to witness for myself, and to study the details that prevail in the great South in the business relations that it bears to the country. We are passing through a period of great depression, and, as I think I can show, this depression is phenomenal in its character, and unlike all others that have preceded it in the United States. As to the panic of 1837, which I know of only perhaps by hearsay and reading, there was, for seven years, a balance of trade against the United States aggregating \$150,000,000 in value. Again in 1857, the panic of that year was preceded by eight years of adverse trade against the States in foreign countries, aggregating \$350,000,000, and the more recent panic of 1873, came upon us after ten years of balance of trade against the United States, aggregating \$1,000,000,000 in value, and yet to-day we are in the midst of depression when for the last nine years trade has been in favor of the United States to the extent of \$1,300,000,000, and, therefore, we cannot measure our present depression in business by those rules of trade which I have indicated as controlling, in my judgment, the panics of prior years. It is due to your intelligence that I should give you the reasons which I think have conspired to bring us to our present trade condition. I consider that it is owing to exhaustive taxation and, to some degree, trade restrictions, which ought to be swept aside. [Cheers.] The government should be administered economically, and there ought not to be a dollar of revenue from the people of the United States in excess of that which is necessary to economically administer the government of the people. [Cheers.] It is a trite saying, and some of us have realized the truth of it, that a man who spends more money than he makes will become embarrassed, and I say, according to my judgment, a country which imports more than it exports must become embarrassed; and the great object of government is to a free people like ours is to have such laws enacted and honestly and intelligently administered as will promote the great objects of the trade and commerce of the country. [Cheers.] I therefore feel that when I am here I am among the representatives of the energy and enterprise of the gateway to the south in her industrial relations. I am here, as I said before, without personal object, and yet I come to see the great reawakening of the industrial energies of the South. You are without limit in resources. You are to-day, in many of the products of the soil, competing favorably with the North, and I have no earthly objection, I am free to say, to see the Southern States come into successful competition with the North, but I am absolutely unwilling to see both sections interfered with in their progress and career to the destiny which God in His infinite wisdom has destined for this greatest country on earth, by such relations as will make both sections the victim of foreign low labor and foreign low interests. [Cheer.] I do not speak this to you in any partisan sense. I speak it in a broader sense of statesmanship, if I may be allowed to apply the term, for we are all advised that statesmanship consists in knowing the resources of the country, and it is, in my judgment, the duty of an intelligent people to study out the details of her condition as they relate to her exchange of products with foreign countries, so that no harm may come to invested capital and no lowering of the wages of American mechanics; and I say to you deliberately that this can be done, and done only upon a business basis about which you perfectly well understand. When you attempt, in my judgment, to run a country upon a theory, I think you belittle a subject that you must study out for yourselves. I will say, in conclusion, that that should be the great object of our rulers at Washington, and the fulfillment required of such officials is not wisely conducted unless they give that impulse, as far as the laws will permit, to the business interests of the country; for we all understand that the business interests of the country, when prosperous, indicate the success, comfort and happiness of the entire people; and, in like manner, therefore, when the business interests of the country are neglected from one cause or another, or are only aptly looked after, then it is that depression and unhappiness come to the entire body of our citizens. The duty of an Administration, therefore, is to look after the business and trade relations of our country, and I may be permitted to indulge so far as to say that if I understand aright the duties of the incoming Administration, it means to give us a business government.

After Mr. Randall resumed his seat there were loud calls for McAdoo. In response, a tall young man, dressed in black, who described himself as a member of Congress from a little State which raised watermelons and manufactured lightning in liquid form, took the floor and expressed thanks for the honor that had been shown him. Mr. McAdoo said the people of his State had a warm interest in the success of the new South. Mr. McAdoo's speech was a beautiful rhetorical effort, full of sound logic and sensibly to the point.

After adjournment, Mr. Randall shook hands with a number of friends. He was driven to the Pendennis Club rooms, where he enjoyed a hearty meal with a select coterie of protective tariff disciples.

To-night Samuel J. Randall addressed a large audience in Leidenkranz Hall.

