IN A SILVER COUNTRY

Condition of the Laborer and Business in a Land Where Free Coinage Exists.

WHAT THE MEXICANS SAY.

A Representative of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat Tells What He Saw.

Since the free-silver people began to point to Mexico as an ideal country where the free coinage of silver had made everyone happy, contented and prosperous, there has been much written by men who had lived there and others. The reports, which were not flattering to the country, were denied by the silver advocates and branded as lies. The silverites stoutly maintained that if la bor was as well employed here as in Mexico the great question of what to do with the poor would be solved as there would be no poor. They claimed that in that country there was no Wall street; that food, clothing and the necessities of life were cheaper; that the nation was prospering as it never had before, and all on account of the free coinage

of silver.
The St. Louis Globe Democrat, wish ing to be just in the matter, decided to send a representative there who would report what he saw and learned, without regard as to how the reports would affect the political situation. The man was one on whom the paper could depend to tell the truth.

Extracts from some of the letters which throw some light on the subject of free silver and its effects are printed

Prices Depend on Foreign Exchange. Pirates on the high seas could hardly be a more dangerous menace to commerce between nations than this fluctuation of exchange between countries on different standards. Outside of a few money-changers at coast ports, business men of the states hardly notice from week to week the variations in exchange between their country and Europe. But in the business relations between the United States and Mexico the changing difference between the standards is a matter of hourly concern.

"What's exchange today?" goes with every morning's salutation between merchants in Monterey.
"Silver's up" or "silver's down" is the

commercial news of first importance. The shrewd representative of a San Antonio (Tex.) jobbing house on his way back to the states from his midsummer

round of the cities of Mexico said: "Here's a variation of 9c between the gold standard of the states and the silver standard of Mexico within two weeks. How is a man going to sell goods or do any business between the countries when he has got to make allowances for such fluctuations. When I sell a bill of goods From Saltillo southward to San Luis men have begun work, the little brown to a Mexican merchant on six months' time I've got to figure the prices high enough to save my house in the event that silver drops by one of those violent fluctuations before the day of settlement comes. The merchant has got to mark comes. The merchant has got to mark "Have railroad wages undergone any fluctuations before the day of settlement to protect him against possible change. And so American goods must be sold in Mexico at two margins above legitimate profits in order to protect the American jobber and the Mexican storekeeper against these rapid up and down movements of the standards. The condition is simply ruinous to trade. People will not buy when prices are raised on them. My house may make a tremendous profit or barely save itself in a sale of goods on six months' time. That isn't the way to do business. You might as well have a Chinese wall between two countries as these fluctuations. And this is what we will have on a vastly greater scale it the United States goes to a silver standard and Great Britain and the European nations continue the gold standard. know what this thing of two standards means between Mexico and the States,

with Great Britain and Europe.' A Dollar's Worth of Labor.

and I don't want to see it in our trade

A dollar worth 50 cents commands the same labor in Mexico now that a dollar worth a dollar did ten or twenty years Right there is the cornerstone on which prosperity in this silver country is building. That is what makes it now profitable to work mines with ores worth \$7 and \$8, Mexican money, a ton. That condition of labor brings the cost of mining and carrying out the ore down to \$1 a ton. That kind of labor built and operates the cables, which take the place of thousands of burro trains, at a fraction of the cost for like construction and operation in the States. Cables have reduced the cost of conveying ore from the mine to the railroad, two miles down the mountain, to 20 cents and 30 cents a ton. This labor enables railroads to haul ores at from 50 cents to \$1 a ton. It figures in the cost of the transportation of the coke from the gulf and the coal from the border. And, finally, it enables the smelters to make an unprecedentedly low rate of \$4 a ton for treatment of ore. At every step, from the first blow of the pick in the mine to the landing of the base bullion into molds at the furnace. this fixity of wages on the basis of a dollar depreciated to one-half its value is the chief factor which insures the profit, What matters it if silver goes down if it commands just as much labor as ever. and if the lead in the bullion can still be sold for gold? The smelters of Mexico buy ore from the mine owners, and pay a Mexican dollar an ounce for the silver they get out of it. They paid this several years ago, when silver was worth more than it is now. They still pay it. Recently, under the importation of competition, while silver was dropping so rapidly in the United States, some of the smelters of Mexico advanced the price they allowed the mine owners for silver. They are now paying under some contracts \$1.06 in Mexican money for every ounce of silver found in the ore.

