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## GOLD BUGS GIVE TUP

Abandon Their Fight Against the Quantity Theory and Declare it is True.

## A REMARKABLE INTERVIEW

The Director of the United States Mint Gives the Word for a Change of Base

### Increase in Money.

The promulgations of the director of the mint have always been the law to those who fight under the banners of plutocracy. For the last ten years whenever the gold forces were getting the worst of it, they always had an announcement from the director ready to launch, but this last statement must give the old "war horses" the shivers. They will have to take back all that they have been saying and start off on an entirely new track. If there is any thing that they have fought with more bitterness than another it has been the quantity theory. They have denied that an increase in the volume of money would raise prices. But now comes the director of the mint and makes an argument on the other side of the question and the old war horses will have to change base.

At the close of congress the members began to inquire how they were to conduct the coming fight and the director gave out the following interview.

"The most striking new feature will be the great increase in the output of gold," he said. "In the year 1896 the gold produced in the world amounted to about \$202,000,000, and the silver, counting sixteen ounces of the latter equal to one ounce of gold, \$217,000,000. The industrial consumption in that year was estimated to be about \$60,000,000 of gold and \$40,000,000 of silver. The net amount of new gold and silver available for monetary use was consequently about \$320,000,000. The world's production of gold in 1898 was about \$300,000,000, and it can be foreseen that at the present rate the yield in 1899 will reach 350,000,000. We face the extraordinary fact that the new gold available for monetary use in the year 1900 will equal the amount of both gold and silver available from the product of 1896. And of course a considerable amount of new silver will continue to enter into use as money the world over.

"When it is considered that the total product of both gold and silver in 1873 was only 178,000,000, it will be seen that the product of gold alone has become practically double the output of both gold and silver in that year, when the world's supply of money is said to have been cut in two. Indeed the annual gold output has now reached a proportion relative to the present stocks of money equal to the increase in the 50's, when the placers of California and Australia started the world. The world's stock of gold and silver coin is estimated to have increased from 1850 to 1890 by 40 per cent, and by the present production of gold the world's stock of coin will increase from 1900 to 1910 fully 40 per cent.

"Laying aside all considerations as to the injurious effects of changing the standard of value to which the business of this country is adjusted," continued Mr. Roberts, "it is by no means clear that the stock of money in the world could be increased by the universal free coinage of silver any faster than it is now being increased. The fall in the value of silver is itself largely responsible for the increased product of gold. A large part of the present product of gold is obtained from low-grade ores, which yield only a small profit above the cost of treatment. If a rise in the price of silver should turn miners from gold to silver it would reduce the output of the former. It, as the silver men claim, there would be such an increased coinage of silver as to reduce the value of gold, it would certainly check the production of the latter. Every miner in the world now paid by the gold standard would then to avoid being worse off require to have his wages increased, all the supplies used in gold mining and prospecting would have to cost correspondingly more, and the effect would inevitably be to reduce the product. So it cannot be said that we might have our present yield of gold and also such an increased amount of silver as to reduce the value of gold. To increase the supply from one source is to decrease it from the other. There is an equilibrium here as in other affairs that nature maintains.

"The stock of gold in the banks of Europe, in sight and counted, increased 40 per cent from January 1, 1893 to January 1, 1898. Nor is it true, as sometimes said, that stocks in bank are money not in use, for money is used nowadays by keeping it in bank and checking against it. The stock of gold in the United States was about \$100,000,000 on the last day of July, 1896, and is nearly \$1,000,000,000 now. The production of gold on this continent is now at the rate of fully \$100,000,000 per year, which is an enormous annual addition independent of the balance of trade. Every year now goes to make gold the overwhelmingly dominant element in our currency, and makes more and more proprietors all propensities to extend it and all states that it cannot

be had in an amount sufficient to maintain the parity of our existing paper and silver. Seventy-five per cent of our customs receipts at New York are now in gold. The banks, instead of hoarding gold, are now hoarding paper, which they can ship and handle more conveniently. If an export demand for gold should set in the banks would probably furnish the gold rather than give up their legal tender notes."

