

THE SILVER QUESTION

The organs of gold monopoly are again loudly proclaiming that the silver issue is dead. These same papers have diligently during about ten months of each of the last twenty years iterated and reiterated that the silver issue was so dead that it would not be heard of again. Therefore to those who have followed the trend of events and noted the attitude of these papers in the past their present shriek about the demise of the silver issue is a good deal of a cheat. We desire to remind them, however, that they are as much in error now as they have been in the past, and that before the election of 1900 is passed they will discover that the silver question is still a vital issue, having lost none of its force, but that, on the contrary, on account of being so much better understood by the people generally, it will command a larger support than ever before.

During the past year extraordinary commercial and industrial conditions have prevailed which have materially relieved the United States for the time being from the strain of gold contraction and made business conditions more tolerable. If these extraordinary and unusual conditions would continue indefinitely, the silver question would cease to be an issue in our politics, but the prospects are that within the coming year the unusual conditions that have insured so much to our benefit will disappear and give way to normal conditions of trade, when the gold standard will again become oppressive and intolerable. In 1894 a drought in India destroyed the wheat crop and not only deprived that country of any wheat for export, but caused a famine resulting in the death of ten millions of the native population from starvation. This largely increased the demand for American wheat in the European market to take the place of that which India furnished in ordinary years and materially advanced the price of that cereal. Again in 1897 the wheat crop of all European countries was far below the normal, while in many of them it was a practical failure, which, together with the total failure of the wheat crop in Argentina created a demand for America's large surplus at fairly remunerative prices. The result was that in 1896 the agricultural exports from the United States reached the enormous figure of \$282,632,570, and the total exports from the United States amounted to \$1,231,462,339. During the year 1898 the total imports into the United States amounted to but \$618,049,554, being the lowest figures for any year since 1875, with the single exception of the year 1885, notwithstanding the fact that the population of the United States had increased from fifty millions in 1880 to seventy-three millions in 1898. The extraordinary condition produced by the phenomenal trade balance in our favor in the year 1898, amounting to \$615,432,674, a circumstance that may not be repeated again in several decades, and the extraordinary expenditures by the government occasioned by the war with Spain, together with the increased production of our gold mines, has very materially relieved the strain upon the business of the country by arresting the drain of gold from the country and not only leaving us the product of our own mines to be added to the circulation, but drawing gold from Europe as well.

The exceptional conditions in trade and commerce which resulted so beneficially to the United States during the past year will be appreciated when it is remembered that the agricultural exports for the year amounted to more than \$282,632,570 and that the total exports of all kinds never reached nine hundred millions in any year in our history prior to 1898, except in 1893 and 1897. This, when taken in connection with the fact that our imports were the lowest for nineteen years, with the single exception of 1885, reveals a condition which is so unusual that it is not likely to occur again very soon.

On the other hand, there is every reason to believe that these unusual conditions are already passing, not to return for years. The indications at the present time are that the wheat crop of the United States will not exceed an average the coming year, and that the crops in South America, Europe and Asia will exceed that of an average good year, and that while it is possible that we may have a surplus for export, sufficient perhaps to cause the price in this country to conform to that of Europe, the competition from other countries in the markets where the surplus is sold will be so great as to force the price of wheat considerably lower than it has been during the last few years. When these normal conditions return the competition from silver standard countries will assert itself and the low price of silver exchange will again render the production of wheat and cotton unprofitable to the American farmers.

If the world had been on the bimetallic money standard in 1894, 1897 and 1898, when the United States had annually great crops and the countries of South America, Europe and Asia had short crops, the price of American wheat and cotton would not only be advanced on account of the shortage in other countries, but would be still further advanced on account of an enlarged volume of money in the countries where the surplus was sold, in which case the balance of trade in favor of the United States during each of these years would have been much larger than it was and the national wealth would have been greatly augmented and the prosperity of the farmers materially increased.

In securities and real estate, together with freights paid to foreign ship owners, insurance paid to foreign insurance companies, and the money spent by American travelers abroad, there has been an annual drain against the United States amounting to about four hundred millions of dollars. Therefore, in ordinary years, after offsetting imports with exports we are compelled to sell to other countries commodities sufficient to show a trade balance in our favor of \$400,000,000 in order to prevent the exportation of money. It is worthy of note in this connection that in 1893 when our exports exceeded our imports by the enormous sum of \$615,432,674, that we were able to draw from other countries only \$104,885,283 of gold. It seems, however, that notwithstanding the increased production of gold in South Africa and other countries that even this amount has caused great distress in Europe and has so affected price levels that the tendency will be for gold to flow to Europe during the coming year. In addition to the foregoing the Paris exposition of 1900 will attract a vast number of wealthy Americans and it is safe to predict that the expenditures of American travelers abroad next year will double that of ordinary years.

