

# The Weekly Journal

C. W. SHERMAN, Editor.

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THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1896.

DOWN in his country they are coming Dick Bland's way in "blocks of five." A Missouri mother has just given birth to five robust boys in one job lot.—Ex.

SENATOR TELLER of Colorado has consented to head the state delegation to the St. Louis convention. That he will be able to frame the platform, as he did four years ago nobody believes.

THE Nebraska Independent—the populist organ at Lincoln—gives out the solemn warning to Mr. Bryan that the populists will not support a silver democrat for president under any circumstance. That settles it, we suppose.

THE house has passed a bankruptcy bill which proposes to wipe out the debtor for the benefit of the creditor. It is compulsory in character, putting in the power of the creditor to force the debtor to the wall almost at his option.

THE real fight over the money question is a fight between the national banks and the people. The banks want gold monometallism so that they can issue the money of the country. The end means either slavery or freedom for the common people.

THE Lincoln Journal's Washington correspondent, W. E. Annin, has discovered again that the free coinage "craze" is on the wain. A few weeks ago, according to Annin, that malady was entirely dead. It must have received a miraculous resurrection since then.

EASTERN goldbugs of the paternalistic party have been fighting McKinley tooth and nail, because they said he was unsound on their money standard, but the McKinley move has only gained in strength in spite of the protest of those who didn't like the Ohio platform, and it is now believed he has a clear majority of the delegates chosen, and will be nominated. If he has the strength of character for the place he will also dictate the platform. We shall see.

SO FAR as known there are only two countries in the world that have been prospering during the last three years, while all Europe and the United States have been in the throes of financial depression and disaster, and those countries are Japan and Mexico—and both of them are doing business on a silver basis. There is every reason to believe that, as Senator Teller says, if the par of exchange between these countries and the United States were re-established and the mints were re-opened to the free coinage of silver, prosperity would again come to our farmers, mechanics and working people. And nothing else will bring it.

IN his Chicago speech Secretary Carlisle asserted that there was \$600,000,000 of gold coin in the United States. In his recent letter Gov. Altgeld of Illinois pointed out the fact that all of the banks and savings institutions in the country contained only \$175,000,000, and the U. S. treasury had \$125,000,000, and he asks where the balance of the \$300,000,000 is. Is it in hiding? Not a tenth of it. The fact is there is probably \$50,000,000 in private hands but no more, which would make, all told, about \$350,000,000 in the country. Hence the talk of there being so much gold in the country is all wrong—it is vastly over-estimated.

ARE the goldbugs buying conventions? It looks that way. It is a known fact that a good majority of the delegates to the Michigan democratic state convention were either instructed or were known to be opposed to the gold standard. When that body came to vote, however, the gold men had quite a majority. Reports in the Chicago papers say that whole county delegations, in some cases, who had been instructed for free silver, voted for the gold standard. The reports also say that "large numbers of men, not delegates, without regard to party, were there working for the goldites." Were these "large numbers" republican bankers with boodle in their pockets?

## SENATOR TELLER'S STRONG SPEECH.

On Thursday last Senator Teller made a speech which stirred up quite a storm in the senate. The telegraph report says:

Referring to the hoarding of vast sums in the treasury, Mr. Teller said if there was a country on the globe ruled by imbeciles, it was this. He did not propose, he said, to let the Ohio senator (Sherman) fool the people by telling them that if the McKinley bill was re-enacted it would bring prosperity. The McKinley bill would never be re-enacted, said Mr. Teller, and if it was, it would not bring prosperity. Mr. Teller paid a glowing tribute to the republican party and its achievements, but, he added, it looked as though the great party had reached the point where it would drop the interest of the masses and become the dupe and agent of those who have no sympathy with the masses, of those who represent only the dollars.

The senator rejected the imputation of the senator of Vermont (Morrill) as to the republicanism of those who voted against taking up the tariff bill. "I am a republican," exclaimed Mr. Teller, with great feeling. "I helped to create the republican party. I was a member of that party before the senator from Vermont was, and I came into it voluntarily. The senator from Vermont must allow me to go out in the same way. He cannot fix my line of conduct any more than a democrat or a republican convention can command my confidence."

The senator said that when the great parties formed in battle array next summer one of them might be the champion of the white metal. He confessed that he looked with fear and trembling on the course of the great party with which he had been allied for forty years.

"What will I do if the party to which I have been attached advocates the gold standard," proceeded Mr. Teller.