Many of the statements in that interview no economist will sanction. The stock of gold in the United States in 1896 was nowhere near \$600,000,000 and there is nothing like a \$1,000,000,000 now and the statement that the stock of gold will increase 40 per cent from 1900 to 1910 is so extravagant that it is really ridiculous. The world has been storing up gold for thousands of years and to say that that store will be increased by 40 per cent in twenty years is the very height of absurdity.

The importance of the interview is that the quantity theory is the basis of the whole argument. The director of the mint plants his feet squarely upon it and defends the gold standard because the quantity of gold is increasing. He says in effect that every populist has said, that is, "when the mines are prolific we have good times, and when the mines are barren and unproductive we have bankruptcies, falling prices, men out of work and distress everywhere."

## THEY GOT INTO TROUBLE

The news columns of the great dailies are getting to be a curiosity. Their desperate efforts to keep the facts concerning the killing of the soldiers by the beef trust forces them to do all kinds of ridiculous things. The court of inquiry was out in Chicago the other day. There was a long account of the testimony of every witness who had nothing to say—the questions and answers being printed verbatim from the stenographers' notes—but when it came to the evidence of the witnesses who had something vital to tell it was summed up as follows:

"Then followed a general discussion on the amount of nutritive value left in the meats which, after having been boiled to make beef extract, were canned. The board then adjourned."

That is decidedly rich. The truth is that Armour was trying to get back some of his heavy Mark Hanna contributions and after having boiled all the nutrition out of the beef he canned the residue and sold it at a big price to the government. It was then shipped to Cuba and Porto Rico and issued to the soldiers. It made them sick and hundreds of them died from stomach trouble. Hundreds of thousands of pounds of this stuff was condemned by regular army officers and thrown into the sea, some of it was buried and some was saturated with coal oil and burned to prevent an epidemic. McKinley runs this government and Armour is not in much danger.

## CHANGE THE TIME.

Judge Maxwell Advocates the Meeting of Congress on the 4th of March and Other Needful Things.

Just before the final adjournment of congress Judge Maxwell delivered the following short speech, which has in it many good suggestions:

Mr. Speaker: In his message to congress on March 15, 1897, President McKinley suggested the propriety, if not necessity, of changing the time of meeting of congress to an earlier date. I then thought the suggestion was wise and should be acted upon by congress, and therefore, after waiting for some time for some partisan friend of the administration to introduce such a bill, and no one responded, I introduced a bill changing the time of meeting of each new congress to the 4th of March next following the election of its members.

This bill was referred to one of the leading committees of the house, but I have been unable to get the committee to report either for or against it. It seems to me that there is merit in the bill, and I will briefly state some of the reasons for that belief. The first Monday in December was designated in the constitution as the time for the meeting of congress only until changed by statute. There were then but little more than 3,000,000 people in the United States, with but little commerce either inland or foreign; hence but little legislation was necessary in regard to such subjects.

The means of communication from one part of the country to another were exceedingly crude and primitive, and therefore speed in reaching the capital was almost impossible. A journey by land from Georgia, the Carolinas, or Virginia would occupy nearly a month, and upon the admission of Tennessee, Kentucky, and Ohio about the same time would be required. And the prospective removal of the capital to a point on the Potomac river, while it equalized the distance between the northern and southern states, did not shorten the average length of the journeys of all the members. Hence it was necessary that a business man, whether a lawyer, merchant, farmer, or other occupation, if elected to congress, must have sufficient time to arrange his business before leaving home, so that it would not suffer during his absence. Therefore he was given at least thirteen months after the election at which he was elected before he was required to enter upon his duties. All this is changed; almost every member can reach his home in twenty-four

hours at the farthest, and in no case need it occupy more than four days.

