

# The Nebraska Independent.

The Wealth Makers and Lincoln Independent Consolidated.

VOL. VIII.

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NO. 10.

## MEXICO UNDER SILVER

An American Business Man Declares that "Debased Currency" is not a bad Thing After all

### INTERESTING COMPARISONS.

The Silver Standard Acts as a Protective Tariff of Nearly 100 Per Cent. Against all Imports.

Free Silver Proved to be Good for all Classes.

An American business man writes to the N. Y. World under date of city of Mexico, July 3d as follows:

The writer is a resident and engaged in business in the City of Mexico. He was driven out of the great west of his native country—the United States—on account of the depression and misery brought about by the demonetization of silver. He cannot refrain, therefore, from furnishing a few facts and figures to show that the great New York World has been misled about the effect of silver monometallism in Mexico.

No one can doubt the sincerity of the World, nor fail to recognize the enormous power of a newspaper with over three quarters of a million of circulation, for good or evil; none will deny the immense service you have done to humanity by your relentless war on trusts and monopolies and your exposure of crime, and that you are wavering on the great question of the day, eager to get at and impart the truth, is evident to every reader, but that your great influence will be swung into line before the close of the campaign in support of the democratic nominee and platform is here predicted.

### MEXICAN DOLLAR AT HOME AND ABROAD.

True, Mexico is today on a free silver basis, but instead of misery and depression she presents to the world a condition of conspicuous prosperity unprecedented in her history.

Her silver dollar is worth but 58 cents in gold standard countries, but that same silver dollar is worth 100 cents at home, and buys as much of the native products of her soil as it ever did.

What has been the effect of the gold standard countries treating Mexico's dollar as bullion and refusing to receive it except at bullion value (fifty three cents) today? It has increased her exports and decreased her imports. It has placed her on a basis of industrial independence. It has resulted in an influx of foreign capital to develop her immense interior resources. It has caused manufacturing, mercantile and other industrial enterprises to spring up all over the country, which have given employment to thousands of hitherto idle workmen and afforded them an opportunity to raise themselves from the level of a common Mexican peon and make mechanics, machinists, engineers and skilled artisans out of themselves, and it has afforded Mexico an opportunity to produce on her own soil such articles as those gold standard countries refuse to sell her, except at an enormous premium of 85 to 100 per cent., and she is silently taking advantage of it.

Has Mexico been clamoring for a recognition of an international metal ratio with other countries? No. She quietly goes on in her march of progress and sells these gold standard countries more of her products than ever and buys less of theirs, and all this on a silver basis. Her mines are being opened. Smelters and mills are being erected to market her lead, iron, copper, silver and gold and her already great railroad system is being expanded to connect the Atlantic with the Pacific. Even such wealthy and shrewd American corporations as the great "Calumet and Hecla" mining company with their forty-five millions controlled by an English syndicate, after paying dividends of a like amount, are now seeking to invest the bulk of this enormous capital in Mexico.

Does the New York World call this a picture of misery and despair?

### COST OF LIVING.

Now, as to prices of living, rent, etc., under the silver standard. A first-class hotel room can be had at the Jardin, Iturbide or Guardiola, three of the leading hotels in the city, at \$1.50 per day and meals at their respective restaurants at \$1.50 per day, or \$1 per day by the month. Cabs, of which there are three classes, the first blue sign, \$1 per hour; the second red, at seventy-five cents per hour, and the third yellow at fifty cents per hour, and everybody here who has got more sense than money takes a yellow bird and pays fifty cents per hour as per tariff rates, conspicuously posted in every cab.

Sugar, flour, corn, milk, eggs, meat, coffee and all similar articles produced in Mexico cost about the same as in New York, dollar for dollar. Sugar, for instance, costs eight cents a pound. On canned goods and all staples imported from the United States and other gold standard countries, if people here prefer them to home products, of course they have got to pay the freight, duty and gold premium.

### HOW POOR FOLKS FARE.

In another question the World says that it costs the Mexican laborer more to live than it costs the laborer in the States. His wages on an average are lower, but I will prove to you that it costs him less and that he lives better.

The bread in Mexico is the "tortilla" made of corn. For one cent the laborer can get three fine hot tortillas the size of a big American pan-cake, enough for a meal. This tortilla is by no means to be found on the table of the poor alone, but the rich and president Diaz have them served regularly. The bean comes next. The good, wholesome, nutritious, brown "frijole," as it is called in any style, the laborer can get all he can eat for two

cents. This is the potato of Mexico, and everybody eats them, including foreigners, and they wind up the meal at every hotel and restaurant in the city. For three cents the laborer gets enough meat to cook a fine sopa (soup), seasoned with vegetables and rice (caldo), and after he has consumed that and wishes to be extravagant, two cents worth of fruit will fill him up.