In view of the foregoing, it would be well for the newspapers and politicians who are clamoring so loudly about the death of silver to hold up a little and restrain their ardor in disposing so violently of this great far-reaching question. Questions are never settled until they are settled right. It is safe to say that the American people are sufficiently well educated upon the money question to insure a correct settlement of this issue at an early day. At all events the silver issue will be an important one in 1900 and will receive support from many who through ignorance opposed it in 1896. The gold standard organs are altogether premature in disposing of the silver issue.

If the silver issue is dead, why are the organs of gold monopoly so anxious that the democrats should drop it? If it is dead, it will be a burden to them and cause their defeat, and certainly will be incapable of doing the republican party any harm. No, they know that it is not dead, but that it is very much alive, and they fear the consequences when the people approach this question at the ballot box in 1900. This is the cause of their great anxiety to turn the public mind into other channels at this time. The old chestnut of burying silver through the columns of the organs of gold monopoly has lost its force, and no one will be deceived thereby.—National Watchman.

PREACHER DENOUNCES TRUSTS

(By Rev. Dr. Hiram Vrooman.)
"And what I say unto you, I say unto all, Watch." St. Mark, xiii, 37.
On the fifth day of this month, in one day, more than a billion dollars was consolidated in the formation of new trusts. The valuation of all the properties in the United States combined is less than sixty billion dollars, so that sixty days, or two months' progress in trust-making such as that which was made on the fifth of this month (May) would cause all the wealth of our nation, including every private fortune, every home, every business enterprise, every farm, to be absorbed by the trusts.

Over six billion dollars, or about 10 per cent of the wealth of our nation, has been consolidated in the formation of new trusts within the past few months, not to speak of the trusts that have been forming during recent years. Capital controlled by a trust is aggressive and warlike.

We are told that Aguinaldo's army consists of not more than 10 per cent of the population of the Philippine islands, and yet this army has been supreme in its power over the remaining 90 per cent of unarmed people.

A trust is an army of capital, and every dollar belonging to it is an armed soldier in the field. Ten per cent of the nation's wealth, when controlled by trusts, can dominate the remaining 90 per cent of wealth as ruthlessly as does Aguinaldo's army control the 90 per cent of unarmed natives.

The trust, like Alexander the Great, has started out to conquer the world; but, unlike Alexander, instead of crossing the seas seeking the subjugation of foreign nations, it begins by following the methods of insurrection and rebellion and is making war on private capital and private business at home.

Long after our late war with Spain has been forgotten, and after the present controversy relating to imperialism has passed out of mind, the events in the progress of trust making that are now of daily occurrence will be fresh on the pages of history. How blind this generation is to the momentous events by which it will be known in history!

The individual life of every man, woman and child in this congregation is going to be influenced more or less by the social conditions which will result from the present activity in trust making. Our church and our religion both will be likewise influenced by the same things. Eminently appropriate it is, therefore, to throw some religious light upon this panorama of human affairs from the pulpit.

Poverty is more destructive to life than war, and it is more destructive to religion than war. A cyclone in passing through a village leaves the debris from beautiful cottages and happy homes to mark its course; likewise a trust in passing through any line of business leaves the wrecks from private enterprises and private fortunes in its wake.

SOME ADVICE TO CARNEGIE

Mr. Carnegie is said to be willing before he dies to devote one hundred millions of dollars to the public welfare. As soon as this was announced a great many people commenced to busy their brains with giving Mr. Carnegie good advice. As a matter of course, a number of propositions have been forthcoming, each requiring the expenditure of some hundreds of thousands of dollars, and of such schemes hundreds and even thousands might be evolved.

But a hundred million of dollars in ready money, all under the control of one man, is such a vast sum, such a glorious opportunity, that something far more important ought to be achieved, something that will benefit the country, not only for a time, but permanently—something that should greatly hasten our evolution in civilization, though we deem it impossible that this evolution can be given a new trend. It is to such great schemes that Mr. Carnegie's attention should be called.

