Harrison Press-Journal

G. A. PHIPPS, Publisher.

HARRISON, - - - NEBRASKA

The smallest bird is the humming bird of Brazil. It is a little larger than the common honey bee, and weighs about five grains.

A pot which cannot boil over has been invented by a Berlin machinist. It has a perforated rim, and the overflowing liquid returns to the utensil.

Smuggled goods in large quantities are brought from Windsor, Ontario, to Detroit. Most of this work is done by women, who secrete the smuggled articles under their skirts. In some of the Windsor stores are private dressing-rooms for the patrons, where they carefully prepare themselves to elude the vigilance of Uncle Sam's customs officers.

The millionaire Gravil Solodovnikoff, who recently died at Moscow, left all his possessions, valued at 25,000,000 rubles, for the founding of high schools for girls, training schools for workmen and cheap lodging houses for the poor. During his life he had already spent large sums for a music school and a hospital, yet he was not esteemed wealthy because in private life he was known as a miser and an inexorable creditor.

Napoleon Pierre Guicheveau, 113 years old, died recently at Braeux Bridge, La. Guicheveau was born in France in 1788 and emigrated to America at the age of 65. After a short residence in New York city he came to Louisiana and settled at Breaux Bridge, where he married, and during his phenomenal years of life retained the respect of the community. Up to the hour of his death Guicheveau retained his sight, hair and all his faculties.

Wisdom is not the same as understanding; nor is it talent, or capacity, ability, sagacity, sense, or prudence; neither will all these together make it up. It is that exercise of the reason into which the heart enters—a structure of the understanding rising out of the moral and spiritual nature. It is for this cause that a high order of wisdom—that is, a highly intellectual wisdom—is still more rare than a high order of genius. When they reach the very highest order they are one; for each includes the others, and intellectual greatness is matched with moral strength.

According to advices from Kiel, Germany, the new high school there for the teaching of shipbuilding and construction of machinery will be opened in 1903. The school will be wholly in the hands of the state, but the cost will only in part be borne by the state, the town of Kiel contributing £3,000. There will be one department for the learning of shipbuilding, each course lasting one year, and another department for machinery, the course of instruction being divided into four quarters of the year, classes being held in the evenings and on Sundays for shipwrights, locksmiths and smiths. The Krupp Germania wharf has already promised as much as £250 annually for the next ten years towards the expense.

In many of the western and midland counties of England the nineteenth century closed with the most terrible floods within living memory. Happily few lives were lost, but hundreds of folk—mostly poor—were washed out of hearth and home. Farmers, small and great, lost cattle, sheep and poultry, and immense damage was done to all kinds of property. One comic incident was remarked at Alcester in Worcestershire. When the water fell the rector took his walks abroad to see what loss he had suffered. As he passed through an orchard he was greeted with the piercing squeals of a perplexed pig, which had got mixed up in the boughs of a damson tree. Probably it had been borne into the branches by the rising flood. When the waters went down it was left high, and possibly dry, but terrified out of its wits.

Less than one hundred dollars, spent by the Improvement League of Montclair, New Jersey, has done more to cleanse and beautify the place, says the town council, than the thousands of dollars the town has expended in conventional ways. The league began by offering prizes for clean and orderly back yards and alleys, and went on to give prizes for the best vine-covered fence, the finest vegetable plot and the most beautiful flowering plant. Then it organized the children to pick up waste paper from the streets, keep the school yards neat, and "tidy up" the vacant lots. In six months Montclair became a noticeably attractive place, and a wholesome one, too, for the death rate had perceptibly lessened. Like methods will yield similar results in any other town, and it will not be necessary to spend much money provided a few people are willing to use "inspired common sense."

After a chase which had led him from Galveston to Buffalo, William Curran, of St. Louis, reported to the police of New York that he had been unable to capture his 13-year-old son Louis, who ran away eighteen months ago, and asked their help. The boy first went to Galveston. His father traced him there. When he heard his father was in town looking for him the boy left that city for Buffalo. Again the father pursued, only to find that the boy had started for New York. Now both are in that city—somewhere. The police promised to search for the boy.