We have grown from a nation of 3,000,000 to nearly 80,000,000, not counting the Philippines, and are increasing in numbers rapidly. The next fifteen years will see our nation with more than 100,000,000 population, and wealth will keep pace with our increase in population. It is desirable that the legislative body elected upon a distinct issue should have an opportunity to respond to the issue upon which at least a majority were elected. Otherwise the occasion for the proposed legislation may have passed before any action by the legislative body can be had. Besides, if each new congress should meet on March 4th after the election of its members, there would be sufficient time to discuss every feature of proposed legislation, which there is not under our present system.

It is a fact well known to every member of this house that when the Dingley tariff bill was reported to this house a time was fixed when a vote would be taken upon it; that we met early each day and held night sessions, and still but little more than half of the bill had been gone over when the time fixed for the vote on the adoption or rejection of the bill was reached. That the Dingley bill, while it possesses many good features, is imperfect I believe its friends will not deny. There is no doubt that a full debate and desire to make a perfect bill would have resulted in a more acceptable bill every fair minded person will, I think, admit. So, with many of the war measures more time in debate would have produced more acceptable measures.

I believe this house might adopt the senate rules as to debate with profit and benefit to the whole country. Why not permit debate to go on until all members have expressed their views. This practice of doling out five minutes, or one, two, or three minutes, as the case may be, for a member to express his views or reasons for or against a bill, where very important subjects, involving the appropriation of millions of dollars it may be, are considered, shows on its face the necessity of careful consideration. Let us take time enough to do our work well if it takes the whole two years of the term. It seems to me the time has come for a change of the time when congress assembles.

This house may be, and it should be the ambition of every member to make it, the model legislative body of the world, but in order to be so there must be free debate, and every member be able to discuss in his own right all matters before the house for a reasonable time. I am informed there are more than three thousand pension cases pending in this end of the capitol, and probably about the same number in the other end. These, so far as my information extends, are largely those of men who fought in the ranks, who marched through sunshine and storm, and slept in the rain or on the wet or frozen ground, often when on the march without adequate shelter. Yet they faltered not and cheerfully obeyed all commands and bravely faced death to preserve the nation. Their comrades fell around them; they themselves were often severely wounded; they are now old and infirm and poor and need help. They have but few influential friends to press their claims until too late. Even now, when cases have been considered and a pension agreed upon, the announcement is made that the petitioner is dead, and the bill for his relief laid on the table. Hope deferred is doubly disappointing when there is a just claim for the performance of the duty. There are thousands of cases of destitution among the rank and file of the volunteer soldiers, and relief should be granted them as rapidly as possible by a steady and continuous examination of their claims until all are considered. This is a great, rich nation, and the American people are not only just, but generous, and desire that congress shall grant relief now, and I earnestly hope that congress will respond.

## HALSTEAD.

His Forfeiture Doubtful and an Orthodox Hell Desired for Those Responsible for This War.

Editor Independent:

I have just finished reading Halstead's story of the Philippines. He is strong for imperialism and says there is wealth beyond the dreams of avarice in our new possessions. The unexpected always happens. We have grabbed the islands and should keep them. He says that with our bulk of the North American continent bulging into the great oceans it was foreordained since the beginning when God created the earth that we, the imperial possessors of this imperial American zone, should be a great Asiatic power.

If it is true it follows that God first ordained that the Spanish priests should first try their hands. For three hundred years ago that God-forsaken people. However, in giving the facts as they exist his whole book stands square against his conclusions. Now, for what did we pay \$20,000,000, and what did we get? Simply the ghost of avarice. Where and who was the avarice when the treaty was made? The city of Manila was in the power and control of the United States. The island had been vacated by Spain and was dominated by the insurgents under Aguinaldo. The city of Manila rested on land held by the insurgents. Twenty-five thousand Spanish regulars whittled and 10,000 prisoners led and guarded by the Philippines. Note in our treaty, Art. IV, "and shall negotiate for the liberty of all Spanish prisoners in the hands of the insurgents in Cuba and the Philippines." Now who were they going to negotiate

with? Surely it would have to be with Aguinaldo.