NEW YORK, 28.—Three Chinamen, said to be from this city, assaulted Hong Chung, a laundryman of their race, in Newark, last week, robbed him, cut him with hatchets, carved him with knives, and, believing him dead, strung him up to a rafter and left him hanging. His landlord found him, and promptly saved his life. From the description given by him, the police got on the track of the leader of the murderous gang and made him a prisoner last night. He is a desperate ruffian, and the detectives believe they have caught in him the perpetrator of one of the most savage murders ever committed in this city. The victim was a laundryman, and the circumstances of the murder similar to those attending the outrage on the Newark Chinaman. The captured Chinaman, being taken to the police headquarters, was recognized as Tom Sing, a Chinaman of very unsavory reputation. He served as officers' steward on the *Jeannette* Arctic expedition, and in the same capacity with the Greeley relief expedition. About a year ago a Chinese laundryman was found dead with 17 knife wounds in his back. The murderer was never found, but the police claim to have proofs that Tom Sing is the man.

NEW YORK, 29.—The National Civil Service Reform League, on December 30th, addressed a letter to President-elect Cleveland, in which it announced a fear that the new administration might not carry out the provisions of the civil service act, and expressed the hope that this would not prove to be the case. To this Mr. Cleveland replies as follows:

"ALBANY, Dec. 25th.

To Hon. George William Curtis, President:

DEAR SIR:—Your communication dated December 20th, addressed to me on behalf of the National Civil Service Reform League, has been received. That practical reform in the civil service is demanded is abundantly established by the fact that the statute referred to in your communication passed Congress with the assent of both political parties, and by the further fact that a sentiment is generally prevalent among patriotic people calling for a fair and honest enforcement of the law which has been thus enacted. I regard myself pledged to this, because my conception of the true Democratic faith and public duty requires that this and all other statutes should be in good faith and without evasion enforced, and because—in many utterances made prior to my election as President, approved by the party to which I belong, and which I have no disposition to disclaim—I have in effect promised the people that this should be done.

I am not unmindful of the fact to which you refer, that many citizens fear that the recent party change in the National Executive may demonstrate that the abuses which have grown up in the civil service, are ineradicable. I know they are deeply rooted, and that the spoils system has been supposed to be intimately related to success in the maintenance of party organization, and I am not sure that those who profess to be friends of that reform will stand firmly among its advocates when they find it obstructing their way to patronage and place. But, fully appreciating the trust committed to my charge, no such consideration shall cause relaxation, on my part, of an earnest effort to enforce this law. There are a class of Government positions which are not within the letter of the civil service statute, but which are so disconnected with the policy of an administration that the removal therefrom of the present incumbents, in my opinion, should not be made, during the terms for which they were appointed, solely on partisan grounds and for the purpose of putting in their places those who are in political accord with the appointing power. But many now holding such positions have forfeited all just claims to retention. Because they used their places for party purposes in disregard of their duty to the people, and because, instead of being decent public servants, they have proved themselves offensive partisans and unscrupulous manipulators of local politics. Such officials, as well as their successors, should be taught that efficiency, fitness and devotion to public duty are the conditions of their continuance in public place, and that the quiet and unobtrusive exercise of individual political rights is the reasonable measure of their party service. If I were addressing none but party friends, I should deem it entirely proper to remind them that though the coming administration is to be democratic, a due regard for the people's interests does not permit

faithful party service to be always rewarded by appointment to office, and to say to them that while democrats may expect all proper consideration, selections for offices not embraced within the civil service rules will be based upon sufficient inquiry as to fitness, instituted by those charged with that duty, rather than upon persistent importunity or self-solicited recommendation on behalf of candidates for appointment.

Yours very truly,

GROVER CLEVELAND."

NEW YORK, 29.—The heavy fog which settled over the city yesterday is now denser than ever. The ferryboats run with difficulty. Incoming steamers don't trust themselves within the bar. Vessels of all sorts are awaiting the lifting of the fog before starting.