miles out of Monterey, on the Mineral railroad, is shipping 160,000 paving brick to San Antonio, in Texas. It does this and pays the ad valorem duty of 25 per cent., which the Wilson tariff levies on brick importations. The contract for this brick shipment was obtained at San Antonio because this company put in the lowest and best of twenty-eight bids. The Monterey company enjoys the possession of excellent clay, but that isn't what enables it to send brick to the United States at a profit. It outbid the twenty-seven American brick-making companies because it sells brick for American money, worth 100 cents in gold, and hires good labor for Mexican money, worth 50 cents in gold. This company is paving three miles of Monterey streets with brick, displacing the cobblestones of time immemorial. It put down a block of the brick paving as an object lesson, and the governor, Gen. Bernardo Reyes, with a keen perception for a good thing, ordered three miles of Mexico figure out a great advantage over the same to begin with. The brick man-

Today the brick-making plant a few

same paving commands in American money in the States. American cities pay about \$2.50 a square yard for brick-payed streets. Monterey will get her streets payed for a little less than \$2.50 a square yard, and that price will be in money worth one-half the American

Other Occupations. As in mining and in brickmaking, so it is in all industries. Monterey is boom-Wages remain fixed at the old rates.

and can be paid in the depreciated sil-That gives the margin of profit. The most striking of the object lessons, perhaps, are those which the railroads furnish. These roads in Mexico are furnish. These roads in Mexico are well managed. The depots and sur-roundings are marvelously clean and neat. The roadbeds will compare most favorably with those in the states. The train service is excellent. Mexican money does it. East from Laredo to Corpus Christi, on the Gulf, wholly on American soil, the Mexican National has a division 160 miles long. Southward from Laredo the first division of the same road, within Mexican territory, extends to Monterey, 168 miles, about the same distance. On one side of the Rio Grande the Mexican National pays vages in Mexican silver. On the other side the pay roll is met with American

Conductors between Laredo and Corpus get \$105 a month in gold. Conductors between Laredo and Monterey get \$130 a month in Mexican silver, which is worth \$67.60, for the same kind of serv-

Engineers on the Texas side are paid \$3.50 in gold for 100 miles. Engineers on the Mexican side receive \$5.50 in

Brakemen running to Corpus get \$50 a Firemen on the Texas division are paid at the rate of \$1.80 in gold for 100 miles traveled; on the Mexican division, \$2.25,

worth \$1.17. A general officer of the Mexican National, too modest to have his name in print, gave these wages from his books. When he had read them off to this point, an interested looker-on interrupted with:
"I should think all of the fellows on the Monterey division would want to get

on the Texas division "Probably they would," said the officer, "but we have combined the runs so that on all mixed trains the crews go through from Corpus to Monterey. That gives them 160 miles on a gold basis in Texas and 168 miles on a silver basis in Mexico. They have the gold and the silver divisions alternately. We do that to give them all the same chance.'

"When did the company adopt this plan of evening things?"

About two years ago." "How about wages of section hands?" The official turned to the books again. "On the Texas division," he said, "foremen get \$40 a month in American money. The laborers get 75 cents a day. On the Mexican side foremen get \$40 a month in Mexican silver, and laborers 62½ cents, both in Mexican silver."

At the prevailing rate of exchange this gives section foremen on the Mexican side \$20 a month and section hands about 31 cents a day in American money.

"But you must remember," said the railroad official, "these figures for foremen and labor hold good only as far below the border as Saltillo. That is 240 Potosi, 268 miles, section foremen are paid \$1.50 a day and laborers 50c a day, all in Mexican silver. Still further south, below San Luis Potosi, the pay is \$1.25 a day for foremen and for laborer

change with the decline of Mexican sil-'No. These are the rates today, and

they were the same in 1888, when silver dollars were worth a half more than they

Concerning Lead. "The silver mine owners of Monterey would be greatly gratified to see Mr.

Bryan restore silver to \$1.29 an ounce? was suggested to Mr. Joaquin Maiz. "On the contrary," replied the owner of San Pedro quickly and with decided emphasis, "the less silver is worth, the better for us."

