



REPUBLICAN OPINION.

Reports from the manufacturing districts, North and South, continue to show increased activity. Three large cordage mills at Isala, Ohio, which have been out of operation for several years, are being re-opened with a full force of men. The Wead paper mills at Malone, N. Y., which have been idle for two years, have been re-opened; the Bridgeton, Pa., woolen mills, which have been closed nearly three years, have resumed operations; two of the Ohio valley railroads have given orders for one thousand new box cars each, for use in the business which is being offered them, and which they are now unable to handle; the Cleveland rolling mills report a large order for bar steel from Birmingham, England, and an Ohio paper mill reports a contract of several thousand tons of print paper for the Japanese trade.

No better evidence of the actual return of business activity could be found than the official reports of bank clearances for the week ending September 18. They show the clearances to be fully fifty per cent greater than at this time a year ago, and seventy-five per cent in excess of those of the corresponding week two years ago. They are greater than at any time since January, 1893.

Is it that terrible "money power" that is destroying the crops all over the world for the purpose of giving American farmers higher prices and thus showing them the falsity of the wheat-and-silver theory? There is just as much sense in assuming that the money power could control the wind and weather and grasshoppers and other causes of foreign grain shortages as it was to assume last fall that a handful of financiers located in some mysterious secret chamber in London or elsewhere could control the legislation of the greatest and most intelligent nation of the world in behalf of the gold standard, as was asserted day to day and week to week during the entire campaign of 1896.

Is it the Dingley law or the fall of silver which is the cause of advance of all farm products in the last sixty days? There has been no occasion in which silver has fallen more rapidly than during the month of August, and no time in which all farm products have advanced more rapidly than during August and September. Since the Dingley law went into operation about the time that this advance came, it might be well to call upon Mr. Bryan for another paid syndicate article explaining the cause of this general advance.

The treasury department has over \$145,000,000 of gold in hand, and has had since the McKinley administration came in a larger gold surplus than at any time for a long period of years. This is in marked contrast with the conditions during the Democratic administration, when President Cleveland was compelled to sell bonds every now and then to keep up the hundred-million reserve.

Those people who are satisfied with Mr. Bryan's explanation of the cause in the advance in the price of wheat might do well to inquire of him about the advance of wool. He says the advance in wheat was due to a shortage abroad. There is no record of any considerable shortage abroad in wool, yet prices of wool have advanced sixty per cent since the beginning of September, 1896, while silver has fallen twenty per cent in the same time.

The visit of Senators Mantle and Pettigrew to the Mikado of Japan to inquire why silver has been demonetized seems to have been a great loss of time and labor. Had they taken the trouble to examine the report of the director of the mint, which covers the value of Japan's silver coins during the past few years, they would have found it entirely unnecessary to take their trip across the Pacific, though that might be a very convenient trip for anybody to take providing the silver trust saw fit to pay expenses. The report of the director of the mint shows that the Japanese silver yen, which was worth 83 1/10 cents in 1891, was only worth 47 8/10 cents in 1897, all of which should have been sufficient information for anybody who wanted cold facts without a foreign junket as an accompaniment. Senators Pettigrew and Mantle having omitted to favor the people of this country with the result of their interview with the Mikado, the public may be able to work along with the information given in the following table, until the silver statesmen are heard from:

Year.	Value of Silver Yen.	Value of Gold Yen.
1888	75.3	99.7
1889	73.4	99.7
1890	75.2	99.7
1891	83.1	99.7
1892	74.5	99.7
1893	66.1	99.7
1894	55.6	99.7
1895	49.1	99.7
1896	52.9	99.7
1897 (July)	47.8	99.7

Last week's report covering the business failures in the United States is more encouraging than any which has been presented since the upward tendency of business which came with the inauguration of President McKinley. The entire number of business failures reported last week was only 169, which was less than half the number in the corresponding week of September, 1893, the first year of Cleveland's second term, and vastly less than any corresponding week during the entire four years of his occupancy of the presidential chair.

