

**MONETARY CON-  
VENTION AT  
OMAHA.**

There seems to be, amid the din of arms, sufficient interest in currency questions to assure a good list of speakers and a large audience at the national currency convention, which will be held in the auditorium on the exposition grounds at Omaha, September 13, 14 and 15. The exposition management writes that no event connected with the fair is attracting so much attention. The silver men appear to desire to restate their position and to reaffirm their faith in the white metal. The old greenbackers think that this is a good time to sound their ancient slogan about the superiority of government paper money over money issued by banks, and about the duty of the government to supply the people with all the currency they need. The gold-standard men feel that they are challenged to maintain their ground with fresh arguments, and believe that the progress of events since 1896 has furnished them with a good deal of new matter for discussion. The confidence of the silver men that they will be given a fair showing in the discussion has been gained by placing the debate on their side in charge of one of their ablest leaders, ex-Congressman Chas. A. Towne, of Duluth, and asking him to designate his associates. Other prominent silver men who will take part in the debate are Senator Jones of Arkansas, Congressman Hartman of Montana, and H. F. Bartine, editor of the National Bimetallist. The greenback contention will be opened up by ex-Congressman A. J. Warner of Ohio. A committee has been created in Chicago to co-operate with Mr. Towne in securing silver speakers. There is also a committee of the National Reform Press Association, an organization which makes government paper money its leading financial doctrine, and George H. Shipley of the American Institute of Money and Prices will be on hand to advocate what he calls "stable money," which means government paper with a unit of value obtained by taking the prices of the leading products of the country and finding a common denominator. Ex-Governor Boies of Iowa will advocate his peculiar theory of a variable ratio. On the side of the single gold standard and of bank notes as against government paper money the speakers will be Congressmen McCleary of Minnesota, Fowler of New Jersey, and Walker of Massachusetts, Governor Leslie M. Shaw of Iowa, ex-Senator J. M. Carey of Wyoming, Platt Rogers and Louis R. Ehrich of Colorado, Lyman J. Gage, Secretary of the Treasury; Horace White, George Foster Peabody, C. S. Fairchild, and William Dodsworth of New York, W. C. Cornwell of Buffalo, Edward Atkinson and Henry W. Peabody of Boston, Prof. J. Laurence Laughlin, H. P. Robinson, and James H. Eckels of Chicago, M. E.

Ingalls of Cincinnati, John P. Irish of San Francisco, and Judge M. L. Crawford of Dallas, Texas.

The convention will be in charge of the National Sound Money League, and the members of this organization intend to put to the severest test of historical experience and of common sense all the statements and arguments which may be advanced by the advocates of a cheaper form of money than gold and of any kind of currency not resting directly on the firm basis of the world's accepted money of exchange and measure of value. It is likely that the most interesting phase of the meeting will be the general debate, in short speeches, which will follow the formal addresses on each day. Whoever expects to take part in this debate had better equip himself carefully with facts, or he will be likely to be tripped up by some ready antagonist.

**GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY.** Ruskin says: "Government and cooperation are in all things the laws of life; anarchy and competition the laws of death."

"Government is a contrivance of human wisdom to provide for human wants."—Burke.

"Government is a trust and the officers of a government are trustees; both the trust and the trustees are created for the benefit of the people."—Henry Clay.

"Governments exist to protect the rights of minorities."—Wendell Phillips.

"Society is a masked ball where everyone hides his real character, and reveals it by hiding."—Emerson.

But Victor Hugo declared that "Society is a republic. When an individual endeavors to lift himself above his fellows he is dragged down by the mass, either by ridicule or calumny."

Emerson somewhere declared: "Society is a troop of thinkers and the best heads among them take the best places."

Chamfort wittily proclaimed: "Society is composed of two great classes: those who have more dinners than appetite and those who have more appetite than dinners."

"Glory is safe when it is deserved. Not so popularity. The one lasts like mosaic; the other is effaced like a crayon drawing."

"Teach self-denial and make its practice pleasurable and you create for the world a destiny more sublime than ever issued from the brain of the wildest dreamer."

"That 'The voice of the common people is the voice of God' is as full of falsehood as commonness. For who sees not that those blackmouthed hounds upon the mere scent of opinion as freely spend their mouths in hunting counter, or, like Actæon's dogs, in chasing an innocent man to death, as if they followed the truth itself in a fresh scent?"—Warwick.

"The army is a good school in which

the niggardly become generous and the generous become prodigal."

"The beloved of God are the rich who have the humility of the poor and the poor who have the magnanimity of the rich."

"The best part of our knowledge is that which teaches us where knowledge leaves off and ignorance begins."—Doctor Holmes.

Napoleon declared war "The trade of barbarians and the art of bringing the greatest physical force to bear on a single point."

"You may overthrow a government in the twinkling of an eye, as you can blow up a ship or upset and sink one; but you can no more create a government with a word than an ironclad."—Ruskin.

**CEREALS AND SILVER.** Last year the state of Nebraska alone produced foods on farms valued at 205 millions of dollars. One hundred and seventy-five thousand farmers caused the output of that enormous amount.

Colorado, on the West of Nebraska, produced 35 million dollars' worth of silver and gold bullion.

The state of Nebraska should not be made a party to a monetary system by which an artificial price is put on the product of Colorado at the expense of the products of Nebraska.

Wheat, corn, rye, oats and all other output of value from the farms of Nebraska are the result of farm labor, manual and machine. These efforts bring out from the soil every variety of staple food for the human family. The prices of agricultural products are determined by the relation of the supply of those products to the demand for those products. Why should the government interpose and, by statute, attempt to make prices for the mineral or bullion output of Colorado, without at the same time attempting to fix the values of the food products of Nebraska?

The total gold and silver production in the United States equals only 60 millions or thereabouts annually; but the total agricultural output of Nebraska alone is \$205,240,000 annually. Why should silver, taken from the earth by the same kind of muscular effort which gets corn, wheat and rye out of the earth, be made the especial ward of the government and the silver laborer favored with a tax to be collected from the farm laborer?

It is a significant fact that the men who stand at the head of their classes in university life rarely achieve the highest distinction in after years. It is the close touch with human interests, not academic enthusiasm in "the little world within a world," which tells the story. Such examples as John C. Calhoun at Yale and Gladstone at Oxford university are only exceptions. Most valedictorians become country clergymen and college professors.