

THE POLITICS OF THE DAY

ALGER IS TO BLAME.

Naturally enough, Secretary of War Alger is very angry at the President's determination to court-martial General Eagan. Of course, Alger would prefer a court of inquiry, because in a court of inquiry all sorts of side issues could be dragged in. It is alleged that Alger is so very angry over the President's move that he has threatened to resign. But he won't resign. No such good luck as that for the nation need be hoped for. Alger may die, but he will never resign. That is to say, he will never give up his position as Secretary of War of his own volition.

Of course, his blunders and his venality may force the President to ask Alger to resign, and under coercion this incompetent millionaire may leave the Cabinet, but that is not likely to be the case. Alger has proved useful to the administration. He is a shrewd wire puller, an experienced and unscrupulous politician, and all through his term of office has served the Republican party faithfully, to the neglect of his duty to the nation. Again, Alger was largely instrumental in securing the election of the Republican candidate for President. His barrel came in handy and his political pull was of great value; therefore Alger is likely to stay in the Cabinet.

Nothing more beneficial to the army could happen than the resignation or removal of Alger. Indeed, if the Republicans knew when they were well off they would urge upon the President

mine what we shall do with them. We are the unwilling trustees of an ungrateful office which we can neither decline nor instantly abandon. All our traditions, interests and inclinations forbid the thought of annexation or permanent occupation. We are not in the business of colonization or territorial aggrandizement.

But in the Philippines we stay until we see our way clear to getting rid of them by transferring our sovereignty to some power, native or foreign, capable of its exercise and responsibility.

Thus, after all, it will be seen that while the Republicans say they don't want the Philippines, they are going to hold on to them just the same to the bitter end.

Col. Bryan's Declaration.

Mr. Bryan, speaking at the Jackson Day banquet in the Tremont House, Chicago, said:

The Democracy of the nation is still defending Jeffersonian principles with Jacksonian courage, and has no thought of departing from the principles enunciated at Chicago in 1896. That platform will live in history, and the hour of its adoption will be remembered as the hour when the money changers were driven from the Democratic temple.

There will be no turning back. The platform will be added to as new conditions force new issues into the arena of politics, but nothing will be subtracted from it. Events have vindicated every position taken by the platform. Arbitration was advocated in that platform, and arbitration is stronger to-day than it was in 1896.

That platform denounced government

ocratic party is the party of the people's necessities. It takes up the cause in which the welfare of the people is involved, and carries it through to success. It matters not what the name of that cause may be from era to era, but once taken up it remains the shibboleth, until all opposition vanishes. It is the Democracy of 1896 which now challenges the government of this country. It is that Democracy which will fight for the supremacy, no matter whether the battle be long or short, and it is that Democracy which the Republicanism of the country may expect to find in the field whenever the opportunity offers.—Atlanta Constitution.

