SILVER IN MEXICO.

FREE COINAGE IS BUILDING UP THAT REPUBLIC.

Edward B. Light Continues His Tour of Inspection—Finds That the Premium on Gold Is a Blessing—Fear Free Coinage Here.

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Chihuahua, July 11, 1896—(Second letter.)—Chihuahua is a city of 30,000 inhabitants living chiefly in one-story adobe houses plastered in front and built in long rows. The face of the houses are built on the line of the narrow street, which have narrow stone sidewalks. This style of house has the advantage of being cool in summer, warm in winter, and is practically indestructible by fire. Not a spear of grass or a tree surrounds them; they are grown in the patios, or inside open courts. As in every well regulated Mexican city, their plaza is the center of town and the center of attraction. At present the plaza is being improved and when completed will be much more attractive than the average. Facing it on one side is the old cathedral, which was erected at a great expenditure of labor and money during the years from 1717 to 1789. The facade is elaborately ornamented. I climbed the eighty-six winding stone steps in the tower, where hang several bells which are rung by pulling a rope tied to their clappers, instead of revolving, as with us. One of the bells was pierced by a cannon ball when the French bombarded the city in 1866, making a rent in its side twelve inches in diameter. The city of Chihuahua was founded as Taraumara in 1539, fully one and one-half miles from where the city now is. The location is supposed to have been changed because of the frequent floods to which it was subjected. I find this fact mentioned in none of my guide books, but I visited the ruins of the old city. Rev. Eaton, in charge of the local Methodist Mission, a very fine gentleman, by the way, arranged for me an

Interview with Governor Ahumada.

I learned the governor has served four years and was re-elected for four years on Sunday, the 6th inst. He is a gentleman of large statue and commanding presence, and while he impressed me as a foreigner it was only when speaking I could think of him as Mexican. I asked for the financial condition of the state and his people now, as compared with five and ten years ago: He modestly replied "To do that I must necessarily speak of my own administration, which is better said by others." Assuring him I believed he would not exceed the truth he said:

"Our state is in a very prosperous condition. Five years ago it was in debt $350,000, of which $150,000 was bonded and passed due and $200,000 floating indebtedness. The bonded indebtedness, both principal and interest, has been paid and $100,000 of the floating indebtedness and all accumulated interest, so that now we owe only between $50,000 and $60,000 all together. In the meantime many permanent and costly improvements have been made or are in the course of construction. For instance, the school of arts or Manual training school is now complete and is receiving its machinery and furniture. There our boys will be taught all the useful trades at the expense of the state. A school has been erected and is now in successful operation for our girls, in which they are being taught domestic work, telegraphy, stenography, typewriting, bookkeeping, etc.

Agriculture and Stock Raising.

"Our largest industries are agriculture and stock raising. Our farmers, stockmen and merchants are prosperous and contented. New industries are being established and appear to be thriving. There have been no failures worthy of notice for many years. Our commerce amounts to $15,000,000 annually. We welcome manufacturers in new lines, and when of reasonable magnitude exempt them from taxes for five or ten years, according to the importance of the industry. The present demand for labor is in excess of the supply.

The city was to have put in a system of sewers last spring. As we were about to begin operations the officials were waited upon by citizens, who stated that there was such a scarcity of labor that if we went on with the sewers the buildings contemplated could not be erected. Upon investigating the subject the statement was found to be true, and it was decided to postpone the sewer building until fall. The introduction of the new supply of water necessitates the construction of sewerage at the earliest practical day. I hope another year will see them in use.

Talk with a Banker.