THE TAX DODGERS.

HOW THE WEALTHY CORPORATIONS MAKE OUT SCHEDULE.

The Value of Chicago Property Figured at Thirty-Five Million Less Than in 1873—Some of the Largest Corporations Not Assessed at All.

There is no lack of civic pride in Chicago's rich men. They are fairly bursting with it, but it is not strong enough to induce many of them to make an honest return of their property to the assessors. This is the common plaint of almost every community, but it is doubtful if any other can furnish such flagrant instances of dishonesty in taxation or such deplorable results therefrom.

If you ask the patriotic Chicagoan about the growth of the city since the great fire, thirty years ago, he will swell up and tell you that it is without parallel in the history of the world. He will point to the thousands of magnificent buildings erected, to the phenomenal growth of its manufacture and commerce, and its wonderful increase in property values. He can convince you by statements of facts that the city has grown twenty-fold.

Story of Official Records.

If you go to the official records of assessments to ascertain the exact figures of this wonderful growth, these are the figures you will find:

Year.	Total ass'ed valuation.	Revenue.
1873.....	$312,072,955	$5,617,313
1900.....	276,565,880	12,242,268

For assessment purposes the value of Chicago property is $35,507,115 less than it was twenty-seven years ago.

From the revenue of 1900 must be deducted $6,903,939 for public schools, $203,830 for library, and $1,149,102 for interest and sinking fund, leaving a net revenue from general taxation for city purposes of $3,985,396, or less than it was two years after the great fire, when the school system made only a light demand upon the city revenue.

These figures, it is true, represent but one-fifth of the supposed actual valuation, which is the basis for the tax levy; but that fact does not lessen their farcical characters.

Falls on the Poor.

It requires no expert to see that by this system the heaviest taxation falls upon the small property owners, whose property, if proportionately diminished in value with that of the large property owner and then assessed at one-fifth, would vanish altogether. Hence it is apparent that if the small taxpayer actually pays on one-fifth the value of his property the large property holder pays on about one-twentieth valuation—and that is the actual condition.

The utter inadequacy of Chicago's assessed valuation and the revenue derived therefrom is most apparent by comparisons with other cities. The figures are as follows:

Assessed valuation—Chicago, $276,565,880; New York, $3,478,252,029. Revenue from the same—Chicago, $12,242,268; New York, $76,178,034.

Assessed valuation — Philadelphia, $958,601,955; Boston, $1,155,647,252. Revenue from same—Philadelphia, $14,484,723; Boston, $14,140,058.

Thus Greater New York, with only double the population of Chicago, has six times more revenue from general taxation; Philadelphia, with a half million less population, has two millions more revenue, and Boston has about the same revenue from general taxation as Philadelphia, although it has only a third the population of Chicago. Of city revenues from all sources, New York has five times as much, and Philadelphia and Boston nearly twice as much as Chicago.

DEMOCRATIC DEMOCRATS.

That the Democrats of the West are not the only progressive members of the party is shown by the platform recently adopted by the Democratic convention of Cambria County, Pennsylvania. It pledges the party anew to the faith of Thomas Jefferson, and warmly commends the leadership of William Jennings Bryan in the advancement of those principles.

On the subject of trusts, it says: "The Democratic party stands for equality of rights and demands equality of opportunities. It is opposed to the granting of special privileges to individuals or corporations. It therefore condemns the protective tariff and demands that taxation shall be for public revenue only. It condemns the trusts as a monstrous outgrowth of privilege, and it proposes to destroy the trusts by the simple device of withdrawing from them the benefit of the laws under which they have established and are maintaining monopolies. All goods upon the free list; and every legislative advantage now conferred upon aggregations of capital should be recovered by the people.

"Taxation should fall, not upon industry nor upon thrift, but upon special privileges; and it should be apportioned in accordance with the benefits conferred by the government."

