

## Clippings.

## FIAT FIXED IT.

Fiat fixed the price of gold, fiat can fix a price on silver. If you do not believe gold is fiat money, demonetize it and see how quickly it will fall to the price that demand, for it in the arts will fix—Madison Star.

## PRICES GO DOWN.

As an evidence of how the "immense" crop is tending toward stopping the "croaking" and bringing prosperity to the farmers we call attention to the present prices for the new crop of wheat—40 cents. Two weeks ago the price was 55 cents. As long as the crop is in the hands of the farmers the price is low. When the speculators get it up goes the price.—Madison Star.

## MCKINLEY'S WAR

We call the Philippine war, McKinley's war, because he began it, without asking the consent of Congress, which, according to ancient ideas, supposed to have the sole power of declaring war. We call it McKinley's war, furthermore, because McKinley could have prevented it and the cost of life and treasure, if he had acted toward the representatives of the Filipino people even with the common courtesy which one gentleman always shows to another.—Bayonet.

## 1,000,000 MORE.

Mr. Bryan, nominated in 1900 will have the same 6,500,000 votes which he received in 1894 without a doubt. In addition it would not be surprising if he received at least a million more votes from those influenced to vote for him and the principles of the Democratic party by the issues which have risen since '96 and in respect to which the Republican party has shown a tendency to swing farther and farther away from the ideas of its founders and from the principles which have guided the nation along the lines of progress.—Buffalo Times.

## WE TOLD YOU SO

By a practically unanimous vote the three conventions of the popular forces nominated for supreme judge a man who was not the first choice of the Times. This paper and its editor used all honorable means to prevent that nomination. But what is our duty now? Simply this:

Bryan expects of every friend this year his duty. And every friend of Bryan answers true:

"The imperialists shall not carry Nebraska"—Papillion Times.

## A GREAT SCHEME

The army in the Philippines is, according to the plans now preparing, to consist, soon, of over 50,000 men. It has been estimated somewhere, that each private costs the United States at the rate of \$100 per month. Here we have a cost of \$25,000,000 per year for an army to subjugate the Philippines so that our wage workers may have the opportunity of emigrating there and competing with the Filipino natives at the rate of 10 cents per day of eight hours work, or our farmers may take up plantations and submit to be rack-rented by the Spanish friars who own all the land worth owning.—Bayonet.

## TO RISE NO MORE

Although it happens, on the average, not oftener than once in a generation that there is a genuine uprising of the people in opposition to the rich and powerful classes, whenever such an uprising does take place it is irresistible. On such occasions the men who oppose the masses of the people are retired permanently from politics. No matter how great their power may have been before, if they oppose the people in one of these genuine uprisings that occurs after long intervals, when some great issue stirs the people, the politician who opposes them goes down to rise no more.—National Watchman.

## WHAT WE CLAIM.

We do not claim that the populist party is all perfect and all wise. We do not claim that the populist party does not make mistakes. We do not claim that there are not men of virtue and patriotism in the republican ranks. What we do claim is that we realize that conditions as they now exist deprive the laborer of the largest proportion of the fruits of his labor and that these conditions have been brought about by the legislation of the past forty years. We claim that the party which represents all the vested interests, all the corporate wealth, all the monopolies which have concentrated in their hands, the products of the labor of the mass of the people should not be trusted with the government of the people. We do not expect to reform everything at once; progress is by slow stages and the road to right is a toilsome one, but we do claim that we are animated by the desire to establish the reign of justice here upon earth.—Bayonet.

## WORDS OF WISDOM.

There is a moral of all human tales,  
'Tis but the same rehearsal of the past,  
First freedom and then glory—when that fails  
Wealth, vice, corruption—barbarism at last.  
And history, with all her volumes vast, hath but  
one page."

As long as you have a boundless extent of fertile and unoccupied land, your laboring population will be far more at ease than the laboring population of the old world, and while that is the case the Jefferson policies may continue to exist without causing any fatal calamity.—Lord Macaulay.