It was my privilege to interview a number of prominent citizens, one of whom was Mr. Henrequi Creel, president of Minero bank, a manufacturer, mine owner and the most influential financier of Northern Mexico. I learn his father was an American from Philadelphia and his mother a Mexican, that he was educated in Mexico, a self-made man and a muti-millionaire. The bank of which he is president has recently absorbed one bank and is about to absorb another. I said to Mr. Creel that I was desirous of ascertaining what were the conditions of Mexico commercially and financially, and especially in comparison with the conditions existing five, ten and twenty years ago, my object being to determine whether the low price of silver had been as detrimental to Mexico as to the United States. He said:

"I believe the low price of silver (the high price of products) is of benefit to Mexico, because the value of silver has not changed in its relation to labor and commodities. Gold being at a high premium, all foreign goods are so expensive we are now manufacturing here. Formerly we exported most of our silver to settle for those purchases. We are now exporting cattle, coffee, hides and other products, and by manufacturing to supply our wants and keeping our silver at home we have grown rich, our silver mining is as profitable as ever because we have free coinage, which makes every dollar worth 100 cents. The miner takes a dollar's worth of silver from his mine and with it he pays for the same help and buys the commodities as formerly.

Question—"What would be the effect upon Mexican industries if the United States were to remonetize silver?"

Answer—"That would be a good thing for the United States, but a bad thing for Mexico. The immediate effect of a law of that kind would be that the price of silver would rise and its purchasing power increase to that of gold; as your country has more silver than gold (for you are selling silver and buying gold) you would at once become prosperous. Not so with us. We are a consuming or a purchasing people, although we mine silver largely. As the purchasing power of silver remained the same at home and increased abroad, we would naturally begin to buy abroad at a less price than we can produce for at home. So you see our growth and development would be checked and yours increased."

Prosperous Mexico.

"As to the financial condition of Mexico, it was never better. The revenues of the federal government are in excess of the expenses for the first time in her history. Formerly the government was indebted to the banks and especially the bank of Mexico in large amounts. Two years ago the indebtedness of the federal government to the bankers was $12,000,000. Today she has $6,000,000 to her credit. Fifteen years ago promissory notes of the government sold at a discount of 4 per cent per month. To-day, the Mexican government can borrow more money than she wants at 4 per cent per annum."

In answer to the question as to what did he attribute the improved credit of the government he said:

In the first place, we continued to keep our mints open to free coinage, which gave us the needed supply of money for the transaction of business. Then silver retained its purchasing power at home but lost one-half with you. This acted as a powerful stimulant to exports, because the gold received was worth double to us the amount of the sale, at the same time it has proved as great a protector against imports by acting as an increased tariff. Then the general government has for years been on a peace footing, and the government consolidated and strengthened, so that the money and industry formerly employed in internal war can now be employed in the fostering of commercial enterprises and establishing new industries. A strong central government affording full protection to our people and capital has encouraged capital to come in, and fully $300,000,000 of foreign gold has sought investment here, which large amount has been employed in the establishment of industries or in constructing the railroad system we have, which is being increased by the building of feeders and which will be the railroads of the future."

I asked him from what source did the government derive its revenue chiefly, to which he replied:

Free Coinage Building Up Industries.

"Formerly the tariff taxes represented fully 75 per cent of the income of the central government. Today we receive but 40 per cent. of our revenue from that source. On the other hand, the internal revenues have increased greatly, which further demonstrates the increased wealth and progress of the republic. Again, the freight coming into Mexico is decreasing on all the railroads, while the local traffic is increasing, which furnishes additional evidence of the rapid development of our resources and the benefit to us of the low price of silver out of Mexico."

Question—"Then I assume that Mexico is not desirous that the

United States Restore Bimetallism?

Answer—"Certainly not. That would be the worst thing that could happen Mexico, if you should open your mints to free coinage at 16 to 1. If, however, you resume coinage at, say 24 to 1, giving a premium to gold of say 60 per cent, we could go along very well, but to open your mints at 16 to 1 would be disastrous to Mexico."

"But," I said, "Mr. Creel, if the United States resumed the coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, would not that nearly double the value of the product of your silver mines and prove of great value to Mexico?"