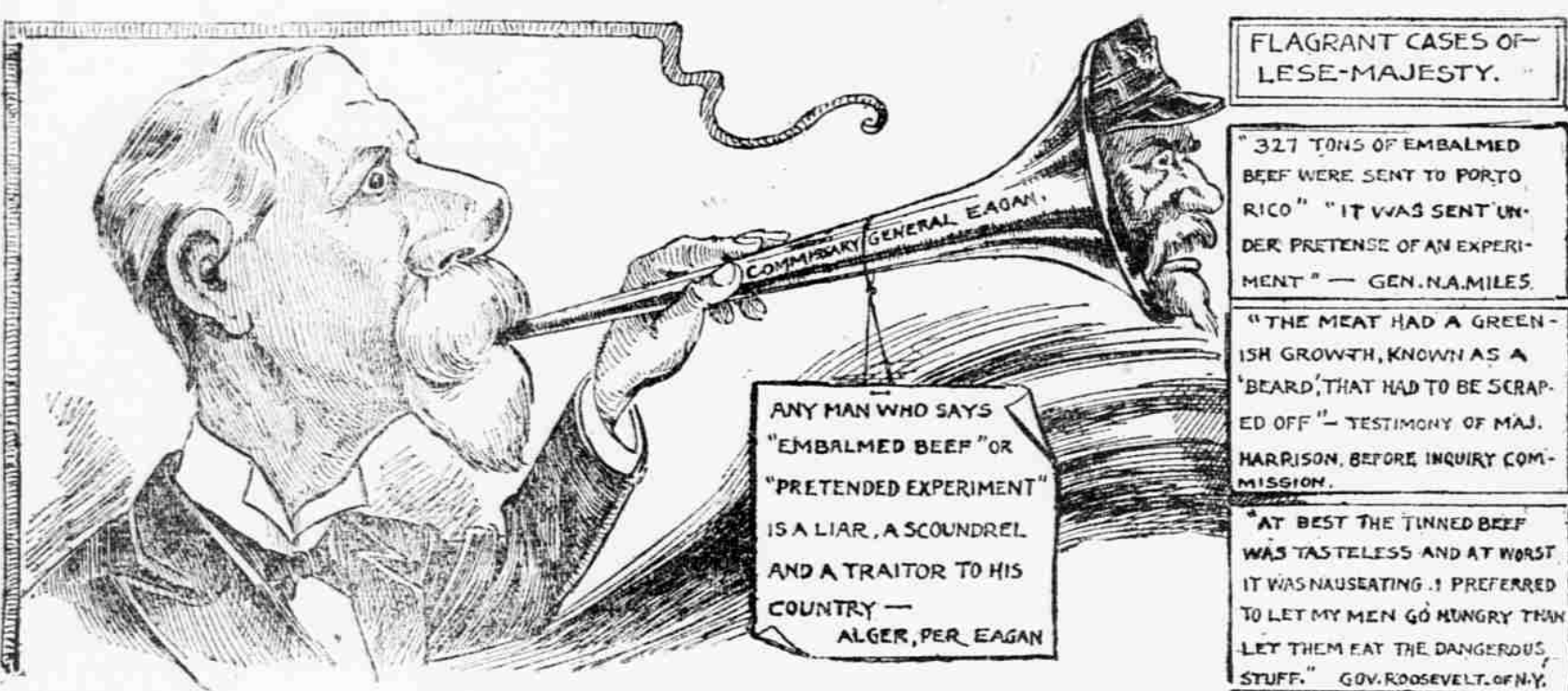
Annexing Savages.

Spain has never been able to conquer peace in the Philippines. Neither has the United States ever been able to conquer peace with the American Indians. By annexing the Philippines another century of oppression to the aborigines, another hundred years or more of death-dealing on both sides will be inaugurated. Aguinaldo is not much of a power for the United States to fear. Neither was nor is Geronimo, but they are both savages and neither will ever become civilized.

Recently Aguinaldo said to an Englishman who went to Malolos to see the dictator: "We have fought always for our independence, and we will always fight for it until our last man is dead." The best students of the complex Filipino character are steadily becoming more convinced that a conflict with the insurgents is ultimately unavoidable. Under the circumstances, is the game really worth the candle?—Chicago Democrat.

Four Months' Time Thrown Away. With but six weeks remaining of the Congressional session, and much important legislation pending in both branches, it would be idle for Congress to begin at this time an investigation

THE MOUTHPIECE OF THE SECRETARY.



the dismissal of Alger. He is an Old Man of the Sea on the neck of the administration. But Alger has come to stay. Eagan will go. He ought to go, although Eagan is but the ill-tempered, ill-conditioned, reckless and foolish mouthpiece of Alger. But Alger will stay. Out of Eagan's spiteful attack on Miles some great good may come. In discussing this question, the New York Journal says:

It would be simple insanity to put more soldiers and more money at the disposal of such a staff machine as has just revealed its nature to a horrified world.

If the President wants a larger army let him do three things as a guaranty of good faith:

1. Remove Alger.
2. Reorganize a reorganization that will unify responsibility and deprive disreputable and inefficient elements of power.
3. Propose such an enlargement of the educational facilities at West Point as will provide the new army with a full supply of trained and honorable officers.

Should such measures be taken, Eagan will have proved himself the greatest of reformers. But it is too much to hope that such reforms will be made by a Republican administration.—Chicago Democrat.

Hedging on Expansion.

While the Republican administration is taking every means to bring about expansion, the remarkable statement is made by the Chicago Times-Herald that the annexation of the Philippines is not contemplated. This is the most startling statement that has yet been made concerning the policy of the Republican party. In the course of a long double-headed editorial on this subject the Times-Herald says:

The Times-Herald has no more use for annexation of the Philippines, no more sympathy with the incorporation of millions of ignorant islanders into our national policy, no more toleration of government of alien races without their consent than Senator Hoar, Carl Schurz or any of the men who are kicking against the Philippine pricks. It is opposed to the annexation of the Sulu archipelago to the United States just as firmly as it would oppose the annexation of a portion of the African continent inhabited by Zulus.