This seeming paradox Mr. Maiz proceeded to explain. In so doing he threw much light upon the operation of the silver basis in a silver country. What he said of wages and living will be particularly interesting in the United States. "If we got \$1.29 an ounce," he began, "it would be \$1.29 in Mexican money. Mexican money would be the same as American money, and both the same as gold. Under present conditions, suppose we got only 65 cents an ounce in American money for our silver. That American money is worth 100 per cent. more than Mexican money. In other words, the 65 cents an ounce in Amer-

ican money or gold for our silver is worth double that in Mexican money. So you see we would get no more per ounce in Mexican money if silver was worth \$1.29. Now the main value of our Monterey ores does not come from the silver, but from the lead. If I have lead in my silver ore running 25 per cent, that will be 500 pounds of lead to the ton of ore. At 3 cents that lead is worth \$15 in the United States. That is \$15 in gold, which is \$30 in Mexican

"Silver, you must remember," Mr. Maiz continued. "doesn't govern the price of lead. If silver should go up to \$1.29 an ounce. or, which is the same thing, to par with gold, my lead would keep about even, regardless of the fluctuation of silver. It would still be worth 3 cents in gold. My 500 pounds of lead per ton would be worth \$15 in gold. but it wouldn't be worth any more in silver. It would be \$15 in gold in Amer-

ican silver and in Mexican silver." Having shown that he would get very little if any more in Mexican money for his silver if it commanded \$1.29. or par with gold, and having demonstrated that the advance of silver to \$1.29 would knock him out of half of his return for the lead, measured by the Mexican money, Mr. Maiz proceeded to that phase of the silver question which

is most interesting to Americans. "Now, there is another thing," he said, "and it is this: When gold was about even with Mexican money, or when there was very little difference, we paid our labor at the mines 75 cents a day. The amount was equivalent to about 70 cents a day in American money. Today we pay those same miners 75 cents a day in Mexican money, which is now equivalent to about 371/2 cents a day in gold. This 371/2 cents a day in gold yields the mine-owner the same amount of labor which was produced for him when the 75 cents in Mexican money was worth 70 cents in gold. The Mexican miner does not consume for his nourishment and his clothing any but Mexican products, such as corn. beans, coffee, sugar, cotton goods, etc. Nearly all of these articles are today sold at the same prices as when silver was at par with gold in this country. Consequently the living expenses of the miners haven't increased at all. They can perfectly well work now at the same wages as they received is in Arizona." when silver was the same as gold."

The Silver Basis. In wages on a silver basis, the mine owner of Monterey finds his margin. In wages on a silver basis, the smelters of

est silver smelters in the two countries. Damm's rapid rise to the distinction of Each gives employment to about 400 the Croesus of Durango is the story of the Promontorio mine. That is a property of which the mining market never heard. It is known to Durango people ders equal labor, man for man, with the American employed in the Omaha smelt-er. At Omaha there is little labor given at \$1.50 a day. The wages in the various at \$1.50 a day, The wages in the various at \$1.50 a day. grades of the smelter range as high as \$3 a day. It will not place the average The ore is quartz, and all that is thus too high to make it \$2 per day. That is transported is of a grade which yields too high to make it \$2 per day. That is American money—gold. Here the common labor unloads the cars and heaps the ore by the thousands of tons in the yards. This same labor loads the ore into the little iron tramcars and wheels it under the sheds, where the more skilled workmen do the mixing of the ores in great beds. This common labor shovels and lifts and pushes as hard as the \$1.50 gold labor at Omaha and does it for 62½ cents a day Mexican silver, or 31½ cents gold. This labor works ten hours a day for that price. Then there is the twelve hours labor, so divided to keep the smelter running night and day. Here something besides muscle enters in. The iron barrows must be wheeled upon the scales, and one kind of ore follows another in, as beam after beam tips, until the barrow is full of just the right proportions of lead and iron and lime and various ores to take out all of the silver in the smelting. The Mexicans who do this are paid 75 cents a day, worth 371/2 cents American money. Then come the feeders and the furnace men, who know just when to dump in the barrow loads at the top and just when to tap at the bottom to draw off the bullion. This is labor that receives \$1 a day in Mexican silver, or Mexican silver, worth \$2.86, for 100 50 cents a day in gold. The slag pullers get 75 cents a day in silver. The fore-men of the yards, who moves about overmen of the yards, who moves about over-seeing and directing, are paid from \$3 to \$5 a day. They are few in number. month in gold; to Monterey, \$60 a seeing and directing, are paid from \$3 month in Mexican silver, worth \$30.50.