He replied: "No, most decidedly no. Silver going to par would not prove of much benefit to our silver mine owners, as it would have no greater purchasing power with us than now. In that case it would prove of benefit to our foreign stockholders, but not to our people. But if it did benefit our miners we would prefer to protect our stock growers and farmers, our largest producers. Our internal commerce is growing so fast we hope soon to consume all the silver we mine in it; then it matters not to us what price others put upon it."

I left Mr. Creel, feeling I had learned much for my readers to study over if they wished to grasp this question, which seems to have two sides to it.

A Manufacturer Talks.

The next morning when passing down the street I was attracted by the sign, "Julius Meyer, Clothing Manufacturer." Thinking this factory might prove of interest I went in, and presented my card, saying I was from the States, and if agreeable I would like to inspect his factory. I was very courteously received, and shown through the factory by him. I was greatly surprised to find it fitted up in the most modern style. From an Otto gasoline engine, to a patent cutting table, and a cutter who knew me as a manufacturer in the States. Upon return to the office I told Mr. Myers my mission, and asked him to favor me with a short interview, which he kindly granted. He said:

"I established this business about four years ago, since which time it has grown rapidly. I am now employing eighty hands. I have lived thirteen years in Mexico and like it very well. During that time there has been a steady improvement in business, corresponding to the advance in the premium on gold. If the premium on gold would advance, business would become proportionately more profitable. If the premium grew less, it would have the effect to check our prosperity. The premium on gold is not the sole cause of our prosperity, but is a prominent factor. Our railroads have helped us much; so has the increased stability of our government. My business is also more prosperous because of our tariff, which affords a liberal protection. On the material necessary for making a dozen pair of overalls the tariff is about $4.00, while on the overalls it is $12.00 Mexican money, or, say $6.00 in gold. The protection afforded by the high exchange is also of great benefit, and is equal to the cost of the article in the United States, say $7.50 per dozen pair."

Question: "How would it affect your business if the United States should remonetize silver and bring gold to par?"

Answer: "I should then expect pretty lively competition from that country which might cause me to close my factory. I am convinced I cannot manufacture as cheap as you do."

In answer to several questions, Mr. Meyer said: "I pay my women 75 cents per day on the average. Ten—yes five years ago—these women had no opportunity to secure work other than in the field, or doing some menial employment. That is what the United States did for Mexico when it demonetized silver and repealed the Sherman law; it may have been hard on the States, but it was of great benefit to us. It should be known that 75 cents per day means far more to these people of economic habits than to your people, who live much more expensively. I sell all goods for cash. Collections are good and failure are practically unknown. My losses are so small from failures I do not estimate that item in expenses or profits. Our merchants and manufacturers are making money and are easy financially, as was proven when they subscribed $250,000 with which to erect a brewery in the city, that will shut out all foreign beer, except possibly some fancy brand. Ten years ago we had not a brewery in the republic. Now we have five in operation and one a-building. Yes, if the United States consults our interest they will go along as they are now—on a gold basis."

I shall continue these interviews in my next and show the effect these conditions have had on the labor market.

Edw. B. Light.

FINE HEIRS TO A THRONE.

Early Exploits of the Two Sons of the Archduke Karl Ludwig.

The two young Austrian princes who, by the death of their father, Archduke Charles Louis, are brought into the line of immediate succession, bear a popular ill repute which would have been excessive even in the Munich or Stuttgart of a generation ago, says the Saturday Review. Both are reputed to be unable to read and write correctly any one of the languages in which an Austrian ruler is supposed to be proficient. After the suicide of Archduke Rudolph, in 1889, an effort was made to train the mind of the elder of these cousins, the Archduke Francis Ferdinand. He was sent on a tour around the world and the pretense was carried to the length of issuing a record of observations which he was said to have written. All that he really derived from the journey was a malady from which he is now slowly dying. He is the prince who scandalized Vienna in his youth by halting a peasant funeral procession which he met while riding, and compelling the mourners to hold the bier while he leaped his horse backward and forward over the coffin. His uncle, the emperor, thrashed him with a stick for this exploit, although he was at the time a grown man, and an officer in the army. His brother, Otto, is the hero of another exploit, involving a public insult of the grossest kind to his own wife, for which the Austrians were delighted to learn that he also felt the emperor's cane. In explanation, though not in defense, of their vicious worthlessness, it is remembered that these young men inherit not only the worst qualities of the degenerate Hapsburg blood, but are grandsons of that criminal lunatic whom Englishmen still remember—the Neapolitan "Bomba."

