

THE SILVER DOLLAR.

Its History From the Beginning of the Government.

The Mint Prices Always the Market Price of Both Gold and Silver.

EDITOR INDEPENDENT.—Will you please tell your readers why the standard of silver was raised from 15 1/2 to 16 to 1 in the year about 1834. The gold bugs say it was done on account of parity with gold. Please publish, so your readers will know.

H. T. HOYT.

The United States Mint was established and coinage provided for by the act of April 2, 1792.

The gold coins consisted of the ten, five, and two-and-a-half dollar pieces. The silver coins consisted of dollars, half-dollars, quarter-dollars, dimes and half-dimes.

THE ACT DECLARED

"That the proportional value of gold to silver in all coins which shall by law be current as money within the United States, shall be as 15 to 1, according to quantity in weight, of pure gold, or pure silver; that is to say, every fifteen pounds' weight of pure silver shall be of equal value in all payments with one pound weight of pure gold, and so in proportion as to any greater or less quantities of the respective metals." (Laws relating to loans, currency, etc., 1886, page 213.)

The silver dollar was the unit of account, and consisted of 371 1/4 grains of pure silver, or 410 grains of standard silver. The dollar contained 3 1/2 grains more of alloy than the present silver dollar, but exactly the same amount of pure silver. There were no gold dollars coined. The eagle, which was \$10, contained 24 3/4 grains of pure gold, which would make the dollar, if such a coin had been struck, 24 3/4 grains of pure gold.

Section 14 of the act declared: "That it shall be lawful for any person or persons to bring to the said mint gold and silver bullion, in order to their being coined; and that the bullion so brought shall be there assayed and coined as speedily as may be after the receipt thereof, and that free of expense to the person or persons by whom the same shall have been brought."

The act of June 28, 1834, reduced the quantity of gold in the gold coins, and made the eagle, or ten dollar piece contain 232 grains of pure gold, or 258 grains of standard gold, which would require only 23.2 grains of pure gold to make the dollar, or 25.8 grains of standard gold. This reduction changed the ratio from 15 to 1 to 16 to 1.

The act of January 18, 1837, reduced the alloy in the coins to one-tenth of the weight. The standard dollar by that act contained 371 1/4 grains of pure silver, or 412 1/2 grains of standard silver, which is the same as the standard dollar now coined. The gold dollar, if such a coin had been authorized, would have contained 23.2 grains of pure gold, or 25.77 grains of standard gold. The fourteenth section of the act of 1837 declared: "That gold and silver brought to the mint for coinage, shall be received and coined, by the proper officers, for the benefit of the depositor."—Ibid, page 235.

By the ninth section of the statute of 1837, the half-dollar contained 206 1/2 grains of standard silver, and the quarter-dollar, dime, etc., weight in proportion.

The act of February 21, 1853, reduced the weight of the subsidiary coin, making the weight of the half-dollar 192 grains of standard silver, and reducing the weight of the minor coins proportionately, which was the ratio of 15 1/2.

By that act the legal tender of the half-dollar, quarter, etc., was limited to \$5, the dollar remaining a full legal tender. This act put no limit upon coinage and the provisions for the free and unlimited coinage remained unchanged.

The act of Feb. 21, 1857, repealed the act of Feb. 9, 1793, which declared:

"That from and after the first day of July next, foreign gold and silver coins shall pass current as money within the United States, and be a legal tender for all debts and demands at the several and respective rates following, etc.

The act of Feb. 12, 1873, provided, section 14:

"That the gold coins of the United States shall be a one-dollar piece, which at the standard weight of twenty-five and eight-tenths grains shall be the unit of value, etc."

Section 16 of the same act is as follows:

"That the silver coins of the United States shall be a trade dollar, a half-dollar or fifty-cent piece, a quarter-dollar or twenty-five-cent piece, a dime or ten-cent piece; and the weight of the trade dollar shall be four hundred and twenty grains; the weight of the half-dollar shall be twelve grams and one-half of a grain; the quarter-dollar and the dime shall be, respectively, one-half and one-fifth of the weight of said half-dollar; and said coins shall be a legal tender at their nominal value for any amount not exceeding five dollars in any one payment."

