The Wealth Makers and Lincoln Independent Consolidated.

VOL. IX.

LINCOLN, NEBR., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1898

NO. 39

The Distinguished Nebra-kan Tells Why That Ratio Should Be Advocated,

If We Must Ask Consent of Europe On Financial Legislation We Have No Rights.

A Clear Statement of The Case.

Hon, W. J. Bryan has the following in the New York Journal:

In answer to your inquiry I submit some of the reasons which lead me to believe that the money question preseuts an issue which is still paramount at Chicago the democratic party said: "Recognizing that the money question is paramount to all others at the present time, we invite attention to the fact that the federal constitution named silver and gold together as the money metals of the United States, and that the first coinage law passed by congress under the constitution made the silver dollar the monetary unit and admitted gold to free coinage at a ratio based upon a silver dollar unit."

After thus elevating the question to the place of supreme importance, the far done so. The republican platform, platform proceeded to point out the el- therefore, means that we must have the fect of an appreciating dollar, and declared the unalterable opposition of the party to the gold standard, characterizing it as both un-American and anti-American. The platform specially de-

First-That free and unlimited coinage of both silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1.

Second-That the standard silver dol lar be made a full legal tender, equally with gold, for all debts, public and pri-

Third-The enactment of such legislation as will prevent for the future the demonetization of any kind of legal tender money by private contract.

Fourth-That the United States shall ligations in either gold or silver.

Fifth-That the government shall not issue interest bearing bonds in time of Sixth-That the government shall not

surrender to national banks the right to issue paper money.

While the declaration against national bank notes is not a part of the silver plank, the division line between those

who layor independent bimetallism and with the line which separates the advocates of government paper from the supporters of national banks of issue, and such withdrawal to prevent the annihilathe two questions will be settled together. Nothing has happened since the corporations. Not only can this threat election to lessen the real or relative importance of the money question. If the gold standard was bad in 1896, it is still bad; if our present financial system was does not meet with lavor in Europe. We un American and anti-American in 1896, cannot protect the rights of our cit-Zens, it has not become naturalized since that

In 1896 independent bimetallism was pointed out as the only remedy for the gold standard, and the failure of our monetary commission to secure international bimetallism strengthens our contention. The senate has recently put itself upon record in favor of that plank of our platform which declares that the silver dollar shall have a debt paying power equal to the gold dollar, and that the government shall not surrender its right to redeem coin obligations in either gold or silver, and the house has declared against the proposition. The effort of the secretary of the treasury to secure authority to issue sion. more bonds and his demand for the retirement of the greenbacks are in direct opposition to the position above not free silver agitators, are keeping the money question before the country.

The evil effects of the gold standard the money question by the party itself in are so apparent that the republican its latest utterances. party refuses to become sponsor for the system; it is so indefensible that even Philadelphia, took occasion to say that the president is in favor of international ratio. They ask, "Why 16 to 1? bimetallism and has the support of all his cabinet in his effort to secure the cooperation of other nations in getting rid of the gold standard.

out the hope of international bimetaltion, none of the party leaders say a word in defense of the double standard, independent or international. Why not? only he defended on the theory that the and the republican leaders know the republican party has no real intention of abandonma the present gold standard, o rule, say anything in favor of the gold ind Mr. Gage at Philadelphia. After try-ing to show that the gold standard had been a great blessing to the laboring the money of the world. Such a skrink-man, he declared it to be the intention age in the volume of money would, in ef-

publican party advocate its retention, rather than its abandonment? International bimetallism will have exactly legislation, and that they can be ALL UNITED ON THAT ISSUE through an international agreement, is standard country of the world.

France now desires to abandon the gold standard. Can any democrat deny that relief from the gold standard is imperatively needed? Should the demotaken on the side of the masses in this

world-wide contest? The stand taken by the republicans can confront a nation, namely, the right of the people to legislate for themselves. The republican platform is the first platform which ever declared in favor of repealing the Declaration of Independence. That platform expressly transfers from America to Europe the right to determine the financial policy of the United States. According to that platform the American people should seek international co-operation in restoring bimetallism, but must retain the gold standard until that co-operation is secured The republican plan is to invite foreign assistance, but while we may invite, European nations are at liberty to refuse the invitation, and they have thus gold standard as long as European nations favor the gold standard, and can have bimetallism only when they conment to it.

