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 nen 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 lasilverites stoutly maintained that it in-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.

of silver. The St. Louis Globe Democrat, wish-The St. Louis Globe Democrat, wishing 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 below:

Pirates on the high seas could hard-y be a more dangerous menace to com-nerce between nations than this fluctua-ion of exchange between countries on liferent 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

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.

"Bilver'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 be 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 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 the retail prices on a margin sufficient 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 if

or barely save lised in a sale of goods of a max magneted to Mr. Jaquam Mais, and max may be these finemations. And this is what we will have on a vastly greater scale in the United States goes to a silver standard, and the States goes to a silver standard, and the States goes to a silver standard, and the States goes to the standard, and the States goes to the standard with Great Britain and Europe."

A liberate how the States and I don't want to see it in our trade with Great Britain and Europe."

A liberate how the states and the states and I don't want to see it in our trade with Great Britain and Europe."

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A liberate how the states and the states and I don't want to see it in our trade with Great Britain and Europe."

A liberate how the states and the states and I don't work and the states a

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

As in mining and in brickmaking, so it is in all industries. Monterey is booming. Wages remain fixed at the old rates, and can be paid in the depreciated silter. That gives the margin of profit. The most striking of the object lessons, berhaps, are those which the railroads furnish. These roads in Mexico are well managed. The depots and surroundings 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 Statem. National pays wages in Mexican silver. On the other side the pay roll is met with American mone.

money.

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 Mexican silver, worth \$2.86, for 100

Brakemen running to Corpus get \$50 a month in gold; to Monterey, \$60 a month in Mexican silver, worth \$30,50.

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.

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."

and 108 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?"

"How about wages of section hands?"

The official tarned to the books again.

"On the Texas division," he said, "foremen get 840 a mouth in American money. The laborers get 75 cents a day. On the Mexican silver, and aborers 62½ cents, both "Mexican silver, and aborers 62½ cents, both "Mexican silver, and aborers 62½ cents, both "Mexican silver,"

"Pule 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 miles south of the frontier. As you go toward the interior wages decrease. From Saltillo southward to San Luis 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 374sc a day. Mexican silver."

"Have railroad wages undergone any change with the decline of Mexican silver?"

"No. These are the rates today, and they were the same in 1888 when silver."

"No. These are the rates today, and they were the same in ISSS, when silver dollars were worth a half more than they are now."

"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 Pedra quickly and with decided. of San Pedro quickly and with decided emphasis, "the less silver is worth, the better for us."

The Silver Basis.

In wages on a silver basis, the mine owner of Monterey finds his margin. In wages on a silver basis, the smeiters of Mexico figure out a great advantage over those of the United States. The Omaha smeiter is one which offers a fair comparison with this Guggenheim plant of Monterey. They are, probably, the large-

est silver smelters in the two countries. Each gives employment to about 400 men. No one will traverse the great plant at Monterey and doubt that the Mexican workman in the industry renders equal labor, man for man, with the American employed in the Omaha smelter. At Omaha there is little labor given at \$1.50 a day. The wages in the various grades of the smelter range as high as \$3 a day. It will not place the average 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 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 foll 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 37½ cents American money. Then come the feeders and the furnace men, who know just when to dump in the harrow loads at the top and just when to tap at the bottom to draw off the bullion. This is labor that receives \$1.4 and in the target of the silver in the smelting the day 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 \$1.4 and in the target in the silver in the receives \$1.4 and in the target in the silver in the smelting. est silver smelters in the two countries

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 50 cents a day in gold. The sing pullers get 75 cents a day in silver. The lore men of the yards, who moves about overseeing and directing, are paid from \$3 to \$5 a day. They are few in number. Still fewer are the furnace foremen of that ripe experience which is responsible for the results. These get \$200 a mouth, the equivalent of \$100 in gold.