In declaring for home rule in taxation, the platform says: "The tax laws in this State are framed in iniquity and administered in corruption. Their radical reform is the paramount issue in the State. They promote inequality and tend to the destruction of the poor. They were designed to shift the burdens from those able to bear them to those upon whom they fall with crushing weight. Corporate monopoly is scandalously favored at the expense of the farmer, the merchant, the manufacturer and the artisan. The latter contribute proportionately a hundred or perhaps a thousand times as much to the cost of the government as the railway and other privileged interests, and they receive infinitely less in return. The principle of local option in taxation should command the widest recognition.

"We hold that all franchise corporations should be taxed precisely as other and less favored interests are taxed. Franchises should be taxed at their market value."

Imperialism abroad is denounced as the forerunner of despotism at home. The platform says: "A formidable military force, designed for the conquest of a foreign people, may readily be made the tool of corporate monopoly to crush out oppositon at home."

These democratic Democrats of Pennsylvania also declare for direct legislation by means of the initiative and referendum.

TAXATION.

Farmers of all others should be advocates of the single tax. It would strike them lightest of all other forms of taxation. But they are apparently the most uncompromising enemies of the system. They are unable to discriminate between the rental value of, and a tax on the land, and almost invariably insist it would place all the tax on their land and break them up root and branch. It is next thing to impossible to get this view out of the farmer's head.

There is not party politics enough in it. The farmer is a great party man and politician. And the less he knows the stronger his prejudices clasp and bind him to the car of conservatism.

It is most difficult, if not impossible, to fix the public mind on a single subject long. There is much of the child remains with the adult growth, and the man loves variety, and it looks like business to have his houses, barns, his stock, his furniture and all his belongings taxed. He is satisfied that everything of value is taxed as it should be, while in fact very little is taxed of what should be.

The industrial system has undergone an entire change since these methods of taxation were originated, or grew, for they are the growth of the ages, and should long ago have been relegated to the limbo of the past, along with their contemporaries, the old methods of business.—Midland Journal, Rising Sun, Minn.

LABOR'S ONLY REMEDY.

If the men now on strike will use some of their leisure to consider the odds against them, they will see that no small part of the power of their enemies is derived from or supported by their political influence. This trust has tremendous authority in all official circles. It was not mere accident that led to the selection of a former attorney of the Carnegie company as attorney general of the United States. The utter failure of successive attorneys-general for the past twelve years to put the federal anti-trust law to the test has not been without deliberate action to that end by the trusts—for, mark you, all trusts are as one when the purpose to control the government is concerned. When six years ago the Democratic party in fierce revolt against the subservience of its leaders to monopoly, declared war on trusts, the trust magnates who had been in its organization deserted it to a man. They are still out, and will be out so long as the party as a whole opposes trusts. Sometimes they try to come back—as in Ohio—but only in hope that once readmitted they can turn the party again to the service of plutocracy. We use the Democratic party merely for the sake of illustration. If the Republican party should throw off the yoke of the plutocrats and return to the principles of Lincoln, we should find the well-organized army of trusts fighting it as they now fight for it. The trusts, with all their myriads of hangers-on, are in politics just as much as Croker or Quay.—Pilgrim.

WHO MAKES THE CRIMINALS?

I do not think there is such a thing as crime, as used in the ordinary sense. These men in jails are not criminals. They are men who have found themselves in that position where all opportunities of obtaining subsistence in an honest way are closed to them. They are forced to reach out for something to sustain life, of which they have been deprived in a community were a few men control everything.

Every time the trusts in Chicago raise the price of meat, they send a certain number of poor people to the penitentiaries and jails. Every time they raise the price of oil, they turn numbers of poor girls from honest labor out upon the streets. The men who cause this ruin are the only ones who can be guilty of real crime and a crime that is worth considering. Australia, like America, was originally settled by outcasts and adventurers. In one generation they were building churches and hiring police for themselves.—Lawyer Clarence S. Darrow, in the Woodworker.

An inventor has discovered a substitute for oil in running a railroad. Now let some other inventor discover the means of doing away with water in the stock.—Williamsport News.

The discovery has already been made. For further particulars apply to Tom L. Johnson, mayor's office, Cleveland, O.

