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HOW SHERMAN DID IT.

The Demonetization of Silver Never Alluded to in all the Discussions of the Mint Bill.

SHERMAN'S FALSE STATEMENT.

The Section Dropping the Silver Dollar Never Passed The Senate.

Forgery Committed When the Bill was Sent to the Conference Committee.

The Omaha Bee having again asserted that the demonetization of silver was "fully discussed" at the time of the passage of the mint bill in 1873, the editor of the INDEPENDENT has been requested to publish the following letter written about a year ago:

BANCROFT, NEB., May 20, —

HON. WILLIAM B. JOHNSON, HOWE, NEB.

Dear Sir: In compliance with your request to look up the record in regard to Mr. Sherman's statement when he called up the bill in the senate that dropped the silver dollar and what occurred the day it was passed, I find the bill was brought into the senate May 29, 1872, read twice by title and referred to the finance committee. Additional amendments were reported January 7, 1873, and ordered to be printed. On January 17, it was read the third time, further amended and passed. The whole debate and the votes will be found in the Congressional Globe, containing the proceedings of the senate for January 17, 1873. The following is the part of the record to which you refer:

Mr. SHERMAN: I rise for the purpose of moving that the senate proceed to the consideration of the mint bill. I will state that this bill will not probably consume any more time than the time consumed in reading it. It passed the senate two years ago after full debate. It was taken up again in the house of the present congress and passed there. It is a matter of vital interest to the government and I am informed by the officers of the government it is important it should pass promptly. The amendments reported by the committee on finance present the points of difference between the two houses, and they can go to a committee of conference without having a controversy here in the senate about them.

After a little discussion about the order of business to be taken up after the mint bill was disposed of, the chief clerk finished the reading of the bill as it came from the house. The amendments proposed by the finance committee were of course, not read until they came up in their order. Then this occurred:

THE PRESIDING OFFICER: The committee on finance reports the bill, with amendments, which will be read.

Mr. SHERMAN: I send to the clerk some amendments of a formal character from the committee on finance, adopted since the amendments first reported were printed. I will ask that they be acted upon with the others in their order.

The bill was then considered section by section, and the amendments acted upon until section 15 was reached. The record shows that section 16 and the amendment to section 16 was never read or agreed to in the United States senate. Section 16 was as follows:

"That the silver coins of the United States shall be a dollar, a half dollar or 50-cent piece, a quarter dollar or 25-cent piece, and a dime or 10-cent piece; and the weight of the dollar shall be 384 grains; the half dollar, quarter dollar and the dime shall be, respectively, one-half, one-quarter, one-tenth of the weight of said dollar, which coins shall be a legal tender, at their nominal values, for any amount not exceeding \$5 in any one payment."

The amendment which was substituted for this section was as follows:

"That the silver coins of the United States shall be a trade dollar, a half dollar or 50-cent piece, a quarter dollar or 25-cent piece, a dime or 10-cent piece; and the weight of the trade dollar shall be 420 grains troy; the weight of the half dollar shall be twelve grams and one half of a gram; the quarter dollar and 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 values, for any amount not exceeding \$5 in any one payment."

If this amendment had been read in the senate, or one word had been said in regard to it, that word would have been taken down by the shorthand reporters and would have been printed in the Congressional Globe, but it was not printed in the Globe, neither was there one word of discussion upon it.

Some time after this section had been passed over and while the senate was discussing section 19, Mr. Sherman, as chairman of the finance committee, made to the senate the following absolutely false statement:

Mr. SHERMAN: This bill proposes a silver coinage exactly the same as the French and what is called the associated nations of Europe, who have adopted the international standard of silver coinage, that is, THE DOLLAR PROVIDED FOR BY THIS BILL is the precise equivalent of the 5 franc piece. It contains the same number of grams of silver; and we have adopted the international gram instead of the grain for the standard of our silver coinage. The trade dollar has been adopted mainly for the benefit of California and others engaged in trade with China. That is the coin measured by the grain instead of the gram.

Mr. CASSELY: Do I understand the senator to say that the intrinsic value of the dollar, the half dollar, and the quarter dollar is raised by this bill?