The pay at the Omaha smelter averages \$2 a day, or \$800 for the 400 laborers, 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 rolls. The Mexican silver smelters are said to be making \$10 in Mexican money where the 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. The lowest rate, 6216c, 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 had 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 prevare breakfast, simple as it is, before the whilstle blows for the change of shifts from night to day. And so, an hour or two after the brown men have begun work, the little brown women come stringing in with t

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 rail Laborers' Wages. 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. The manager of the smelter is Mr. H. C. Harrison, who has had a good deal of experience in mining and smelting. He furnishes the actual cost of operation from his books and makes a comparison with the cost of a like smelter in the States. These are his figures:

Smelter operation in Mexico.

	Per day i	
and the special control of the same	Mexican money	
Superintendent,		
I wo foremen, at \$4	8.0	
Two ore weighers, at \$1.	2.0	
Assayer.		
Action of the same	41	
Two engineers, at \$1	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Two furnacemen, at \$1	26	
Two feeders, at 75c	1.1	
Four slag men, at 6214c.	22	
wo ore men, at or ye		
I wo ore men, at 625-6. I wo charcoal men, at 625	Dr 1.1	
rwo pario men. at orsec-	**********	
Ten outside men, at 50c.	5.0	
Iwo bulllon men, at 6214	0	
I'wo cords of wood, at \$2		
Oll for engine and lights.	December 4	

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United States	
E CT	103
United States m	mt
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December 211	
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Ore Mine and Its Output.

Damm's rapid rise to the distinction of the Crocesus of Durango is the story of the Promontorie mine. That is a property of which the mining market never heard. It is known to Durango people because they see the ox carts and mule wagons come creaking in with 600 tons of ore monthly. The mine is 100 miles morth of the city, and the ore must be hauled that distance in carts and wagons. The ore is quartz, and all that is thus transported is of a grade which yields 150 ounces to the ton. The monthly shipment from the Promontorio is 30,000 ounces of silver. In a year this amounts to 1,000,000 ounces. It is worth in Mexican money \$4,290,000, and in American money \$650,000. But this shipment of ore at the rate of 6000 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 weighing 1000 ounces. A bar of silver worth \$1230 in Mexican 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 the United States will have an opportunity to handle a collection of these bars if free coinage becomes the law.

The prosess product for 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.

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 that he has done any mining. But while doing developing what there is in the Promontorio, blocking out the masses of ore to be removed when he gets down to the teral business of mining. But while doing developing his property, Mr. Damm has taken out a third-class of ore which his now the silver.

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 alue and where so much of it as would make a dollar in your mints is worth now only half a dollar?"

This was submitted, during the rest in the sæddle 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 question 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 basis?"

basis?"

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

and brokerage commissions, than it would if taken to the Mexican mints and coined into dollars."

was settin' on a shoe box at th' corner us th' street.

awin' plug terbacker an' waitin' fer a treat, hile he equirted his terbacker juice at an inerfensive fly.

saw an honest farmer come a-waikin' slowly by.

he histed up his britches, an' he took another chew.

boldly waded inter him, an' this is what he blew:

looking wistfully into the fature? How few have taken the narrow and forbidding path of hard work, thrift and self-sacrifice, but that leads to the mountain tops, and how many the flowery road that is so enticing in its case and pleasure, 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 in personal life.

"Can you tell me, my friend, why the chinch bug is eath," 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 the ground? th' ground?

Can yer tell me why th' weavil, th' rust an'
Hessian dy.

Are eatin' up yer substance? Do yer know
th' reason why?

Why th' price uv eggs an' butter, oats an'
corn, an' wheat an' rye.

Are a-failin' in the market as th' years are
passin' by?

The reason why these dismal clouds cast their shadders crost th' sun?
Why yer debts are gettin' bigger, as th' seasons go and kum?
Th' reason fer this trouble is piain enough But it worked tals orful havue, it dealt this deadly blow.

Th' Gold Bugs down in Wall street under thirsty hungry maw.

Sixteen to one will cure you—'tis th' allopathic plan."

The farmer stopped and the 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 pathic plan."

That the same gang uv fellers promised another two!

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

That he'd surely then be happy, an' his fortun wesled be made.

Ef he'd jest upset th' tariff, vote fer Cleveliand an free Irade.

Now, we don't perfend to know much, fer we never had much show, But there is quite a griet o' things that even farmers know.

They know hen they've been lied to, an' they're gold two be did keerful that they're gold two be did keerful that they don't git fooled but once."