This is what the Democratic papers have been saying ever since the Philippine question came to the front, and this is what the Republican papers have called a small and narrow view. Some new light must have dawned upon the Times-Herald, doubtless the danger of a war with the natives of the Philippines has caused reflection as to the consequences.

While the American people were a unit as to the justness of a war with Spain, there can be no such unity concerning a war of conquest against the rightful owners of the Philippines. In an endeavor to hedge and to play the game of politics upon the principle of "heads I win, tails you lose," the Times-Herald shilly-shallys:

To-day we are forced to make our sovereignty supremely effective in the Philippines in order that we may later deter-

by injunction; and the sentiment against government by injunction is increasing. That platform denounced the trusts and declared them to be a menace; that menace is greater to-day than ever before. That platform warned the people that a conspiracy was on foot to give the national banks a monopoly of the issue and supply of paper money; that conspiracy is now known to every one.

That platform denounced international bimetalism as a delusion and a snare; the Democratic party will be a unit in opposing it.

We are told that the Filipinos are not capable of self-government; that has a familiar ring. Only two years ago I heard the same argument made against a very respectable minority of the people of this country. The money lenders who coerced borrowers did it upon that theory; the employers who coerced their employees did it for the same reason. Self-government increases with participation in government. The Filipinos are not far enough advanced to share in the government of the people of the United States, but they are competent to govern themselves. It is not fair to compare them with our own citizens, because the American people have been educating themselves in the science of government for nearly three centuries, and while we have much to learn we have already made great improvement. The Filipinos will not establish a perfect government, but they will establish a government as nearly perfect as they are competent to enjoy, and the United States can protect them from molestation from without.

Shame upon a logic which locks up the petty offender and enthrones grand larceny. Have the people returned to the worship of the golden calf? Have they made unto themselves a new commandment consistent with the spirit of conquest and the lust for empire? Is "Thou shalt not steal" upon a small scale, to be substituted for the law of Moses?

Awake, O ancient law giver, awake! Break forth from thine unmarked sepulcher and speed thee back to the cloud-crowded summit of Mount Sinai; commune once more with the God of our fathers and proclaim again the words engraven upon the tables of stone—the law that was, the law that is to-day—the law that neither individual nor nation can violate with impunity.

Bryan in Denver.

The speech delivered by Hon. W. J. Bryan in Denver contains the keynote of true Democracy. Between the anxiety to create a new issue and the continued iteration of the declaration that silver is dead, the Republican party and its allies have been between the devil and the deep sea. The issue will not down, notwithstanding all their efforts to close it out from the sight of the people.

It is with reference to this phase of the question that Mr. Bryan spoke in Denver. In that speech he declared that the silver issue retains all its vitality for the reason that "the cause lives, because it embodies the hopes, the aspirations and the belief of our people. * * * People eat because they need it, not because food has to be consumed."

This homely illustration is but intended to convey the idea that the Dem-

ocratic party is the party of the people's necessities. It takes up the cause in which the welfare of the people is involved, and carries it through to success. It matters not what the name of that cause may be from era to era, but once taken up it remains the shibboleth, until all opposition vanishes. It is the Democracy of 1896 which now challenges the government of this country. It is that Democracy which will fight for the supremacy, no matter whether the battle be long or short, and it is that Democracy which the Republicanism of the country may expect to find in the field whenever the opportunity offers.—Atlanta Constitution.

Free Revenue Tariff Would Do.

"Free trade England" collects from twenty different imported materials from \$100,000,000 to \$120,000,000 yearly. We collected about \$136,000,000 from nearly 400 different materials imported in the year ended June 30, 1898. A revenue measure, cast on the lines of the tariff of 1857, would yield \$200,000,000 annually and give no encouragement to such trusts as the steel wire combine, the paper combine, the tin plate combine, the pottery combine and a dozen others, the sole support of which is the prohibitive rate of duty laid on imports of like materials.—Chattanooga Times.

Choice for the President.