But since we live in an epoch of change and too probably of revolution, and thoughts which are not to be put aside are in the minds of all men capable of thought, I am obliged to affirm the one principle which can, and in the end will, close all epochs of revolution—that each man will possess the ground he can use, and no more.—John Ruskin.

## POPULISM OR SOCIALISM

In your issue of August 17, 1899, you undertake to answer my argument by denouncing it as socialism. Your first sentence is: "The above is clean cut, straight socialism." Then on your editorial page you give me a very kind touching up for advocating socialism and you there say: "The proposition advocated by him is in direct conflict to the principles of the populist party as expressed in its national platform." Let us see who is correct.

After describing certain evils I said: "but the best remedy obtainable is nationalism, co-operation through the government; government ownership of monopolistic industries."

Our national platform of 1896 declared for government ownership and operation of railroads and telegraphs and the establishment of government postal savings banks. In our state platform we have repeatedly declared in favor of municipal ownership and operation of all city utilities. Will you be kind enough to point out to me the difference in principle between these platform demands of the populist party and the remedy that I proposed?

Is the national post-office socialistic? Are our public schools socialistic? Would it be socialism for government to own and operate the railroads and telegraph and telephone lines and to establish and operate postal savings banks; and for cities to own and operate street cars, lighting plants and water-works?

But I deny emphatically that it is socialism to advocate these reforms; it is populism. It may be conceded that there is an element of socialism in such a policy. But, taking you on your own definition of socialism, it is far removed from the "collective ownership of all means of production and distribution," involving, as this does, the collective ownership of all property. As you have yourself said a number of times this year, this idea of the collective ownership of all property is the foundation of socialism. Populism is nationalism, co-operation through the government, limited to those important lines of industry that are naturally monopolistic.

To break the great railroad trust, let the government take over to itself a number of the trunk lines of railroad. To break the telegraph and telephone trusts, let the government take over the telegraph and telephone lines. To break the banking trust, let the government establish and operate postal savings banks. To break the trusts or monopolies existing in all the cities, let the cities run their own street cars, lighting plants and water-works. These reforms are specifically demanded in our national and state platforms. This is what I advocated in the article which you criticize; only this and nothing more.

There is no question of overproduction discussed in that article; you have mis-understood it entirely. The real question I discussed is: Unfair and unjust distribution. The remedy I proposed is: Government ownership of certain lines of industry.

The figures I gave were given for the purpose of showing that the owner of the improved machine and of the steam that runs it possessed such an advantage over the laborer who is tied to it by his necessities, that such owner inevitably takes more than his fair share of the profits accruing from the joint labor of the machine and the man.

For instance, the railroads: Why can a poor man ride six miles for one cent in Germany, while it costs him three cents to ride one mile in the United States? The answer is: Government ownership; and many similar questions are answered in the same way. Who pockets the difference in the cost? The owner of the improved machine, or means of transportation, or whatever improvement it may be that is used. Here is unjust distribution. The large profit that flows from the use of the improvement goes to the already wealthy few. It ought to go to all the people; and it does under government ownership and management.

You assert that my argument has been answered a thousand times. This shows again your misapprehension of my argument; for these questions are very modern, not yet a quarter of a century old; for it is within the last twenty-five years that this condition has come upon the world, the spectacle of the capitalistic class becoming the task-masters of the toilers by means of the hitherto unknown improved machinery and industrial facilities. Such improvements never before existed; hence capital never before had the use of them; hence the question never existed until recently; hence the necessity of government ownership of transportation and other improved industrial facilities, was never so imperative as now.

