

# THE FRONTIER.

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**The Silver Question.**  
[Mr. Selah's Paper Concluded.]  
This was done, not because silver was plentiful (which is now, by the way, a stock argument against free coinage) but on October 1, 1880, (seven years afterward) John Sherman, then secretary of the treasury, estimated the supply of gold coin and bullion in the United States at \$453,882,692 and that of silver coin and bullion \$158,320,911. This, too, after the Comstock and Leadville discoveries—the greatest of the world—were discovered. It was not done because foreign countries were dumping silver at our doors, for the fact is we were not doing this. Neither was it done in compliance with any demand of the people, for the people had no demand, and, moreover, were consulted in the premises. Then why was it done? The monied interests of Wall street could probably answer. Speculators in gold could probably answer. The money lenders and receivers of incomes could probably answer us. But it is not all likely that we will then devolve upon us to look for the cause elsewhere.  
From 1834 to 1874 we find that the silver standard silver dollar (412 1/2 grains) commanded a premium of from 3 per cent over the gold in the gold market (35.8 grains) in the London market, but when the demoting law of 1876 was passed, what followed? It is interesting to note the rapid change which then took place in the relative market price of the two metals. Instead of longer commanding a premium silver came to rapidly decline. In 1874, in gold of taking 15.93 grains of silver to the grain of gold, it required 16.16; in 1875, 16.63; in 1876, 17.80; in 1877, 19; in 1878, 17.96; in 1879, 18.29, and in 1880, 18.06 to 1.  
Thus the owner of gold had increased purchasing power of his wealth to enormous extent and depreciated the value of silver accordingly, while a corresponding shrinkage in the price of all commodities must have occurred. Was ever the effect of legislation on money question more strongly explained than in this instance?  
So silly was the law of 1873 passed at its demoting features, skillfully concealed in its sixty-seven paragraphs, that it attracted the attention of many congressmen, who afterwards were indignantly forced to admit that they were ignorant of its nature when they voted for it, and the people of the country lived in ignorance of the work until evil effects began to be felt.  
The same year, as if by preconcertion the part of the monied classes of America and Europe, silver was demoted in France, after an uninterrupted run of seventy years of free and unlimited coinage. And it may be well to serve here that during these seventy years of bi-metallic currency France enjoyed a prosperity almost unexampled in the financial annals of the world. Germany had demoted silver in 1871, and as the white metal was practically excluded by the world's four leading nations (England, whose gold standard has existed since 1788, Germany, France and America—four of the greatest commercial powers of the world.  
Side by side with gold, silver had stood sentinel against a rise in the price of the more precious metal. It stood as a barrier between the rights of the people and the greed of the gold monopolist, the currency contractionist, the rapacious speculator and coupon-cutter. It was the people's friend and defender; and for this reason it must be condemned, proscribed and persecuted. And the way it was done! Openly it was not declared. Silver was not challenged to a fair and impartial combat. It was not met in the public arena and subjected to the crucibles of reason and facts; but while off its guard, asleep in the confidence of the people, it was approached by its masked enemy and lured near unto death without warning.  
Demands from the people that silver be restored to its former position soon began to develop, and the Allison bill, sometimes miscalled the Bland bill, was the result; but this law was but a tub thrown to the whale, a makeshift, a subterfuge. It did not provide for the coinage of more than four millions a month, which was the maximum, and in fact the coinage did not any one year exceed the minimum limit, that is, two millions a month, neither was it full legal tender, for it wouldn't pay interest on the public debt or duties on imports.  
This law continued in force until the present one was passed. But the present one is better than its predecessor, only inasmuch that it slightly increases the amount of the government purchases of bullion. Silver is still deprived of the full legal tender function, and is retained at the mint in only limited quantities. It is still treated in the main as a commodity.  
The gold supply of the world is esti-

mated at 3,727 millions of dollars. The silver supply at 3,820 millions of dollars. If these figures are correct, they show that the supply of gold is exceeded by the silver supply only about 100 millions. Why then all this cry against silver as a cheap money, when it is still in use by one half of the world, and its supply is but little above that of the yellow metal?  