Recent events have demonstrated that Europe has turned the money question over to England and England seems to have turned it over to the English financiers, who, on the 22nd day of last September, met at the clearing house, pl-dged themselves to secreey, decided upon the gold standard and thus determined our financial policy as long as the republican plan prevails.

No one believes that bimetallism will fore other questions can be reached. precedent to reform along other lines. money question were dropped and the fight against the trusts made the main foreign capital to prevent a change of our financial policy, they can threaten tion of trusts or the regulation of other be made in regard to our domestic policy, but it can be made to prevent the adoption of any foreign policy which avenge an insult to the flag, enforce the Monroe doctrine or express our symof foreign investors. The right to legislate for our people on the money question involves the right to legislate on all questions, and until this right is secured the discussion of other questions will avail nothing. When we have released ourselves from the dictation of foreign financiers and overthrown the local money trust which controls our financial policy we shall be in a position to undertake the extermination of other trusts and the protection of our people

The other planks of the Chicago platform are not abandoned. Those who favor free coinage at 16 to 1 advocate did not fully understand the issues Thus it will be seen that events, and will carry out all the other reforms raised and they are coming back of their enumerated in the platform, but they will not lessen the emphasis placed upon

from all forms of monopolistic oppres-

But there are some who admit the necessity for himetallism and who con-Secretary Gage, in his recent speech at less that it can only be secured by independent action, but suggest a change of answer that there are several reasons. Sixteen to one is the ratio at which we had free coinage from 1834 to 1873. It is the ratio now existing between gold But while the republican party, and silver coins in circulation and it is through the chief executive, still holds more favorable to gold than the ratio more favorable to gold than the ratio now existing in most European youn-

To change the ratio by independent action, besides changing existing con-Because internation) bometallism can tracts, lessening our currency and occurring great expense, would put us out of existing gold standard is quantisfactory, harmony with other nations, especially the readers should not so the advertise- cogniged. The employers, however, new would it put us out of burmony with France, the European nation most sursery established in 1872. friendly to silver, where the ratio is 13% and they cannot therefore, afford to say to 1. It, by international agreement, we saything which would make the people should change the ratio to \$2 in 1, for descripted with it. Neither do they, as instance, it would necessitate the recoin. The selection of the place was left to a age of more than \$4,000,000 of silver standard, because to do so would at into coins twice as large (provided the once raise the question: Why then is change was made by increasing the size international bimetalines desirable? of the silver coins). To double the size Occasionally a speaker will be found who of the silver money of the world would will take both sides of the question, as diminish by one-half the silver money of

of the republicans to substitute another system. The question at once arises, if of the world. Should so great an injury the gold standard has been a blessing to be done without the necessity for it besystem. The question at once arises, if of the world. Should so great an injury the gold standard has been a blessing to be done without the necessity for it bethe laboring man, why does not the re- ing proven beyond a reasonable doubt? Bimetallists contend that gold and