It will be noticed that the standard silver dollar is dropped from the coins of the United States and the legal tender quality of all silver, by the adoption of the codified laws in 1874, was reduced five dollars in any one payment.

The act of Feb. 28, 1878, restored the standard silver dollar of 412 1/4 grains to its legal tender power as provided in the act of Jan. 18, 1837, and provided for the purchase of not less than \$2,000,000 nor more than \$4,000,000 of silver bullion each month to be coined into standard dollars.

The act of July 14, 1890, provided for the purchase of 4,500,000 ounces of silver bullion per month, at the market price, and the issuance of legal-tender treasury notes in payment of such purchases. The act made these notes redeemable in gold or silver coin, at the discretion of the secretary of the treasury.

The third section of the act declared: "That the secretary of the treasury shall each month coin two million ounces of the silver bullion purchased under the provisions of this act into standard silver dollars until the first day of July, 1891, and after that time he shall coin of the silver bullion purchased under the provisions of this act, as much as may be necessary to provide for the redemption of the treasury notes herein provided for."—United States Statutes at Large, volume 26, page 289.

The secretaries of the treasury refused to comply with this section of the law and coin silver for the redemption of these notes, but insisted upon always redeeming them in gold.

This summary of the coinage laws can be relied upon as authentic, and speakers and writers need not fear to quote from it.

In regard to the change of ratio from 15 to 1 to 16 to 1, the reason of it was this:

France had a law-made price for silver which was about \$1.32 per ounce. The United States by this change from 15 to 1 to 16 to 1, had a law-made price that was about \$1.29 per ounce. So of course the brokers gathered silver dollars wherever they could and sent them to France. When the ratio in this country was 15 to 1 and in France 15 1/2 to 1, it worked just the other way. The talk about the "market price" having anything to do with it is all nonsense. The "market price" in both countries was the law-made mint price, just as the law-made price of gold today is the market price, both in London and at the Philadelphia mint, where "by law" they are forced to take and pay for all the gold offered at a certain price "fixed by law."

St. John, president of the Merchants National bank of New York, the second largest national bank in the United States, laid it down in his testimony before the Springer committee, as a fundamental and indisputable fact, that the "mint price" was always the "market price."

Only One Way.

There is but one way to accomplish anything through the medium of American politics, and that is, for those who desire the accomplishment of a certain thing to unite and act together—Progressive Farmer.

Worse Than Ireland.

Talk about landlordism and tenantry in Ireland? It isn't a speck on the map when compared with the extent to which that system prevails and is being extended each year in this country.—Weekly Tribune.

Pass the peace pipe.

Let the republican and democratic free silverites pay a visit to the populist wigwam—take a good comfortable whiff at the peace pipe, and then be governed by common every day good sense, and a ticket can be named that will scoop the old blood suckers all off the face of the earth.—Dixon County Leader.

Highway Thieving.

A portion of every dollar spent for groceries, clothing, farming tools, etc., is absorbed in paying interest on fictitious and watered railroad stocks—a species of never-ending robbery. Every bushel of grain, and every head of live stock shipped must also contribute to this legalized highway thieving—Missouri World.

Absent-Minded Silverites.

The most absent-minded man is not the man who hunted for his pipe when it was between his teeth, nor the man who threw his hat out of the window and tried to hang his cigar on a peg, nor even the man who put his umbrella to bed and stood up in the corner—but the man who wanted free silver and voted an old party ticket. His mind has been absent ever since he was born.—Tennessee Populist.

The First Thing—Issue Bonds.

The tidal wave which swept democracy from power in the United States congress and which sent there instead a large majority of republican legislators, gained its force principally from the fact that the Cleveland "cuckoo" had sat by silently while bond issue after bond issue was piled high on the labor of the country. We were led to believe that the change would make everything lovely; that good times would come a-running to us. Yet the first thing a republican house did was to pass a bond bill, and the second was to permit Cleveland to continue his wild bond-issuing career, while the third and crowning blunder was to strike down silver once again. The republicans have done nothing that Cleveland did not do.—Independent Era.

IRRIGATED NEBRASKA.

The Farmers of Dawson County are Irrigating all of the Earth and Part of the Moon.

The Valleys and Plains are Grid-ironed With Ditches Full of Flowing Water.