for the results. These get \$200 a month, the equivalent of \$100 in gold. The pay at the Omaha smelter averages \$2 a day, or \$800 for the 400 la borers, the equivalent of \$1600 in Mexican money. The pay at the Monterey smelter averages \$1 a day in Mexican money, or \$400 for the 400 employes. Here is a difference of \$1200 Mexican money or \$600 gold in the daily pay The Mexican silver smelters are said to be making \$10 in Mexican money where the American smelters are profiting \$1 in American money. Whether free silver in the United States would raise the Mexican money to the American money or lower the American to the Mexican it would require the American smelters to pay only twice as much for labor where now they pay four times as much as the Mexican smelters do. The wages paid at the smelters here command the best of Mexican labor. lowest rate, 621/2c, is nearly double that paid for ordinary common labor. It brings to the works brown men with muscles like steel, who trot along with 500 pounds of ore in a barrow. These Mexicans shed all clothing but sandals, strawhat and cotton drawers as they push and pull the ore down the incline of the long roasting ovens. They have only one bad habit. They will come to work before breakfast. You can teach Mexican labor to smelt ores to perfection but you can not teach the Mexican woman to get up and prepare breakfast, simple as it is, before the whistle blows for miles south of the frontier. As you go the change of shifts from night to day.

> Laborers' Wages. At Cerralvo, in the state of Nueva Leon, is located the Benavides smelters. From this smelter there has been shipped since the 1st of January, by ox carts, 1,800,000 pounds of bullion. This Cerralvo district was a great mining center 300 years ago. It had a government mint, and turned out quantities of coin during two centuries under Spanish dominion. When the revolutionary period set in mining ceased. Titles lapsed. With the establishment of stable government and the coming of railroads mining in Mexico took on new activity. The Cerralvo district was one of the last to feel the spirit of revival. The railroads passed by and left this ancient town in the interior. Three years ago American enterprise found this long neglected district. A smelter was built. The highly successful operation of this plant for the past three years, ninety miles from a railroad, affords one of the best possible illustrations of the cheapening of silver production in Mexico. manager of the smelter is Mr. H. C. Harrison, who has had a good deal of experience in mining and smelting. furnishes the actual cost of operation from his books and makes a comparison with the cost of a like smelter in the

women come stringing in with the beans

and the corn cakes and the bit of meat.

	Smelter operation in Mexico.
d	Per day i
	Mexican money
ı	Superintendent\$15.0
	Two foremen, at \$4 8.0
Ш	Two ore weighers, at \$1 2.0
Ч	Assayer
	Two engineers, at \$1
	Two furnacemen, at \$1 2.0
1	Two feeders, at 75c
	Four slag men, at 621/4c
ı	
	Two charcoal men, at 621/2c 1.2
	Two patio men, at 621/2c 1.2
Я	Ten outside men, at 50c 5.0
	Two bullion men, at 621/2c 1.2
Ц	Two cords of wood, at \$2.25 4.5
	Oil for engine and lights 1.5
ě	mail in Maniana manan
	Total in Mexican money

United States money.

	Curren Blates b	TI CATE
Superintendent		\$10
Two foremen, at \$4		8.
Two foremen, at er.	20 70	20
Two ore weighers, at		
Assayer		5.
Two engineers, at \$3. Two furnacemen, at \$		6.
Two formacomen at \$	9	6
Two furnacemen, at \$	w	0.
Two feeders, at \$3		6.
Two slag men. at \$2.50)	5.
Two charge wheelers.	at \$2.50	5.
Two charcoal men, at	\$2	4.
Five yard men, at \$2.	*	10
Two bullion men, at 2.		
Two cords of wood.		
Oil for engines and ligh	řt	1.
Ou for engines in a	******	
m to the Profession Co.	****	001
Total in United Sta		
Exchange, 90		- 73.
fell read with a new W		-
Total in Mexican n	onev	154
The cost of runnin		
The cost of runnin	g the same si	mert
would be in Mexican	money \$154.5	50 f
labor on the Americ	an side of the	o P
moor on the Americ	an and of the	. 11