Speaking of the bi-metallic policy of his own country, Mr. Demorandie, the French delegate to the international monetary conference of 1881, has this to say in its behalf:  
"In 1837-8-9 a violent crisis raged in America. The federal treasury withdrew its deposits from the United States bank, and to restore the metallic currency it flooded the English market with American paper. The situation in London became extremely difficult and the Bank of England's metallic stock fell from 200 millions to 75 millions. This example proves what an influence a country's monetary legislation may exert on the intensity of crises, and to what shocks monometallic markets like that of London are exposed. In 1873 the Bank of England was even forced to apply to the Bank of France, which lent it 50,000,000 francs, and which, thanks to the French bi-metallic system, scarcely felt the effect of the catastrophes occurring in New York and London.  
"In 1847 the wheat crisis common to both countries broke out. In England the rate of discount rises to 8 per cent. In France the crisis is speedily mitigated and the rate of discount is kept at 5 per cent.  
"In 1857 a fresh monetary panic breaks out in France, as also in England. The Bank of France is forced to raise its discount to 10 per cent, but only for a fortnight; whereas the Bank of England, all its gold having been drained by the United States, is compelled to keep its discount for six weeks at the high rate of 10 per cent.  
"In 1860 the Bank of England applies to the Bank of France for silver and is immediately supplied with fifty-two millions of fine silver for a like sum of gold. In the following year Russia, in her turn, is furnished from the same source with thirty-one millions; all thanks to the French monetary system.  
"In 1866, owing to the excessive and imprudent development of limited liability companies, a fresh monetary crisis arises, and this time more intense. The Bank of England, suffering from a withdrawal of bullion and the exhaustion of its reserve of notes, obtains the suspension of the act of 1844 and its rate of discount varies between January and July from 6 to 10 per cent. During the same year the rate of discount at the Bank of France did not exceed 4 1/2 per cent.  
"Thus all these crises," says Mr. Demorandie, "occurring in such various periods and in such different circumstances, we find the Bank of France less severely tried than the Bank of England. In forty-five years, from 1837 to 1881, the former alters its rate of discount only 100 times, the latter makes it undergo 293 changes. It may safely be said the French monetary system was not unconnected with this result. The faculty possessed by France of resorting alternately or simultaneously to the two metals, enabled her not only to employ one or the other, according to circumstances and ward off the effects of their successive scarcity, but also to come to the aid, not without profit to herself, of those of her neighbors who happened to lack either gold or silver.  
"But," continues this able financier, "since the suspension of mintage, since silver has been discredited before the law in several foreign countries, the state of things has altogether changed."  
And so it is.  
I might give further testimony of the good effects of the silver policy in France from other able financiers. Mr. President, did I not deem this all sufficient for the purposes of this article. This needless to prolong and tire with what is but reiteration.  
A most favorite objection of the advocates of the anti-free coinage theory is "with free and unlimited coinage our gold would all leave us." With the balance of trade against us, I will admit this is possible. But the fact is that the balance of trade is, and has been, in our favor for a good many years. However, suppose that it did, it would not go without bringing in return something that we need, and with plenty of good silver money at home to grease the wheels of commerce within the borders of our own broad and prosperous land, we would have nothing to fear. The gold would soon come back to us seeking investments and purchasing the products of our mills and farms.  
But, perhaps no argument of the gold monometalists is more misleading or better calculated to frighten the timid than the idea that free and unlimited coinage would cause foreigners to ship their silver to this country and have it coined, thus giving us too much money and leading to inflation.  
No better answer to this argument it seems to me, is necessary than the fact that this country ships large quantities of silver across the waters every year.  
An eastern trade journal gives the amount of silver exportation for the three months ending Sept. 30 for the past two years as follows:  
For 1890, \$1,869,445.  
For 1891, \$2,198,465.  
And the Chicago Herald, in considering "the market position of silver,"

says: "The United States have lost since the beginning of the year through exports, consumption and government purchases, about \$1,000,000 per month in excess of production."  