In 1950.

The teacher in the primary grade had drawn the picture of a man on the blackboard and stood beside it with a ruler in her hand.

"This is a rough sketch of a man as we know him, children," she said, "but he was not always thus. You will be surprised to learn that our ancestors aimed to stand upright and that an erect carriage was sought even as late as fifty or sixty years ago."

There was a murmur of astonishment from the children that rather angered the teacher.

"I assure you it is absolutely true," she said. "These beautiful curves in the backs of the high-bred people and the extremely long neck and arms were practically unknown sixty years ago. We have made wonderul progress since then."—Chicago Post.

IN WOMAN'S CORNER.

INTERESTING READING FOR DAMES AND DAMSELS.

Some of the Fashionable Dresses Seen in Town—An Old Fashioned Gown for Up to Date Maids—Notes of the Modes.

THE fashionable world has paused for a moment in its mad rush. Many of its inmates have flown to their summer quarters for a quiet spell. A few are still in town, and may be seen at the last nights of the theaters, where we can easily gain some hints of modified modes. Each day and each week brings something a little different, in spite of the fact that the early spring gave the general outlines for the year. Several typical gowns are worth mentioning. A simple, pearl-grey crepon had no trimming whatever except some bands of coarse white lace insertion inserted lengthwise in the loose bodice. The insertion was fastened to the crepon beneath silver paillette trimming, and white satin peeped from beneath it. A white satin ribbon collar and a silver belt finished the costume. Another more elaborate costume was worn by a sweet-looking blonde, with a black hat that sat on the side of her head like a bird ready for flight. Black India silk, sprayed with white, was the material used. The Swiss peasant's yoke was of white, and over it the material crossed in surplice fashion. To further this effect, what seemed to be the ends of a fichu fell over the skirt from each side of the waist. The bell-sleeves emitted clouds of white lace, almost concealing the hands. A bertha of green velvet was worn over a soft-puffed bodice of cream chiffon, with sleeves that were shirred to the arm above the elbow, and were fulled into extravagant flounces on the lower arm.

An Old Fashioned Gown.

Fun is always to be had in an "Answers to Correspondents" column. None, however, furnishes quite the amusement afforded by English periodicals when, in response to queries, they advise readers to take numerous dresses with them for wear in New York, as that city is quite up-to-date in fashions. They fail to conclude by saying that it might be well to delay purchasing these garments until reaching New York, since the American

taste in dress far exceeds that of the Englishwoman.

This applies mainly to summer dress, for in it the American girl secures a sprightly touch entirely lacking in the severe lines of English garments.

Take a dress to be worn at a Newport hop. The material is old-fashioned dotted muslin, made over a yellow silk slip. The round bodice is very full, cut low and round about the neck, and is almost concealed by a fall of wide lace.

Big yellow bows at the shoulders conceal the commencement of ribbon straps to hold the sleeve puffs. Ribbon is again introduced in the skirt trimming. It encircles the waist, falls diagonally from the center of both front and back and joins half way down the left side, where it is loosely looped. From thence one end hangs, another wends its way to the bottom of the skirt, to be fastened under a huge bow. Another bow is placed at the waist exactly in the center of the back.

And the maid is black of hair and black-eyed.—The Latest.

Visiting Toilets.