You ask: How will public ownership help us to pay our debts? I answer: By a more equal and just distribution of the products of toil. Now the man who toils with the machine cannot retain his just share of the joint earnings. By reason of the conditions I have referred to and set forth more fully in my other article, capital takes a large share that belongs to the laborer. For instance the recent advances in prices, forced by the trusts, which live by the ownership and use of improved machinery and industrial facilities. The tin plate trust recently advanced wages \$500,000 a year and at the same time, or within a short time it has advanced the price of tin plate so as to gather an additional profit of \$20,000,000 a year. Take away improved machinery and improved industrial facilities and every trust would die. These improvements take the place of men who are dearer, but the benefits go chiefly, not all but chiefly, into the pockets of the few who are already wealthy. This makes paupers of the multitudes: this is why debts can not be paid. Give us government ownership of the lines I have mentioned and a long step will be taken to compel a just distribution to all laborers of the joint products of labor and capital.

Whether Prof. Herkira is entirely correct in his figures or not, yet every intelligent man knows that steam and electricity are now doing more work than was done by all the men in the world 100 years ago; and that much of the pauperism of today is due to the impossibility to obtain work.

I willingly leave the question in the

hands of your readers, whether I stand for populism or socialism.

Kearney, Neb. W. L. HAND.

They didn't have any of this improved machinery in the old Roman empire, yet John Stuart Mill and every other standard economist has pointed out how the wealth of the whole empire concentrated in the hands of the few by means of the increasing purchasing power of money. This argument that the concentration of wealth is caused by the invention of improved machinery is not sound. It is the fall—the constant and long continued fall—for twenty-five years in prices that has caused this concentration of wealth. If the quantity of money was increased in the same proportion as the increase in production, there would be none of this trust business or concentration of wealth.

Populists believe that inventions and improvements of all kinds should be welcomed and fostered. The more labor saving machinery that there is in use, the more wealth will there be produced. That wealth can be equitably distributed by the control of the volume of money in the interest of the people.

What was objected to was an assault upon this principle. The two points made in the former article to which objection was made, in regard to the free coinage of silver and the increase in the volume of money were in direct conflict with the populist platform. The argument was the old goldbug argument as well as the socialist argument. The gold bugs said, and still say, that the farmer ought to get a less price for his wheat because of the labor saving harvester, binder and improved threshers.

That all the benefit should go to the interest taker and bond holder. The populists say that the price of wheat should have remained stable. Then the producer would have had the benefit of improved machinery. But under the management of the money power, all the benefit goes to "capital" as the phrase goes, but in fact to the office holder, the money lender and the bond holder. It is not the harvester—not improved machinery that has done this. It is the fall in price of wheat from \$1.50 to 50 cents a bushel.

If the position taken were true, the correct remedy would be to destroy the labor saving machines.

Burn up the harvester, the mower and the threshing machine and go back to the sickle and the flail. It is not the over production of wealth by means of improved machinery that makes the masses poor and the rich grow richer. It is because prices are not stable. Every time a machine is invented that produces more, prices fall in exact proportion. If prices remained the same, the producer would get the benefit of the machine. That is not only the populist doctrine, but the science of political economy as taught by every authority on the subject.

## OUR PLAIN DUTY

Our duty is plain. It is to quicken the intellect and the conscience of our people by education.

The duty of the hour is to see that every American home is visited weekly by such newspapers as represent the people's cause and are not in the service of Mammon. Spurn the free gifts of reading matter, whether in the form of weekly editions of a subsidized commercial press furnished at a price often less than one-fourth of the cost, or pamphlets furnished free. Remember that the enemies of liberty who have overtaken the overthrow of the Republic and the establishment of a military despotism are now in the midst of their deadly work and that their success depends upon confusing the intellects of honest people. Therefore, arouse yourselves now while time is on your side. Remember that your work must be done this year. Next year sides will be taken by the people, after which their ignorance or their prejudices cannot easily be overcome. After the money kings start the free distribution of newspapers and pamphlets and the air is filled with the eloquence of party spell binders and the noise and glare of fireworks it will be too late to reclaim honest voters who can easily be reclaimed if the right reading matter is put into their hands this year. Duty calls us to act now. Next year may be too late. Let us accept the call of duty and enter at once upon the work of arousing the intellect and conscience of the nation. If we do our duty it does under government ownership and management.