[THE INDEPENDENT opens a column on irrigation. Short communications from different parts of the state are solicited and will be printed in this column.]

LEXINGTON, Neb., March 9, 1896.

EDITOR INDEPENDENT.—If you will permit me, I would be glad to give a brief history of Dawson county under irrigation, in your valuable paper.

It is well understood by Nebraskans, that the one hundredth meridian passes through the center of Dawson county. The county is twenty-four miles wide by forty-two miles long. The principal streams in the county are the Platte and Wood rivers.

The Platte runs through the entire length of the county from west to east. Wood river runs through the northeast portion of the county. The Platte valley is from fifteen to seventeen miles in width at this point, and almost every acre of it is tillable land. Wood river valley is about two miles wide and is considered one of the most beautiful valleys in the west.

Now after giving a description of the county, I will tell you what we are doing in the way of irrigation. The following ditches on the Platte valley, are many of them completed, and laterals are continuing main lines of the county at Gothenburg a thriving town, is what is known as the Gothenburg Irrigation and Power Company. This ditch starts out of a large lake made for power purposes, and runs about eighteen miles east through a magnificent country, thickly settled. This ditch—the main line is complete—the company expect to construct a number of laterals this year.

The Lincoln and Dawson district ditch, lies north of the one just described; starting in Lincoln county, it has only been surveyed and organized. They expect to construct a large portion of their ditch this year, which runs into Dawson county, about twelve miles.

The Cozad irrigation company's ditch starts from the Platte, south of Gothenburg, and runs east about eighteen miles. This ditch is completed, or nearly so. It runs through a beautiful country, and the farmers along this ditch feel that drouth in that section of the country is a thing of the past.

The Farmer's and Merchant's irrigation company's ditch starts from the Platte river south of Cozad and runs north of east. The town of Cozad is surrounded with ditches and laterals which insure its success, being a thriving town at this time. This last named ditch is the most extensive one in the county. It now has over twenty miles of main ditch completed. They have let the contract to extend the main ditch fifteen miles further east and twenty-five miles of laterals a few days ago. It runs north of Lexington, the largest town of the county, and its county seat. The laterals of this ditch run water into the town, making lawns, trees and gardens flourish as in the garden of Eden. The terminus of this ditch is near Overton, a prosperous town and well located, whose future success cannot be doubted, since her surroundings will be supplied with an unlimited amount of water, which means prosperity and happiness.

The Farmer's ditch, the Platte River ditch and the Elm Creek ditch, all of them are in the south and east part of the county and are a decided success, furnishing an abundance of water. They are producing crops beyond the expectation of those connected with these ditches.

On the south side of the Platte river the following named ditches are constructed or under construction: The Six Miles ditch; Gothenburg South Side ditch; Orchard and Alfalfa irrigation companies' ditch and Farmers and Merchants South Side ditch. All of these, as stated, are ready or will be this season to furnish water from the Platte river. Put this section of the country under irrigation and it will be a credit to the state. The Edmiston ditch on Wood river is the only one in this valley and is ready for operation this year, with the fertile soil that this valley possesses, it will be an oasis, as it is known for its beauty and richness now.

To say that Dawson county has gone into the irrigation business, only states facts. It would be impossible for me at this time to tell how many thousand acres of land will be irrigated here this year, as the farmers are taking out water all the time, those who took forty acres last year want eighty or 160 this year. New farms are being opened up and a general feeling of renewed energy has taken possession of the people of this county. They are going to try the new method, the sure method of farming, by irrigation. It is safe to say there will be thousands of acres sown to alfalfa in Dawson county this spring.

One thing is noticeable since we have this irrigation problem demonstrated, that home seekers are numerous, while most all are contented that are here. Yet there are some who had here with their lands, notwithstanding the magnificent advantages it affords. We predict this: That those that irrigate their farms will have no land to sell in two years from now.

The increased crops will make happy, peaceful and prosperous homes. Dawson county is the banner county in Nebraska for irrigation. FARMER.

All Agreed.

It is time for populists to begin thinking over the kind of delegates which should be sent to the St. Louis National convention. The free silver party is to convene at the same time and place. The effort will be to unite the two parties in the support of a free silver national ticket. All agree that the antigold standard forces should get together.—The Outlook.

No One Can Deny It.