WASHINGTON, 30.—Hon. Dorman B. Eaton, president of the civil service commission, was to-day asked by a representative of the Associated Press for his views in regard to Gov. Cleveland's letter published this morning. Eaton, in reply, expressed himself as follows: "It would be unpardonable presumption in me to assume to speak for Governor Cleveland, but I may speak freely for myself. I regard the letter as the deliberate, significant and manly utterances of a man who comprehends the situation and has the courage of his convictions and duties. It is a platform on the subject to which it relates. The views of the letter are those common to all true statesmen of both parties. These views are those most rapidly growing in the hearts of the people. The policy disclosed in the letter is that by which, alone, his party can retain power or the country escape decay. It shows plainly that we are to have no mixed Cabinet, and no timid or compromising policy, but a strong, positive, honest, courageous and absolutely democratic administration. It will be one in broad contrast with the last democratic administration, which was weak, evasive and scornful of all noble and growing sentiments. I may do injustice to my political opponents, but I think many of them have been hoping that Gov. Cleveland would be found ready to break his pledges and trifle with his convictions. This letter ought to dispel all such illusions, and is therefore timely. The place-hunters of his party may yet give him much trouble, and perhaps may bring their party near to ruin by their greed for offices. The democratic party now stands as it did when Buchanan was elected—where two roads separate; one leading to honor and victory, and the other to shame and defeat. Its fate depends on its choice of roads and leaders. If I cared more for my party than for my country, I should hope that the greed and clamor for places and spoils would break through the civil service law and rules, and engulf the new President with all the statesmen of his party. The declaration of the letter, 'that the lessons of the past should be unlearned,' may well be pondered by republicans as well as democrats. It is just ten years since President Grant, through a special message, was asking a republican Congress to make a small appropriation for the enforcement of the civil service rules, to which the republican party was solemnly pledged. Unfortunately there was then no statesman in Congress who could see that a new cause, with elements of potency in the near future, was beginning to stir the hearts of the people. In the eyes of the republican leaders, the early friends of the cause were 'enthusiasts' and 'doctrinaires,' at whom partisan journals especially delighted to sneer. No member in either House cared to even call for the ayes and noes on the appropriation, and amid jeers and laughter, civil service reform, in the opinion of its enemies, was consigned to the tomb of the Capulets. About that time the republican party entered upon a slow decline. At that time, too, began on a deliberate method (and soon afterwards was carried forward through many affiliated organizations), that broad appeal to the virtue and wisdom of the country, which, two years ago, convinced a reluctant Congress that the reform sentiment must be heeded. A civil service reform bill was prepared by courageous and patriotic democrats—Pendleton in the Senate and Willis in the House, to whom the country owes much, introduced that bill, to which republicans contributed by far the most in speech and votes to make a law. But their return to sound principles on this subject was rather late, and their support of it in the last canvass was rather feeble and equivocal; facts which, in my opinion, insured their defeat. They thus gave the democrats a chance to capture that cause, and now that reform sentiment having grown to be a great political force, having captured the Empire State, and under the leadership of Gov. Cleveland shaped its administration to reform methods, speaks in firm, decisive and unmistakable language through a letter of the President-elect, whom that sentiment has, thus early in its cause, brought to the head of the nation."

Washington, 30.—The *Evening Star* to-night prints brief interviews with democratic members of Congress upon Governor Cleveland's letter. Representative Ellis of Louisiana said to a reporter that he regarded the letter as the finest production which had come from Gov. Cleveland's pen. "The life of the democracy," he said, "depends upon its upholding the law. With the policy indicated in Cleveland's letter, twenty-five years from now the party will still be in power. Cleveland has proven himself a statesman of a high order. He will trample out this accursed spoils system, and I pray that

every democratic Senator and Representative will gather around him and make the name of the democratic party the lasting insignia of honor and honesty. There are sentiments in that letter which should be posted over portals and gateways, as the Jews used to do. They should serve as a frontal-piece to rest before the eyes of American politicians."

"Every democrat and every republican," said Pusey, "will read that letter and say that it has the right ring. Cleveland has grown upon us."

