

The Commoner.

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NOW THE "FACT"

The London Daily Mail, in its issue of December 23, 1905, printed an editorial addressed to Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman, in which editorial the Mail said: "We would further point out that any reduction or curtailment of the gold production will react disastrously upon trade, causing a fall in prices and general depression."

A London reader of The Commoner, directing attention to this statement, says: "The Mail is evidently a believer in the quantitative fact in money." That is very well put. A few years ago it was the "quantitative theory," but now the theory which republican papers in America—and if we mistake not, the London Mail—vigorously denied, is so generally admitted that it is recognized as a fact rather than a theory; and we must not forget that what we call the quantitative theory—or fact—in money is in truth the foundation of all arguments made in behalf of bimetallicism.

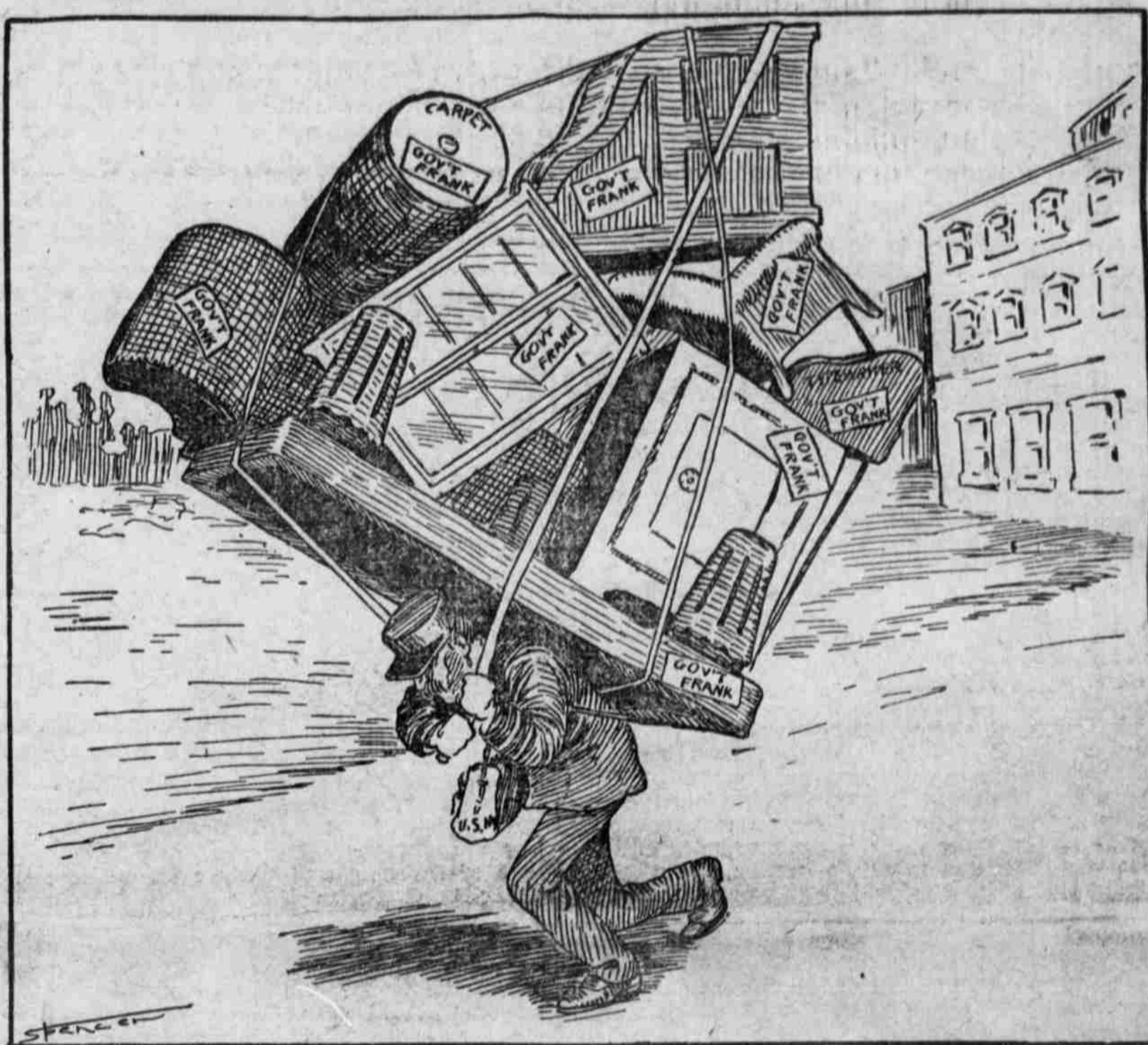
FETCHING

Representative Sibley of Pennsylvania who voted against the railroad rate bill declared the measure to be "socialistic and anarchistic, and highly endorsed by Bryan and Hearst." In that speech Mr. Sibley admitted that there are abuses to be corrected, but he demanded to know how men could be held to stricter accountability than under the Elkins law against rebates. In the same speech he said that if they were not held accountable it was because of dereliction of officials or because the law was not drastic enough. Commenting upon those remarkable statements the Pittsburg Dispatch says: "There's reason and logic for you!"

It was a rather fetching argument, coming from one whose intelligence revolts at the proposition that corporations, the creatures of law, shall be regulated by their creator.

TOM JOHNSON DRAFTED HIM

When last elected, Mayor Tom Johnson, of Cleveland, Ohio, defeated William H. Boyd, a well known Cleveland lawyer. Mr. Boyd endeavored to make the voters believe that he was a greater reformer than the mayor. He was defeated. Now Mayor Johnson has appointed Mr. Boyd to a place in the city solicitor's office where he will have a chance to fight for the reforms he was so insistent in demanding while he was merely a candidate. Mr. Boyd has said he will accept the place. If Mr. Boyd makes good the city will benefit thereby. Viewed from any point Mayor Johnson's selection was a good one.



Collecting the Mail of the Departments, Washington, D. C.

Japan--Her Government, Politics And Problems

MR. BRYAN'S SEVENTH LETTER