"Mr. president, I have no doubt in saying here, as I have before and will say again, that when a political organization ceases to represent the sentiments I hold, then I cease to act with it. When the democratic party became the party of opposition and wickedness I got out of it. I should despise myself if I lifted my hand to put into power a man who from executive chambers would continue the gold standard. Holding these views, if I lift my voice and do not vote in the same way, I would despise myself for hypocrisy and deceit, and so as I speak so will vote."

## "EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW"

Friendless and alone he stood before the judge of the district court last Tuesday and entered a plea of guilty to a charge of stealing a horse—an animal worth perhaps \$30. "Nine years in the penitentiary at hard labor!" Thus spake the court. A life-time almost behind the bars for stealing a \$30 horse! Shame! Shame! Not upon the particular judge who passed the sentence, for indeed we believe he did what he thought was right—but shame upon a system of jurisprudence which sends a boy to prison for nine long years because he stole a \$30 horse, while permitting to breathe free air scores of men in Nebraska who have stolen millions during the past three years. Look at the long line of defaulting bankers and city and county officials! Does any Nebraska court say to these: "Nine years in the penitentiary at hard labor!" Oh, no. It seems our statutes were not made for such as they, but only for the friendless and the poor. It makes the blood boil with indignation to see this every day discrimination against the weak and in favor of the strong; to see men who are driven to desperation by poverty, driven on to prison by the courts, while blacker criminals with a money or political pull breathe free air. We must not censure Judge Slabaugh for this one act. Perhaps, ay God grant, he may be moved by like impulses when high-grade Omaha criminals stand before him, but oh, it does seem cruel that such a sentence must be imposed upon a poor and friendless man, thief though he may be, while hundreds of his fellow thieves of higher grade go free. Are men in Nebraska equal before the law? Did Mosher, who stole millions and by his theft drove confiding friends to suicides' graves, receive a sentence in keeping with his crime? And the Outcasts, the Dorseys, the Bollins—oh, God, bend low Thine ear and heed the supplications of the poor and friendless in our state for a better interpretation of our motto: "Equality before the law."

THE Omaha Bee has been making a spectacle of itself in attempting to meet "Coin" Harvey's challenge, made in his Omaha speech. Mr. Harvey had offered \$100 to any person who would find in the press of February, 1873, reference to the demonitization of silver, which was accomplished at that time. The Bee quotes a telegram

referring to a bill relating to a change in the mint laws, and claims the reward. It also says that bill was discussed through forty-eight pages of the Congressional Record, and everybody was conversant with the matter. The writer has read over carefully every column and page of the Globe (not the Record) published at that time, and he avers that there was no reference made in that debate to the leaving of the silver dollar out of the coinage laws, as the bill finally provided for. Nobody talked on the subject, in the senate or the house; everything else in the bill was talked about—the making of the trade dollar, and the putting of the eagle on its face, especially. The real purpose of the bill was kept out of the discussion. The Bee is either lamentably or wilfully ignorant, and has no right to claim that reward.

## THE QUESTION THAT CONFRONTS US.

The natural method of getting money into circulation is by the payment of debts and for the purchase of commodities. Banks of issue poison this method by encouraging the borrowing of their paper bills at a high rate of interest for speculative purposes. Every dollar upon which interest is paid is a tax upon labor, because all wealth is created by labor, and interest, or usury, which are identical terms, is the chief means by which the earnings of labor are transferred and concentrated from the hands of labor to the coffers of the rich, by processes of special legislation. The great founder of democracy in America, Thomas Jefferson, was the avowed enemy of banks of issue, as was Andrew Jackson, its patron saint. And every intelligent and well-informed democrat believes with Jefferson, that "banks of issue are the most cunning device ever invented to fertilize the rich man's field with the sweat of the poor man's brow." But the Cleveland-Carlisle modern school have discarded the democratic faith and are making a fight to maintain the gold basis for the purpose of placing the national bank system in complete control of the financial system of the country and putting the labor of the country under their heel. The goldite scheme is as dangerous to all labor as it is undemocratic, and no scheme of "protection" through a high tariff can ward off its evil effects upon the working people. It is time that every true American should arouse himself to the dangers that surround him and stare him in the face.