Representative Holman thinks the letter is timely, manly and proper. He says the independents gave Cleveland valuable support, and it was eminently proper for him to answer their inquiry as to his course, with regard to removals from and appointments to office. "I believe," added Holman, "that Governor Cleveland is entirely honest and sincere, and that he will faithfully carry out the civil service law."

Representatives Springer, Hopkins, Brown, of Pennsylvania, Nichols, Buchanan and Dibrel, also expressed approval of Governor Cleveland's letter.

Representative Miller, of Pennsylvania, republican, said he thought Cleveland would have to go out of this country to get non-partisans to fill his offices. He would have to import them.

NAGARA FALLS, Ont., 30.—A man supposed to be James Greenwood of Chippewa, while crossing Niagara River from Chippewa to Point Bay, about a mile above the falls, lost control of his boat and was drawn into the rapids when the boat upset and he was carried over the falls.

WALL STREET, 30.—Stocks active and higher; prices advanced $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$; Lackawanna, Lake Shore, New York Central and Grangers leading.

MONTREAL, 30.—Archbishop Bourget is said to be dying. Bishop Fabri has administered to him the last rites of the Church. He is the oldest Bishop in America and made himself famous in opposition to the burial of Guibord.

WASHINGTON, 30.—The House committee on coinage weights and measures will consider Buckner's bill to stop the coinage of silver dollars shortly after the reassembling of Congress. Bland, chairman of the committee, who was detained home by illness, has returned to the city. He says he will oppose the Buckner bill and favor a measure providing for the free and unlimited coinage of both silver and gold.

CINCINNATI, 30.—Judge Sage, in the United States district court to-day, sentenced prisoners, most of whom had been convicted of violation of election laws at the recent elections. Robert Berry, James Usher, and James McLaughlin, for illegal voting, were sentenced to six months in Hamilton county jail; D. Shannon and Ferdinand Moth, for the same offence, 60 days in jail; Henry Schaffer and Danl. Kinney for hindering citizens from voting, to six months in jail.

TRENTON, N. J., 30.—The action against Daniel Dodd, president of the Newark Savings institution, and directors, was decided to-day by the filing of an opinion by Vice Chancellor Van Fleet. The saving banks was wrecked, as alleged, by the action of Dodd, who deposited \$845,000 with Fisk & Hatch, and \$160,000 with E. H. Harriman & Co. The bank was embarrassed some years ago, and the Court of Chancery took charge of its affairs and directed the manner in which its investments should be made; that they should be in United States or Newark City bonds. Dodd made a special deposit with the two firms named, and permitted use of the money and bonds by both. When Fisk & Hatch failed, the money of the savings institution was swallowed up in the wreck. A bill was filed to attach Dodd and the directors for contempt of court, for violating its order. The opinion reviews the order of 1877, by which the bank was taken charge of by the court. It reviews the fact of the loans to Harriman & Co., and the deposit with Fisk & Hatch when the latter firm failed. Fisk & Hatch had availed themselves of it, not honestly, but fraudulently, but none the less effectually. Such a transaction is, I think, without precedent in the history of the modern business world. Other loans on collateral had been made, but in no other instance was the debtor allowed to retain in his possession the collateral and control it at his will. The vice chancellor decrees that Daniel Dodd alone is guilty of contempt of court, but that three of the managers—Bishop Baldwin, Algernon S. Hubbell and Francis Mackin—had such knowledge of his actions as to render them legally liable for their pecuniary consequences.

COLUMBUS, 30.—The *State Journal's* special from Logan says: There is a general uprising in Hocking Valley to-night. Sheriff McCarthy, with a large posse of men on a special train, left at a late hour to quell the mob. A large shipment of dynamite was received at Nelsonville yesterday. Attacks have been started on the railroad bridges. Special officers are being sworn in and taken to the region of Buchtel, where the strikers are said to be concentrating.

DENVER, 30.—A heavy wind and snowstorm is reported raging over the mountains. The thermometer is 10 degrees below, and growing colder. Although the railroad lines are now open, the present heavy fall of snow in Marshall Pass is likely to result in serious delays to Salt Lake trains, if not a formidable blockade. Several interior towns are again snowbound, but as this is the normal condition during the winter months, no apprehension is felt.