POLITICAL SENSATION

ACTING-GOVERNOR RANSOM CHARGES FRAUD

In Open Court at Omaha He Contends that Fraud Was Committed by Governor Holcomb When He Approved Bartley's Straw Bond—Offers to Show that Holcomb Knew of Bartley's Shortage—Meserve's Bond Worthless—Several of His Largest Sureties Have Left the State.

Meserve's Record in Red Willow County.

The condition of the state treasury was the one particular thing most talked about by Governor Holcomb in his campaign for governor three years ago. He would reform the business of the state treasury. That's what he would. He canvassed the state and at the farmer picnics he was a bold reformer. He taught the people that the treasury had not been properly protected, that its funds were not properly managed, and that he was the one particular man who would attend to that particular business if elected. So persistent was he in his discussion of the state treasury and so prodigious was he of brave promises that the public learned in that campaign to look upon him and to stigmatize him as "the watchdog of the public money." Whatever grievances had been in the past, Holcomb would reform the treasury when he got into power. Enough of the people believed in this proud boaster to elect him, and the farmers said among themselves, "Now the treasury is safe, for Holcomb is in the chair." The farmers understood then, as they do now, that the business of securing the public money by a sound treasurer's bond was the governor's business, and they knew that if that business was properly attended to there could be no loss to the tax-payers whether the state treasurer was honest or not. The people had elected the treasurer believing him to be an honest man, but they did not depend upon his honesty, they depended upon the bond, and they had elected a governor whose duty it was to require a bond, and they believed that he would perform that duty. He was commanded to do it by the law, and he would surely obey the law, but he was bound to perform his duty, and it rested upon his conscience with tenfold force by reason of his promises at the country picnics, and because he was no ordinary governor but a reformer, the leader of a reform party, and its only representative in the state house. The treasury was the one particular thing which he had discussed in his campaign—was the one particular thing above all others that needed reform—and now, as he entered upon the duties of his first term, the first thing presented to him for his official action was an opportunity to reform the treasury. If any part of the public funds had been misappropriated, here was the opportunity for him to make the discovery by counting the money, as the law directs, and if the treasury had not been properly secured in the past, as he had charged in his speeches, here was an opportunity for him to commence his reform and to make the treasury safe in the future. It now transpires that Bartley's half million default had commenced then, and that the governor knew it. Not only had the default commenced, but the governor, knowing it, permitted Bartley on entering his second term to file a spurious bond, from which not a dollar can be collected, and he permitted this defaulting treasurer to continue in office two years, himself remaining silent, refusing to count the money as the law directed, holding out to the people by his certificate on the bond that it was genuine. A few days ago, at Omaha, Hon. Frank T. Ransom, populist senator from Omaha, president pro tem. of the populist senate, chairman of the so-called free-silver republican state committee, while acting governor, charged in open court that Governor Holcomb had committed this fraud, and gave that as a reason to the court why the innocent sureties who had signed the bond should be exonerated. "That fraud was committed," said Ransom, "that fraud was committed by the governor of the state of Nebraska and by Joseph S. Bartley." John H. Ames, one of the sureties, stated to the court that he had signed the Bartley bond relying upon the governor, that he was a lawyer and knew his duty, that he was an honest man who would keep his oath, that he had counted the money as the law directs, and that the condition of the treasury was then sound. Here we have Acting-Governor Ransom charging a fraud upon Acting-Governor Holcomb which calls for his impeachment and removal from office.

The last republican state convention denounced Bartley and Moore who had betrayed the republican party. The republican press of the state has been unsparring in its criticism of these republican betrayers, and no republican voter has offered to excuse or palliate one iota of their guilt. In this the republican party shows its honesty of conscience. We will now see whether the reform press and the voters of the reform party will longer stultify their reform cause by covering up and apologizing for the governor's rascality, as they have covered up and apologized for this shameful administration from the very hour which it took charge of the state government the first of this year.