silver have been driven apart by hostile

the same effect as independent bimetal- brought together by friendly legislation. lism in raising prices. If a fall in prices They contend that legislation favorable is an advantage, then a rise in prices to gold has increased the purchasing cannot be desirable; and if, on the other power of an ounce of gold taroughout good, then the fall in prices caused by lowered the gold price of that metal. They contend that the restoration of have worked an injury. The fall in the free and unlimited coinage by a prices, extending over the past twenty- great nation like the United States will five years, has, in fact, been disastrous increase the demand for silver to a point to the producers of wealth in every gold where the mints will require all the sur plus silver of the world and thus, by raising the gold price of silver and gold standard; the German reichstag de- lowering the purchasing power of an ounce of gold, will restore the parity at clared for international bimetallism in ounce of gold, will restore the parity at 1895; the farmers and laboringmen of 16 to 1, and thereafter maintain the England are now protesting against the parity at that ratio. It is true that some bimetallists do not believe that this nation alone can maintain the parperatively needed? Should the demo-cratic party abandon the position it has great majority who do believe it surrender their conviction to the comparatively few who doubt? Upon what principle can a minority demand of the majority in importance. In the platform adopted raises the most important question that the right to dictate a platform? Those who are opposed to a gold standard must act together, and the plan of action must be determined by the majority. The moment the ratio of 16 to 1 is surrendered our silver plank loses its force. Those who oppose the ratio of 16 to 1 are not agreed among themselves. No considerable body of men ask for any specific ratio. One man says 20 to another 24, another 32; but all the objectors together are small in number when compared with those who firmly believe in the ability of this nation to maintain the parity at 16 to 1. If it is proposed to leave the ratio to congress, it must be remembered that those who desire bimetallism demand affirmative action, and anyone opposed to the ratio fixed in any proposed bill will be counted against any kind of bimetallism. If the ratio is left to be determined by congressmen who run upon different platforms, it gives a chance for a variety of ratios, which will effectually prevent any legislation favorable to bimetallism and will also give a chance for friends of the gold standard to slip into congress unnder the pretense of favoring some undefined ratio, but who, as a matter of fact would use their positions to main-tain the gold standard. The ratio of 16 to 1 has been adopted by the democratic party in a convention which, more than any recent convention, received its prove a panacea for all political ills, but suthority direct from the people. The the money question must be settled be-fore other questions can be reached. leaving the ratio to the leaders, ex-Financial independence is a condition pressed their own opinion on the subject, and that opinion has not changed not surrender its right to redeem its ob-ligations in either gold or silver. The power that controls our financial since the convention. This ratio has in every cotton mill in New England also been endorsed by the populist party, until satisfactory adjustment of warms. also been endorsed by the populist party, until satisfactory adjustment of wage ernment on every other subject whenever the national silver party and the silver occasion arises for the exercise of that republicans. To abandon the ratio control. Suppose, for instance, that the would be wrong in itself, and as impolitic as it would be wrong. If the democratic party were to allow its policy on issue. Much foreign capital is invested this question to be determined by a few in trusts and foreign financiers could and doubting Thomases, or by the deserters nounce that any legislation hostile to who supported the enemy in the great trusts would be followed by the with struggle between democracy and plutocdrawal of foreign capital and a panic, racy, it would lose the respect of those those who oppose it is almost identical If they can threaten the withdrawal of who now look to it as an efficient means of restoring government of the people. To turn from its clear and courageous enunciations to wallow again in the mire of ambiguity and deception would alienate those who have been drawn to it by the platform of 1896. The democratic party could have retained within its fold the deserters of 1896 if it had consented to a meaningless platform, but it preferred to lose some members of the body rather than have the whole body destroyed. Regeneration did not come pathy with those who are struggling to too soon. The gold democrats were be free, if we are deterred by the threats rapidly making the party a rival of the republican party for the favor of trusts and monopolies. If the Chicago platform did nothing else, it drove from the party those who had been manipulating the party for private gain and using the government for public plunder. There are many of these deserters whose return to the party would bring weakness rather than add strength, and there are millions of democrats who would not surrender a single line of the Chicago plat-

> in sympathy with our platform. The party can win more voters by steadlastly standing by the right than by weakly compromising with error, and useful when they return, while those who profess attachment to the democratic name rather than to democratic principles will always require watching.

form to recover every deserter who left

because of real antagonism to the prin-

not refer to those who were misled. There were many who left because they

The democratic party has put its hand to the plow, and unless I mistake the sport which animates its members, it W. J. Buyan. will not look back.

reminds of buyhood days, and apple blusseems. Besides gathering more apples in one season then any other orchand in the state, Mr. Stophens has also developed on extensive nursers trade. ment on page I of this jesue of the trete not content with their profits-and, if

The democratic state convention of its linnis has been called to meet on Max 17. special committee, which will probably not um any nunerousary haste in reach ing a dension. It was decided by the the anti-fusion inw and the republican gerrymander. The sum of \$140 was appropriated for commencing the autibaon case, while a defluite som was not up propriated for the gerrymander case.

Fifty-Five Labor Unions in New England Will Join

Hands.

MEETING HELD IN BOSTON.