Not a great many more hours will be ticked off by the White House clock before it will become necessary for President McKinley to decide whether he will have an army composed of individuals such as Alger, Eagan and their like or of soldiers and gentlemen like Miles, Merritt, Wheeler, Breckinridge, Fitzhugh Lee, Lawton, Otis, Wood, Chaffee and Miller. The American people have reached that conclusion already or the universal verdict of the press in all sections is no index to popular sentiment.—Washington Times.

Trusts in No Immediate Danger.

Attorney General Monnett should know that it is one thing to talk against trusts, but quite a different thing to act against them. President McKinley can denounce trusts all he pleases as long as he keeps his Attorney General from attacking them in the courts.—Louisville Dispatch.

Pith of a Colorless Report.

Report of the war commission on the beef controversy: Some of the beef was good and some was bad, but we are unable to determine which was good and which was bad.—Kansas City Star.

CHINESE BEGGAR CHIEFS.

One of the Peculiar Features of Social Life in China.

One of the most peculiar and interesting figures in Chinese social life is the beggar chief; and no less peculiar and interesting, both as to methods and personal appearance, are the members of the motley organization of mendicants over which he reigns absolutely.

He is required to pay a sum equivalent to about \$100 to every newly-appointed tung hwan prefect, as a humble testimonial of his allegiance to the high authority from whom his badge of office emanates, and when this requirement has been duly fulfilled he is allowed to exercise the prerogatives of his position without fear of interference on the part of the government officials in the district assigned to him. His authority over the beggars is absolutely unlimited, and they obey his orders without hesitation or sign of protest.

The office is hereditary, so long as the tribute is paid; but the immediate progeny of the incumbent are debarred from the enjoyment of any literary degree. Why this condition is exacted is not quite clear, but it is certain that no descendant of a beggar chief has ever held a literary degree. However, the other privileges enjoyed by him are so attractive and the income is so substantial that he probably does not worry much over this one privation.

How does he secure his income? from the merchants and tradespeople who know that unless they procure from the beggar chief on or before New Year's day a "holo twa," or "passport of safety," their shops or "hongs" will be infested almost constantly by a horde of boisterous, impudent, importunate vagabonds, who will drive away customers and damage the stocks of goods without hindrance from the regular authorities of the district.

Once a month, on a day suited to the convenience of the chief, he assembles all the beggars of his district at the "Kichia Jan," or rendezvous, and distributes alms among them, each receiving a sum commensurate with his personal merits and obedience to orders.—Philadelphia Press.

Why He Was Happy.

Whistling in a public conveyance is an offense against good manners, but the Chicago Journal reports an instance which really seems to have been excusable, as it was excused.

The rest of the passengers were reading the morning news, but one man gazed with unseeing eyes out of the window and whistled softly, the tune being broken now and then by a smile that crossed his bearded lips.

The young girl directly opposite thought him handsome, and ascribed his preoccupied air to romantic reasons. And the older woman who sat with her glanced sharply across from time to time, to see what the young man meant by rudely whistling in a public conveyance. But the looks of youth and age were alike lost on him, and after a while he turned his face toward the light, and sang with such hearty unselfishness that his spectators neighborly felt bound to remonstrate.

"Young man," she said, "have you hired this car for your own use?"

He started at her blankly a minute, and then flushed to the roots of his hair.

"Was—I was singing?" he asked.

"You were making a horrible noise," she replied.

Then he laughed a wholesome, honest guffaw, and leaned forward contentedly.

"The joke's on me," he said. "To tell the truth, my baby has just cut a tooth, and—and I was thinking how cunning the little chap looked when he grinned."

The war light faded in the woman's eyes, and a smile touched the corners of her mouth as she beamed on the young father and said with deep interest:

"Upper or under?"

A Novel Swindle.

A well-known Italian confectioner in the downtown district was last night made a dupe in a novel swindling scheme that cost him \$50. A stranger came to his fruit stand and while looking over some bananas suddenly lost his glass eye among the fruit. After searching for a while, he went away, saying that if the Italian found his eye he should take it to his hotel, and there he would receive \$100 for it. A few moments later another stranger came along. The Italian saw him grasp the glass eye while examining some fruit. That was too much for the owner to stand, and he offered the stranger \$50 for the eye. The offer was accepted, but when the Italian took his prize to the hotel there was no one there to reclaim it. He notified the police of the swindle.—Pittsburg Chronicle.

The Water Clock.

