

ANOTHER CONVERT

Governor O'Ferrall Decides in Favor of Sound Money.

All the Commercial Nations of the World Are on a Gold Basis—The Free Coinage of Silver Would Cause Stagnation of Trade in the United States.

Governor O'Ferrall of Virginia adds another name to the already long list of prominent men who have changed their position on the silver question after long and careful study. His recent four column open letter in the Richmond Dispatch will give comfort to the "friends of silver." We reprint the following extracts from it:

"I am opposed to the free coinage of silver in the United States except through an international agreement with the great commercial countries of the world.

"I do not believe this country alone can maintain a parity between gold and silver at any fixed ratio.

"We are strong in resources and in all the elements that go to make a nation powerful, but we are not strong enough to live within ourselves, trade only with ourselves, raise and manufacture all we need, consume and use all we produce and make, import nothing, export nothing and have no commercial relations with other countries. To deal, then, with other countries our money must be measured by their standard when we are in their markets and the principal countries whose markets we seek and with which we must deal in selling and buying have a gold standard.

"It may be surprising to some to know it, yet it is an incontrovertible fact that gold standard countries furnish 87 1/2 per cent of the international commerce of the world, and that about 94 per cent of the exports of the United States are to countries having a gold standard, and about 80 per cent of our imports are from countries having the same standard.

"Shall we cut loose in our monetary system from these countries of such commercial power and attach ourselves to the small and weak nationalities to which we sell scarcely anything, and from which our purchases are absolutely insignificant?

"There is no country that has a double monetary standard. Wherever there is free silver coinage, silver monometallism prevails. All countries with a gold standard utilize silver as far as it can be kept at a parity with gold. That is, gold countries use both metals as money; silver countries only silver. The independent free coinage of silver in the United States would place her on a silver standard and in direct antagonism to the standard of the countries with which she does nearly all of her business.

"Will the United States lower her crest, withdraw from the strong sisterhood of nations which whitens the seas with the sails of commerce and unite her monetary fortunes with the weak combination whose craft are scarcely ever seen and whose products and fruits constitute so small a percentage in the grand total?

"Will she continue to stand with Germany, Austria, France and England, or link her destiny with China, Japan and Mexico?

"These are my views, stated briefly and concisely as possible.

"For the reasons given I am opposed to the doctrine of free and unlimited silver coinage without international agreement with the principal commercial countries of the world. We cannot adopt a monetary system different from these great nationalities and force them to recognize it. We cannot float a 50 cent silver dollar as a sound dollar in this country, much less in the markets of Germany, France, Austria or England, with whom our interests are closely identified. There are many things we can do regardless of the opinions or wishes of other lands. We can amend or change our system of government, manage our internal affairs and enact laws to govern our own people without let or hindrance from any foreign source, but there is one thing we cannot do. We cannot coerce other peoples and lands to recognize any money we may see proper to engrave or coin as a medium of exchange between them and us. As well might we attempt to change the laws of gravitation or make water run up hill.

"I am for a sound dollar, and what I mean by a sound dollar is one that will pass for 100 cents and be as good as any other dollar anywhere within the limits of the civilized world. Gold is that dollar now. Silver may also be kept on a parity with gold. But this can only be done by international agreement. What I mean by a sound dollar is one that the farmer, the mechanic and the laboring man can use with a purchasing power of 100 cents and buy as much with it as any other dollar. What I mean by a sound dollar is one that its holder may lay away to buy a home, save for a rainy day or provide for himself in old age with absolute certainty that it will be as good as any other dollar when he wants to use it. Gold is that dollar. Silver cannot be used by international agreement it is made equivalent to a gold dollar.

"I am for a sound dollar for the poor man as well as for the rich man. I shall never consent to a monetary system which will place it in the power of the rich man to hoard his gold and pay his poor creditor in a depreciated dollar."

A Surprising Spectacle.

