

ABLEBODIED IGNORANCE

Displayed by Nebraska's Two Leading Corporation Orators on the Eve of Election.

IGNORANCE OR LYING—WHICH?

Thurston Talks About Silver, and Marquette Replies to Weaver—Their Ignorance Shown Up.

Campaign Speeches Reviewed.

John M. Thurston, the silver tongued republican orator who draws an annual salary of \$12,000 from the U. P. railway company, spoke in Lincoln the night before the Weaver rally. In his alleged discussion of the silver question he used the following language as reported in the next morning's Journal:

I think there is more able-bodied ignorance on the silver question than any other. I am not sure but I might say able-bodied lying. [Laughter.]

Let me epitomize the silver legislation. From 1792 to 1873 we had free and unlimited silver coinage, but there was only coined a little over 8,000,000 of silver dollars. We had produced little silver then.

In 1873 the silver in the bullion was worth a little more than in the dollar by weight. Then was passed the bill authorizing the trade dollar of 412 grains, and there was no more free coinage of silver up to 1878. Then, a law was passed authorizing congress to buy \$24,000,000 in silver each year and coin it into dollars. In 1890 the law was again changed and the amount bought each month was made \$4,500,000. In thirteen years the republican party has given the people, either in coin or in silver certificates, \$500,000,000, as against the \$8,000,000 in eighty-one years previous.

On Wednesday night Hon. W. L. Greene spoke in Bohanan's hall. He took up Mr. Thurston's remarks. He agreed that there was a great deal of "able-bodied ignorance" on the silver question, and said Thurston was one of the best living examples of it. He said Thurston's statement regarding the coinage of standard dollars before 1873 was not very far wrong, although it was incorrect.

Greene then cited the volume and page in Blaine's "Twenty years in congress" where a table is found giving the coinage of silver from the foundation of the government. This table shows that up to the end of 1871, about \$293,000,000 of silver had been coined, or thirty-six times as much as Thurston had stated. This amount was composed mainly of half dollars, quarters and dimes. Thurston had tried to make his audience believe the eight million standard dollars was all the silver that had been coined.

Mr. Greene might have found several other evidences of "able-bodied ignorance" or vigorous misrepresentation in Thurston's remarks. For instance see how he slips over the fact that the standard dollar was clandestinely dropped from the coinage in 1873. He says the trade dollar was "authorized" in that bill, but he knows or ought to know that it was not intended to take the place of the standard dollar. It was intended for trade with China.

He says the trade dollar contained 412 grains of silver. This is false. It contained 420 grains of standard silver.

He says "there was no more free coinage of silver up to 1878." What sense is there in such a remark? There has been no "free coinage" since 1873.

Thurston makes another blunder when he says the law of 1878 "authorized congress to buy \$24,000,000 in silver each year." The law authorized the treasury department to buy not less than two million and not more than four million dollar's worth of silver bullion per month. There is quite a difference between two million dollars' worth of bullion, and enough bullion to make two million dollars.

Again he says: "In 1890 the law was again changed and the amount bought

each month was \$4,500,000." Here is more "able-bodied ignorance." The amount of silver required to be bought under the Sherman act of 1890 was 4,500,000 ounces, not dollars.

Then Mr. Thurston caps the climax of ignorance or demagoguery, whichever it may be, by claiming credit for the republican party for the coinage of silver during the past thirteen years. If Thurston made this claim in earnest his able-bodied ignorance ought to make him the laughing stock of Nebraska school-boys to say nothing of intelligent voters. Let us see what the facts are:

The silver bill passed in 1878 was known as the "Bland law." Bland is known to every school-boy in the land as the free coinage democratic leader. The bill was passed at a time when the democrats had a majority in both the house and senate. It was passed by a union of the democrats, greenbackers, and a few free coinage republicans. It was sent to Hayes a republican president who vetoed it. It came back to congress, passed both houses over his veto. It was condemned in the most severe terms by General Grant who called it a "repudiation measure," and even advised the capitalists of the country to annul its effect by making contracts payable in gold only. It was fought and condemned by most of the leaders of the republican party. Every republican administration since then has recommended the repeal of the Bland law. Every republican secretary of the treasury has discriminated against silver by coining the smallest amount required by law, and by refusing to pay government bonds in silver coin. Such in brief is the record of the republican party on silver up to 1890.

Then came on the great up-rising of the people in favor of full remonetization of silver. A free coinage bill passed the senate. It came very near passing the house. Wall street became alarmed. Something must be done to check this agitation. So their ablest and most trusted servant, John Sherman, introduced a bill which for a time lauded to the skies by republicans as a great step toward remonetization of silver. As a matter of fact it was just the reverse. Under it silver is treated purely as a commodity. The coinage of silver has been suspended, and the treasury notes issued contain an exception clause which denies to them the legal-tender quality in payment of contracts made payable in gold.

Only four months ago Sherman, the author of this law introduced a bill for its repeal. Only a month ago he stated in a letter that "the act of 1890 was adopted to prevent much worse legislation by the democratic party aided by a few republicans," that is, free coinage. Yet in face of all these facts John M. Thurston has the dense ignorance, or sublime gall to "point with pride" to what the republican party has done for silver!

ANOTHER CASE.