OUR genial friend J. F. D., who is troubled over many woes, and apparently none more serious than the problem how to make and keep a dollar dear is worrying over the fiat principle, and thinks free coinage people depend on that principle for the maintenance of the value of the silver dollar under free coinage. Nothing could be further from the fact, however. The silver advocates believe that the economic principle that "supply and demand regulate prices" applied to money will keep the two metals together under bimetalism. Silver being made a full legal tender, this fact will make an unlimited demand for it as legal tender money and this demand will fix the price at a par value with gold because it will have all the uses to which gold can be put. If a conspiracy were set on foot to discredit silver by hiding the gold, the men who took part in it would soon get tired of that because they would soon see that silver and silver certificates answered every purpose, and their gold would have to come out of its hiding before it could earn anything. The world never saw the time when gold and silver were too plentiful, and it never will, hence with the option given the debtor to pay his debt in either metal, bimetalism will be an accomplished success the moment it is adopted.

THE goldbug gathering at Lincoln Wednesday must have been a very perfunctory, not to say doleful, affair. With such old-time leaders as Dr. George L. Miller and James G. Boyd taking no part in it and declaring it had no legal existence as a democratic organization, its members were in a sad plight. Even J. Sterling Morton, who was at home at the time, only sixty miles away, did not deign to appear. Most of the attendants probably went because they had a chance to visit Lincoln on free passes, and others because they, as government officials, didn't dare to stay away.

WHAT is the matter with the Omaha district judges? In about two-thirds of the cases decided by the supreme court the judgment is against the district judges' rulings, and the cases are reversed and remanded. There must be something seriously wrong somewhere.

Butter and Eggs Wanted.  
Will pay highest cash price for butter and eggs. Also for hides and tallow. At E. A. Oliver's meat market.

## PROGRESS VS. DECAY.

Money is called the blood of civilization. Measured by its plentifulness or scarceness civilization advances or retrogrades. Although it might have one but an artificial value it fixes the price of the average of human production. That is generally considered the best money the quantity of which is regulated by a natural supply. Hence, since the dawn of civilization gold and silver have been minted into money and have been reckoned as the best measure of the value of human productions or human effort, and the quantity of these metals in use as money has marked the progress of civilizing influences in the work. Thus it is seen that the most advanced of all the dynasties that have ruled the world have invariably been those countries which have possessed the greatest quantity of money. The Jews under David and Solomon, the Persians under Nebuchadnezzar, the Grecians during their era of grandeur, the Romans under the Caesars and Great Britain under Elizabeth, each have illustrated this important fact. The discovery of America and the robbery by the Spanish of the natives of Mexico and South America of their untold millions of silver and gold during the sixteenth century was the greatest means for the advancement of civilization in Europe. On the other hand every nation or people who have been robbed of their money has gone down into decay. When the patricians of Rome melted the money of that people into ornaments to adorn their persons and paraphernalia, Rome went into a decay which lasted for a thousand years. At the present time a similar process is going on. The wealth of the world today is concentrating in few hands, and that process is greatly aided by taking from silver its free mintage quality, thus lessening the number of dollars by which production is measured, and the conspiracy to perfect this plan must be overthrown, or the world will again as inevitably lapse into darkness and decay. Hence the battle for the free coinage of silver is the battle of civilization against barbarism, of progress against decay.

## A Non-Partisan View.

EDITOR JOURNAL: The exactions of party strife, I have no doubt, often prevent a party newspaper from saying things which, as applied to other things, would be mere matters of common remark. And so it is that the fear of helping a political opponent often prevents a party paper from doing simple justice. As a case in point, the papers have said nothing on the subject of this communication:

The recent decision of the supreme court, releasing on habeas corpus proceedings certain convicts in the penitentiary on the ground that informations against the accused were filed out of term time, is causing a good deal of interest throughout the state, and may result in releasing many other convicts.

Readers of THE JOURNAL will remember the case of Douglas, who was arrested on a charge of burglary, committed at Eagle last January, and who, after his preliminary examination, was anxious to plead guilty and thus commence early to serve his sentence. The regular term of court would not convene until March 16, at which an information could be filed. County Attorney Polk made a thorough examination of the law and authorities bearing thereon, and finally concluded it unsafe to risk filing the information in vacation and having Douglas plead guilty at the judge's chamber and receive sentence, as has been the universal practice throughout the state.

Under the advice of the county attorney, Judge Ramsey called a special term of the district court for the purpose of obviating this and other legal technicalities, at which Douglas entered a plea of guilty of burglary, and was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary.

I do not agree with County Attorney Polk, politically, but must say that in this instance he showed great care and good legal ability in preventing the probable release of Douglas on the very same ground upon which the supreme court has already released at least three prisoners from the penitentiary.

The speedy disposition of the Douglas matter saved a large bill of costs to the taxpayers of Cass county, which also reflects much credit upon Mr. Polk.

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