There are shrewd suspicions that there are those high in favor with the administration who would be very glad to have justice miscarry in both of these cases. No attempt has been made to explain the long inaction with reference to them, and it seems to be wholly inexcusable.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

IT IS AS THOROUGHLY UNITED AS EVER.

A Western Missouri Democrat Writes About Future Prospects—The Kind of Platform That May Be Made in 1904—Bimetallism Still a Strong Issue.

The following letter was recently addressed to the editor of the Republic:

The question with Democrats is not one of reorganization, but of creed. Can there be a union—a real, honest union—in the Democratic party on the basis of a common political belief between its members and those gentlemen, who, though formerly in harmony with it, have seen their way, during some years, to abstention from its councils and actions?

And, conceding that such a union is attainable, what shall be the basis, and what conditions and matters in prudence shall be considered in attaining it?

In the effort to find a basis of political union among all Democrats, one thing must be steadily kept in mind, and that is the essential difference—the historic difference—outside of mere economic questions between the Democratic and Republican parties. There is a higher sense of individual independence, a much stronger reverence for the constitution, a greater conservatism, a livelier feeling of equality in party action among the Democratic than the Republican masses.

Republicanism of Today.

The Republican party—born of an unconstitutional feeling, inflamed by the blood of civil war, drunk with victory, controlled in its movements by a small syndicate with limitless financial backing, impatient of check and reckless of consequences through the long procession of power, unreasoning with political adversaries, remorselessly punishing recusants in its ranks, looking to the end without regard to the means, bold, defiant, merciless—has become an enormous machine without moral government, which can be molded or directed at the will of the great captains of finance.

The exact reverse is true of the Democratic party. Though a majority of the voters of our country voted for Mr. Tilden in 1876, and though Mr. Cleveland was elected in 1884 and again in 1892 and duly inaugurated, yet in so far as legislation is the result of the possession of political power, the Democrats, nationally, have been in defeat since 1860. Accordingly, no matter if Democrats wish office, they have not been corrupted by it.

Inherited from Purer Days.

The ideals of the Democratic party have been inherited in lineal succession from the purer days of the republic. It came in with the constitution and there has not been an hour since when it has not held up that sacred instrument to the gaze of the American people as its political oriflamme—its in hoc signo vinces. Among the forces of the constitution is the inspiration of a consciousness of individual freedom and a desire for untrammeled political action. The greater the reverence for that document, the greater the action of its forces. In a much higher degree than Republicans are Democrats controlled in political movements by principles and not by words or command from men. The organization of the Democratic party is and ever has been loose as compared with that of the Republican. It is certain that the masses of the Democrats cannot extricate themselves from their opinions with the facility of some politicians in their own ranks or the masses of the Republicans. Those attempts to tear Democrats away from certain of their beliefs and turn their faces in another direction or to ignore certain great issues as to which their convictions of right are clear and strong will assuredly fail in the effort.

The Money Question.

That these things are true the proofs are evident. One of them is this: In 1888 and prior thereto, as well as during some years after, the Republican masses were as much in favor of bimetallism as the Democratic. This was certainly true in Missouri. In 1888 the Republican party in its national platform (Mr. McKinley was chairman of the committee on platform at its adoption) declared unequivocally in favor of the use of gold and silver as money, and condemned the "policy of the Democratic administration (Mr. Cleveland's) in its efforts to demonetize silver." In 1892 the Republican party in its national platform declared that the American people from tradition and interest favored bimetallism and demanded the use of gold and silver as standard money. In 1877 Mr. McKinley voted with Mr. Bland in favor of the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ration of 16 to 1, and to restore legal tender quality to standard silver dollars. He voted for the passage of the Bland-Allison act over the veto of President Hayes. In 1890, in congress, he declared himself in favor of the largest use of silver in the currency of the country, adding that he would not dishonor, but would give it equal credit with gold. And yet the same Mr. McKinley become president, under the secret and powerful influence of organized capital, has conducted his party to the gold standard, and his party has submitted! Such a conversion by force could not have occurred in the Democratic party.

Cleveland's Fight Against Mere Money.