Grande. It is \$53 in Mexico ninety miles from a railroad. "The present cost of smelting in Mexico," said Mr. Harrison, "is only about
one-third of what it is in the United
States. This shows that a very low grade of silver ore which would be smelted at a loss in the United States can be treated here at a profit. Our furnace smelts twenty tons of ore a day at a cost of \$2.54 a ton for labor. The price and reliability of labor is an important factor in smelting. Here in Mexico we have cheap and steady work-

The average income of an adult in the state of Nuevo Leon is 10 cents a day. There is scarcely a day I do not have to turn applicants away. The entire population is offering service in a fearfully overstocked labor market. The cost of mining in the Cerralvo district. as compared with the western part of the United States, is about one-sixth what it is in Colorado and one-eighth what it

Ore Mine and Its Output. If you ask who is the richest man in Durango, the reply will be:

"Maximiliano Damm."
The case of Maximiliano Damm is onof the answers to the question how cheaply can silver be produced at a profit in Mexico. Mr. Damm is a merchant. ufactured on the basis of unchanging smelter is one which offers a fair comwages and laid by the same will cost in Mexican money a little less than the Monterey. They are, probably, the larg-

hauled that distance in carts and wagons. 150 ounces to the ton. The monthly shipment from the Promontorio is 90,000 ounces of silver. In a year this amounts to 1,000,000 ounces. It is worth in Mexican money \$1,290,000, and in American money \$650,000. But this shipment of ore at the rate of 600 tons is not all of Mr. Damm's product. From his own works at the mine he makes every day a bar of silver weighing 1000 ounces. A bar of silver worth \$1200 in Mexican money and half of that in American money is not very formidable in appearance. It is only 16 inches long by 4 inches in breadth and thickness. Every day one of these bars is turned out at the mine, brought down to Durango and added to the stack of treasure in Maximiliano Damm's warehouse. The mint officials of

free coinage becomes the law.

The present product of the Promontorio is 1,360,000 ounces a year, worth \$1,749. 400 in Mexican money, and to be worth that in American money if 16 to 1 prevails. This is one man's mine. That is, perhaps, the reason so little has been heard of it.

the United States will have an opportuni-

ty to handle a collection of these bars if

About ten years ago, when silver began to go down, the Promontorio began to uncover its richness. With his reputation established as the richest man in Durango, Mr. Damm does not admit Still fewer are the furnace foremen of that ripe experience which is responsible for the results. These get \$200 a month, while doing development work Mr. Damm is taking out incidentally ore which yields him 1,360,000 ounces of silver yearly. A fissure vein which gives him this ore carrying 150 ounces of silver to the ton is from 18 inches to 5 feet wide. While developing his property, Mr. Damm has taken out a third-class of ore which has not been shipped to the smelter or treated at the mine. He now has a dump containing 50,000 tons of such ore which, he says, will average 60 ounces to the ton. That means 3,000,000 ounces more, to be worth \$3,820,000 when the United States declares

for unlimited silver. Maximiliano Damm can furnish all of the silver the mints of the United States will be able to coin into dollars during five weeks of operation at their present full capacity.

Open Mints Cheapen Silver. "Why is it that in a silver country, with unlimited coinage, bullion does not go to the Mexican mints to be coined into dollars, but is shipped out to be sold in another country where it has a fluctuating value and where so much of it as would make a dollar in your mints s worth now only half a dollar?"

This was submitted, during the rest in the saddle of Las Mitras, to the owner of the mines below, from which the Mexicans were trotting forth in never-ending file with their sacks of ore. The mine owner chucked a pebble over the precipice, and shook his head, as if the ques-

tion was too much for him.
"Well, why do you send your own
bullion to the United States to be sold at bullion value under the gold standard instead of having it minted into dollars which are worth 100 cents on the silver

The mine owner got out his pencil and figured. He took the exchange, the cost of transportation, the 377 grains of fine silver in the Mexican dollar, the 371 grains in the American dollar, the ounce value, and made elaborate calculations. At length his face brightened.

"Silver," he said, "yields today 4 cents an ounce more when sold in the states as bullion, after paying freight charges and brokerage commissions, than it would if taken to the Mexican mints and coined into dollars."

THE FARMER AND THE SILVERITE.

