

(editor's note: This paper was transcribed from a handwritten cursive copy with various difficulties. For a perfect rendition, the reader might wish to consult the original, itself a copy, in the volume entitled *Literary Club Papers* 2, 1886 – 1887 June 5, '86 to May 21, '87)

Budget, Herron Editor
June 26, 1886

A Bundle of Dry Sticks

Victor Hugo presented figures in an attractive way a rare trait. But he had much reading matter to garnish with. That is not allowable in a club paper for want of time; and it has been a question whether figures are desirable to present. But the interesting paper on the fisheries gave me hope when the fish were numbered.

I will endeavor to present comparisons to show the wonderful progress of the country's growth, particularly in the last two or three decades, so that not much of a text is required. As a help in making estimates, I start off with the population of the United States. In 1880, 50,000,000; in 1885 55,000,000. Theorists stated that the Blacks would not increase as much – free as in slavery. Some have supposed there was an imperfect census taken in 1870 which makes the comparison so great. But the burden of belief is that the increase is greater than in slavery. In 1880 there were 6,600,000 in 1870 there were 4,900,000.

Immigration varies with our good and bad times. Thus in 1837 there were 80,000 immigrants. After the money panic of that year, there were in 1838 40,000. In 1849 246,000 in 1858 120,000. The great number of 430 M was reached in 1854. The greatest number, in 1882 800. In 1885 probably 380 M. In sixty years, 1822 1860 10,000,000. Of these 30,000,000 were from Ireland, or 4,500,000 from the British Isles; Germany 30,000,000. The modest number of 1600 in that period was placed as from Africa. Doubtless a good number were not reported. Many were probably run in when the port inspectors were asleep. In 30 years the number from China was 275 M. Last year 28.

Following the dark side, let us turn to the wide range of figures in coal estimate of coal over 200,000 sq miles, of which 500 miles in anthracite. Product in 1884 100 million tons of which 32 million was anthracite. Last week there was mined of anthracite 650 M tons, while in the whole of the year 1834 the product was 456 M tons.

Now here's something that is hard, iron should follow coal. Pig iron produced in 1876 was 2 million tons and in 1883 advanced to 5 1/4 million tons, Pennsylvania leaving with 2,600,000 tons; Ohio next with 700 M. Alabama has been estimated to have a coal bed equal to Pennsylvania, in 1876 showed production of 25 M tons in 1883 175 M tons. The cotton crop

| | | | | |
|-----------|---------|----------|------|---------------------------------|
| was | 1000000 | bales in | 1831 | How production of |
| | 2000000 | " " | 1840 | sugar |
| | 3000000 | " " | 1852 | varies in louisiana! |
| | 4750000 | " " | 1860 | in 1883 75000 hhd |
| down to | 2000000 | " " | 1867 | 1834 100000 " |
| and up to | 7000000 | " " | 1883 | 1835 30000 |
| This year | 6500 M | | | The greatest number was in 1861 |
| | | | | 650000 hhd. Now about 200000 |

In 1884 we consumed 1200 M tons of sugar or about 2,690,000,000, importing 1,060,000 tons: domestic 140,000; or 13% home production. In 1881 we paid for sugar \$57 millions more than the value of Gold and Silver produced. Our imports of sugar and molasses last \$150,000,000,000. The duty equal to 1/4 of amount received for import duties and more than 1/7 of the total income of the nation.

From 1790 to 1799 the average annual consumption per head was 10 lbs. now 50 to 55 lbs.

Here is a subject for consideration. We pay an average of 2 cts per lb. duty. Is not that heavy to consumers if it be to protect a production of 13% of total use? Better that the value of the sugar raised in Louisiana be distributed to the planters. Some persons say the duty is required for revenue and as sugar is cheap, it is an easy tax to bear. But we have a surplus and vote large sums for extra pensions and improvements. It has been stated that if the duty is taken off the producers will advance the price of sugar, as was the case with coffee. For a time it might so affect it, but sugar is now produced in too many countries to have that continue for any period. The production of coffee increased to such an extent that it has been as low in price during the past few years as it was 40 years ago.

The tariff on hemp is a parallel to sugar, and a move has been made to have it on the free list. For the annual product of cordage is 120,000,000 lbs. of which 7% is exported, and fully 50% used in binding the wheat crop. Kentucky alone produces hemp: the entire crop not exceeding 12,000,000 lbs. The duty of \$2.5 per ton on Manila hemp and \$15 per ton on sisal grass has failed to stimulate the growth of American hemp.