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## Care for Excessive Perspiration.

A frequent and most annoying summer ailment is that of excessive perspiration of the feet. Sufferers from this should be careful that their boots and shoes are roomy and that they have clean stockings every day. The feet should be washed night and morning and in bad cases still more often, in salted water, or in water to which a little carbonate of soda has been added. After washing dust the feet with this powder: Washed sulphur, 30 grains; salicylic acid, 7 grains; powdered arrowroot, 4 ounces. Excessive perspiration of the body is generally an indication of weakness, and a tonic or range of air often acts beneficially. Bathing the skin with sage tea is often recommended, and this remedy has certainly the merit of simplicity.—Boston Post.

## The Great Wall of China.

The great wall of China, built by the first emperor of the Tsin dynasty, about 220 B. C., is 1,250 miles long. Including a parapet of five feet, its total height is 20 feet; thickness at the base, 25 feet; at the top, 15 feet. Towers occur at intervals of about 100 yards, the dimensions of which are: Base, 40 feet square; summit, 30 feet; height, from 37 to 50 feet. Earth inclosed in brickwork forms the mass of the wall, but for more than half its length it is now little else than a crumbling heap of rubbish. It was built as a guard against Tartar and other invaders, but never served its purpose. It is the man behind the gun—or, in this case, the man behind the wall—that offers the only sure defense.

## The Size of the Ocean.

The Pacific covers 68,000,000 square miles; the Atlantic 30,000,000 and the Indian ocean, Arctic and Antarctic 42,000,000. To stow away the contents of the Pacific it would be necessary to fill a tank one mile long, one mile wide and one mile deep every day for 440 years. Put in figures, the Pacific holds in weight 984,000,000,000,000,000 tons. The Atlantic averages a depth of not quite three miles. Its waters weigh 325,000,000,000,000,000 tons, and a tank to contain it would have each of its sides 450 miles long. The figures of the other oceans are in the same startling proportions.

## Clever Wasps.

Among the insects whose proceedings sometimes suggest the thought that they are guided by something closely akin to reason are the solitary wasps. These wasps kill caterpillars, spiders and other insects by stinging them, and then bury the victims in burrows containing their own eggs, thus furnishing food for their larvae as they hatch out. The operation of making and closing up the burrows is a curious and interesting one to watch particularly when the wasps use—as they occasionally do—a small stone to pound down the earth.

## Afraid the Thames Will Run Dry.

Mr. McDouall of the London County Council, is afraid that the Thames will run dry, owing to the dams that are being built in the upper reaches of the river. Whereas last year 843,000,000 gallons of water a day passed over Teddington Weir in May and 429,000,000 gallons in June, the figures for this year are 550,000,000 gallons in May and 230,000,000 gallons in June. In one day of July only 142,000,000 gallons flowed over. It is feared that the result may be an epidemic of disease, arising from the undiluted sewage of the city.

## Village of Colored People.

Oberton is a village in the Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory, of about 500 inhabitants, all of whom are colored. The postmaster is a colored man, the notary public is colored, and there is a colored marshal. The town has not yet been incorporated, but likely will be soon, at which time the entire set of officers will be colored. There is considerable business enterprise among some of the people of the neighborhood, which comprises a circle of fifteen miles.

## Bug Lifts Three Pounds.

Justice of the Peace John J. Hare, of this city, has a strange bug that can lift three pounds with his pincers. He captured the bug on the sidewalk and took it into his store, and while holding it in a pair of pincers the bug took hold of a box of watch screws weighing three pounds, and when Mr. Hare pulled the bug away it held on to the box for three minutes and had a good hold at the end of that time.—Philadelphia Times.

## Elephants in Ceylon.

The elephant shooting of Ceylon is the best in the world, and the easiest attainable. The Ceylon elephants have been carefully preserved by the government, which regulates the shooting according to the number of animals. The idea is to keep a constant herd of 2,000, and when there is not an excess of this number the shooting is forbidden absolutely.