We can think of but two such tremendously important subjects, to-wit—the matter of the unemployed and the matter of national education. About one-fourth of the hundred millions should be devoted to the former and three-fourths to the latter.

But the subject of the unemployed is important enough in itself, though it is only of temporary importance. Observe, however, that this matter is the greatest stumbling block in the path of our civilization at the dawn of the twentieth century. The state of being unemployed has now become a chronic one in our country, as it has been for a long time in Europe. The unemployed we shall have with us as long as the present competitive system lasts. The able-bodied man, willing to work, but unable to find work, is, in fact, the social problem in epitome.

What is here the real trouble? It is this, that no man is at present allowed to live by work unless some other man can make a profit out of him. This cannot be denied. Observe, we speak strictly of the "unemployed." By that term we do not mean a man who cannot work or who will not work, but the man who both can and will work, if he can only find the chance. These men may properly be divided into two classes—the efficient men and the less efficient men. Of the latter class there are always plenty to be found among the unemployed. The former class are found there generally only during hard times. But mark this important point—these two classes, furthermore, are always a threat and a danger to those who are so lucky as to have employment, because they are always ready to take their places and cut down their wages. They constitute the so-called "reserve army of labor," who cause the most righteous strike to fall—and there have been most righteous strikes. Consequently they are in some sense the pets of capitalists. We devoutly hope that Mr. Carnegie in his proposed benevolence will rise above the prejudice of the class to which he has belonged.

Our point is this: We say that an unemployed man in our sense can always earn his living, and that of his family, if he can only get the chance; and, moreover, that besides this he can restore the outlays, made in his behalf. All that is necessary is to give him the chance. Give him simply what a Pennsylvania statute gave him 120 years ago (which, however, was never enforced), raw materials, tools and a workshop. That is all. If the states would copy this Pennsylvania statute and enforce it, there never would be any more really "hard times." There need be no competition with private employers, for the unemployed would be a sufficient market among themselves. As to the outlays to be restored that can be done from the labor of the unskilled laborers, fit to create the country roads we so much need.

The great trouble consists in these outlays. To raise them, the states must either tax themselves or issue bonds, and they will do neither. Now, let Mr. Carnegie devote twenty-five of his hundred millions of dollars for these outlays. It will be in the highest sense enlightened self-interest, and never forget that it is not only the unemployed to whom Mr. Carnegie will be a providence, but he will render an essential service to the employed—and, most of all, to society.

But the second matter, that of national education, is of infinitely greater importance, and richly deserves three-fourths of his bounty, if not more. By doing that Mr. Carnegie may become a true national hero, always to be remembered and venerated, far more so than Admiral Dewey. Of course, we are not thinking of any educational institution, of either high or low degree, here and there; we are thinking of nothing less than of a true primary education of a whole generation; of our children, say, from the fourth to the fourteenth year of age—and in spite of the thunders of our woman suffragists—we say, especially, of a whole generation of our boys.

THROUGH A SPY-GLASS

A marked improvement has been introduced by the English in the form of the submarine spyglass used in Bermuda for viewing those wonderful flower gardens of coral and the other strange and beautiful things that lie beneath the waves which roll and tumble over its famous reefs.

In the native form this instrument, commonly called the "water glass," is simply a square funnel of wood, with a pane of glass closing the smaller end. This closed end is lowered into the water, the open top remaining above the surface, the object being to avoid the blur caused by the ripples.

The improvement consists in exactly reversing this arrangement by leaving the small end of the box open and closing the other with a much larger sheet of glass. If this becomes misted it can be cleared merely by running a little water over it. The whole thing is about two feet in length. Though the glass is not a lens, but perfectly plain, the effect is said to be simply magical. When it is thrust under the surface it cuts right through the glimmering veil which had obscured one of the most fascinating scenes to be seen anywhere on earth. With this apparatus it is possible in those clear, tropical seas to look down to a depth of many fathoms. Photographs may even be taken through it.

As to what one sees there, probably the best description ever written is that given by Julia Dorr.

She had been rowed out among the reefs and was spying into their mysteries, gazing "far down into azure, and amber depths, so translucent, so pure, that the minutest object is distinctly visible."