If you see a man dodge around and dart up an alley as though a brick had been hurled at him, you may know it is a Knight of Labor trying to get away from a national bank note that has been tendered him.—Chicago Times-Herald.

Point For Free Silverites.

Why don't all the free silver men demand their wages in silver? That would do more to unload the treasury of it and restore it to its "proper place" than anything else.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

WHY PROSPERITY RETURNED.

Because the Drift of Public Opinion is Opposed to a Silver Basis.

Secretary of the Navy Hilary A. Herbert delivered a strong sound currency speech at Montgomery, Ala., on Oct. 4. He said in part:

"What our currency shall consist of is a question to be decided on business principles. There is a sentimental objection to gold indulged in by some—that it is the money of the rich—but it does not seem to me that this should have any weight because, in my opinion, the poor man is entitled to as good money as the rich. There is a sentimental argument in favor of the silver dollar because it is said to have been 'the dollar of our fathers.' It does not seem to me that this argument should have any weight, because it is not founded on fact.

"The fair presumption is that neither your father nor mine nor any other man's father who died prior to 1873 ever handled enough American silver dollars to keep him out of the poorhouse.

"I know of no more effective way of crippling the south and its industries than for our people to clamor for the payment of debts already contracted and hereafter to be contracted in depreciated silver dollars.

"Fortunately for this country the effects of the panic of 1893 are rapidly passing away. Money has begun to flow again in its accustomed channels. Wheat has risen in price, cotton has risen in price, iron has risen in price, industries are reopening everywhere, wages are increasing, and all this comes from the fact that the capitalists of this country who are shrewd, farseeing and who watch with keen eye the doings of every political convention have come to the conclusion that the free silver sentiment in the United States is not strong enough and not powerful enough to force this country to a silver basis.

"They understand that there is no free silver sentiment in the east, none in New England, none in New York, none in Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware or Pennsylvania.

"They see that Republicans and Democrats in the state of Ohio have pronounced against free silver; that Republicans and Democrats in the state of Kentucky have pronounced against free silver; that only part of the Democrats in the other states of the west and south are for free silver, and they are confident, as I am, that the people of the United States, whatever else may happen, will in 1896 pronounce for the continuance of sound money, for the parity with gold of every dollar of silver and of paper now afloat or to be floated in the United States."

Measures of Value.

A dollar is not a measure of length, breadth, thickness or weight, but of value. A measure of length, breadth and thickness must have standard length in order to be a true measure. A measure of weight must have true weight, but when it comes to considering what shall be the requisite quality of a measure of value the free silver people say that value is of no moment, remarks the Mobile Register; that if it have a certain name stamped on it and be called a true measure of value it will be a true measure of value. This is as absurd as would be an attempt to call a yard stick of 30 inches a true measure of length, or a pound of ten ounces weight a true measure of weight. The only true measure of value is a measure which contains full value. Any other sort of a measure which is offered as a true measure is false and will be rejected by the people.—Floridian.

The Free Silver Chimera.

The ridiculous attempt of the silver contingent to commit the United States to free coinage—to the exchange of 50 cents' worth of silver for a dollar in gold—rivals in its absurdity and enthusiasm the wildest chimera of romantic fiction. It carries us back to the fond but futile search for the fountain of everlasting youth, to the medieval alchemists' theory of the transmutation of metals and to the beautiful mythological story of Midas and the golden touch.—Philadelphia Record.

Simple Simon Up to Date.



Free Simon made a great speech and though it is in his favor he had a crowd behind him, but he got the ball wrong.



Place for Public Money.

Some time ago, says the Youth's Companion, in speaking of the widening use of electric cars, we pointed out that in the cities they have largely supplanted the horse as an agent of transportation. It may be well to say a word now concerning the state of our country highways, on which as yet the horse has no rival, except, perhaps, the bicycle. The growth of our railways, steam and electric, is no excuse for the neglect of our common roads.