The democratic party, pledged to the free use of both gold and silver, without discrimination against either or charge for mintage, and the republican party, pledged to bimetalism and the use of both metals as "standard money," have united and practically fastened the single gold standard upon the country.

Woman's Wit.

TOLD BY A SOCIETY GIRL.

Something About Sulphine, Sulphur, Molasses and Other Things.

From the Evening News, Newark, N. J.

Among the popular society ladies in East Orange, N. J., Emma L. Stoll, a charming young maiden, stands in the foremost rank. She is of a lovable disposition and the light of the social set in which she moves. For two years she has been a sick girl from internal troubles peculiar to women, and having recently recovered, has given our reporter the following interesting account:

"Instead of improving under the care of my physician I became worse. For five weeks I was unable to get out of bed and about six o'clock each morning I suffered horribly. My lips were sore and lacerated from the marks of my teeth, for in my efforts to keep from screaming I sunk my teeth deep into my lips. At such times I rolled and tossed until the bed shook like an aspen leaf and it finally got so serious that the doctor—I won't tell you his name—gave me some morphine pills to take. The very thought of them now makes me shiver. These morphine pills simply put me to sleep for a while and when I became conscious again my agony was renewed.

"The pain in my stomach and back was more than I could stand. 'Your blood is poor,' said the doctor, 'take sulphur and molasses,' and I did until it was a great wonder that I was not a molasses cake. It was time wasted in taking it, because I was not benefited in the least; my suffering continued, but a mighty effort after being in bed so long I got up. Oh, but I was a sad sight then. From 112 pounds I had fallen to ninety; my cheeks were pale and sunken, and I limped; yes, I actually hobbled from the extreme pain in my side. Then I read of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, and the testimonials in the News inspired me with hope. I got the pills and took them. Before many days I began to improve, and before I had finished one box I felt as though I could go out and walk for miles. I soon stopped limping, and through the Pink Pills I soon bid good-bye to my headaches, while the pain in my stomach and back slowly but surely succumbed to the influence of these pills that seem to be able to persuade all pains to leave one's body. Now I am as used to bed, well, strong, light-hearted, and merry, but never without the pills. See, I have got some of them now," and from a nearby desk she handed out one of the boxes.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills contain, in a condensed form, all the elements necessary to give new life and richness to the blood and restore shattered nerves. They are also a specific for troubles peculiar to females, such as suppressions, irregularities and all forms of weakness. They build up the blood, and restore the glow of health to pale and sallow cheeks. In men they effect a radical cure in all cases arising from mental worry, over work or excesses of whatever nature. Pink Pills are sold in boxes (never in loose bulk) at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50, and may be had of all druggists, or direct by mail from Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Schenectady, N. Y.

An Unsavory Odor.

With a few more Tillmans, Allens and Passmore's the humbugs, frauds and deceptions that have been imposed on our people so long, will receive such an airing that those who can't or won't see can tell by the unsavory odor that there should be some clearing up done.—Peoples Banner.

Money Lenders Got the Land.

In thirteen years 2,087,130 acres of farm land in Minnesota were foreclosed on and not redeemed; and 33,458 owners of farm land, out of about 100,000 farmers, were driven from the land; and 57,112 town and city lots were sold under mortgage and not redeemed.—The Representative.



Class in History

Stand Up!

QUESTION—Who invented the first successful Reaper?
ANSWER—Cyrus Hall McCormick, in the year 1831.

Q.—Who builds the best grain and grass-cutting machinery at the present time?
A.—The McCormick Harvesting Machine Co.

Q.—Were their machines operated in the World's Fair field tests?
A.—They were.

Q.—Were the machines of their competitors so operated?
A.—They were not.

Q.—Why?
A.—Because they were afraid of the McCormick.

Q.—What proportion of the world's annual supply of harvesting machines is made by McCormick?
A.—About one-third.

Q.—Why did the farmers of the world buy 60,000 McCormick Mowers in 1895?
A.—Because the McCormick No. 4 Steel Mower is the best grass cutter ever built—that's why.

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Room 9 Granite Block Omaha, Neb.

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DR. H. B. LOWRY, 117 North 14th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

CHARLES A. MUNN, Attorney-at-Law, Ord, Nebraska.

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