Coffee and milk are as cheap as in the States, but the laborer prefers and drinks pulque, the national drink of the country, and found on the table of the poor and rich alike. It is a medicinal beverage of inestimable value in kidney diseases. For one cent a large glass, and if the laborer feels like getting on a spree, five glasses will put him to sleep for twenty-four hours. Put three glasses in front of a Mexican, one of pulque at one cent, one of beer at ten cents and one of champagne at \$1 and ask him to help himself and take his choice, and he will jump at the pulque every time. He needs no luxuries imported from gold countries at 85 per cent. premium and wants none. Thus for thirteen cents the laborer in Mexico can get a good wholesome meal and a jag thrown in, which the laborer couldn't get in the States for thirteen dollars.

Will the New York World volunteer to publish this for the benefit of American laborers? Will it take facts and figures from American business men in Mexico, who are on the ground and know whereof they speak, or do they prefer articles from the minister to Columbia, who holds his tenure under a gold standard administration at Washington, and dare not speak the truth and uphold the silver cause? Let us hope not. The greatest American newspaper says it is open to argument and invites discussion from the people of the common ranks on this great question of the day and must and will publish the truth, and we firmly believe and predict that before the campaign has progressed much further, the World will be found on the side of the people, pulling for Bryan and the platform he represents, not only in support of the silver doctrine, but demanding as does that platform that the wealthy as well as the poor shall bear the just burdens of our great government by paying an income tax on a basis of equity and equality and thereby avert an impending conflict greater and probably more dangerous than the threatened conflict with England over Venezuela, that the timely interposition of the World's great power and influence for conciliation stilled and obliterated, and may it continue to permit its great voice to thunder in opposition to trusts and monopolies which never have and never will gain a foothold on Mexican soil.

OTTO HECKELMAN.

### 10 campaign subscriptions \$1.00. Send in your orders.

### BLAINE'S PREDICTION.

Foretold the Effect of the Demonstration of Silver.

Those republicans who claim that their once great and glorious party has not deserted its former principles as the friend of the common people, and become the champion of the rich and aristocratic, should get a copy of James G. Blaine's speeches and read them. They will see that the principles taught by Blaine are not the principles of the republican party of today. Here is an extract from one of his speeches on the coinage of silver delivered in the senate of the United States in 1878. It reads more like history than prediction. Time has verified the truth of every word. Read it carefully and decide whose teachings you will follow, those of Blaine or those of Pierpont Morgan and Marcus Hanna. Blaine said:

"I believe the struggle now going on in this country and in other countries for a single gold standard would, if successful, produce widespread disaster in the end throughout the world. The destruction of silver as money and establishing gold as the sole unit of value must have a ruinous effect on all forms of property except those investments which yield a fixed return in money. These would be enormously enhanced in value, and would gain a disproportionate and unfair advantage over every other species of property. If, as the most reliable statistics affirm, there are nearly \$7,000,000,000 of coin or bullion in the world, not very unequally divided between gold and silver, it is impossible to strike silver out of existence as money without results which will prove distressing to millions and utterly disastrous to tens of thousands."

Who are the benefactors of this gold standard legislation? Who are those who have "investments which yield a fixed return in money"? It is the government bond holder, where the rate of interest is fixed and the return is in money. It is the holders of state, county, and municipal bonds; the holders of real estate mortgages, public officials with fixed salaries from the government, state or county, pensioners and annuitants. In order to be benefited by the gold standard, two conditions are necessary. Your income must be fixed and it must be paid in money. The income of the farmer and mechanic may be fixed but it consists of the product of his toil, of the crop that he grows or the article he creates. The return is in products not in money. The salary of the clerk or the laboring man may be paid in money but the amount is not fixed; it is subject alone to the will of the employer. If the value of the money is enhanced, the employer will reduce the salary. If money is plentiful business will prosper, work will be plentiful and employees will command an increase in their salaries.

In legislating in the interest of the gold standard the republican party will build up in this country at the expense of the wealth producers, an arrogant and dazzling aristocracy, the like of which the world has never seen.

Which are you, the principles of Blaine or the glory of Hanna?

## BRIBING NEWSPAPERS.

The Bankers Began it in 1877.