He was settin' on a shoe box at th' corner uv th' street. Chawin' plug terbacker an' waitin' fer a treat. While he squirted his terbacker juice at an inerfensive fly. saw an honest farmer come a-walkin'

slowly by, So he histed up his britches, an' he took another chew. An' boldly waded inter him, an' this is what he blew:

"Can you tell me, my friend, why the chinch bug is eatin' up your grain? Have yer ciphered on the problem why we git so little rain? Can yer tell me, plodding farmer, why the army worm's around? Why th' tarnal yeller sunlight is burnin' up th' ground? Can yer tell me why th' weavil, th' rust an' Hessian fly Are eatin' up yer substance? Do yer know reason why? Why th' price uv eggs an' butter, oats an' corn, an' wheat an' rye. Are a fallin' in the market as th' years are

"The reason why these dismal clouds cast their shadders 'crost th' sun? Why yer debts are gettin' blgger, as th' seasons go and kum? Th' reason fer this trouble is plain enough ter see.
'Tis that orful, fearful, nasty thing; th' Tew be sure, yer didn't know it fer thirty veers er so, But it worked this orful havue, it dealt this deadly blow. Th' Gold Bugs down in Wall street under cover uv th' law. gobbled up yer earnings in their thirsty, hungry maw. 'Sixteen to one' will cure you-'tis th' allo-

pathie plan.' The farmer stopped and listened, tho' it almost made him laf, At the stupid, senseless logic uv this whittlin' talkin' calf. An' his dander 'gan arisin' at this ever-An' he kracked his heels together an' he shuk his fists an' swore: "You must think us farmers hav' nuthin' But stan' aroun' an' argify with such tarnal fools as you.

You'll legislate the weavil, chinch bug an'

Hessian fly. You'll resolute the raindrop er know th' reason why. You'll upset th' laws uv natur, you'll change You'll stop th' golden sunlight from shinin' Th' law that fixes prices, you'll change it With coinin' uv th' silver 'sixteen tew one.'

Half a dollar's worth uv metal will be worth jest twict as much. When melted by th' government an' giv'n its magic touch. You'll bust up all th' railroads, shops, an' savings banks. With th' driviin' silly nonsense uv you erazy silver cranks.

'It seems ter me that I remember when things were all askew. Some time about November in th' year uv That the same gang uv fellers promised another treat.

That yer to'd th' grubbin' farmer that you'd gin him 'dollar' wheat.

That he'd surey then be happy, an' his fortun would be made, Ef he'd jest upset th' fariff, vote fer Cleve-land an free trade. Now, we don't pertend to know much, fer we never had much show, But there is cuite a grist o' things that even farmers know. They know when they've been fled to, an' tellen fer a dence

An' they're goin' tew be d-d keerful that they don't git fee'ed but once."

-St. Paul Ploneer Press.

Many Thousands of Young Men Have Reached the Threshold of Their Career.

TWO POLITICAL PATHS OPEN.

Sound Money Stands for National Honor-Debased Coinage Stands for Dishonor.

There are a good many thousands of first vote for President. They stand on the threshold of their career and are looking forward to achieve success in few exceptions they all expect to be business men and by their own efforts win a competence if not a fortune. This ambition to obtain wealth is laudable and should be cherished by every honest and industrious youth.

To these young men the money question, which is now the political question of the moment, is of surpassing importance, not only for the right casting of their votes but for the right understanding of business principles, for if they do not understand the meaning of money, what it should be, what it is for, and what it can do, there is but little hope doubling the price would hereafter probably double the production. that they will be able to accumulate much of it, or, accumulating it, know well how to use it.

The common phrase in business is "making money," but money is only a means for obtaining other things. When a young man has saved his first hundred dollars he doesn't put it away or hide it, but invests it in other property or loans it at interest until he can find an opportunity for other investments. As he increases his money he sets it at work for him, and in this way grows rich. Money is not the ultimate object of business. but it is the means whereby men obtain what they want.

It is of the first importance, therefore, and each man's common sense confirms it, that the money we earn, that the money we borrow and lend and that we should mean the same thing next year that it does today, and the world of busi-ness has agreed that gold and silver makes the nearest approach to that kind of money-gold for large transactions, silver for small. That these metals can be equally used history shows to be impossible, so the wisest nations have provided that gold should have the principal place and silver be treated as subsidiary.