But Thurston's ignorance is not a whit more "able-bodied" than that of T. M. Marquette, of Lincoln, leading attorney for the B. & M. Mr. Marquette spoke at Plattsmouth on last Saturday evening. He went over the same ground as Mr. Thurston and made pretty much all the same blunders, and a good many others which we have not space to expose.

Finally he undertook to answer General Weaver's argument on the financial question. In his speech at Lincoln, General Weaver made a showing of the amount of money in circulation at the close of the war. He quoted from Comptroller of the currency, John J. Knox, and Secretary McCullough showing the amount of money in circulation in 1865 to be as follows:

United States notes, over..	\$1,700,000,000
State bank notes.....	58,000,000
Gold and silver.....	100,000,000
National bank notes.....	146,000,000
Total.....	\$2,004,000,000

This total amount of currency at the close of the war was in use among the people of the north, about 25,000,000 in number, and made not less than \$80 per capita. After the war when this money became distributed throughout the south it made over \$50 per capita for the people of the whole nation. General Weaver then went on to show that we now have only about \$1,600,000,000 of money in circulation, according to Secretary Foster, making no allowance

for paper money lost and destroyed, coin shipped out of the country, and currency held as reserves in banks. Now we have 65,000,000 people. In other words since the close of the war, the population using the money has increased thirty-nine million, while the amount of money has DECREASED four hundred million.

Now to come back to Mr. Marquette. In his Plattsmouth speech he replies to Mr. Weaver as follows:

"General Weaver stated that immediately after the war we had some \$80 per capita, and now he claims that there is only about \$25 per capita. He claimed that there were good times when we had that amount of money per capita; everything so high—three times as high as it is now, and that one thing brought us prosperity. If that is so, that prosperity then was brought about by republican legislation and the principal part of the legislation was the establishment of banks and the issuing of money therefrom. That was the principal source that made money plenty then. That was what blessed the people with plenty of money. Gold and silver were very scarce, especially silver. They did not count in that good time. The principal agency was the United States banks. Now, if that be true we admit that the circulation of the United States banks has been curtailed for the reason that the way matters are now the bonds that they have to secure with are so low that it does not pay to issue money by the United States banks. For instance, the First National bank of Lincoln floats only a little over \$40,000. It might float \$360,000, but the way the law is it cannot afford to float the money. If, then, we had good times when the government made such arrangements with the national banks that they floated plenty of money, why not note the cause and amend the law so that they can again afford to float the same amount of money? Like causes produce like effects, and if plenty of money is what makes prosperity, it does not matter where it comes from, the same prosperity will flow from the same cause. But while Weaver suggests that this amount of money furnished largely by the banks, made prosperity shortly after the war, he is now fighting the very thing that gave us that prosperity—the bank. He is fighting against any more issue of money, he is going to do away with the causes that gave us prosperity at one time, and he is fighting for an imaginary currency, and for unlimited silver, which can be used in very limited quantities, and is bound to kill the source which made us once as he says a prosperous people."

How is that for "able-bodied ignorance, or I might say able-bodied lying?" It is the most robust specimen we have heard of.

Is it possible that T. M. Marquette is an ignoramus? If not we are compelled to believe that he thinks the voters of Nebraska are ignoramuses who can be imposed upon with such stuff.

He makes no effort to dispute General Weaver's statement that there were two billion dollars of money in circulation in 1865, but sets up the claim that the principal source from which this money came was the national banks. Yet Mr. Weaver quoted from the comptroller of the currency's report that the amount of national bank notes in circulation in 1865 was only 146 million, less than one-sixth of the whole amount in circulation. The greatest amount of national bank notes we ever had in circulation was 354, million in 1875.

The amount in circulation June 30, 1891 was about 168 million. Thus we had last year 22 million dollars more of national bank notes in circulation than we had in 1865.

On the other hand the 1700 millions of United States notes in circulation in 1865 were withdrawn and destroyed till in 1878 we had had only 346 million which have remained in circulation ever since. Here was a contraction of more than \$1,354,000,000.

And this eminent corporation demagogue has the supreme gall to arraign Weaver for "fighting against anymore issue of money!" He says we should note the cause of the present scarcity of money, and so amend the law as to remove the cause and put a large amount of currency into circulation. He evidently refers to the amendment of the national bank act. General

Weaver and the people's party propose to restore silver to free and unlimited coinage, and re-issue the United States notes.

These speeches of Thurston and Marquette are not in themselves worthy of the serious discussion we have given them. Our object in writing them up at this length is not so much to refute them, as to show the intelligent people of the state how absolutely untrustworthy they are as teachers. The intelligent people of the state ought to feel humiliated to have such speeches spread before the country as the utterances of Nebraska's leading orators. And the day is not far distant when it will be almost incredible that the political thought and action of the west were moulded and controlled by such men.

Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Davis

Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, her son Jesse and his wife and only child, a bright little boy, are registered at Cranstan's Hotel, West Point. The other day Mrs. Jefferson Davis and her daughter arrived at West Point and are also stopping at Cranston's. Thus the widow of the first and only President of the Confederacy, and that of the Union General who broke the power of the South and compelled Davis to discontinue his dreams of a southern confederacy are under the same roof. Mrs. Grant is now a stout, medium-sized, gray-haired lady, past the prime of life, with a pleasant word and smile for her friends. Almost every day she and her daughter-in-law and the little boy may be seen seated in a carriage that is being rapidly driven toward the West Point Academy.

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