They Pursue the Same Methods Today.

The following is from the Chicago Inter-Ocean, Monday, October 29th, 1877.

"The Inter-Ocean acknowledges the receipt of the following singular document, which came to this office from New York, Saturday morning:

The American Bankers' Ass'n 247 Broadway, Room 4.

New York, October 9, 1877.

Strictly Private.

DEAR SIR:—Please insert the enclosed printed slip as leaded matter on the editorial page of your first issue immediately following the receipt of this and send marked copy with bill to yours truly JAMES BUEL, 247 Broadway, room 4.

"Comments on slip not to exceed half a column will be paid for if billed at the same time. J. B."

The following is the document we are asked to insert as leaded matter on editorial page, in other words as a statement made by the Inter-Ocean:

"The greenback party has offered through its managers to sell out to the democrats, and hereafter work in democratic harness if a place for a few of their leaders can be provided. This merely shows how much dependence there is to be placed on the leaders of lunatics who clamor for money based on nothing."

We insert this but send no bill for it. We shall send no bill because in the first place we do not follow directions about it, secondly because we are compelled to say that we don't believe a word of the statement to be true. The attempt to thus maliciously destroy the greenback party without submitting a word of proof is a piece of shameless and brazen effrontery which ought to be beneath anybody of commercial gentleness and especially the American Bankers' Association.

The following circular was sent to the New York Sun:

THE AMERICAN BANKERS' ASSOCIATION  
247 Broadway, Room 4.  
New York, October 9, 1877.

Strictly Private.

DEAR SIR:—Please insert the enclosed slip as editorial and send marked copy with bill to JAMES BUEL, Sec'y, 247 Broadway Room 4.

Comments on slip not to exceed half a column, will be paid for if billed at the same time. J. B."

"The prospect is that in six months there will not be a greenback leader in the land. Overtures have been made by the leaders of the greenback movement to President Hayes to abandon the greenback movement as a lost cause, providing he will give good official positions to about twenty of the most blatant of the clamorous for more money that is based on nothing."

The Sun published the document with editorial comments from which we quote as follows:

"This we say is an extraordinary slip. It will be seen that the slip is or assumes to be, an item of news. It is an item that none of the ubiquitous reporters of the Sun had been able to get hold of. If any one of them had brought it to us properly authenticated by documentary or other evidence, we would not have asked him to pay us for printing it. It will be observed however, that the scandalous item which we are asked in the name of the American Bankers' Association to publish, has two peculiarities: First, no proof of its accuracy is furnished; and, secondly, we are offered money for its publication as 'leaded matter on the editorial page of this day's Sun.' This is remarkable business to be performed in the name of the American Bankers' Association. Our astonishment is increased by the postscript which appears at the bottom of this circular. It informs us that comments upon the slip not to exceed half a column will be paid for. This means of course, that the editorial comments that are to be paid for must sustain the slip on the editorial page that is to be paid for. But is this attempt to bribe and corrupt the press, by the direct offer of money for editorial articles made under the authority of the American Bankers' Association, the name of the secretary of which is signed to the circular above printed? We call for information upon this point, and shall wait for it. If authority has been given to bribe the press, then very certainly an attempt will be made to bribe congress and corrupt the sources of influence at Washington in the same interest. It is a shameful business, if there be not some mistake about it. Let the truth be brought out. Let the responsibility for this circular be fixed. If this circular is a forgery we shall be glad to make it known."

It will be observed that to the Inter-Ocean, a republican paper, they stated that the greenback party would sell out to the democrats, and to the Sun, a democratic paper, that the greenback party would sell to the republicans.—Cold Facts.

EUGENE V. DEBS.

He Defines His Position in This Campaign.

TERRE HAUTE, IND., Aug. 6, 1896.  
Mr. George P. Garrison, Chadron, Neb.:  
Dear Sir: Your favor of the third inst., with newspaper clipping attached, has been received. The report that I have declared against free and unlimited coinage of silver is wholly untrue and without foundation. I have declared in favor of free silver, although I have said that free coinage alone would not bring any permanent or substantial relief to workingmen. It is decidedly preferable to the gold standard, but it does not

solve the vexed financial problem. I am opposed to the whole scheme of private banking. The constitution of the United States never contemplated the farming out of this important function to private persons for private gain. It is a government function, and not until it is restored to the government and our monetary system is operated for the public welfare instead of for the enrichment of a grasping few, will any permanent relief come to the people.