Taking the whole work of Halstead, ingenious and competent as he is, I come to entirely different conclusions from what he does. He claims that the islanders are intelligent and many of them well educated. The insurgents say that the trouble came from Spanish priests. Our trouble comes from the fact that our president claims to have no policy in the matter. But he surely does have a purpose. Are we sending warships, soldiers and munitions to maintain a war without a purpose? It means war, and "war is hell."

In my judgment we are making pets of the Spanish in the Philippines, who in justice ought to have been shot or exported to Spain's own expense.

I fail to see how the wealth beyond the dreams of avarice is to be turned into our hands unless we consent to become robbers, cut-throats and thieves. For myself I decline to be cheated by such a delusion.

General Otis says he mowed down the islanders like grass. This he can do at his pleasure, but civilized people will give him no credit for it. Our president is responsible for the blood and treasure of both nations. No policy!

The insurgents were all good fellows and were our allies until McKinley sent over his governor-general in the person of Gen. Merritt. Then they were ignored and brushed aside. Heretofore I have not been much of a believer in an orthodox hell, but of late I am inclined to that view of the case. There should be such a place to be filled with the Spanish priests along with the powers that prosecute this unnatural and cruel war.

Please cite all readers to the following pages of Halstead's book: First his preface, then pages 16, 121, 124, 125, 128, 129, 130, 136, 140, 140, and 141. Union Mills, Neb. L. G. Todd.

## TOO MANY PARTIES

Ignatius Donnelly Wants the Organizing of Parties Stopped—Stand by the Peoples Party.

In the last edition of this paper Donnelly has several things to say about this silly nonsense of organizing a new party every few days, among them the following:

We have received a circular in reference to still another convention to form a new party, to be held in Cincinnati, O., May 2d, and 4th, 1899. This is its program:

- 1st—Unification of reform forces.
- 2d—Promotion of the study and practice of good citizenship.
- 3d—Election at the primary, caucus and convention—selection of the best and most competent in nominating candidates for public office.
- 4th—Direct legislation through the initiative and referendum.
- 5th—Proportional representation.
- 6th—The Imperative Mandate.

As all the reforms are practically advocated by the peoples party except the 5th, which has not yet been discussed, why do these men not join in with the peoples party and try to make it successful?

The truth is, in our humble judgment, that all these efforts to build up new parties, really originate with the plutocracy. It is very evident that the way to unite reformers is not to split them up into a dozen organizations. If any other party can prove that three or four years ago it polled nearly 2,000,000 votes, it will be time for these little nondescript gatherings to urge our party to dissolve.

In the meantime it is our first duty to stand by the peoples party, as organized upon the Omaha platform.

We commented last week upon the coming conventions in March and June, to start new parties, as rivals of the peoples party. The following from the Milwaukee "Advocate" is right in line with the reviews we therein expressed:

"We are getting a multitudinousness of reform parties. At a low estimate there must be a score of them. The latest was started by farmers in Fulton, McDonough, Warren and other counties in Illinois, who are arranging to call a convention to organize a national farmers' party."

"A convention is to be held at Cincinnati to nationalize the union reform party of Ohio."

"Our friend, Colonel Norton and Clark Erwin of the Chicago Express, are present with a call for another convention which may result in another party organization."

"Eric, Pa., has a 'municipal ownership party,' the socialists have three of their own and the middle of the road populists are antagonizing the regular organization by having a ticket in the field for next year's presidential election."

"Many other sporadic reform movements are going on in various parts of the country."

"Now, what's the use?"

"Is not one reform party enough? Why not all turn in and join the regular organization and see that the right kind of delegates are elected."

"There is time enough to kick over the traces if the national convention goes wrong. And this paper and its editor will be one of the first kickers in that case."

Let the reply to these disorganized efforts be increased devotion to the peoples party.