Now, this silver is not going to foreign countries for nothing. It is certainly going there because they need it; and as long as it becomes necessary for these countries to buy silver from us, it is hardly reasonable to suppose that they are going to sell to us any great amount. But take either horn of the dilemma. Suppose they would ship their silver over here to be coined. It would be coined into American dollars, and whoever heard of an American dollar circulating anywhere but in America only to the extent of its bullion value, and when our foreign friends circulate their American dollars in America are they not buying of us something that we have for sale, making a market for our products, or paying for American labor?  
Would this not be decidedly to our advantage?  
It seems to me that the question of free and unlimited coinage of silver, when submitted to the test of facts and reason, and divested of sectional or political prejudices, admits of but one conclusion, and it decidedly in the affirmative.  
And now I wish to make a brief reference to that portion of President Harrison's late message touching the silver question. If it may seem presumptuous in me to criticize so able a statesman, I trust I may be pardoned this once. The president expresses grave fears that free coinage, without similar action on the part of European countries would lead to serious contraction of our currency by causing our gold to take wings and fly to other shores. How it could go without leaving its equivalent the president does not tell us. He also informs us that the silver in our silver dollar is worth on the London market but 74 cents in gold. If our European friends exchange their silver for our gold at this rate, for every 74 cents worth of gold they take away they must place in circulation here a bright and shining standard silver dollar—100 cents—or 25 1/2 cents more of circulating medium than they carry away. For every \$100 in gold they would leave \$125.75, for every \$1,000, \$1,257.50, and so on *ad infinitum*.  
This would not be contraction, as the writer understands it. On the contrary, it would be giving us more circulation—adding to our supply of silver dollars, which for all purposes seem to pass to day for 100 cents in all parts of Uncle Sam's broad domain.  
I can see nothing unreasonable in the demands of the silver men. Mr. President. They are not asking for the demoting of gold. They do not desire the subordination of the yellow metal in any particular to the white. They do not seek the depreciation, inflation or contraction of our currency. They do not ask for the violation of any government obligations, or the interference with any vested rights. They simply ask that silver, the money of more than one-half the world, be restored to the position it enjoyed previous to 1873—that is, to be placed on an equality with gold in the monetary functions of the country. They ask for no favors, no advantages; only plain, equality and justice; a fair field and no favors. If gold is the better money for the country it need have no fears of consequences in an equal race. It need ask for no legal privileges, no legislative assistance; the natural laws of trade and commerce will see that its superior qualifications are fully recognized. But, ah! here is just where the difficulty comes in. Gold is not the money of the people, but the money of the wealthy few. It does not circulate freely among the masses, but hides itself in bank vaults, and when most needed is hardest to find. When panic and distress overtakes the country then it comes from out its hiding places and, Shylock-like, demands its pound of flesh.  
Were it not for the fact that the same evil predictions of dire calamity to the country are now made for free coinage that were made for the law of 1876 which partially restored to the standard silver dollar its former monetary uses, and again in 1891, when the present silver law was passed, they might contain more fears for the average citizen. On both these former occasions the gold monometalists had the country ticketed by the most direct route to the demotion bow wows. Our gold was going to leave us by the first steamer, our currency was going to be both contracted and inflated, panic and general business paralysis was sure to ensue, and gloomy enough was the future they had pictured to us. But, fortunately, these dark forebodings were never realized. Our birds of ill-omen proved to be false prophets. On the contrary, times became easier, money more plenty, people more prosperous. This great American store-house continued to furnish the necessities and comforts of life to the outer world for the proper considerations; and here we are today, fatter, fuller and more formidable than ever before, asking of congress more of the same kind of calamity. Free coinage means a freer circulation, a freer people and a freer flow of trade and commerce through all the avenues of business. It means freer action for the west, fuller development of her boundless resources, and more general peace and prosperity on every hand. At least such is the humble opinion of the writer hereof.  
Hon. Alfred Bartow, judge-elect for this judicial district, came down from Chadron yesterday morning. Mr. Bartow is looking hale and hearty and carries his honors with that gentlemanly dignity always noticeable in a man of his sterling qualities. The Judge's visit to O'Neill was purely a business one. He and Judge Kinkaid were busy all day arranging dates for terms of court to be held during the coming year. Holt county's term will commence February 18, and the next term September 22.