President Gompers of the Federation of Labor the Director.

All Mills Will be Closeed

At a meeting in Boston of flifty-five representatives of textile unions in New England it was unanimously voted to recommend that all unions call out the operatives in every cotton mill in New England.

The meeting was practically the outcome of the recommendation which President Gompers made to the federation of labor last Sunday, in which he urged the different unions to unite on some settled policy regarding the mill situation in New England. At that meeting a committee of three was appointed to take charge of the matter, and after a conference this committee recommended that a general meeting be held to take definite action. The representatives of the various national textile associations assembled in the Wells Memorial hall and for four hours discussed the situation from every standpoint. The pri mary object of the meeting was to de vise some method of rendering assistance to the New Bedford striker ... It was pointed out that if the strikers at New Bedford could hold out for four weeks without receiving more than 20 cents per operative per week in the way of outside assistance other mill operatives would stand a similar strain, and if all went out it would precipitate a crisis that would have to be met within a short time by the manufacturers. It was also shown that the mule spinners were in excellent condition as regards funds; that the united textile workers and the New England federation of weavers were also in good shape, but the rest were short of funds. Other questions were also discussed and at length the matter was put to a vote, no one being registered against the motion that the differ ent unions should order a general strike

would be arranged. It now remains for the various national unions to take action on the recommendation, but what this action will be is a matter of conjecture. If all should acquiesce and vote to strike, 147,000 operatives would undoubtedly cease work and manufacturers of cotton throughout New England would be at a standstill. If, on the other hand, only a few unions should vote to strike, the refusal of the others would still keep a

large portion of the mills in operation. Insamuch, however, as the meeting was the outcome of President Gompers suggestions, and as he admonished th members of the federation of labor to join hands and assist the New Bedford strikers, it seems probable that nearly every union will carry out the recommendations and that one of the greatest strikes ever seen in this ctuntry is impending.

NEW ENGLAND STRIKE.

Great Profits Being Made - Southern Competition a Small Item,

It is not "progress and poverty," but profits vs. poverty" that rules in New England today. The strike in that part of the country will apparently be fought out to the bitter end, since neither party seems inclined to make any concessions. The strikers know that the mill owners ciples set forth in that piatform. I do were not losing money prior to the strike. On the contrary the seven mills chiefly concerned in the trouble were own accord, because they find themselves making money last year as follows: Acushnet mills, capital stock, \$500,000. rate of dividend, 16 per cent, amount of dividend, \$80,000; Bristol Manufacturthose won back to the platform will be ing company, \$500,000, 5 per cent, \$25,000; Grinnell Manufacturing company, \$800,000, 9 per cent, \$72,000; Hathaway Manufacturing company, \$800,000, 10 per cent, \$80,000; Pierce Manufacturing company, \$600,000, 6 per cent, \$36,000; Wamsutta mills. \$3,000,000, 6 per cent, \$180,000; Whitman mills, \$700,000, 1% per cent, \$10. The orchard view in this weeks isage | 500; totals espital stock, \$6,000,000 amount of dividend, \$483,600.

Those represent the dividends through out New England in an industry in which at least \$150,000 is invested, and in which more than 125,000 persons are these do not result builtimately they must be equivared nut of the reduced wages of the surplayer. The southern cotton industry has been made the excase for this. The absurdity of the picahas been exposed by figures which prove prosperity harding contemperation can (1) that the number of spindies in the show us where the heating extraordi-(1) that the number of spindies in the south is infinitismally small as comcommittee to proceed vigorously with pared with the many millions in the the cases to test the constitutionality of north, and (2) that the south does not north, and (2) that the south does not manufacture the finer lines of goods But, as a poor excuse is better than none at all, and as the mill owners must have bigger incomes, retreachment was and prices of up to date ciothing. Pains the order of the day. The poor employes A Warfel, Lincoln.