Mr. SHERMAN: There is a difference of about one-half of 1 per cent. I think that this is the only instance in the history of the American Congress, where the chairman of a committee has deliberately falsified in relation to a bill in his charge. Perhaps nine-tenths of our legislation is enacted upon the word of the chairman of the committee.

The statement that the bill provided an American dollar the precise equivalent of the 5 franc piece is absolutely false, and of course he knew it to be false when he made it. It was because of this false statement and the further fact that the senators were paying no attention to the bill that the woe of the last twenty years have come upon us. That the bill attracted no attention in the senate is proved by the remark of Senator Casserly, while the section regarding abraded coins was under discussion, which is as follows:

Mr. CASSELY: I understood the senator to be willing to keep those words in the last clause just in the meaning they had at that place; but of course, if he has a different view of it, I shall not contest it with him. BECAUSE IT IS EVIDENT VERY FEW SENATORS ARE PAYING ANY ATTENTION TO THIS SUBJECT.

The statement of Mr. Sherman that the amendments were of a "formal character," that "the bill provided for an American dollar, the precise equivalent of the 5 franc piece," which would have increased its value nearly 3 per cent, the title of the bill, Mr. Sherman's further statement, as chairman of the committee, that "a 5 franc piece of France WILL BE THE EXACT EQUIVALENT OF A DOLLAR OF THE UNITED STATES IN OUR COINAGE," and in order to show this wherever our coin shall float—and we are providing that it shall float all over the world—all taken together, had a tendency to throw senators off their guard. Abraded coin, and whether it should be redeemed at its face value, whether gold certificates should be issued, whether there should be a small mint charge for coinage and several minor points were mentioned or discussed, but not one word is found in the verbatim report in the Congressional Globe concerning action on this bill, about a change of standard or demonetization of silver. And yet some men have the audacity to assert that "the demonetization of silver was fully discussed!"

The last words in the record of the action of the senate on this bill are as follows:

"The amendments were ordered to be engrossed and the bill read a third time."

"The bill was read a third time and passed."

"The amendments were engrossed and reported to the the house of representatives as follows: 'Senate of the United States, January 17, 1873—Resolved, That the bill from the house of representatives (H. R. 2,934) entitled, 'An act revising and amending the laws relative to the mints and assay offices and coinage of the United States,' do pass with the following amendments:'"

Now the amendment which dropped the silver dollar and reduced the legal tender power of all minor silver coin HAD NOT PASSED THE SENATE, as is shown by the verbatim record of the proceedings of the senate, when this bill was on its passage, but in this list of amendments sent to the house of representatives for its concurrence is the following:

"Six—Page 11, strike out section 16 and insert the following:

"Section 15. That that the silver coins of the United States shall be a trade dollar, a half dollar, or 50-cent piece."

and said coins shall be a legal tender for their nominal value for any amount not exceeding \$5 in any one payment."

As the record of the proceedings in the senate shows that this amendment never passed the senate, the insertion of it here is a clear case of forgery.

The conclusion which any honest man must draw from these facts is that the stopping of the coinage of the silver dollar was secured by a false statement made on the floor of the senate by the chairman of the committee on finance and by forging an amendment in the list of amendments sent to the house of representatives for its concurrence.

(All the quotations in this article are taken verbatim from the proceedings in the senate as recorded in the Congressional Globe, parts 1 and 2, third session, Forty-second Congress, 1872 and 1873, pages 667 to 674 and are open to the inspection of all men.)

Yours Truly,

T. H. TIBBLES.

A copy of the Congressional Globe, containing the proceedings of the senate lies always on the desk of the editor of the INDEPENDENT and any one is at liberty to examine it.

was the "act of infamy." That was done in secret. Will Mr. Rosewater show any allusion to that act in the daily press? Will he claim that that deed of midnight darkness was fully discussed? That was the act that demonetized the "silver dollar." Minor coins had long before been demonetized but never the "silver dollar."

The history of the world will be searched in vain to find a parallel to that crime. It was done in secret, and the death, insanity, crime and pauperism it produced was never approached by the acts of any other set of villains God ever let live on the face of the earth.

