

## THE M'KINLEY BILL.

J. F. HUNSON, of Macon, Ga., in the New York *World*, discusses the McKinley bill in a new light. While he admits that it has been productive of much injury to the country, he contends that if it is maintained, and protection made a standing policy of the nation, the result will be good. He says that the vast quantities of goods purchased in Europe by American importers immediately before the bill was passed, added to our foreign remittance, and these affected adversely our trade balance. However, he holds that it is a problematical question whether this contributed in any way to the financial stringency prevailing since last winter.

Mr. Hunson contends that the elections last fall did more than anything else to discourage capital, and to unsettle the trade of the country. He says that whether protection is to be the policy of the country or not, no prudent man is willing to make investments based upon a given policy in a country that does not know its own mind two years at a time. He thinks the charges made against the McKinley bill last fall for partisan purposes, did much to disturb the popular mind about industrial and economic issues. Now that many of these charges have been disproved, a reaction is likely to set in which may urge to the other extreme.

The reciprocity feature of the bill he states meets with the approbation of both freetraders and protectionists, and adds:

"If we can sell to Spanish-America as much as we buy from her, this change in our trade balance will, of itself, solve the question of a permanent supply of gold. Our free trade friends are telling the people daily that we can never sell to foreign nations unless we buy from them, and, by inference at least, maintain that our foreign sales are in proportion to our foreign purchases from each nation. As a matter of fact, for ten years past, we have bought from Spanish-America one hundred millions annually more than we have sold her; consequently, we have been compelled to take annually during this period one hundred millions of gold obtained from manufacturing Europe and send it south in settlement of our excessive Spanish-American purchases."

P. C. Cheney, of New Hampshire, writing on the same subject, also in the *World*, explains that the three hinges on which the McKinley bill hangs are the tinued plate, the sugar and the reciprocity clauses. They were the subject of the most violent opposition while the bill was under discussion. Even the bitterest opponents of this measure admitted at that time that if these three clauses brought the results promised by its friends, the bill would be accepted by

the people at large as both wise and beneficent.

Tin, sugar and reciprocity are now on trial, and before another congressional election takes place something definite will be known as to the result. The opinion prevails among conservative Democrats as well as Republicans that a fair trial should be given the bill, so as not to unsettle the trade commerce and industry of the nation by another sudden change.

## KANSAS AND HER CROPS.

MR. MOHLER, secretary of the State Board of Agriculture in Kansas, has issued a very flattering report of the crop situation in that State. He estimates the total product of wheat for the current year at 55,000,000 bushels, corn at 157,000,000 bushels, and oats at 39,000,000. After deducting for seed, bread and farm feed from these grains there will be left for sale, of wheat 42,000,000 bushels, of corn 52,000,000 bushels, and of oats 13,000,000 bushels. The estimated quantity of flax for sale is 3,000,000 bushels, castor beans 150,000 bushels and broom corn about 23,000,000 pounds. In addition, there will be about \$25,000,000 worth of live stock, wool, butter, cheese, eggs, potatoes, hay, millet, etc. for the market.

From these figures it will be seen that the aggregate value of the output of Kansas farms for 1891 may be safely placed at \$90,000,000. Allowing \$30,000,000 for the farmer's necessary outlay in groceries, clothing, etc., there is left \$60,000,000, representing nett proceeds for the farmers. In 1890 the assessed value of all farm lands in Kansas was \$168,000,000. Figuring on the basis that fair assessments represent about one-fourth the real value, this would put the full value of Kansas farm lands at \$672,000,000.

In the face of such prosperity it is supposed that the Farmers' Alliance will lose much, if not all, of its political importance. Already, it is said, that the sub treasury scheme and the projected wheat combine are being laughed at. The organization, it is well known, is not gaining in numbers or influence. The more conservative of the farming class begin to regard it merely as an instrument of agent for the education of the people in political as well as industrial economy. And this same class is of the opinion that good crops this year and good prices will eliminate from the Alliance all its political features as a party or class organization.

The Chinese do not permit their women to be photographed.

## ROYALTY COMING TO THE FAIR.

AT THE rate American prestige abroad is gaining in these days, it will not be long before the title of an American citizen will be as good among kings as a five-hundred-year-old pedigree. The latest news from the World's Fair European embassy is a marker of American progress in this direction which can be relied upon.

We might without notice have expected that more or less of the royal blood of England would honor Chicago during the period of the great Fair. Waiving the occasional snarls of the London *Times*, and the small politicians of whom it is the exponent, the habit of being civil to America and America's concerns has become very much the fashion among our cousins over the water. That metaphorical kinship is no longer the embarrassment that it used to be. They are beginning to like the sound of it themselves, and it was to be expected that the Columbian Exposition would be embraced as a convenient medium for the acknowledgment of this filial attachment. But who could have anticipated that the Emperor of Germany could so far suppress his royal dignity as to come and pay his respects to Democracy where it lives?

Young William, we think, cannot, as a representative of kings in their divine right, swell around among citizen sovereigns very extensively. To grasp the hand of democracy in such familiar attitudes is a greater danger to his throne in its future capacity than the bitterest hostility America could offer. If he wants to perpetuate a peaceful submission to kingly authority in Germany, his policy should be not only to give America as wide a berth as possible, but to avoid speaking any more than is necessary of Democratic institutions. For there is no law of nation or education by which a respect for popular sovereignty and for kingly rule can abide together in the same breast. The ground principles of the two forms of government are so absolutely incompatible that either the one or the other must be regarded with aversion. We nevertheless hope that young William will cherish his purpose to come to the Fair.

## THE TENNESSEE CONVICTS.

SPEAKING on the recent troubles in Tennessee arising from the employment of convicts in mines, the New York *Sun* says:

"If the laws of Tennessee in respect to the employment of convicts are objectionable, those who object to them have a