**The District Court Clerkship.**  
What had been only rumor for a week or ten days previous has been verified this week by the statement of Mr. McBride and the filing of papers objecting to Mr. John Skirving taking the oath of office on January 7 and assuming the duties of the clerk of the court, on the ground that Mr. Skirving is not an American citizen. McBride says he does not like to do it, but that if he does not some one else will, but just who that some one else is we do not know, but we understand he says it is the Independents. So far as we can learn they are making no move in that direction and have no intention of it.  
THE FRONTIER believes there is no good grounds of contest, that John Skirving is as good a citizen as any one in this county and will ultimately win. He came with his parents to this county when but 7 years old. His father died a few years later. His mother makes affidavit that the father made declaratory statement in New York city shortly after coming to this country and the law makes that answer for the son. John also has two discharges from the army, which are in the stead of his declaratory statement, and, while it is not necessary for him to be a full-fledged citizen to hold the office, he went before the court Tuesday morning and was given his second papers, making him in name as in fact a full-fledged citizen of these United States. There is another point or two which they have in reserve that will help to clinch the matter and we believe we are safe in saying that there will be no opposition to Mr. Skirving taking charge of the office on the 7th, especially as Mr. McBride says that if Mr. Skirving can prove his citizenship there will be no trouble.  
THE FRONTIER will have more to say on this subject as the case develops.  
**Wedding Bells.**  
Mr. Maylon D. Price and Miss H. Gertrude Moore were married at the residence of the bride's parents in O'Neill, at 3:30 o'clock on the afternoon of Christmas day. Rev. G. M. Boswell of Atkinson officiating.  
At the appointed hour the wedding march, with Miss Anna Lowrie at the piano, called the young people to the parlor, where they became man and wife. After receiving the congratulations of the guests present, all sat down to a superb wedding spread, prepared by the bride's mother, Mrs. C. A. Moore.  
These young people are well and most favorable known in this city, where by virtue of their worth they have won an enviable place. They received a long list of handsome and useful presents.  
THE FRONTIER joins their wide circle of friends in extending congratulations.  
**Mr. Green's Lecture.**  
Those stay-at-homes who were not present at the Academy Tuesday evening to hear Mr. James A. Green, in his illustrated lecture, "A Foot Across Ireland," missed a rare treat. More than that, they missed an opportunity of hearing a refined lecture, superbly illustrated by stereopticon views of all the principal points of interest in Ireland. And the points of interest in that far-away country are so numerous and attractive that the attentive listener might spend hours with Mr. Green, hearing him describe, in his own elegant manner, his travels through that island, his experiences with the Patriots and Jerry's, his recital of the trials, the sorrows and the joys as told him by that quaint and ready-witted class of people.  
Mr. Green is a scholarly gentleman. He has traveled extensively through the principal countries of the old world, with the object in view of lecturing intelligently to the people of the United States upon topics descriptive of the scenery, the habits of the people and the many points of interest not described accurately in the general histories of foreign lands. He has accomplished his task, for a more thoroughly enjoyable and highly interesting entertainment has never been given before in O'Neill. The hall should have been crowded, but it was not. There were plenty of vacant seats, and a hundred more guests could easily have been accommodated.  
The lecture was given under the auspices of the Rebekah lodge, and was ably managed by Mr. H. M. Utley.  
**District Court.**  
Judge Crites, accompanied by his back-bone, came down from Chadron on Monday morning and re-convened court. The first matter settled was the Tierney case. The prisoner was brought into the court and sentenced by Judge Crites to three years at hard labor. Tierney's attorneys interposed objections but they were overruled. The case will be appealed to the supreme court. Tuesday morning Sheriff McEvony started with the prisoner for Lincoln and he is now in durance vile. THE FRONTIER hopes young Ed will reform his ways and yet make a good man.  
A number of equity cases and several private matters were adjusted and next day Judge Kinkaid and court adjourned sine die.  
**The Homeliest Man in O'Neill.**  
As well as the handsomest, and others are invited to call on any druggist and get free a trial bottle of Kemp's Balsam for the Throat and Lungs, a remedy that is selling entirely upon its merits and is guaranteed to relieve and cure all Chronic and Acute Coughs, Asthma, Bronchitis and Consumption. Large Bottles, 50 cents and \$1.