The water clock, otherwise the clepsidra, seems, unless the Egyptologists find something fresh in that land of incessant discoveries from the most farthest of time, to have been the first scientific effort at noting the hours. A good many people talk glibly about the clepsidra who neither know its precise construction nor the nation who have the credit of constructing it. That belongs to the Assyrian, and as far back as at least over 2,600 years ago the clepsidra was used in Nineveh under the sway of the second Sardanapalus. It was a brass vessel of cylindrical shape, holding several gallons of water, which could only emerge through one tiny hole in the side. Thus the trickling of the fluid marked a certain amount of time, and the water was emptied about half a dozen times per diem. In Nineveh there was one at the palace. These were all filled by signal from a watchman on a tower at the moment of sunrise, and each had an attendant,

whose business it was to refill the clepsidra as soon as it was emptied, the fact being announced by orders, such as in the last century the watchmen drowsily showed the hours at night throughout the streets of London. Some five centuries later an anonymous genius made a great improvement by inserting toothed wheels, which, revolving, turned two hands on a dial in clock fashion, thus showing the progress of the time, which from one filling to emptying averaged two hours and a half. In this shape the clepsidra, which was then chiefly procurable in Egypt, became introduced to various other nations, including Rome, where it flourished with various splendid embellishments until the end of the empire.—London Standard.

Topic of the Times

In Queen Elizabeth's reign the expenses of the British navy were about \$30,000 a year, a contrast to the present huge sum of \$125,000,000 spent annually on the fleet.

German university students have increased in number from about 10,000 twenty-five years ago to 32,241 last year. The increase is out of proportion to the population.

A model farm on the American plan and run with American machinery, stock and methods is about to be established by a Chinese mandarin who lives near Shanghai.

The most costly piece of railway line in the world is that between the Mofsin House and Aldgate stations, in London, which required the expenditure of close upon \$10,000,000 a mile.

After a litigation lasting fourteen years the will disposing of a San Francisco estate once worth \$75,000 has just been sustained and litigation suspended, because the estate has been exhausted in paying legal fees.

An Ohio woman has patented a match box for pocket use, which is opened at the bottom to load, the matches being pushed out one at a time by a button on the side of the safe, the head coming last and passing over a roughened surface to ignite it.

Mr. Godin, French minister of public works, in a circular addressed to railway boards, urges the construction of a larger number of corridor carriages, especially third-class, so that by 1900 all fast trains going long distances may be exclusively composed of such carriages.

The violin used by Mme. Camilla Urso, who is giving concerts throughout the country, was made in Italy in 1727 by Joseph Guarnerius Del Jesu. Mme. Urso purchased the instrument in London several years ago and has on several occasions been offered \$6,000 for it. She would not part with it for any price.

According to a note in the Courrier de Paris, the Athenians and Greeks collectively intend to exclude all bachelors from their parliament. The idea seems to be that the bachelor has no stake in the commonwealth; if he is represented, that is as much as he can ask; a representative he ought never to be, for whom does he represent except himself?

One of the most novel and radical departures from ordinary methods of introducing new improvements in railway management is the formal announcement by an electric headlight company that it is ready to "guarantee" railroad companies from any loss from head-on collisions occurring at night * * * where the locomotives are equipped with our headlights."

The ingenuity of the counterfeiters now appears to be chiefly devoted to the turning out of bogus copper and nickel coins, rather than those of larger denomination. According to the report of the United States treasurer for the last fiscal year, no less than 60,265 pieces of this character were detected last year, and they circulated chiefly in Boston, New York and Philadelphia.

Faneuil Hall is being made fireproof, but the process seems to the reverent people of Boston more like destruction. Havoc has apparently been worked in the interior. Stairways have been torn down, floors ripped up and balconies demolished, it seems, ruthlessly. But it has all been done with care and reverence. Each piece of timber and each strip and board that is to be used in the reconstruction has been tagged and stored in fireproof vaults. The foundations have been strengthened and put in condition to withstand the ravages of time for ages, it is hoped.

An old Pennsylvania law has been singularly revived in Pittsburg. Fifteen years ago Frank Leslie Gould had a leg cut off by a car of the South Side Passenger Railway Company. He was then only 5 years old, but attained his majority recently, and now brings suit under an act of assembly approved March 17, 1713, which permits a minor to bring an action for damages within six years after he becomes 21 years old, in his own right, and without reference to the time when the cause for action may have occurred. As late as 1881 the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania decided a case in which the act was declared to be good law. Young Gould claims \$25,000 damages for the loss of his leg.