were made the victims. Thus it came to pass, that while the

mill owners were making incomes counted in five figures, their employes have been making-boy and girl toilers from fourteen years of age (oftener much younger) working up to nine or more hours a day-the law prescribes fiftyeight a week as the maximum, but it is not obeyed-from \$2.50 to \$3.50 a week; women from \$3.50 to \$6 for the same amount of toil; and men from \$5.85 to possibly \$12. Only the mule spinners, who number less than 5 per cent of the whole, make more—as high as \$13.50 a week. Unskilled labor in New Bedfordthe chief seat of the trouble-makes weekly wages as follows: Common laborers, \$10.50 to \$12; street car employes, \$12 to \$15; employes in other industries, \$10,50 to \$20. None of these are subject to fines, as are the employes in the cotton mills. As are the wages of the cotton spin-

ners, so are their homes (if that sacred word can be applied to the abodes in which they are compelled to dwell). The rent each family pays varies from \$1.20 to \$1.50 per week for four or five rooms -apparently not much, as rents go nowadays. But it must be remembered that the houses are mere hovels-at best, poorly constructed, sadly out of repair, and wickedly defective from a sanitary standpoint-the families of the spinners are generally large and the crowding is excessive. Sometimes the poorer operatives have but the one room, in which will be huddled (as poor operatives hud-dle together in the East–Side tenements in this city) a father, mother, and pos-

sibly thirteen children. For a considerable time before the cut in their wages these unfortunates earned a bare existence; after the cut even that was denied them. The mill owners, however, were always able to fare sumptuously every day, to go clad in fine raiment, and to dwell in what to their "hands" seemed "king's houses." And what wonder, the fact is in evidence that none of the stock of the New Bedford mills is on the market; but the latest quotations at private sale were as under: Acushnet, \$250 to \$285; Grinnell, \$200; Pierce, \$120; Wamsutt, \$100; Briston, \$100; Hathaway, \$100; Potonoka, \$90. Under these conditions need it excite surprise that the sympathies of the townspeople and the storekeepers are with the strikers—even though to many of them a strike represents a loss of trade and consequently of money Already they are sfretching out a helping hand to the strikers-already, also alas! hunger's pinch is beginning to be

And what the end of all shall be, No man nor angel knoweth. -Hammer and Pen

FARMERS INSTITUTE.

Aggregate Attendance of 400 at the Eddyville Meeting

At the meeting of the Farmers instiand 27th, the interest displayed was far defrauding the government of something greater than anticipated.

Prof. A. K. Goudy presided and Lawrence Wood acted as secretary.

L. D. Stilson of York delivered an able address on the subject, "What We Owe the Hen." Mr. Stilson's remarks along apairy and dairy lines were very interesting and instructive. Mr. Stilson is secretary of the State Bee Keepers asso-

Charles Miller delivered an address on How to Raise Corn in Western Nebraska."

Addresses were delivered by Owen Meintee, C. H. Barnbardt, Mrs. George Kennicut, George Blakealee, John Edminston and Prof. C. F. Horner.

The aggregate attendance at the two day's meetings was approximately 400. Several others discusser questions of interest to farmers. The institute seems to be taking in great shape and a movement is on foot to secure the very best assistance the agricultural department of the State university can give the institute and make it one of the best things ever taken up in the state.

Prosperity.

For the benefit of the prosperity howlers we take the following figures from the Kansas City Daily Drovers Telegram of Jan 31. These figures show the average top prices of fat native steers and fat hogs during the past ten years. Our readers will please notice that during no year since and including 1887 cration. By the reorganization comhave the top prices for fat native steers averaged as low as during 1897. The an effort had been made to minimus the same holds true with fat hogs, with the value of the road. "It is particularly exception of 1856, and then the average significant," said Mr. Harris, "that the is only 2's cents lower. You will please statements of the reorganization comnotice that the average prices for Jeau- mittee and the officials of the Union Paary, 1898, are twiow those of 1897;

coars.	Av. Pries	Steers	Hogs.
SeT		\$5.50	\$5.80
888		6.00	0.50
1889		5.00	5.20
H90		5.50	4.55
1891,		. 6.15	3.55
1892			
NGC		0.00	5.30
1894		0.25	6.30
		- 6.50	0.17.5
N96		15,484	4.25
1897		. 5.40	4.27.5
1898, Junus	43	5.10	3.90
The second secon		and the second s	CONTRACTOR OF TAXABLE

If our gold-bug-McKinley-Dingley-bill mary prosperity for cattle and hog bad ers comes in during 1897, over and above former years, we are open CORVICTION.