If any one doubts that we have neglected them most culpably, let him look into the volume of Consular Reports on Foreign Streets and Highways, issued in 1891 by the government at Washington. From these reports it appears that no other country in Christendom, with the possible exception of Russia, has been so negligent.

In France, for instance, the highways approach perfection—a fact to which the prosperity of the French peasantry is generally attributed. The first Napoleon, in the intervals of his many wars, laid the foundations of the system. Napoleon III. completed it. The result is a network of admirable roads stretching out over the whole country, under the constant inspection and care of specially trained engineers.

Germany is not far behind. Great Britain learned her lesson a century ago from the celebrated Mr. Macadam, and has never forgotten it. The countries of Southern Europe have profited richly by their legacy from the Romans, the great road-builders of antiquity. Hardly anywhere on the continent, in fact, would the mud and ruts of our American roads be tolerated.

Our backwardness may be attributed to the newness of the country and the rapidity with which it has been settled; but a more abiding cause is found in the nature of our constitution, and in the strong instinct of local self-government among our people. Since the abandonment of the famous Cumberland Road in 1838, the national government has done practically nothing. The States have for the most part confined themselves to general and merely permissive legislation on the subject. Everywhere the highways have been left to the local authorities.

The result has been the widest diversity of plan and method. In some sections the work is done mainly by convicts. In others, any citizen is liable to be called out to work on the roads for a certain number of days in the year. In certain counties of Virginia, and elsewhere, the toll system is still prevalent.

The practical advantages of a more centralized system, like that of France, are manifest. Frequently towns and counties through which important highways pass are too poor to maintain them properly. Important questions of routes, topography and materials are constantly arising, which require investigation on a wide scale.

Scientific training is needed to fit a man for the difficult work of road building, and this is certainly not common among town and county officers. An authority on the subject declares that the present haphazard system has not produced fifty competent highway engineers throughout the United States.

It has been demonstrated by actual tests that the force required to draw a ton on a muddy earth road is sufficient to draw four tons on a hard macadamized road. When we remember that nearly all agricultural products, not to speak of other commodities, must be hauled at least two or three miles in wagons before the railroads can touch them, it is apparent what an advantage the European has over the American farmer in this respect.

Multiply by three or four the cost of hauling to the stations the total of the crops which the railroads handle every year, and you have a rough estimate of the annual saving to the farmers alone which would result from a system of properly constructed highways. In the long run, other classes would derive almost an equal benefit from the change.

Even if we concede that the abandonment of road building by the national government is final, there seems to be no reason why the States should follow the example. Some of the older States have recently awakened to the importance of the subject. Certainly it is hard to find a better investment for the public money than the betterment of the common roads.

A Veteran of 1812.

A conspicuous figure at the celebration of the Society of the War of 1812 in Baltimore recently was Capt. James Hooper. Captain Hooper was born on July 5, 1804, and when 10 years old was a powder boy on the United States schooner Comet in the Chesapeake bay, on which his father was an officer. He remembers the events of his early years, and no one applauded more enthusiastically than he the allusions to them made by the speakers at the park celebration. The appearance of Captain Hooper does not indicate his extreme age. He is of tall and command-

ing stature, agile in movement, and looks ten years younger than he is. The captain occupied a seat in the park pavilion, together with members of the society, invited guests and those who took part in the exercises.

CHOLERA IN CHINA.

Over 2,000 Deaths Daily in the Capital of the Flowery Kingdom.

William E. Curtis, who has just returned from China, says that cholera has attained fearful proportions in that country. The Chinese are dying by thousands. I passed, he says, through the streets of Peking, Shanghai and Tien-Tsin, and saw cholera victims dead and dying on every hand. It is no uncommon sight to see the dead bodies of cholera victims lying on the street in one block, and in the next a lot of Chinese gorging themselves with raw cucumbers and melons. The cholera is all attributable to the filthy habits of the Chinese and the weather.