Thirty-three is said by good authority to be an extraordinary lucky number. The authority we quote is no less a personage than Mr. Barrett Scott, who was the holder of a ticket bearing that number which drew an elegant \$50 music box at the store of Mr. C. N. Forney, Atkinson's popular pharmacist. In his letter informing Mr. Scott of his good luck, Mr. Forney takes occasion to offer a tender compliment to that gentleman, speaking in glowing terms of his many accomplishments and advising him at the conclusion of the epistle that there is a cigar bill attached to the instrument of \$2.75; five per cent. discount for cash in ten days. There is scarcely anything in this broad land more to be admired than genuine Atkinson nerve.  
Miss Aggie Bentley, who has been sojourning at Long Pine, Chadron and other points in the western part of the state for some time, came down Tuesday morning. Miss Bentley has been receiving medical treatment at Long Pine and is very much improved in health. While absent she visited many points of interest in Wyoming and the Black Hills.  
The deal between Planck & Thompson and New York parties, spoken of in this paper several weeks since, has been consummated and the liverystable, stock, etc., of the former goes to the New York parties in consideration for which Planck & Thompson receive a number of thoroughbred horses, etc.  
O. H. and Clara Young, son and daughter of Mr. Young, the music dealer, accompanied by Mrs. John Williams, wife of the other member of the firm of Young & Co., arrived in O'Neill Monday night from Illinois. Mr. Young's wife is expected in O'Neill soon.  
The firemen are requested to meet at the engine house New Year's day at 11:30. A parade will begin at 12 m. The dance at the rink in the evening promises to be a fine affair. Supper will be served at Hotel Evans and it goes without saying that it will be a good one.  
The O'Neill Dramatic company has been organized with Mr. T. V. Golden as president, Miss Josie Howard, vice-president; Miss Tessie Dykeman, secretary; Mr. John McHugh, treasurer. Several plays will be presented during the winter.  
Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Riggs of Iowa, parents of the Riggs boys and Mrs. Meredith, arrived in O'Neill Thursday evening last, and are visiting their children here. They will remain several weeks.  
A. Boyd started Monday morning with his daughter, Lizzie, who had an eye hurt a week or two ago, for Minneapolis for treatment. We hope they will be successful in their efforts.  
H. N. Gallant, brother-in-law of Clerk-elect Butler, is here visiting Ed and may remain in the city. If he does he will work in the clerk's office.  
Owen Meredith has been very sick with the lung fever for a week or more past, but we are glad to announce it better today.  
Mrs. E. H. Benedict has been very low the last week, but is a little better today. We hope for her speedy recovery.  
Miss Tess Harrington returned Monday evening from a short visit with friends and relatives in Omaha.  
W. C. Evered has removed his stock of goods to Page. THE FRONTIER wishes him much success.  
The Eagle club is mourning the loss of a charter member in the person of Mr. Maylon Price.  
Mrs. Jerry McCarthy won the beautiful doll at Morris & Co's. store, holding ticket No. 357.  
It was stormy yet a merry Christmas and we hope it will be a Happy New Year to all.  
Wm. Bowen is "catching on" at the judge's office. He has moved his family down.  
A brother of Henry Murphy is visiting in O'Neill. He resides at Columbus.  
Peter Cramer, living south of Emmet, was a pleasant caller yesterday.  
A. J. Watson of the Coleridge Blade spent Christmas in O'Neill.  
Mr. Milton Doolittle of Atkinson was a pleasant caller Tuesday.  
John P. Hansen of Agee called Monday at this office.  
Mr. Cross of Betheny was a caller the first of the week.  
Postmaster Austin of Amelia was a caller Monday.  
E. Downey of Inman called Tuesday.  
Found—Between O'Neill and Fort Randall, a watch. Owner can have the same by proving property and paying for this advertisement.  
Geo. BLINCO, O'Neill.

**Supervisors Meet.**  
On Tuesday the county board met in adjourned session, present: Bethen, Crow, Conger, Cleveland, Crawford, Cronin, Gray, Gilson, Greig, Hodkins, Hornbeck, Howard, Hunter, Haigh, Hayes, Jilison, Kelley, Kline, McElhaney, Mullen, Miller, Moss, Perkins, C. M. Smith and Wine. Chairman Ogbe being absent H. Hodgkins was chosen chairman pro tem.  