But this is not the only bond fraud which Governor Holcomb has perpetrated upon the Nebraska people. Meserve's bond is as rotten and worthless as Bartley's second bond. The governor knew it when he approved it and when he certified to the people the falsehood that it was a genuine bond. Not only was it worthless when it was presented by Meserve and approved by the governor, but nearly all of the larger signers have since disposed of their property, and several of them have abandoned the state leaving no available assets behind. Not only this, but Meserve's career treasury is such as to arouse suspicion and call for the closest scrutiny of his sureties. His induction into the county treasuryship at McCook was brought about by his creditors there, to whom he was heavily indebted, and the records of Red Willow county show that within the space of a little more than a year while he was county treasurer he paid off \$24,000 of indebtedness, although his salary was but \$2,000 per annum. Who is carrying this indebtedness now? He paid his private creditors; that much appears from the county records. Where did he get the money? What would have been his relation to Red Willow county had he not been elected state treasurer? What would be his relation to the state to-day if the governor should require of him an accounting now? Will the governor require this accounting? Will he require a new bond in lieu of the worthless bond under which the state treasurer now holds office?

There must be somewhere some conscience among the rank and file of populist voters. If this election passes without a manifestation of this higher conscience in the populist party it can never again lift up its head and ask for the respect or the votes of Nebraska people.

Several times in the history of Nebraska the republican press has united in scourging republican offenders and making their actions odious before the public. There never has been at any time in the history of the state what could be justly styled a subversive republican press. At no time when the republican party was in power has it been dominated by a state house ring so powerful that not a single republican paper dared to lift its voice in protest. A year ago now the republican press was outspoken against Bartley's influence in the republican party. The republican newspapers voiced the demand of republican voters all over the state that Bartley should not be a controlling factor in shaping the party politics. All this is fresh in the mind of the people to-day. When Bartley's shortage was first hinted at but not fully established, not a single republican attempted to shield or excuse him. Republicans with one universal voice said: "Let no guilty man escape." In all this the republican party shows its conscience and its honest administration.

What has the populist press said or done to purge the rotten ring at the actions of the rotten ring at the state house? Look at the disgraceful spectacle presented by the last reform legislature. Look at the infamous re-count fraud, and the governor's connection with it. To carry out this bold plot they ousted four republican members from Omaha and one senator, making no pretense that there was any reason except that they needed that many votes to pass the re-count measure with the emergency clause. Did any populist newspaper utter a word of protest against this infamous thing while it was being carried on? It would be difficult to find in history an instance where there was such universal and general consent by a political party and all its officials and its press to a plot that was revolutionary and lawless in every feature. That re-count matter will always remain a dark spot in Nebraska's history. It is all the darker for the reason that the populist press was silent and uttered no protest against it. Take the \$10,000 investigating committee. Here are five members of the legislature drawing pay for two years at the rate of \$1,500 per annum, and for this they render no equivalent to the public, and make no pretense to usefulness except as they trump up political capital for the reform movement. The members of this committee make no pretense that they are qualified for the business of examining records or accounts. What a spectacle this man Mutz has made of himself as chairman of this investigating committee. And yet no populist newspaper has offered to criticize him.