The political question, then, for the young man who now votes for the first time to decide is, whether it is wiser to follow the teachings of history and the example of the most successful business nations of the world or to start out on a plan that has already been tried and found disastrous. Shall we as a people take pattern after England or after Mexico? Shall we learn from China or

from Germany? How does a young man act for himself when looking around among his elders and superiors in business life? Does he choose the example and advice of successful men-of the Armours and Fields and Gages of commercial and financial life-or does he start out regardless of their methods and attempt some short cut to success? How many young men have stood at the parting of the ways looking wistfully into the future? How few have taken the narrow and forbidding path of hard work, thrift and selfsacrifice, but that leads to the mountain tops, and how many the flowery road that is so enticing in its ease and pleas-

ure, but which ends only in morasses and despair? As it is with individuals so it is with nations, and no people can defy the principles of honesty and integrity in their national life any more than

personal life. Sound and honest money, which means money as good as gold in this campaign. stands for national honor. A debased coinage stands for national dishonor. Which banner will our young men follow?-Chicago Times-Herald.

THE MODERN ALADDIN.

How Bryan Ignores the Experience of This and Other Nations with Free Coinage.

Mr. Bryan states that he believes the free coinage of silver, by our government alone, at the ratio of 16 to 1. would raise the price of silver to \$1.29 per ounce; and he never tires of alleging that our government is strong, and rich, and powerful enough to accomplish this result without waiting or asking for the co-operation of any other country.

In making this prediction Mr. Bryan ignores the experience of this and other nations of the world in regard to the coinage of silver during the past 100 years; but waiving that, let us see what his proposition involves. I presume it will be conceded by Mr.

Bryan and his adherents that the price of silver bullion in this country cannot be affected without at the same time affecting it everywhere, and that the rise in the price will apply to all silver, whether in bars or wares as well as in coin, throughout the world. The figures I shall give, except those showing the production of silver since 1892, are all taken from a report sub-

mitted by Mr. Voorhees, a free silver advocate, on behalf of the finance committee of the Senate, March 5, 1894, which report is entitled "Coinage Laws of the United States from 1792 to 1894. with an Appendix Relating to Coins and Currency; Fourth Edition. Revised and Corrected to August 1, 1894. Prepared Under the Direction of the Committee. According to that report, page 275, the production of silver in the world from 1493 to 1892 amounted to 7,522,-507.716 ounces, and there has been produced since 1892 about 600,000,000 ounces in round numbers. Add this to the other sum and we have a total of 8.122.507.716 ounces. I have no data showing the production of silver prior to 1493, and hence I cannot give the figures; but I think it may be safely assumed that it amounted to as much as the whole amount of silver that has been lost or destroyed. In order to be sure that we are on the right side, however, let us deduct 122,507,716 ounces, and state the present supply of silver in its one once. or \$5,280,000,000 in the aggregate. To this, according to M: Pryan's opinion, the legislative fiat of

our government alone would with 62

strange to say, the larger part of this added wealth would be outside of our own country. In gold standard countries the commercial value the silver coins in circulation would be brought nearly to the gold stan ard. This fiat of ours would substantially double the value of \$112,000,000 in sildouble the value of \$112,000,000 in silver coins in Great Britain; \$500,000,000 in France; \$215,000,000 in Germany; \$54,000,000 in Belgium; \$16,000,000 in Italy; \$15,000,000 in Switzerland; \$3,000,000 in Greece; \$155,000,000 in Spain; \$10,000,000 in Portugal; \$85,000,000 in Austro-Hungary; \$56,000,000 in the Netherlands; \$4,900,000 in Sweden; \$5,400,000 in Denmark; \$44,000,000 in Turkey; \$7,000,000 in Australia; \$15,000,000 in Egypt and \$110,000,000 in the Straits, besides \$625,000,000 in this country, and raise all this money nearcountry, and raise all this money nearly to par with gold; and yet we are told that all these countries not only refuse to join Mr. Bryan and his supporters, but even do not sympathize with hem in this stupendous enterprise which would young men who will this year cast their add so much to their wealth, and in a large degree relieve them from the burden now resting upon them of keeping their gold and silver coins at par with each other in their circulation. life in some chosen vocation. With but But how would it work in the silver-few exceptions they all expect to be standard countries? This government fiat of ours would at one fell swoop sub-stantially double the value of \$41,000,000 in silver coins in Russia; \$50,000,000 in Mexico \$8,000,000 in the Central American states; \$30,000,000 in the South American states: \$950,000,000 in India, and \$725,000,000 in China, and would at the same time double all the private and public debts of those countries, which have been contracted on the silver basis. But Mr. Bryan's proposition is more far-reaching than that. He asserts that he believes that this legislative fiat on our part would not only bring the silver now in existence to par with gold at the ratio of 16 to 1, but would keep it and