They Hope for Free Coinage.

WOOD RIVER, NEB., May 2, 1896.

Special to the NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT.

—I reached this village at 10 a. m. today.

It is located in the valley lying between the Wood and Platte rivers and agriculturally speaking, the valley is very rich but of course this valley suffered with the surrounding country the last two years. This is a feeding center for cattle, hogs and sheep. Of the latter was fed this last winter, about 35,000, together with a large number of cattle and hogs. The merchants here generally speaking are doing well and prosperous. The farmers are all very busy planting and preparing to plant. The growing wheat and oats look well and the farmers spirits are growing with the wheat and they are free to express a hope for returning prosperity if they get full crops and free coinage which they believe will so decrease the value of money to the extent of making prices of produce very much better. J. M. D.

Happy Pop Editors

A most pleasant meeting was that of the Missouri People's Party Press Association at Marshal Friday and Saturday. A majority of the reform papers in the state were represented and all had a good time. Miss Mary O'Neill, editor of the Record and president of the association, is an untiring worker in the cause. The people of Marshal, regardless of politics, were waiting to show the visiting editors about the town.—Liberty Herald, Mo.

The Workers Report

The following parties have sent in club lists this week.

Chas. Dechant, Indianapolis, Neb., 6.
John Boecker, Plymouth, Neb., 5.
C. W. Barner, Stromsburg, Neb., 6.
J. W. Eaton, Arapahoe, Neb., 4.
John A. Garanson West Point, 3.
Walter Reed, Fremont, Neb., 3.
Jno. W. Sidders, Giltner, Neb., 2.
G. A. McKenny, Humboldt, Neb., 3.
J. A. Smith, Cedar Rapids, Neb., 4.
W. H. Wilson, Stockville, Neb., 4.
A. W. Cogar, Neb., 7.

Why Gold Goes Abroad.

The real reason for this heavy export of gold, and a reason which threatens to be still more potent in the future, barring foreign war or crop failures, is that our debt to foreigners is so large that our surplus after paying for such import as we must have does not pay interest at present prices, and consequently gold must pay the balance.

How About John U. P. Thurston.

Tillman should look at himself and see what a humbug he is. He was elected to serve South Carolina as a senator, and hasn't been in his seat for a month, but has been storming over the country like an escaped lunatic.—Tekamah Burtonian.

[How about your senator John U. P. Thurston? What has he been doing? He's been in his seat all the time like a good little boy, hasn't he? Mr. Burtonian you're a big fraud.]

The Independent Smiles.

THE NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT very sensibly smiles at the flings thrown out by the F. A. & I. U., claiming THE INDEPENDENT is not what it used to be when Gibson had it, etc. No it is not, that is true. Tibbles is a brainy editor.—Red Cloud Nation.

Show Your Colors

A very pretty badge for populists, and free silver men is advertised on the fifth page of today's INDEPENDENT by the Eagle Badge Co., of Willimantic, Conn. You can get a sample by sending 20 cents in stamps. Agents wanted. 1t

Generous Wall Street.

It is because of its bad effects on the poor workmen that Wall street does not want free silver. Such generosity overcomes us.—Helena News (Mon.)

Louisiana Populist.

There is little doubt that the populist ticket was elected in Louisiana, though the democrats count a majority. There will be a contest. In one parish 1,500 majority was returned for the democratic ticket, and it is in proof that the total number of votes polled in the country was less than 600.—Progressive Farmer (Ill.)

The Doors are Open.

The people's party doors stand wide open to all Jeffersonian and Jacksonian democrats and Abraham Lincoln republicans. Walk in!—Current Voice.

Worse Than Rothchild

If these silver democrats are fighting for silver from pure motives and will stay with it to the bitter end, they can depend on to bolt a straddle platform and ticket, but if their only motive is to save their old party, and will swallow the dose however much it may be tainted with gold, then they are worse than an outspoken goldbug and are doing more to injure the silver cause and to injure the nation than is Rothchild himself.—Farmers Tribune.

PRESIDENCY AT AUCTION

Wall Street will Buy it for McKinley.

THE REVOLT IN THE SENATE.