The government of Japan is a constitutional monarchy in which the emperor not only claims to rule by divine right but by right of divine birth. He is described as Heaven born, and according to the accepted history there has been no break in the family line for twenty-five hundred years. Among no people on earth has there ever been more universal respect shown, or implicit obedience yielded, to the reigning family. There never has been a revolt of any consequence against the emperor, although there have been numerous conflicts between the shoguns. For about twelve hundred years, from 670 to 1868, the shoguns were, however, the actual rulers, and while they never questioned the sovereignty of the emperor, they did not allow him to retain much more than the empty title.

The shoguns were military rulers and a number of them were men of great force and executive ability. First, the Fujiwara family controlled the country through the shogunate for nearly four hundred years; then for a century the Taira and Minamoto families alternated in the exercise of power; then came the Hojo family and others of less importance until finally the Tokugawa family became supreme in the shogunate and continued in power for something like three hundred years. The emperor lived at Nara until about 1600, when the capital was moved to Kyoto where it remained until less than forty years ago. Tokyo, on the other hand, was the seat of the shogun power, and there is a very noticeable difference between the two cities. The shoguns fortified their castles and required the feudal lords to keep headquarters in Tokyo. One can

not go through the palace in which the emperor lived permanently without noticing how plain it is as compared with the castle (both at Kyoto) in which the shogun resided for a few days during his annual call upon the emperor. While it may seem strange that the real rulers never attempted to become emperors in name, it only shows their intelligence, for by insisting upon the recognition of the royal family, they were probably more successful in maintaining the real authority than they would have been had they questioned the divine right of the immemorial rulers.

During the early part of the last century there began to be a reaction against the shogun, and when he agreed to the treaties opening the country to foreign intercourse, his action was taken advantage of by the friends of the emperor. When the feudal lords of Choshu attacked the foreign ships at Shimonoseki Strait, the shogun was compelled to pay an indemnity of three million dollars and attempted to chastize the Choshu leaders. His forces were defeated and he died soon afterward. The emperor seized upon this event and the influential lords of Choshu and Satsuma encouraged him to abolish the shogunate, which he did in 1868. The new shogun accepted the situation without a struggle and those of his followers who attempted a resistance were soon routed.

Everything in modern Japan dates from 1868, which is called the restoration. While in the restoration the emperor was acknowledged as the sole and absolute ruler in whom all authority was vested, still it was really the beginning of con-