## TAXING THE POOR

Every state in this union places most of the burdens of taxation upon the poor while the rich and the corporations escape. This matter of taxation was up in the Minnesota legislature the other day and Mr. Foss pointed out that the average rate of taxation in the

state was 24 mills, although the debate on the railroad gross earnings tax bill had shown that those favored corporations were getting off with 8 mills. "The man who owns a mortgaged farm or home, which may be valued at \$1,000 but in which he may have no more than \$100 equity, is paying not 8 mills, but 240 mills on the dollar. Is this fair? Is it just?" queried Mr. Foss. There are 68,000 families in Minnesota living on mortgaged homes. Are they not entitled to as much consideration as the rich man or the powerful corporation? When a man is loaded down to the utmost limit of his strength, a few pounds more will crush him. To the man who is struggling for his daily existence, the burden of taxation is often what crushes him down. The law which compels him to pay a tax on what he does not own is a shame. It does not deserve a place on our statute books.

## FINAL ACCOUNTING

What the Republicans Promised, What They did and What They Refused to do.

At the request of the New York Journal, Senator Marion Butler made the following summing up of the work of the last republican congress.

"McKinley and his party won the last election under false pretenses. They got the votes of enough men who were friendly to silver to secure their victory under the pretense that they stood for bimetalism. About the time the American people found they had been 'buncoed' and the new secretary of the treasury announced that the gold standard was firmly established, the administration was unquestionably in a minority, and under the English system would have had to appeal to the electorate. It was at the juncture that the war with Spain began.

The administration was not in favor of this war for humanity's sake, and had to be driven into it by public sentiment, largely aroused by the information of the condition of affairs in Cuba, furnished by such enterprising newspapers as the New York Journal, and by the persistent fight made by senators and representatives in congress.

In spite of the unwillingness of the administration to take arms for the cause of humanity, and in spite of the discovery of so much jobbery and scandal in the conduct of the war, the results have been so brilliant and decisive that every American applauded credit for the results. So, this administration has been situated differently from any other administration since that of Polk, its position on national matters, its management of which would have made it unpopular, being overshadowed by foreign complications and the brilliant results of the war. The popularity of the administration has already reached and passed high water mark. The American people will not endorse the colonial policy on which the administration seems bent. The effort to saddle a large standing army on the people and the adjournment without repealing the heavy war taxes which require at least \$100 of taxes to be paid by the masses who own less than half the wealth; for every dollar to be paid by that class that owns more than one-half of the wealth; the failure to pass an income tax, which is one of the fairest and most just methods of taxation; the failure to do anything to check and restrain trusts, have assisted in undoing the popularity of the administration.

Add to them other measures which have been fathered by it and will undoubtedly be pressed at the next session of congress—as odious and infamous as the Payne-Hanna subsidy bill, which would hand the country for twenty years to pay an indefinite and increasing subsidy (which would certainly run up into the hundreds of millions, which would enable a few individuals to contribute more millions to the republican campaign fund than the Armour trust and similar favored trusts have done)—and you will see that these things, with others that would take too much space to mention, will each day more attract the attention of the people and will each day put the administration in a smaller and smaller minority. In short, what seems to be the certain future course of the administration in reference to our foreign acquisitions and also toward the great economic questions waiting for solution makes the defeat of the administration in 1900 as inevitable as fate.

MARION BUTLER.

## A CORRECTION.

Last week the Independent published an article which was clipped from the Auburn Herald, making serious charges against Mr. Lichty. We are in receipt of a letter from Mr. Abbott denying the charges made in the clipping that Mr. Abbott walked to town with a rope in his pocket and a desire to enlist in hanging Mr. Lichty. The Independent does not desire to lend itself to scattering ungrounded rumors against any man's good character, and we are glad Mr. Abbott sent in his correction. Had he confined himself to the point raised we would have published his entire letter.