Teller and Tillman's Most Remarkable Speeches.

A Populist Triumph is now in Sight.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 4, 1896.

Events in Congress and all over the country for the last few days have been of the greatest significance politically and indicate clearly results of tremendous import for the future.

It is now known to everybody that the goldites and the bankers centered their forces and power for the election of the democratic party in 1892. They backed Cleveland's candidacy with their money, for they believed that he and the democratic party could at that time serve the bondholders and money changers better than the republican party. This prostitution of the democratic party has made it odious; therefore the foreign Shylocks and their American allies have decided that for the next four years the republican party will be the best tool to serve them. A few weeks ago the Caucasian, Senator Butler's paper, in a carefully written editorial, showed that McKinley was the first choice of the gold bugs for the republican nomination. The events of the last few weeks and especially of the last few days, proved beyond question that the Caucasian was right. The tremendous campaign fund put up to back McKinley's canvass, no doubt equal as large as the tremendous fund that was put up to back Cleveland's candidacy in 1892, has been effective to sweep state after state into the McKinley column, even to the extent of taking from other candidates their own states. The gold men are striving desperately to make the tariff the issue in the coming campaign, and to do this it is necessary to have McKinley for the republican candidate for president, for the gold men are satisfied that they can rely on him to maintain the gold standard as implicitly as they could on John Sherman or Grover Cleveland.

On last Monday, Senator Sherman, referring to McKinley's financial views,

"There can be no doubt of the opinion of Major McKinley on the money question. He is committed in every form by speech and otherwise to the republican policy of maintaining the present gold coin of the United States as the standard of value."

These are Senator Sherman's exact words. A few weeks ago Senator Sherman said substantially the same thing in a public interview, besides it is generally conceded that if McKinley is elected president, John Sherman will be his secretary of the Treasury.

A few weeks ago there seemed to be a probability that the silver men would control the democratic national convention at Chicago. The silver democrats began lecturing the people's party men as to their duty. They lost no opportunity to tell the people's party senators and congressmen that it was their duty to put the cause of financial reform above party, and to help them elect the silver nominee which would surely be put up at Chicago. On last Thursday, when the news came that the gold men had captured the Michigan democratic state convention, had endorsed Grover Cleveland in glowing terms, and instructed the delegates to vote for the gold standard, quite a change came over the countenances of that class of silver democrats who were ready to ask somebody else to leave their party to go into the democratic party, but who were not ready to take such action themselves if the gold men should control their party.

Soon after the news from Michigan had reached Washington a silver democrat meeting Senator Butler, said: "That is bad news we received from Michigan." Senator Butler promptly replied: "It is bad news for the democratic party, but it is good news for silver. The action in Michigan convinces me more than ever that providence is shaping political events to bring about a victory and relief for the people." The silver democrat, looking astonished, asked what he meant. Senator Butler replied: "I believe that providence is taking a hand in this fight and will not allow such a good cause to be damaged by allowing such a discredited party as your's to endorse it. If the Chicago convention should declare for silver, then it would mean that providence did not intend for the people to get relief in this campaign. The democratic party is discredited in the eyes of the great masses of the people. For twenty years it has denounced the republican gold policy and national banking system, and pledged to the people to wipe out such infamous legislation if they should be placed in power. They asked for only a chance to give the people relief. The people took them at their word and put them in power, giving them the house, the senate, and the president, and what was the result? The party not only did not keep a single one of its pledges, but on the other hand, it officially endorsed the John Sherman system of finance; not only did that, but even went further and wiped out the last law on the statute books providing for the coinage of silver and for an increase of the currency. This record of democratic betrayal and treachery is the darkest page in American politics, and has brought upon the people and the country the sorest distress that they have suf-

fered since the foundation of our government.

"Then what faith can the people have in democratic promises this year? For the democratic party to declare for silver at Chicago would simply be the means of dividing the silver forces of the country and make the election of a gold bug republican certain. The best thing that can happen for the people would be for both the old parties to declare squarely for the gold standard, so that nobody could be fooled in the future, and so that the great masses of the voters of all parties could get together at St. Louis on July 23, and nominate an American patriot for President, who would be elected at the polls next November."