"Write a better" and ask for samples.

HAMILTON CLUB.

Pitiful Farce That Is Doomed to Early Exposure.

On Wednesday evening of last week, at the Oliver theatre in this city, was witnessed one of the most humiliating experiences ever suffered by any political party. The great and only party of moral ideas, the party that once enrolled Abraham Lincoln in its membership, now publicly confessing that it has disgraced its traditions and trailed that honored name in the filth of corruption and bribery; that it had proved recreant to its trust, and broken faith with the

The occasion of the gathering was the debut of the Hamilton club to public notice. It entered upon the stage of political activity with a profusion of false promises, openly professing to be a conservator of the peoples liberties. while it secretly plots to bind them to a slavery which Jefferson, Lincoln, Gar-field, Logan and Greeley devoted their

lives to save the people from.
Gatherd on the stage were a handful of the more prominent republicans of the city, while the audience was composed of a few hundred of their poor, blind bigoted followers, who vainly hoped that they might be hypnotized into the belief that there was yet something in the party policy other than corruption, treachery and barter of the people's rights.

A few of the speakers openly admitted the degradation of municipal politics. Others did some dextrous balancing, carrying water on both shoulders, in a vain endeavor to stand in with an outraged people on the one hand and not expose the evil doers on the other. While the farce comedy ended with a clownish act on the part of the last speaker to besmirch with false accusations the populist state administration that has done more in the short time it has been in power to restore confidence and prosperity to Nebraska than a thousand years of Dingley-Reed repub-lication can hope to do.

The proceedings might have been en-titled to some respect had it not been for the last shameless act. The Hamilton club died a-bornin'. A thing of scorn and a mockery forever.

KANSAS PACIFIC FORECLOSURE.

Senator Harris of Kansas Insists That Governments' Claim Must Be Paid,

Senator Harris of Kansas has preented a resolution in the senate calling upon the attorney general for the reasons for abandoning his plan for the redemption of the Kansas Pacific mortgage bonds and having the road operated by a receiver. Mr. Harris denounced the present plan to sell the road at the tute at Eddyville, Neb., January 26th bid of the reorganization committee as more than \$6,000,000,

> Mr. Chandler said he had no objection to the resolution, but did not approve of the preamble, which included a press dis-

Mr. Harris replied that he might not insist upon the preamble after he had made a statement. The Union Pacific. he said, for a long time had attempted to influence congress and officials of administration to scale down the debt of that company to the government about 50 per cent. Until a year ago last Jan-uary the company bad been unsuccessful. At that time they made an arrangement with Mr. Cleveland's administration by which the road was to be disposed of with a loss to the government of about \$28,000,000. Mr. Harris then outlined the reasons why the arrangement was

not carried into effect. Mr. Harris said that in case the reorganization committee should decline to pay the full amount due-about \$13,-000,000-it was the understanding that the government would redeem the first mortgage bonds and have the road operated by a receiver. A competent reerty which Mr. Harris believed was quite \$30,000,000. The reorganization committee, Mr. Harris said, had evidently succeeded in obtaining from the attorney general such concessions as had been outlined in the associated press dis patches, and the government is to stand \$6,700,000 of interest sacrificed. The value of the property, Mr. Harris thought, was a most important consideific regarding the value of the main line have been proved by subsequent events

"As was said once by the senator from Missouri, when they speak they lie, and when they are silent they steal.

to be untrue,

Mr. Harron then discussed the value of the Kansas Pucific road and said that during the last eleven years the line had exceed an amount equal to 4 per cent on \$30,000,000. He further said that on the his instant the attorney general had agreed to redorm the first mortgage bonds and to have the road operated by receiver. This arrangement was perteetly satisfactory to those for whom he spoke, but the intention of the attorneygoverni to abandon that plan and to let the read go with a less to the govern-ment of nearly \$7,000,000 was not only a supprise to bim and others, but abuse tely unsatisfactory.

Mr. Harris maintained that the Kansan l'actife road was worth the last cent of the government's claim and it ough to be demanded by the attorney-genera