Look out over the state and you will see a trail of defalcations wherever populists have been in county offices, but you will read no criticism against these defalcations in the populist press. In Lancaster county the populist clerk of the district court robbed the county, but no populist newspaper nor no populist convention has condemned him. In Custer county, the home of Governor Holcomb, a populist plundered the county treasury, but because this treasurer was Holcomb's friend, no word of censure has ever been uttered against him by any populist newspaper or any populist convention. Another county official in Custer county defaulted. The default was published by the commissioners, the public knew it, but the reform party in Custer county carries the name of that official to-day as its candidate for county judge. The reform county committee out there have demanded his withdrawal from the ticket, but because he is Holcomb's friend, he remains on the ticket and the populist voters there are whipped into line by the bosses demanding his support. In Merrick county, the home of Secretary of State Porter, the treasurer plundered the county to the amount of \$30,000, but neither Secretary Porter, the populist press, or the populist conventions of that county have dared to criticize it. In Platte county, the home of Judge Sullivan, the treasurer stole \$30,000 but neither Judge Sullivan or the other democratic officials of the county have lifted so much as a little finger to prosecute an offender. Not only does this Platte county treasurer go scot free from prosecution and free from criticism, but his brother, who was intimately associated with him when the default was committed, has been promoted to a public office at the state house under Land Commissioner Wolfe, because he is the son-in-law of United States Senator Allen. A populist treasurer robbed Hamilton county and his son was indicted for burning the court house there, but through the influence of Congressman Stark and others the prosecution was nolleed, and the guilty man allowed to escape, not only to escape punishment, but to escape criticism from the populist press and the populist conventions of that county. In Gosper county a populist plundered the treasury and burned the court house and the records, escaping without punishment and without criticism. There is not space here to recount the long list of populist defalcations which have occurred in the last four or five years. In York county four township treasurers defaulted, but you do not read of these defalcations in the populist press, and you do not hear of the resolutions passed by the populist conventions there.

Where is the conscience of the reform party? Where is its honesty? Wherein does it show the reform that it promised the people? Where is the reform that was promised us as to pass-grabbing and junketing? No political party, no set of politicians in any state, have made so disgraceful a spectacle as the populists have made in this state in the last few months along this line, and yet no mention of this is made in any populist paper or in the resolutions of any populist con-

vention. These state officials have junketed in all directions. Look at the disgraceful conduct of the state auditor. What reform paper has criticized him? What reform convention has denounced him? Where are the fraudulent tally-sheets of the fraudulent re-count which Hedlund exposed, and for which he was removed by the governor from the re-count commission? Where is the investigating committee with its \$10,000 appropriation, that it has not investigated this fraud, brought out so conspicuously before the public, pointed out so explicitly by Hedlund, and attaching its wicked conspiracy to the very person of the governor? All these things are in line with the governor's conduct as to Bartley's spurious bond and the other spurious bond of Meserve. What set of party leaders have before shown such utter disregard for the rank and file of the party? These reform officials treat their followers as if they were dumb cattle; as if they had no self-respect; as if they would follow blindly any set of political absters if only they posed as reformers.

They promised to raise the valuation of railroad property. They taught the people for six years that railroad property was assessed too low. They made the people believe it. It was a lie, but they made the people believe it. There has never been a year since Nebraska had railroads that the railroad property was not assessed at a higher valuation in proportion than other property, and yet these reformers pretended that the people had been wronged in this matter; and that they would right the wrong as soon as they got into power. Did they do it? No! When the opportunity came they prettified and caucused and pretended for a whole week that they were gravely considering how to carry out the pledges they had made, and then ended their farce by leaving the railroad assessment as it had been before. They pretended that they would control the corporations as to rates. They would regulate telephone and telegraph companies. They would reduce telephone rates for the benefit of the down-trodden farmer, who never uses a telephone. But have they done it? They passed a law authorizing the state board of transportation to regulate these things, but they have not enforced the law, and they make no pretense of enforcing it. They cannot enforce it. It was unconstitutional when they passed it and they knew it. Their law provides a fee to the attorney general for every case which he brings against the railroad, and this thing alone makes it unconstitutional, because the constitution says that no state officer can have his salary raised while he is in office. They knew that this railroad law would be held unconstitutional, and the railroads winked the other eye when it was passed. These boasting reformers think that they can fool the people year after year by advertising what they are going to do, and by pretending to do something which they know will be unconstitutional, and then they appeal to the people and say that they were hindered by republican courts and by injunctions.

And now the question of Meserve's straw bond is knocking at the door. What will the governor do about it? What will he do about the ugly charge which Acting-Governor Ransom has made against him in open court? Will he go on counting his annual passes and his Pullman passes, arranging for another junket to the "red apple country"? And will he attempt to soothe Nebraska people with another chapter from Mutz, the investigator? How much of this Mutz will populist voters endure without protest? How long will they endure the humiliation which the state house gang is heaping upon them without making some demonstration of their disapproval?