In Peking they have a plan of issuing permits for the removal of bodies outside the city walls. No bodies are interred within the walls. To secure permission a cash is dropped into a box—a 20th of one cent. At night the cash receptacle is full. It contains from 2,000 to 3,000 pieces of coin, and when it is considered that nearly all of these deaths result from cholera the enormous extent of the disease can readily be judged. The disease is as bad at Shanghai and Tien-Tsin, and is also moving down Chinese by the hundreds in other parts of the infected country.

Saved by Gold.

I got the gold up at El Paso, Texas, but in some way one of the beggarly crew at the hotel in Oaxaca saw that I was carrying something in the small of my back, and the result of that was I was followed when I set out for Tehuantepec. They allowed me to go on unmolested until I was within a day of San Carlos, and then one of them seemed to have taken a short cut through the mountains and concealed himself in the brush until I passed. Then he gave it to me with a shotgun loaded with slugs of lead, and I caught it in the small of the back.

The force of the blow knocked me down over the pommel of the saddle. When there I had the presence of mind to keep on falling slowly, as if entirely done for. Meantime I got an American navy revolver in my hand and cocked it. The beggar who had shot me, seeing me fall, ran from the brush, machete in one hand and gun in the other, while his partner appeared around the mountain with his horse on the gallop. They yelled at my horse to stop and my guide to go on, and both obeyed promptly. I was still clinging to my horse's neck, and could see them through its mane very well. I let them get within ten feet of me, and then took my turn at shooting. They were so close I couldn't miss, but luckily, as I think, one caught his bullet in the knee and the other in the fleshy part of the arm, but their horse was killed outright by a bullet in the head.

Seeing them both down and begging for their lives, I had a mind to kill them for their cowardice, but I let them off with a good kicking apiece, and then called back the guide and bade him carry water to wash and dress the wounds. Then I gave the man with the hurt arm a stiff horn of brandy and sent him back for help, while I continued my journey. The slugs had hit the gold pieces—three of them. I had a lame back for a week or so, but I was otherwise unharmed. What became of them? I afterward met the one who had caught it in the knee. He was going about the market in Oaxaca on a peg leg, peddling rebozos and telling people he had lost his leg in a fierce struggle with highwaymen. He said his partner was on a journey, but I fancy that meant he had been detected in some casuality and sent to prison.

Chinese Pirates Decoyed.

A lightkeeper near Shanghai saw an exciting incident not long ago near a well-known pirate's lair. What appeared to be a big sail junk came sailing slowly along with one man at the helm and two or three sailors loafing on the deck. Two fast boats put off from the lair, with about ten armed men in each. The junk saw them and yawed about, trying vainly to escape. The boats pulled alongside and made fast one on each side of the junk. Instantly the junk's decks bristled with soldiers, who poured a volley from their rifles into the boats, then jumped down, killing all whom the bullets had spared, and threw the bodies overboard, after cutting off the heads of the two leaders. The apparently harmless sail junk had been chartered by a mandarin who was out pirate hunting.

Shot by a Horse.

A peculiar accident in East Monmouth, Me., may result seriously. A man by the name of Prescott was leading a colt, when the animal whirled and kicked, striking Prescott in the region of the hip pocket, where he carried a loaded revolver. The revolver was discharged, the bullet lodging in the calf of Mr. Prescott's leg.

An Epileptic Record.

An epileptic young woman, whose case is reported in the Lancet, seems to have broken the record for fits. She had 3,265 distinct fits in twenty-one days, an average of 152 a day, and in one day had 330 of them. She was cured with chloral hydrate and bromide of potassium.

London's Migratory Smoke. The smoke of London in certain states of the wind is found condensed on the sea far away as Devonshire, blackening the water for miles.

They begin so early that as a rule the first opinion a little girl lisps is her ex-cry on managing a husband.