The silver democrat was not able to reply to such facts. It is openly charged that the gold men used money freely at the Michigan convention to control its delegates. This recalls a statement made by "private John Allen" of Mississippi a few days ago. In discussing the outlook for the silver men to control the Chicago convention, Congressman Allen, who is looked upon in Washington as, and is, a great wit, laconically remarked: "We have got the gold men whipped if they don't buy us."

During the present week two speeches, one by a republican and the other by a democrat, have been made in the senate which are of the greatest significance. The speeches are not only significant on account of the tremendous effect which they will have over the country, but also because they are supposed to reflect the sentiment of the great masses of the people in both the south and the west.

The first speech was made by Senator Teller last Wednesday. It was in reply to a speech made by Senator Sherman in which he ridiculed the silver cause, and said that the republican party would declare for gold standard and nominate a man opposed to free coinage for president. Senator Teller, in replying, took occasion to review to some extent the record of the republican party. He showed how, under the leadership of Sherman and other gold men, it had drifted from the great principles of Abraham Lincoln until it had become the party of the bondholders and monopolists. Mr. Teller gave out some party secrets. He told how the western republicans had determined not to support the McKinley bill in 1890, and how at last they allowed it to pass in return for the passage of the Sherman silver law which provided for a monthly increase of the money of the country. Mr. Teller then bitterly arraigned Sherman and the other gold republicans in breaking their compact with the western republicans in joining with the gold democrats in 1893 to repeal the silver law at the dictation of Grover Cleveland. He said that Mr. Sherman and the other gold republicans were now openly advocating the gold standard, and were trying to get into power to force upon the country another McKinley bill and keep upon them the gold standard at the same time. He said that every sane man knew that the McKinley bill, if re-enacted, would not give the people prosperity while we were under the gold standard.

Proceeding, Mr. Teller said: "Traversing the country and shouting, there is now a band of men who have labeled their candidate for the presidency (McKinley) 'the advanced agent of prosperity.' The people who look to this man as their savior will find that they have been again deluded and deceived. The agent of prosperity is not yet in sight, and will not be in sight until we have a candidate for the presidency who will stand for changing the odious and infamous system of finance."

Senator Teller, proceeding, said: "I do not intend to remain quiet and allow the Senator from Ohio, and others who agree with him, to fool the people any longer. The issue between the people and the gold trust must be drawn squarely in the coming campaign. Dodging and stalling will not fool the people longer. I look with fear and trembling upon the action of my party convention at St. Louis. If it should declare against the people and for the gold standard, then I shall not act with it further. When the party to which I belong ceases to represent my deep-seated and long-established convictions, I shall cease to act with it. I shall stand by my convictions. I should despise myself if, holding the views I do, I should lift my hand to put in power as president a man who would exercise from the White House the slightest influence to continue the present ruinous system of finance. The time has come for the people to take a stand. As for myself, I will vote this year as I speak."

This speech was listened to attentively by every senator and by the crowded galleries, and created a profound impression. Senator Sherman attempted to reply, but his speech was simply a rehash of his stale argument in support of the gold standard. Senator Teller's speech is the more significant because it is known that it represents the views of nearly every senator and congressman west of the Missouri river. Senator Teller has tremendous influence in the west, and it is generally conceded that under his leadership and influence nearly every western state will cast its electoral vote next November in accordance with the bold declaration of principle and purpose as expressed above.

The next note of defiance came from the south. It followed Senator Teller's speech only two days later, on last Friday. It was in reply to a speech by Senator Hill in which the New York Senator was upholding the gold standard and apologizing for some of the acts of the administration. Senator Hill in his speech had referred to Senator Tillman as one of the coterie of people's party senators. In opening his speech in reply, Senator Tillman said: "I had rather be in such a coterie than with certain men on this side of the chamber who go around masquerading as democrats, but who are in fact, John Sherman republicans, and I will prove it before I get through."