TOOK A MEAN ADVANTAGE. Engaged Man Insisted on Kissing His Fiancee in a Street Car. A young man and a young woman changed from a Belt line to a Fourteenth street car at the avenue, Washington, and sat in one of the seats in the first car. He was carrying an overcoat and a satchel and was evidently going away. She wore a shirt waist and dark skirt, as if starting out on a shopping expedition. Just before they reached Sixth street he leaned over her and said quietly, so quietly that only the reporter back of them could hear: "I am going to kiss you good-by when I leave the car."

"Oh, please don't," she said appealingly; "not before all these people." But he was decided and said persistently: "Yes I shall; so raise your veil. If you try to resist people will see it and wonder about you, and they will look at you all the way up-town after I get off."

She glanced up shyly and then slowly raised her veil. He bent over her and kissed her and no one in the car looked up. A few people wondered why she was so anxious to show the diamond ring on the left hand, but a body but the reporter appreciated the fact that she was trying to justify the kissing by means of an engagement ring.

Troublesome Cracked Silver Coin. The stamping machines at the government mints, embodying as they do all the best inventions obtainable, yet do not do their work with absolute perfection in every instance. Occasionally a silver dollar is turned out with a trifling defect, and then the coin causes more trouble, many times over than it is worth. This imperfection is a slight crack in the edge of the coin, which is likely to escape the notice of any ordinary scrutiny, but like the rift in the lute of which the poet sings, it makes the dollar's music mute.

The commonest way to test a silver coin to find out whether it is a counterfeit or not is to drop on a table or counter. If it has a clear ring it is supposed to be good. As a matter of fact some counterfeit coins, now current, which are made of antimony and tin, have a sound almost identical with that of a real silver dollar. What makes this test more uncertain is the fact that a real silver dollar with the little rift sounds as if it were lead when dropped. The opening destroys its jingle just as a crack destroys the melodiousness of a bell.

RECEIPTS ARE GOOD.

THE NEW LAW IS DOING GOOD WORK.

Treasury Experts Claim Little If Any Deficit for September, Notwithstanding the Vast Amount of Foreign Goods Yet in the Country.

(Washington Letter.)

The second month of the operation of the new tariff law is likely to relieve Democratic statesmen and orators of much of the surplus anxiety with which they have favored the country in regard to receipts under that measure. It is now apparent that the revenues of the second month of the operation of the Dingley law will reach twenty millions of dollars, which is more than that of the second month of the Wilson law, and that there will be little, if any, deficit for the month. The revenues in the first twenty-two days in the month amounted to \$15,692,455, and it is estimated by treasury experts that the total for the month will be \$20,000,000 in round numbers, while the expenditures will probably be little if any in excess of that sum.

This is in marked contrast with the operations of the second month of the Wilson law. The act went into effect, as did the Dingley law, within a few days of the close of the calendar month and its operations were thus calculated from the first day of the month following its enactment, as in the case in the statements which are being made with reference to the Dingley law. The Wilson law in its second month produced a deficit of \$13,573,800, while it now seems probable that there will be little if any deficit in the second month of the Dingley law. That the Dingley law should have been able in its first two months of operation to have produced as much or anything like as much revenue as did the Wilson law in the two corresponding months of its operation is remarkable, and is of itself an evidence that the Dingley law when the business of the country reaches its normal condition, will be an ample revenue producer. During the months prior to the final enactment of the Wilson law all dutiable goods upon which the rates of duty were reduced or removed were held back by importers in order that they might come in under the operations of that law. The result was an enormous increase in the customs revenues under that law the minute it went into operation. Indeed, the customs receipts in its first month, September, 1894, were larger than in any September during its entire history and were only exceeded in total amount on two or three occasions prior to the influx of foreign goods which preceded its final repeal. On the other hand, foreign goods were rushed into the country as everybody knows, at an almost unheard of rate during the five months preceding the enactment of the Dingley law, the effect being to almost paralyze the importations during the first few weeks after its final enactment. The increase in importations of foreign goods in the five months between the inauguration of President McKinley and the enactment of the Dingley law was \$105,347,032 in excess of that for the corresponding months of the preceding year, an increase of nearly 40 per cent over the normal importations of the corresponding period of the preceding year. The occasion for surprise then, is, not that the receipts under the Dingley law have been light, but on the contrary, that they have been as heavy as they are, up to this time, and that this act, laboring as it did under especially adverse circumstances, should have been able to outrun the Wilson law, which came in under such especially favorable circumstances as regards the customs end of its business. The following tables compare the importations during the five months preceding the enactment of the Wilson and Dingley laws respectively and the customs receipts in those months, and show clearly the advantages under which the Wilson law operated in the first months of its existence and the disadvantages under which the Dingley law now labors in the first months of its operations.