Nerves Live After Death.

With an apparatus called the myophone Mr. D'Arsonval has proved that the nerves may, contrary to the old belief, live many hours after the death of the body. This cannot long be made perceptible through the excitability of the muscles, but the sound in the instrument shows that a nerve may act on a muscle, in a state of electric excitability, without producing more than simple molecular vibration.

THE PEOPLE'S MONEY

Parity of the Metals.

The silver standard nations, compared to their former condition of five years past, are marvelously advanced. In the last five years the exports of Mexico have increased more than 50 per cent. The number of manufacturers in Japan and Mexico have more than doubled, and the railroad building in every silver standard country has been increasing enormously, while in the gold standard countries, instead of an increase of manufactures, there has been, during these five years, a shutting down and closing of them to an extent unknown before in the history of the nation.

It is true that on account of the famine in India, the shortage of crops in Europe, and the war between the United States and Spain, there has, in the last eighteen months, been an upward tendency in the price of some commodities, but when conditions again become normal the same low prices must again prevail.

Some people talk of this flood of silver as if it would be disastrous to the nation should it occur. No nation was ever injured by its people having an abundance of the precious metals, and instead of being a detriment it would produce the greatest era of prosperity in the history of this country. Some people think that as soon as a foreigner brought silver to the United States mint and had it coined that there would be some American with gold chasing him, in order to get him to exchange the silver for a gold dollar.

I apprehend that the American people are intelligent, and that they are not going to exchange a gold for a silver dollar unless it is to their advantage to do so. When a foreigner brings his silver to our mints and has it coined into dollars, what is he going to do with his money?

You know that a foreign coin will not circulate in this country, neither will a United States silver dollar circulate in a foreign country, consequently it will do him no good to take the silver dollars back to his own country. The only thing that he can do with them is buy something that we have for sale, and we are not going to sell him any more of our products than we think his silver dollar is worth.—John F. Shafrath, M. C.

Coinage of Silver.

If, according to the premises, money is purchasing power over things in general, and if the value of a money unit consists in the amount it possesses of this purchasing power, and if falling prices are, in the ways we have seen, inimical to industrial progress and general happiness and thus ultimately destructive of liberty, it follows that a money system that furnishes a unit constantly calling for more commodities in exchange is both unsound and dishonest; and if during any given period the average level of general prices undergoes, in spite of temporary checks and slight recoveries, a progressive fall, this fact itself is an indictment of the money system in operation.

The gold standard, dating approximately from 1873, has furnished the nations attempting to use it with a money unit that since that date, in spite of short temporary periods of relative stability, and with even slight occasional declinations toward its former commodity equivalence, has, upon the whole, constantly and progressively risen in value until the purchasing power of a unit weight of gold is to-day approximately 100 per cent. greater than in 1873. This decline of average prices is one of the notorious commonplaces of recent economic history, and is no longer seriously disputed by anybody. It has been conclusively established by the tables of prices used by the London Economist newspaper, by Dr. Soetbeer, of Germany, and by many others, and especially by Augustus Sauerbeck, the well-known statistician of the English Statistical Society.—Charles A. Towne.

Free Silver the Issue.

Republicans are extremely anxious to make themselves believe that the cause of free silver is dead. Constantly pronouncing the death of free silver the Republicans confess that the sentiment which they fear so much will not stay dead. The people are more firm than ever in their demand for the re-coinage of silver.

In discussing the silly claims of Republicans that "free silver is dead" the Washington Post, a strong advocate of the gold standard, says: "The simple truth is that the coinage question is the only national issue now in sight for the next Presidential campaign. The hope that the war of '98 would develop some great issue that would displace the currency question and prevent another battle of the standards has vanished."

This is the truth plainly stated by an opponent, and the Republicans might as well admit it. They would like to shift the issue, but it can't be shifted.

Free Silver Night Schools.

It can be shown by the rules of the common school arithmetic that low prices in the United States have been caused by an increase in the rate of exchange between gold and silver countries, resulting from the demonetization of silver. Leaflets have been prepared by George Burr Smith, of Chicago, with examples to show the application of these rules. Organization of these schools is progressing rapidly. Organizers have been sent out and excellent results are reported from their work.

The British make of bicycles will be as heavy as usual this year.