For Mr. Bryan I have the highest personal regard. I shall support him, for I feel and know that so far as he has the power he will stand by the people against their exploiters and oppressors. For the democratic party, however, I have no use, I quit it after having belonged to it for years because of its treason to the people and I shall not return to it.

Indeed, I propose to maintain my political independence and support only such parties and candidates as in my judgment will best serve the people. In this campaign I am with the peoples party, and I support Mr. Bryan as the nominee of that party. The democratic party, through its official and authorized representatives, earnestly solicited and finally secured the nomination of their candidate for president. Without the support of the populists the democratic party could not win. The populists, animated by patriotic motives, accorded first honors to the democrats, and the democrats, if they are influenced by similar motives, will now accord the populists second place by placing Mr. Watson on the ticket with Mr. Bryan. Mr. Sewall can well afford to step aside to effect this union of the two great forces and insure the election of the peoples candidates. Such action on the part of Mr. Sewall would make him a far greater man than the vice presidency. Failing to accord the peoples party such recognition by giving them a place on the national ticket, there will be dissatisfaction, which may culminate in open revolt, especially in the southern states, where populists have suffered all sorts of indignities at the hands of the Bourbon democracy. And this may cost Bryan his election and put McKinley and goldbugism in power. For the mere offices we care nothing, for we scorn spoils in any form. But for the principle involved we care, and have a right to care, much. There is a vast difference between Mr. Bryan and the democratic party. If the latter's only ambition is to swallow the peoples party so as to place them in power and get possession of the offices, their design will and should be thwarted. I would far rather see McKinley elected than have another democratic administration such as that of Cleveland. The campaign this fall will bring the real issues prominently before the people. From this time forward there will be a mustering of the people against the plutocracy. The present system, which breeds millionaires and mendicants, is doomed. Commercial competition has had its day. Collective ownership for the public welfare instead of private ownership for the gratification of private greed, is to be the future shibboleth of the disinherited masses, and the agitation will proceed until the co-operative commonwealth blesses the world. Yours very truly,  
EUGENE V. DEBS.

THE BANKER'S NEW GAME  
Threats to Foreclose Mortgages Don't Work.

The bankers and trust companies have been sending threats to every man in Nebraska who has borrowed money of them, but their threats have terrified no one. The following letters exposes their game and how they come down when they have to.

E. H. Ambler, Real Estate Loans, Office with the Smith Bros. Loan and Trust Co., Beatrice, Neb.

July 28, 1896.  
Edward Arnold, Odell, Neb. Dear Sir:—I am in receipt of your letter of the 25th inst., and carefully note contents. Your letter refers to loan No. 8776, \$—due Nov. 30th, and in response to my letter of July 16. If conditions will permit I shall be pleased to undertake to secure a new loan for you. I find that eastern investors are very much disturbed because of the sentiment in this and other western states favorable to the free and unlimited coinage of silver, and some of them are writing that they will not hazard any more investments in farm loans until the question is settled. Of course this practically means that if the free silver sentiment is endorsed by a majority of the votes represented in the electoral college they will not deem it wise to make any further investments here. This being the case I cannot positively agree now to furnish you the funds to provide for payment of loan No. 8776, when due. At the same time if you think desirable to make an application to be placed on file to be acted upon if investment funds are to be had, please use the blank enclosed herewith. The rate of interest would be 8 per cent per annum, interest payable semi-annually, unless you prefer to pay a cash commission, in which case the interest would be 6 per cent per annum, with cash commission of \$150. Very truly yours,  
E. H. AMBLER.

E. H. Ambler, Real Estate Loans, Office with the Smith Bros. Loan and Trust Co., Beatrice, Neb.

July 16, 1896.  
Edward Arnold, Odell, Neb. Dear Sir:—By reference to the records of the Smith Bros. Loan and Trust Co. I find that you loaned you—on 160 acres in 18-1-5, and that the loan matures Nov. 30. If it is your intention to get a new loan, I would be pleased to hear from you, as I have no doubt I can name terms which would be satisfactory. Very truly yours,  
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THE BEE'S OPINION.

What Mr. Rosewater Thinks of the Populist State Ticket.

The state ticket nominated by the populists of Nebraska is in the main composed of men who are representatives of the party.

The renomination of Governor Holcomb was a foregone conclusion and the endorsement of his administration was a compliment which his party owed him. Republicans can not gainsay the fact that Governor Holcomb has elements of strength which no other populist of Nebraska can boast.