White enters more or less into all elegant costumes. It is almost unnecessary to speak again of the vogue that lace is enjoying. There is hardly a gown for woman, girl or child that has not lace somewhere about it, either as application, collarette, pelerine, collar, jabot, cravat or trimming. White satin belts are also a feature of the season. They are sometimes wide, sometimes narrow and are draped or crossed as the figure of the wearer dictates. They accompany not only white gowns, but those of gray, green, blue, rose and mauve. For draped and wrinkled belts a very soft silk or satin is required,

that will make round folds instead of sharp ones. These white girdles are also worn with bodices of gauze or mousseline de soie, which are innumerable. Those more conspicuous are of mauve, green, straw or have mousseline, made over a fitted lining of white satin. Plaid and flowered gauzes are used in the same way.

Decidedly brilliant colors are not so much worn as they have been. Some good effects in red are seen, and there are also some charming blue costumes in which white and straw color are mingled, but the preference is for more delicate tones of evasive green, pinkish lilac, effaced yellows and delicate blues. Black and white in chine effects, stripes, plaid lines, checks, dots and figures is having a success, as are mixtures of black and white lace on both hats and gowns. It is always safe to choose black and white articles of apparel, for they will go well with any color and have a certain reserve and distinction that color lacks.

The sketch illustrates a visiting costume. The godet skirt of black taffeta is covered with a second skirt of black mousseline de soie, embroidered with large roses. The fitted bodice of black taffeta is covered and draped with embroidered mousseline. The belt of black satin is tied at the side and the collar is also of black satin. Black satin ribbons are arranged obliquely upon the bodice, terminating in coques. The sleeves of black taffeta are covered and draped with black embroidered mousseline and have black satin bracelets and frills of white lace.

Household Hints.

Mice love pumpkin seeds, and will be attracted to a trap baited with them when they will pass by a piece of meat.

A thin coating made of three parts lard, melted with one part rosin, and applied to stoves and grates, will prevent their rusting during the summer.

Cream or milk that has turned but is not soured may be made sweet by stirring into it one teaspoonful of carbonate of magnesia to each quart of milk.

The best way to remove sand and grit from small fruit, when washing is necessary, is to lay the fruit loosely in a clean basket, and dip the basket into fresh, clean water.

A NEW IDEA IN MILLINERY.

Trying to Suit Him.

"Josiar," said the young man's father, "do ye remember what he said the other day 'bout not being able to do whut I asked yer to round the farm sence ye got educated, 'cause ye wanted su'thin' deep ter accypy yer 'tention?"

"Yes, father."

"Wal, I've got the very thing fur ye. Ole man Tunkins is diggin' a subcellar."—Washington Star.

That Terrible Scourge.

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Lack of Realism.

Mr. Wickwire—"What ridiculous, impossible things these fashion plates are."

Mrs. Wickwire—"I know they used to be, but most of them are engraved from photographs nowadays."

Mr. Wickwire—"This one can't be. Here are two women going in opposite directions, both with brand new gowns on, and neither looking back at the other."—Indianapolis Journal.

Hall's Catarrh Cure

Is taken internally. Price, 75c.

Somehow, we always distrust the bill of fare at a boarding house that calls its boarders "guests."

Trans-Mississippi Inventions.

OMAHA, Nebraska, July 31, 1896.—Amongst the inventors who received patents last week were William S. Witten, South Omaha, Nebraska, feed-holding bin; Gaylord C. Wooster, Rulo, Nebraska, scale beam; Jehiel F. Wynkoop, Muscatine Iowa, rubber cap for axle nuts; George P. Kistner, Low Moor, Iowa, disk cultivator; Edward A. Hinrichs, Davenport, Iowa, doll.

Amongst the curious inventions were found an interchangeable toy and box; a combination bloomer and bicycle shirt; a non-puncturing pneumatic tire provided with a steel shield; a bicycle adapted to be used on ice; a duplex bicycle tire comprising superposed flexible tires; a device for raising and lowering bicycle tops; and an attachment for bicycles comprising a folding rod that can be expanded and is provided with a mirror adapted to be used on ladies' bicycles so that they can arrange their bangs while in transit.

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