Mr. Lichty also denies the truthfulness of the stories referred to. We are aware that in times of bank failures many extravagant tales are set afloat, and are inclined to accept them with allowances for excitement.

The State Journal now wants some big-trust to get hold of all the coal mines in the country. It thinks that all the trouble comes from the overproduction of coal and it advocates the socialist plan to lease the mines. After telling how there are too many coal mines it says that "a trust can regulate this evil and reduce it to minimum." There is very little difference between a gold bug paper and the doctrines of the socialist prophet.

## FUTURE LAND POLICY

What Shall the State of Nebraska Do With Its Educational Lands?

## NEAR TWO MILLION ACRES

Changes Proposed in Appraisalment Which Will Bring More School Revenue.

### A Very Important Interest.

The most valuable possession owned by the state of Nebraska is the nearly two million acres of school lands whose title is now vested in the state. The importance of the great estate is not realized now. In fifty years the value of this land will be at least \$75,000,000, and the income from it will give to the children of the state of Nebraska the best school system of any state in the union. The care of this vast heritage is the most important work for the state government at Lincoln. Several bills affecting these lands are now pending before the legislature and it is of importance that the state thoroughly understand the questions presented by them and the condition of the school lands at present.

For the first time in the past fifteen years the report of the commissioner of public lands and buildings shows accurately the condition of all these lands. A summary of this is here given:

Total acres common school lands received by the state.....2,815,280.80  
Total sold..... 898,189.78

Now owned by the state...1,922,040.57  
Under lease.....1,056,527.62  
Vacant..... 865,514.96

Total acres university lands received by the state..... 45,426.06  
Total sold..... 30,734.40

Now owned by the state... 14,701.68  
Under lease..... 14,314.48  
Vacant..... 887.20

Total acres agricultural college lands received by the state..... 80,148.00  
Total sold..... 77,420.18

Under lease..... 11,688.42  
Vacant..... 40.00

Total school lands owned by state.....1,922,040.57  
Total university lands..... 14,701.68  
Total agricultural college lands..... 11,728.42

Total acres educational lands.....1,948,470.67

All of these lands are by the act of the 1897 legislature reserved from sale and set aside for rental perpetually, the rent money to go into the temporary school and temporary university funds. There was received from the rental of these lands, together with penalties and premiums, for the two years from Dec. 1, 1896, to Dec. 1, 1898, the following sums:

For the common school funds.....\$ 205,616.06  
For the university and agricultural college funds..... 16,349.99

Total.....\$ 221,966.05

There are over 800,000 acres of common school lands unleased and unsold and therefore producing no revenue. The reason for this and the need of a change in the present law are well set forth by Commissioner Wolfe as follows:

"I find that in some of the western and, particularly, the northwestern counties the school lands were appraised in boom times and with a very vague and, what has proven to be, a very erroneous idea of the use to which they could be profitably applied. They were undoubtedly appraised as agricultural lands, but the fact has developed that, for the want of moisture, they are only reliable and profitable for grazing purposes, and the consequence is that a very large amount of unleased land, consisting of over 850,000 acres, mostly situated in this arid portion of our state, will not, in my opinion, be taken until a lower appraisal is made, and, believing as I do, that it is better that this land should be leased, even at a nominal rental, than to remain idle, and doubting the ability of any board of appraisers to set such value upon this land as will enable the commissioners to lease all, or any considerable portion of the same, and not favoring a re-appraisal of all the school lands I would suggest such amendment to the law as will enable the commissioner of public lands and buildings, when offering these lands for lease, and unable to find a person willing to take the same at six per cent upon its present appraisalment, to put the same up at auction and lease it to the person who will pay six per cent upon the highest appraisalment, letting the lessee, in competition with other bidders, be the judge of its worth; and action having first been duly advertised in one or more papers in the county in which the land is located."

To carry out the recommendation of the commissioner Senator Reynolds has introduced senate bill 189, which makes the following important changes in the school land law. Section 15, which

(Continued on Sixth Page.)