Senator Tillman proceeded to arraign the administration, and to show up the record of the gold democratic senators

in supporting the administration. In referring to Cleveland's bond issues and gold policy, he said: "If Grover Cleveland ever goes before the people again, he can bear on his brow the eulogy of the senator from Ohio (Mr. Sherman) who the other day declared on the floor of this chamber that the president had simply done his duty. Grover Cleveland, John Sherman, and John Carlisle are linked together—they are affiliates. The question is will the people be so damnable foolish as to ever trust them or any who agree with them again."

Mr. Tillman proceeded to show that the great masses of the people in the democratic party in the south believe in the principles of Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson, and said that they would stand by these principles and would not be fooled into following the principles of Sherman and Cleveland, even though they had a democratic label on them. At this point Senator Hill interrupted him and said that he did not think that Senator Tillman represented the democrats of the south. Whereupon Senator Tillman, turning, and facing Senator Hill, and walking down the aisle pointing his finger directly at him, said: "At least, sir, I represent on this floor the people of South Carolina, and can say to a certainty what they will do, and that is more than you can do or say for your state. You do not represent the people even of your own state. You simply represent the bondholders and bankers of Wall street."

Closing his speech, Senator Tillman delivered and in measured words served notice on the gold democrats and on the country that if the monopolistic and bond holding element succeeded again in debauching the party machinery and capturing the Chicago convention and a large number of southern democrats, who believed in the principles of true democracy, would walk out of the convention and repudiate the party that had betrayed the people for British gold.

SOME STRANGE FINANCIERING

A MILLION DOLLARS IN THE STATE TREASURY AND NO MONEY TO PAY BILLS WITH.

A Glimpse of the Work of Boeile Legislatures.

EDITOR INDEPENDENT:—Money taxed from the people ought always to be returned to them or applied to the purpose for which levied and collected, at the earliest possible moment.

The accumulation of idle funds in the hands of public officers always has led and always will lead to extravagance in expenditure, losses to the people, if not to corruption and ruin to those having such funds in charge. Instances are too numerous and too recent in this state to need further notice. Our system of collecting, keeping and paying out public money is bad and ought to be remedied by our next legislature.

There are at this time in the hands of public officers, custodians of public funds, raised by taxation from the people from \$2,000,000 to \$4,000,000, almost a permanent fund, constituting a heavy per cent of the cash banking capital of the state and which if called for, could not now be returned.

These public funds have always been unlawfully manipulated and their use has always been a corruption fund in state and county politics in Nebraska, demoralizing public sentiment as to public duty and official honor.

With a statute fixing a penalty of imprisonment for loaning or speculating in these public funds, it is known to everybody that almost all public officials having such funds in charge have violated the law and thus subjected themselves to penalties that would wreck their lives. Our state treasurers have made fortunes in the short space of four years by the illegal use of school funds and other funds of the state. Greater losses have been incurred and yet greater ones will be suffered by the people of this state unless this vicious system be changed.

Why should the state treasurer be carrying from \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 cash in banks and the holders of warrants just issued be unable to get a dollar in cash from the treasury?

Why should the state or the tax payers of the state be obliged to pay 5 per cent interest on these same warrants stamped "not paid for want of funds?"

Why should a county treasurer be able to report to the commissioners quarterly "cash balance and on hand," \$20,000 to \$40,000, and at the same time the holder of a county warrant be unable to get a single dollar out of the treasury and thus be obliged to discount his warrants 10 per cent more or less and the county be forced to pay 7 per cent interest on such warrants indefinitely?

Why cannot the \$80,000 idle agricultural college fund be invested in 5 per cent interest-bearing state warrants and thus add \$4,000 a year to the income of that fund?

Why cannot the \$600,000 idle permanent school fund be invested in these state warrants and thus add \$30,000 a year to the school fund income to help educate the children? The legislature has ordered this done. The state supreme court has said it is legal to do so. But it is reported that our supreme court has in effect, said of our supreme court what Shredler is reported to have said of the constitution, and that the decision holding that state warrants are state securities, "was without the jurisdiction of the court to make." Strange indeed, that the attorney-general could set aside, annul and hold for naught, the decision of the supreme court. And stranger yet, that he should do this in the interest of the state treasurer and against the children of the state. But a bad system of handling public funds may account for it.