T. V. Golden presented his appointment as city supervisor and was duly enrolled. Clerk was ordered to advertise for bids for supplies for 1892. Board then resolved itself into a committee of the whole and examined bonds of various township officers-elect.  
After dinner a petition for a bridge across the Elkhorn on the section line between 23 and 23-20-13 was read and on motion granted. The following committee was appointed: Haigh, Hayes and Crawford. Bonds of John Skirving, W. W. Page, H. A. Skelton and Wm. Bowen and a large number of township officers were upon motion approved and some bonds of township officers laid over.  
After this the board adjourned until Wednesday.  
Wednesday morning a few more township bonds were approved. Bond of John McBride, clerk of the courts, was presented and referred to committee on bonds. Committee reported it back without recommendation. It was moved that the board reject the bond on the ground that there was no evidence that McBride was elected to said office and that John Skirving was elected and had filed a bond which had been approved. The motion to reject was lost, but a motion to lay on the table carried.  
Some tax matters were next attended to and in the afternoon the matter of instructing county attorney in reference to suits against Long and Darr was taken up. Golden, Mullen and Hunter were appointed a committee to confer with Adams, decide upon a plan of action and report same to board.  
The following motion was presented by T. V. Golden and upon motion adopted:  
Whereas, It has come to the knowledge of this board that famine exists in the empire of Russia and  
Whereas, The Hon. Deputy Land Commissioner has informed the chairman of the Holt County Agriculture society of such fact and asks the citizens of this county to contribute food and supplies for the purpose of relieving distress in said country, and  
Whereas, The people of this county were in the present year blessed with abundant crops of all kinds, therefore be it  
Resolved, That we would consider it an act of charity, to be approved by all people, and a duty due by all who can afford it to contribute to the alleviation of the suffering of the Russians at this time, and are recommended that the citizens of each railroad town in the county appoint a committee for the purpose of receiving contributions and forwarding them to the proper authorities.  
A number of claims were allowed on the bridge fund, several roads established and the board adjourned sine die.  
**The Future of Sugar Beets.**  
Under the above heading the Lincoln correspondent of the Omaha Bee gives the following interesting points to their readers upon the sugar beet industry. Some two years ago Mr. H. W. McClure advanced the very same theory and mention was made of it in these columns at the time. It is the opinion of this paper that this will be the final solution of the beet sugar question. Read carefully:  
A gentleman connected with the government inspection department at the Grand Island beet sugar factory made a business trip to Lincoln last week. The Bee representative had a pleasant chat with him in regard to the future of the beet sugar industry in Nebraska and found him sanguine in the extreme.  
"I am confident," said he "that Nebraska beets will take the lead of those raised in California, Utah or elsewhere, in purity as well as in saccharine matter. Last year the beets raised in the vicinity of Grand Island were of excellent quality, averaging 16 per cent. of sugar. This year the percentage was not quite so high (being about 14 per cent.), but the yield was much heavier. Some farmers raised twenty three long tons per acre, the average being from twelve to fifteen tons."  
"The Oxwards will raise the price to be paid for beets next season an average of \$1 a ton on the highest grade of beets, which ought to be remunerative to an ordinary producer, and especially to one who has had experience and who cultivates thoroughly."  
"I have seen allusions in a local paper to an article which appeared recently in the Bee, stating that a syndicate was being formed to build a large refinery there for several factories in the state to make crude or raw sugar to be refined at Omaha. I believe that ultimately the beet sugar industry in Nebraska will be carried on on this basis. The plan is a practical one, involving less outlay at interior points, and the results, I think, will be more profitable than by the present plan."  
**The Dodge Shooting.**  
The worst fears concerning the shooting of Capt. C. C. Dodge have been realized, as the shot proved fatal. Wilkinson, who did the shooting, was taken over to Boyd county Monday by Sheriff Jamison, and a preliminary hearing given him. We have not learned the result of it, but presume he will be bound over. We did not learn particulars of the funeral, either.