The candidate for lieutenant governor, John E. Harris, and the candidate for secretary of state, W. F. Porter, have served in the state legislature and have in some measure acquired familiarity with state affairs.

The other candidates, Messrs. Cornell, Meserve, Jackson, Wolfe and Monroe for the offices of auditor, treasurer, superintendent of public instruction, land commissioner and university regent, respectively, have never filled any legislative or state office, but are reputed to be fairly equipped for the position to which they aspire. Judge William Neville, candidate for supreme judge, is now a judge of the district court, and was at one time a representative from Douglas county in the state legislature. Mr. E. Kirkpatrick, the other candidate for supreme judge, is a lawyer of fair ability, but so far as we know has had no judicial experience.

While the populists have put up a creditable state ticket, the conditions under which they enter the campaign as a part and parcel of the democratic coalition with Bryan at the head and Sewall and Watson at the tail, will seriously handicap them and tend to create dissension and confusion.—Omaha Bee.

Jay Cooke on Silver.

The old veteran financier, Jay Cooke who was such an important aid to Lincoln in the first year of the war, sent a letter to the St. Louis Silver convention which did not appear at the time, but is printed in the Farm, Field and Fireside. In it he says:

One of the great and terrible results of gold monometallism is now and will be the direct competition of all strictly silver countries, which under the influence of cheap silver (which is the only currency of over one thousand million of the world's population) will gradually, if not speedily, even with large tariff protection, so increase their production of wheat, cotton and various manufactured articles, as to utterly take possession of, not only their own home markets but those of the whole world.

I see little reference to this terrible danger in any of their arguments used against the gold standard, and yet this danger exists and is increasing hourly.

In India, for instance, hundreds of miles of railroad are being built, opening up rich alluvial soils for the cultivation of cotton and wheat; the best American and European machinery is being used and made familiar to the Orientals; hundreds of cotton and other manufac-

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In India, for instance, hundreds of miles of railroad are being built, opening up rich alluvial soils for the cultivation of cotton and wheat; the best American and European machinery is being used and made familiar to the Orientals; hundreds of cotton and other manufac-

ories are being erected, while thousands of Englishmen, Germans and Americans are reaping large salaries as directors, managers and tutors of this immense horde of docile, hard-working people, who, with wages not one-tenth as great as those paid in this country, are rapidly becoming skilled in every mode of agriculture and manufacture; their wages are paid in silver, and the goods, the wheat and cotton which they export, bring those countries (even at the present low price of wheat and cotton) enormous profits. It is astonishing that our public men, our bankers, our farmers, our manufacturers, our cotton raisers, etc., do not take instant alarm at this prospect of overwhelming competition. It is comparatively small competition up to date which has already damaged our nation to the extent of hundreds of millions per annum.

What will be the effect if this competition is further stimulated by the coinage in our country and in the countries of Europe of this single standard of gold?

No amount of protection can possibly shield us from the importation of products from these Oriental, South American nations, whose laborers receive from 8 to 15 cents per day, and that in silver, purchased with the products of their exports at 50 cents on the dollar.

With kindest wishes, and giving you full authority to publish or suppress this letter, I remain, yours truly,  
J. COOKE.

BANCROFT REDEEMED.  
A Hundred Republican Majority Turned so for Bryan.

BANCROFT, Neb. August 10, 1896.  
EDITOR INDEPENDENT:—Your paper is getting better with every issue and should be read by every populist in the state; but times are so hard they have not the 16 to 1 to pay the subscription price. Many tell me they will subscribe for it as soon as they can get the money. Small grain is almost a failure, especially oats that are weighing only about 12 bushels to the acre and of very poor quality. Many fields have not been harvested. Where, oh! where are we at, and will continue to be if the gold standard prevails at the November election? Echo answers where. But if the votes all over the country do as well as we expect to in Bancroft township for the silver ticket then the gold standard will die and be forever buried. As you well know, the republicans in this township have usually had about a hundred majority at a national election. We have now enrolled as members of the Bryan club nearly 200 while there are only about three hundred voters in the township. The club is composed of pops dems and reps. Prospects surely are most encouraging. Will you kindly give me the address of Mr. Devine as we wish to secure him to address the club in the near future.  
I. K. FLETCHER.

Mr. Devine's address is Sun Building Washington, D. C.

The Honor of the Nation.

Gentlemen who dine in the evening and wear dress suits while doing so, who have boxes at the opera and carriages to take them there, have much to say at this time about the national honor. Nowhere do they