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.

oung men who will this year cast their first vote for President. They stand on the threshold of their career and are looking forward to achieve success in life in some chosen vocation. With but 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 bonest and industrious youth. To these young men the money que

tion, 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 understand-ing 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 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

tunity 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 carn, that the money we borrow and lend and that we use for the purpose of exchange should be uniform and stable in value, that it should mean the same thing next year that it does today, and the world of business 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 visest 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 diaastrous. Shall we as a people take pattern after England or rifer Mexico? Shall we learn from China or from Germany?

How does a young man act for himself

take pattern after England or riter 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 fature? How few have taken the narrow and forbidding path of hard work, thrift and self-sacrifice, but that leads to the mountain tops, and how many the flowery road that is so enticing in its ease and pleasure, but which ends only in morasses 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 in personal life.

Bound and honest money, which means money as good as gold in this campaign, stands for national dishonor. Which banner will our young men follow?—Chicago Times-Herald.

Bound and honest money which means money as good as gold in this campaign, 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,

chiraty, hungry maw.

Sixteen to onder will care you—'tis th' allopathic plan."

The farmer stopped and listened, tho' is almost made him laf.

At the stupid, senseless logic uv this whittill' talkin' call.

An' his dander 'gan arisin' at this everland his dender gan arisin' at this every where, and that the rise in the price will apply to all silver, whether in bars or wares as well as in going a gan and fools as you.

Tou'll speat th' iswer natur, you'll change th' seasons 'gound.

Tou'll sepand a smallght from shinks one th' ground.

Th' law that fixes prices, you'll change it jest fer fun.

Th' law that fixes prices, you'll change it jest fer fun.

The season shink.

With conditions were his stateen tew one: Half doubles worth west were were.

Half driving ally someonee uv you crary allver cranks.

"It seems ter me that I remember when things were all askew.

Some time about November in th' year uv sall asker.

Some time about November in th' year uv gan him dollar west.

That he'd in him dollar west.

That he'd as min dollar west.

cents per ounce, or \$5,040,000,000. And strange to say, the larger part of this added wealth would be outside of our own country. In gold standard countries the commercial value of the silver coins in circulation would be brought nearly to the gold standard. This fiat of ours would substantially double 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 Belgium; \$15,000,000 in Spain; \$10,000,000 in Portugal; \$55,000,000 in the Notherlands; \$4,900,000 in Sweden; \$5,400,000 in Denmark; \$44,000,000 in Turkey; \$7,000,000 in Austro-Hungary; \$56,000,000 in the Straita, besides \$625,000,000 in the Straita, besides countries with them in this stupendous enterprise which would 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. But how would at one fell swoop substantially double the value of \$41,000,000 in Mexico \$8,000,000 in the Central American states; \$95,000,000 in the South and \$725,000,000 in the sease that he believe that his legislative fiat on our part would not only bring the sil

Has the American Farmer Forgotter That under President Harrison's administration the prohibition against our meat products by Great Britain, Ger-many, Denmark, Austria, France, Italy

many, Denmark, Austria, France, Haly and Spain were removed?

Has he forgotten the high prices he received during the times reciprocity 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 become hams and lard was increased.

\$19,000,000 in one year by this same

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 dobased and depreciated money will remedy the hard times?

The American farmer should not forget that protection and reciprocity brought him prosperity.

The Working Man's Vote is His Own. Bryan and his shouters make much of 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 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.

We had a public meetin' in the achoolhouse here last week
And a feller from the city was invited down to speak.
He'd studied up the subject of finance in every light
And claimed that he was competent to show us what was right.
He says this whole blamed country is a-goin' straight to smash
Unless we get free coinage and increase our stock of cash.
He's figured out a daisy scheme and claims '(whii work immense—
He wants to make our dollars coet us only fifty cents.
He'd take "four bits" of silver and would run it through the mint
And stamp it plain "one dollar" with the government's imprint;
The mines would dump their sliver and the nation, allck as grease,
Would grind out brand-new dollars at just fifty cents apiece.
That sounds all right; but since that night somehow I've wondered We had a public meetin' in the schoolhouse