Table showing imports and customs receipts in the five months preceding the enactment of the Wilson law:

Month.	Imports.	Customs Receipts.
April, 1894	\$60,090,037	\$10,176,691
May	56,812,727	9,798,607
June	51,783,712	8,858,876
July	65,302,065	8,427,338
August	51,697,072	11,804,914

Table showing importations and customs receipts during five months preceding the enactment of the Dingley law:

Month.	Imports.	Customs Receipts.
March, 1897	\$76,351,444	\$22,833,356
April	101,322,406	24,454,351
May	79,358,147	16,885,011
June	83,183,021	21,560,152
July	53,790,407	16,968,801

It will be seen from the above tables that the importations of foreign goods in the five months preceding the enactment of the Dingley law were \$396,005,425, against only \$285,685,614 in the corresponding five months prior to the enactment of the Wilson law. They also exceed the corresponding five months of the year 1896 by \$105,347,032, showing that the importations of the months between the inauguration of President McKinley and the signing of the Dingley bill were more than \$100,000,000 in excess of the normal. It will also be seen that the customs receipts in these five months of abnormal importation prior to the enactment of the Dingley law were more than double those of the five months prior to the enactment of the Wilson law, and that fully \$50,000,000 which under ordinary circumstances would have been collected during the months of August, September, October, November, and December of the present year was collected during the months of March, April, May, June and July, and that the Dingley law was thus robbed of an average of \$10,000,000 per month for the first five months of its operations. That the Dingley law would be ample in its revenue producing qualities under normal conditions is not doubted by the treasury officials.

"We have been watching it very closely," said Assistant Secretary Howell, "and I have no doubt whatever that the new law will give us an ample revenue after the treasury business returns to its normal condition. I have been studying these customs matters for many years in my long service in this department, and it is my deliberate judgment after a careful study of the workings of the new law during the two months that it has been in operation, comparing its work with that of other laws, for I have seen the work of many of them, that the new measure will give to the treasury all the revenue which it needs as soon as normal business conditions return. Indeed it is surprising to me that it has accomplished as much as it has during the past two months in view of the adverse conditions under which it went into operation, and nobody, whatever his politics or political views or ambitions may be, who will study its workings thus far carefully in the light of all conditions, it seems to me, can have any doubt upon this subject."

Money in Their Pockets.

The new Republican monster not only pulls money out of the pockets of all consumers who remain at home, but it puts its paw into the trunks of all returning travelers.—Wilmington, N. C., "Messenger."

Under the Democratic policy of Free Trade it was impossible "to pull money out of the pockets" of Americans because there was no money in their pockets. Now they are getting well lined again with American dollars and all "patriots" are pleased to contribute their little mites to Uncle Sam's treasure chest.

The End of It. It seems only to be a question of time when Great Britain must cease to export any tin plates to the United States, and that time may probably be here very soon.—Iron and Coal Trades' Review, England.

We hope so. This was the intent and purport of the McKinley tariff of 1890, and it is gratifying to learn, from an authoritative foreign source, that such a favorable result is being so quickly achieved.