cents per ounce, or \$5,040,000,000. And

In view of these facts is there any impropriety in inquiring how it is that we, 70,000,000 strong, can affect the money of 1,350,000,000 people by a simple statute, while the 1,350,000,000 cannot by legislation affect us? And are the people of Great Britain and continental Europe and many millions of Americans to be dubbed "money-grabbers" and "plutocrats" if they hesitate to believe that Mr. Bryan has found and carries Aladdin's Wonderful Lamp, and can produce these stupendous results? And are the millions of people in this country who have made contracts and investments upon the present monetary standard, which is gold, and which has been the standard at least since 1879, and I think since 1834, to be charged with being unreasonable when they ask Mr. Bryan to state exolicitly what he believes would occur not only to their interests, but to the business of the whole country, if his prediction as use for the purpose of exchange should to the rise in the price of silver should be uniform and stable in value, that it not be fulfilled and the standard of exchange should suddenly be changed from a gold to a silver basis with no, or at best a slight advance in the commercial value of silver bullion?

> Has the American Farmer Forgotten That under President Harrison's administration the prohibition against our meat products by Great Britain, Germany, Denmark, Austria, France, Italy and Spain were removed?

Has he forgotten the high prices he received during the times and protection were in force? Has he forgotten that our trade in all

agricultural products was extended during this time? Has he forgotten that our exports of bacon, hams and lard was increased \$19,000,000 in one year by this same policy?

Has he forgotten that we exported \$12,000,000 more of American products in a single year? Has he forgotten that we exported

\$16,000,000 more of live cattle annually? Has he forgotten that we exported \$150,000,000 of cereals, namely, wheat,

\$115,000,000, flour \$28,000,000 and corn 87.6 0.000? Has he forgotten that we increased the foreign sales of all our agricultural products \$275,000,000 annually over what it had been previously?

Has he forgotten that four years ago Mr. Bryan and his free trade friends promised him that if the McKinley bill was repealed better prices would be obtained for all of his products? Has he forgotten that all these prom-

ses failed of fruition, and that instead of receiving better prices all agricultural products have depreciated in value? Has he forgotten the good times that all classes, the farmer, the wage worker and the business man enjoyed under protection and reciprocity?

Does he propose to accept the promises of this same Bryan crowd, who make no references to their pledge of four years ago that the repeal of the McKinley bill would bring relief to all classes in this country, and who shamelessly ignore all reference to those promises, and now seek his votes under pledge that a debased and depreciated money will remedy the hard times? The American farmer should not for-

get that protection and reciprocity brought bim prosperity. The Working Man's Vote is His Own.

Bryan and his shouters make much of the charge that efforts are being made to control the labor vote. The labor vote cannot be controlled. It is free. A secret vote must of necessity be free. It was to make it free that legislators made it secret. There would be ample ground for criticizing the writing of letters to working people by their employers on the subject of election, if such action by the employers involved compulsion: for this is a free country, and the right of every citizen to freely express his own views by his own vote should and must be sacredly maintained. Under existing circumstances letters of advice written by employers to their employes are no more to be regarded as attempts at compulsion than is the circulation of any other class of campaign literature to be considered as an attempt at compulsion. They are a legitimate part of the "campaign of education," to be judged by the arguments they contain, and acted upon as the recipients may decide to be best for their own interests.-Milwaukee Evening Wisconsin.

FARMER BROWN'S DILEMMA.

We had a public meetin' in the sch here last week And a feller from the city was invited do: He'd studied up the subject of flarance every light And claimed that he was competent show us what was right. He says this whole blamed country is a goin'

Unless we get free coinage and increase our stock of cash. He's figgered out a daisy scheme and claim twid work immens He wants to make our dollars cost us only

fifty cents. "four bits' of silver and would run it through the mint government's imprint: The mines would dump their silver nation, slick as grease

Would grind out brand-new dollars at just fifty cents aple That sounds all right; but since that night somehow I've wondered

When I buy do ars for fifty cents whe'th
take 'em for a hundred'

-F. S. P., in Chicago Times-Herald.

SIX.