Tobacco crop per year is 460,000,000 lbs. Va. 140,000,000 Ohio the 5th State 35,000,000 lbs. Flour is made to extent of 70,000,000 bbls per year from 20,000 mills. It is thought that the full capacity of all the mills is 500,000,000 bbls per annum. Minneapolis produced last year 5,217,000 bbls. Cincinnati is the 6th city in production 874,000 bbls.

Of beer, we brewed in 1885 513 million gallons to Great Britain's 1050 millions or we 10 1/2 gal per head to her 32 gallons. Belgium leads all other countries with 33 gall. Once a year the London Times gives a statement of England's drink bill. It is furnished by a member of the Statistical Society. The British expenditure upon drink in 1885 was \$616,000,000, a decrease of \$15 millions from the preceding year. The cause of this is attributed to the depression of trade rather than to the growth of thrift & temperance. "The National Drink Bill is enormous; being equal to the nation's expenditure for bread,

butter, and cheese is three times the amount spent for tea, sugar, coffee, and cocoa, and is six times the amount of our expenditures for linen and cotton goods." It is estimated that our drink bill is equal to England's.

In 1835 we had 1100 miles of Railways; in 1855 18,000; in 1875 75,000; in 1885 128,000. Total in Europe 114,000 miles. The greatest number of miles constructed in the US in one year was in 1882 –11,500 miles. To show the magnitude of the business of one road, I would present a recent report of the Pennsylvania Co. The past year its gross receipts were \$90 3 millions. In in ' 84 they were \$97 millions, being about 1/8 of the entire receipts of all the railways in the country. In ' 85 it carried 54,574,000 passengers and moved 86,872,000 tons of freight a vast amount of freight on this road of 7122 miles.

You hear much of railroads; but here is a wide stretch of wire pulling. In 1866 we had 38,000 miles of telegraph line; in 1865 155,000 miles, or 570,000 of wire, 15,000 offices and 65 million messages. Great Britain in ' 84 27,000 miles of wire and 33 million messages; and the world 650,000 miles of line. Telephones in this country estimated 120,000 miles.

For great change in figures, I turn to the Patent Office, as in 1837 there were 435 patents issued while in 1884 21,000. In the realm of France. Our gold production in ' 84 31,000,000 silver \$49,000,000 Coinage \$250,000,000 and \$29,500,000. Estimates gold in the US Jan 1' 86 \$487,000,000. Estimate use of gold in arts and jewelry one year 14 1/2 million, silver \$5 1/2 million. Silver dollars now in US Treasury \$180,000,000. Last week the New York banks held \$66 1/2 million specie nearly all gold. Some time last year \$114 1/2 million specie. Last week

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|-----------------|------|-----|--------------|-----------|-------|---------|
| Bank of England | held | 100 | Million Gold | Last year | \$140 | Million |
| France | | 272 | “ “ | “ | 225 | “ |
| Germany | | 96 | “ “ | “ | 65 | “ |
| Germany has | has | 80 | “ Silver | “ | 78 | “ |
| France | “ | 218 | “ “ | “ | 210 | “ |

October 1, 1885 there were 2714 National Banks: capital \$527,000,000; surplus \$25,000,000 Loan \$1,306,000,000. Total National Bank circulation may one ' 86 \$313,000,000. Deposits in Savings Banks of 6 New England States \$515,000,000 of which \$275,000,000 was in Massachusetts Banks. In the whole country savings banks' deposits \$1,785,000,000.

To close, I quote from Blaine's 20 years of Congress, at end of 2d volume. "It is difficult to estimate the progress of the people of the US in intelligence and in wealth since the close of the civil struggle. xxxx Perhaps the extension of postal facilities is the most significant measure of the intellectual activity of a people. From the formation of the National Government in 1789 to the beginning of the war in 1861, the total receipts for postage amounted to \$433,000,000. But even these figures do not exhibit the full contrast of the popular use of the P.O. for transmission of papers and letters, because the whole latter period was on the basis of low postage, and the larger part of the former period was on the basis of high postage.

“Comparisons in industrial development are so numerous as not to be readily and compactly stated, economists consider that the material advance of the people is measured more accurately by the consumption of iron than by any other single article. Assuming this to be a test, the progress of the American people in wealth is beyond precedent. The production and use of iron between the years 1861 and 1881 were many fold greater than during the entire preceding century. The increased ratio in the construction of railroads gives some conception of the progress of wealth. It is no exaggeration to say that the construction and repair of railway lines in the twenty years preceding 1881 involved an expenditure of money larger than the total National debt at the close of the war.

-----“No period of History has been more marked by generous expenditure for worthy ends” referring to the provision made for those who suffered in the Civil War, stating that \$516,000,000 was paid from 1861 to 1881 to those who had claim upon the bounty, rather than the justice of the government.

Wm Henry Davis