SAMUEL GOMPERS, the labor leader, is home from Europe, and thus speaks of matters on the other side:

"There's no question but that the labor movement in Europe is further advanced than the movement in America. In Europe, especially in England, there exists a better appreciation on the part of the public as to the purposes and achievements of labor organizations. The fact is that England was an industrial country when the United States was wholly undeveloped industrially. There they have men in the labor movement whose grandfathers were agitators and walking delegates. The labor organizations of England have overcome a great deal of the prejudice against them which formerly existed. Our reception by the English workmen was very cordial. In Cardiff, Manchester, Liverpool and London we received ovations.

"My impression is that the condition of the American workman is far superior to that of the English laborer. The American is better fed, better clothed, has more liberty and is thought to be a much bigger man in every way than the Englishman. I would rather live on the seventh floor of an American tenement than in the first flat of an English workingman's house. Socially and economically we are better off.

"However, there are more intelligent men and women in England who are interesting themselves in the la-

bor movement than anywhere else. They don't do this as a fad, but they are making a life study of the movement. They recognize that the labor movement has an important bearing on the social and economic life of society. Then the English have a more successful way of dealing with the question of non-employment than we have. In the weaving industry the unions restrict the looms to a certain number. In Europe the capitalists don't use labor-saving machinery half as much as they do here.

"I observed the movement in France and Germany. It isn't up to our standard at all. We use business methods. They don't. They get mixed up in politics too much. In Germany the unions are swamped by politics. In France they look up to us as being far ahead of them. They consider us as eminently practical and full of push and energy. Of course, the government is against them there. In France they forbid coalition. But the women are better organized there than here. They're full of spirit."

Convict-Made Cigars. A writer in the Sioux City Labor Bulletin makes the following extracts on the subject of convict-made cigars: "The tactics adopted and pursued by many who deal in penitentiary and sweat-shop goods, particularly wholesalers, are as pusillanimous as they are extensive. No man, whether he is opposed to labor organizations or not, has any desire to smoke a penitentiary manufactured cigar. In fact, the average man detests a cigar made in the penitentiary. There are reasons for this, not altogether because the goods are made by convict labor which comes into competition with honest labor, but because of the filthy condition in which the leaf of tobacco is handled while going through the course of construction. We quoted extracts some time since from the pen of prison wardens to substantiate the truthfulness of the statement that the system used in the manufacture of cigars in the penitentiary is a very filthy one, and those who use cigars should be informed of it."

The writer last week happened to be in a store in Sioux City when a gentleman came in and requested the proprietor to sell him a cigar. The customer asked for a brand familiarly known, which is made in this city and by competent union men, too. In answer to the customer's request the portly gentleman behind the counter said he did not have that brand of a cigar, but he did have something "just as good." An examination of the cigars in the showcase proved that not a union cigar was there and the "just as good cigar" was made in the penitentiary, boxed there, and, instead of being "just as good," was made, counted and packed in filthy surroundings.