She saw "great sea fans wave their purple branches, swaying to the swell as pine boughs sway to the breeze. Magnificent sprays of star coral—some as fine and delicate as lacework, and so frail that it would be impossible to remove them from their beds, and some like the strong antlers of some forest monarch—grow upon the sides of the deep-sea mountains. Here the shepherds hang from the rocks like an inverted mushroom, delicately wrought, and the rose-coral unfolds like a fair flower."

Nor were the corals all. "There are starfish, sea-urchins and sea anemones—gorgeous creatures in shades of rose and orange. And in and about them all glide the blue angel-fish, with their fins just tipped with gold, yellow canary-fish, the zebra-striped sergeant-majors, and a ruby-colored fish that gleams in the water like a ray of light."

NOT SUSCEPTIBLE.
"That man who called here yesterday says that you are the most formidable specimen of political boss he ever saw."
"The one who was talking about legislation?" asked Senator Sorghum, as a smile gently illumined his face.
"Yes."
"Well," was the rejoinder, as a hard, cold look supplanted the smile, "you don't want to pay too much attention to him. These lobbyists are all such people, the personal interest of each of us, the happiness and prosperity of

TEST YOUR EYES

Here is an instructive eye test. Is your right eye the stronger, or your left eye? You are right-handed, are you also right-eyed?

Make this test and see: Place an object of about two inches in diameter, perfectly round, on a level with your eyes and move back from it to a distance of ten feet. Then take sight over your forefinger until the objective point and the tip of the finger are exactly in line with the eye from which you are sighting.

Now open the other eye. With both your eyes open, has the objective point moved to one side? If not the eye with which you first sighted is the stronger, since the addition of the other's vision does not divert the complete vision from the original focus of the one eye. If the objective does move to one side it proves that the weaker eye has done the first sighting, which the stronger eye has diverted as soon as it has opened.

Perhaps there is very little difference in your eyes. Take sight as before, but with both eyes open. Now close the left eye. How far out of line is the right eye?

Now take sight again with both eyes open. Close your right eye. How far out of line is the left eye?

Whichever is the farther out of line in these two tests is the weaker eye. If you are strongly right-eyed the right eye will hold firmly to the objective point which has been focused by both eyes together when it is left to view the object alone. If you are strongly left-eyed, vice versa.

Mrs. Ormiston Chant says that while in this country she complied with 1,307 requests for autographs, and, most wonderful of all, never once lost her temper while doing so.

OUR FRIENDS, THE GLORY AND USEFULNESS OF OUR COUNTRY, AND THE INDEPENDENCE AND TRIUMPH OF THE CHURCH ARE ALL INVOLVED.

Now, how are we, as worshippers of the Lord Jesus Christ, going to meet this situation?
If the army of a foreign foe were threatening our country, then our church would say to the young men: Consider your life to the Lord and fearlessly go to the front and in battle fight like a lion. It would say to the women and those past the age for service in battle: Trust God, and give your sympathy and heroic cheer to those who fight your cause.

The patriotic duties before us do not require that we neglect the spiritual interests of our church; but they call upon us to make our church an inspiration to the American people in their patriotic endeavors. We are not called upon to forget our religion, but our religion is called upon to be our banner-bearer as we go forth to duty.

Many people permit themselves to wear out in regretting that things are as they are. Religion does not look regretfully behind, but it looks exultingly forward. The existence and power of the trust is the unhallowed fact that which we are obliged to look square in the eyes. Religion inspires the question: What are we going to do with this fact?

The first duty which the situation gives us to perform is the task of enlightening ourselves so that we will make no mistake in taking sides, because, sooner or later, we all will be forced to take sides in the impending struggle.

In entering upon a study of the issues before us, we should endeavor to rise above former prejudices; we should ignore personal interest; we should come into warm sympathy with the interests of the people; we should cast out every aristocratic and class feeling as we would cast out Satan; we should be wary of the sophistries of politicians, of partisan newspapers and of all those who argue for the purpose of protecting selfish interests. We should study with the single purpose of understanding how we might help in the righteous solution of these problems.

We know that men can be dead to poetry, dead to art, dead to history, dead to music, dead to science, dead to literature, with apparently nothing but their five vibrating senses alive; but the worst death that a living man can experience is that sleep of ignorance and cold-heartedness which separates him from the great people who are contemporaneous with him.

Religion is a protest against all forms of death. "And what I say unto you I say unto you all, Watch."

Washington Evening Star.