When Mr. Cleveland assumed the office of president on March 4, 1893, his position was the most enviable of any president since Jackson. He was at the head of a great, a historic, a victorious party. He was the idol of its masses and no man ever had their confidence in a higher degree. He was a man of experience, of great ability, had certain qualities which would command admiration on any stage, and it seemed as though under his guidance the Democratic party would have a renewal of its youthful vigor, and that our government would be administered with the simplicity and statesmanship of Jefferson, the philosophic grasp and sleepless vigilance of Madison and the lofty purpose and manly firmness of Jackson.

And yet, notwithstanding his great prestige and his vast appointive power, when Mr. Cleveland, in 1893, attempted to lead his party to the gold standard, acting under its strong conviction of right, it refused to follow him. That fact alone, as it would seem, should be sufficient to satisfy any thoughtful man that the Democratic party cannot be shifted and turned in its principles to suit any seeming exigency.

Question of Silver.

The foregoing considerations naturally lead to a discussion of the question which most seriously interferes with Democratic harmony. That is bimetallism. The Democratic masses believe in both from tradition and a sense of interest. They believe in the use of silver as money on a parity with gold, moreover, as one of the bulwarks against the overwhelming influence of capital in governmental and economical processes. Their belief is profound and honest.

The Ratio Problem.

Can a declaration in favor of bimetallism be framed in which all Democrats will agree?

It is firmly believed by many that this is perfectly practicable among all Democrats who have not ceased to be bimetallists.

The insertion of any fixed ratio—such as 16 to 1—is not absolutely essential to the definition of bimetallism. The word carries with it the idea of a fixed relative value between those metals, established by law. Relative values change somewhat in the process of time. If the legal conditions as to the free coinage of silver throughout the world were now as they were in 1848, when the great modern discoveries of gold began in California, it is not improbable that a just ratio would be 15½ to 1, or something less.

When it is considered that of the world's production of silver, the United States produces nearly one-third, and the countries of North and South America, in the aggregate, nearly five-sixths, it would be impolitic to unite with a declaration in favor of bimetallism an intimation that it would be proper for those countries to make common cause in the restoration of silver.

But however the declaration be phrased, it should be firm, clear and unequivocal, for the Democratic party can no longer be amused by shining paragraphs and double entendres.

Bimetallism Still Strong Issue.

Some think there should be no mention of silver in the national platform of the Democratic party.

Is bimetallism, as an economical principle, right or wrong?

If wrong, the party cannot too quickly so declare, and abandon silver forever, except as subsidiary coinage. There is no greater question than that of bimetallism, for every man, woman and child on the habitable globe is concerned in it. If right, then all statesmanship would declare against its abandonment. No man can doubt the sincerity of Democrats in their belief in the correctness of bimetallism.

If reference to silver were omitted in the national platform of the party, aside from the charge of cowardice which would result from it, and the blow it would give to silver, there would spring up in the party a deadly strife between the opposing ideas on silver, and it would be plunged into civil war, so to speak, just as it was in 1893, when Mr. Cleveland began his movement toward gold. An omission of any favorable mention of silver in a national platform would as effectually destroy the party as a declaration in favor of the gold standard.

Must Be Settled Right.

Some raise the argument that the question of bimetallism was settled by the results in 1896 and 1900.

Was it more settled than the issues on the tariff, trusts and colonialism?

The protectionists are on horseback and have secured about all they can possibly want. They have been in this posture for years. On the issues of trusts and colonialism the Democrats were beaten in 1900 by 832,280 votes, and the Republicans have since been aided by a decision of the United States supreme court. Such an argument would leave the Democrats practically without a platform, and all that we could urge would be that the Democrats should have the offices because the Republicans have had them long enough. No, a great question cannot be settled until it shall be settled rightly, and the Democrats do not think those issues have been settled rightly.

D. C. ALLEN.

The claim that republican rule brings prosperity to agricultural workers is dispelled by the statistics issued by the Agricultural Department, which show that the highest wages paid to agricultural laborers was in 1866 and the lowest in 1899, the latter when the republicans had enjoyed a long lease of power.

When Answering Advertisements Kindly Mention This Paper.