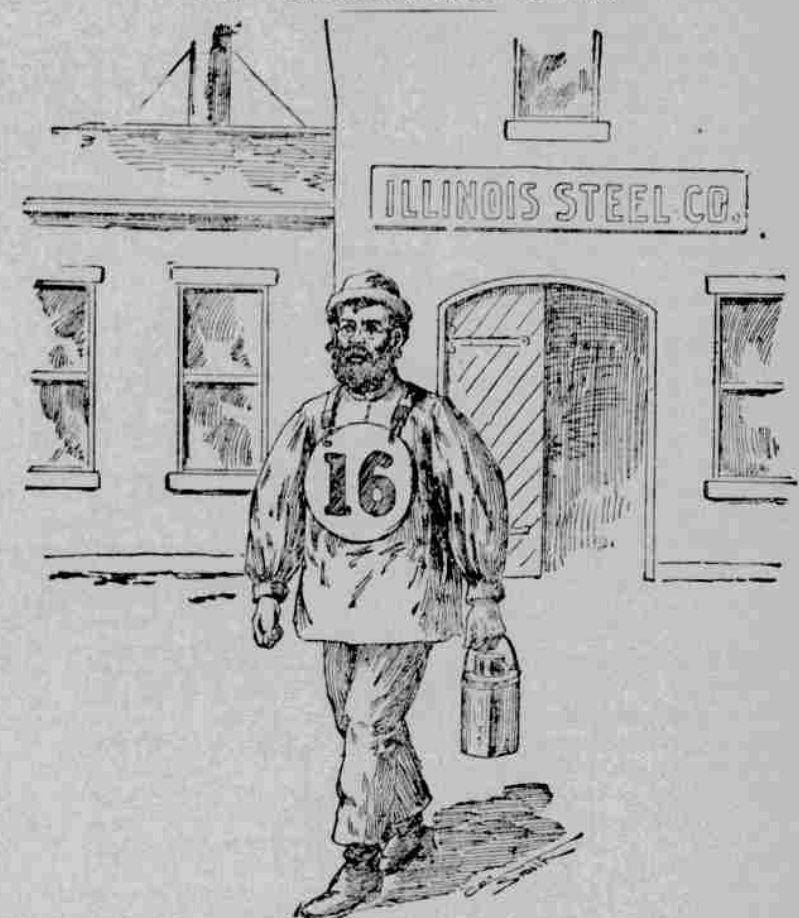
"After this a pretty picture of some duke or knight, or, perhaps, the painted face and diamond decked neck of some millionaire's daughter, appeared upon the inside of the cover and the cigar was prepared for the shopkeeper's showcase, there to be seen and sold as clean, 'just as good' cigars. The unsuspecting 'bite,' and when they ignite the cigar and take a whiff, they that moment commence a filthy smoke.

"The profits of the retailer are certainly much larger than if he were to deal in union cigars, because the wholesaler and retailer, by handling penitentiary cigars, make a magnificent profit, as the penitentiary cigar is retailed for the same price as that of the union-made cigar. It is the dear consumer that is being fleeced. The consumers of cigars have the key to the situation and that key is a demand for a cigar with the union label upon the box in which it is."

Obiect to the Tax System.

About 500 members of the Milwaukee lodges of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers met Saturday night to consider for the second time the order requiring the use of the

THE WORKMEN OBJECT TO THIS.



tag and clock system at the Bay View plant of the Illinois Steel Company. Supt. Reiss and a man named Simons, of Chicago, who is connected with the company, addressed the gathering in an attempt to convince the men that there was nothing objectionable in being numbered like freight cars and in being compelled to register their goings and comings after the fashion of night watchmen and policemen who are suspected of sleeping on their beats. Messrs. Reiss and Simons discussed the matter at length, occupying more than three hours. Numerous questions were asked by the men. As the hour was late, it was decided to defer action for two weeks, Supt. Reiss agreeing to postpone action until that time. The feeling among the employees of the Bay View works is strongly against the objectionable innovation, yet at the same time they will do everything in their power to secure an amicable adjustment of the present difference of opinion, but if it should come to be a case of tags or a strike the belief is that there would be a strike. The tag system will also be introduced at the Joliet plant of the Illinois Steel Company, unless the men should strike.

General Labor Notes.

Chicago has eight machinists unions. The bicycle makers of New York are organizing. Bicycle workers of Cleveland have organized a union. The stonework crafts are active in thirty States of the Union. A labor exchange branch has been formed at San Jose, Cal. The A. R. U. issued charters to five lodges in Ohio last week. The labor press of Canada has organized a press organization. The Japanese in a California prune orchard struck against long hours. Hebrew printers of New York won a seven weeks strike against two papers. The letter carriers at their late convention indorsed the cigarmakers' blue label.

Portland, Ore., and Beulah, Man., have established labor exchange branches.

The Metal Polishers' National Union issued three charters last month and will issue four this month. They have a monthly publication which is issued in Toledo.