

The Philadelphia Record says: "It is said that they have dug up a new metal worth \$3,000,000 a pound. Under Mr.

A Precious Metal.

Bryan's policy of free coinage what ratio would silver bear to that metal? Why not adopt this new and precious metal as the basis for our money? It would, even better than the single gold standard, accomplish the result so important to the hearts of the financiers of "making money scarce and therefore dear."

It is interesting, if not significant, that the name of Bristow figures conspicuously in the investigations into the post-office scandals. This is not the first time when the mention of the name of Bristow struck terror to the hearts of republican politicians and from some of the comments made by republican organs upon the Bristow of today, it is plain to be seen that in republican circles he is just as unpopular as was the Bristow of thirty years ago.

Bristow and Bristow.

Those who desire to cultivate the art of simple and readily understood statement are indebted to the Hygienic Gazette for the information that a French journal cites as a sample of "the simplicity of language used by German chemists" the following: "If benzoynaphtylamide is treated with nitric acid it forms two isometrico-nitroamidobenzonaphtylamides, of which one gives monoamidobenzonaphtylamide and the other adhydrobensodiamidonoleana."

A Simple Statement.

The report made by Mr. Bristow, fourth assistant postmaster general, admits that an inspector's report showing "glaring irregularities" in the post-office department, was submitted by him personally to Postmaster General Charles Emory Smith July 6, 1899. On July 31, 1900, another and similar report was made, but the republican postmaster general evidently believed in the republican slogan "keep on letting well enough alone," and so the public was kept in ignorance concerning these dishonest deals.

"Letting Well Enough Alone."

Referring to the bribery of the labor union agent at New York, the New York Tribune says: "The detestable meanness of the conduct with which walking delegates are charged is likely to impress upright members of labor unions even more deeply than its criminal character." But the Tribune and other republican papers have nothing to say of the "detestable meanness" of the men who pay the bribes. Why not reserve some of the indignation for the well-to-do men whose money was expended in corrupting this labor agent?

All Around Meanness.

Those who have expressed surprise because of the revelations in the postoffice department will perhaps be surprised when in the future, as a result of the administration's scheme to sell to the high bidder the monopoly of the opium trade in the Philippines, grave scandals are exposed in that quarter. According to this plan, the exclusive privilege of selling opium in the Philippine islands is to be granted every three years and it is not difficult to see that this scheme will afford an opportunity for thrift among administration favorites.

Prepare For "Surprises."

If Postmaster General Payne is to retain his place in the cabinet he should at least make formal and adequate apology to Mr. Tulloch. It will be remembered that when Mr. Tulloch first made his charges against the management of the post-office department, he was met by sneers from the postmaster general's office. Now that Tulloch's accusations have been practically substantiated, Mr. Payne should apologize for his unkind reference to the man who made the expose. Mr. Payne's conduct in connection with these investigations has not been at all creditable to him and although we are told that he is now willing and anxious that a thorough investigation be made, the public cannot forget that in the beginning he deliberately discouraged investigation. Some of the accused republican politicians have been asked to retire on the ground that they have

Apologize to Tulloch.

been guilty of "indiscretion." There is ample reason that Mr. Roosevelt should suggest the retirement of his postmaster general on this same ground.

The American Register, published in London and Paris, prints for the information of Europe and, whether intentional or not, for the amusement of Americans, the following statement: "In the course of the next few weeks the republicans and democrats will have held their national conventions, and the two great parties will be engaged in one of the biggest political contests ever fought in America. So far everything points to the nomination of Mr. Roosevelt on the republican ticket, and one can imagine him now in the throes of a strenuous campaign."

"A Non-Partisan Review."

A number of republican papers have paid considerable attention to the charge that a representative of the labor unions in New York accepted money for his own use and benefit as a consideration for the settlement of strikes. The Omaha Bee, a republican paper with anti-monopoly tendencies, provides an interesting hint to these critics when it says that "for every walking delegate who accepts bribes to betray his people there must be some employer to pay the bribes. Bribe-taking and bribe-giving are equally condemned by law-abiding citizenship."

There are Others.

Harper's Weekly says: "suppose it could be shown that Mr. Cleveland did not vote at all on those occasions (1896 and 1900). Must an ex-president's omission to vote be counted a betrayal of his party?" The Omaha Bee retorts: "But we apprehend that it will take a bigger crevice than that to get Mr. Cleveland through the fence, although the question suggests a plausible loophole by which the claim to party regularity may be set up. Omission to vote for president once might be ascribed to accident, but accidental omission to vote in two successive presidential years would look too gauzy."

Just a Bit Too Gauzy.

The New York World intimates that there is a mystery about the retention of Henry C. Payne as postmaster general. But it must not be forgotten that there was a bit of mystery connected with the appointment of Mr. Payne. Mr. Roosevelt has always posed as a strict advocate of appointments to public office based solely on merit. If there existed any reason from the standpoint of public interests why Mr. Payne should have been made postmaster general, that reason was not made public. There were, however, many reasons why Mr. Payne should not have been chosen for that important position.

The Payne Mystery.

The Chicago Record-Herald complains that the Washington postoffice has been run to a large extent on the spoils principle. Later developments indicate that other branches of the post-office department have been run on the spoils system; and yet what did the Record-Herald expect when it gave its support to Mark Hanna and the greatest political machine that has ever been organized in the history of this country? Did the Record-Herald lay the flattering unction to its soul that the administration of public office by that machine would be in line with public interests? Did not the Record-Herald have every reason to believe that when it gave its support to Mark Hanna's machine it helped to establish the system and pave the way for the evils of which it now complains?

What Did It Expect?

Republican papers are pointing with pride to the claim that the administration is making vigorous investigation into the postoffice department scandals, and these organs insist that the administration be given all due credit. But it must not be forgotten that the administration and the party it represents are responsible for the corruption and before republican editors call upon the people to manifest any large degree of enthusiasm because the administration seems to be doing a little investigating, it will be well for these editors to explain how it happened that this dishonest work

Why Not Long Ago?

was permitted to go on so long under the very eyes of republican leaders; and how, also, did it happen that even after Mr. Tulloch exposed the corruption, the representatives of the administration showed marked disinclination to proceed against the wrong-doers?

After the representatives of the Servian army had assassinated in a most brutal way the king, the queen, together with the queen's two brothers and half a dozen members of the king's official household, it was proposed that the bodies of the king and queen be dragged to the window and cast into the courtyard. It is reported that one of the leaders "with stern dignity" protested, "No, no; not that. That would be barbarous." If it were possible to detect anything humorous in so bloody an affair, this late moment protest against barbarity makes, under the circumstances, at least mighty interesting reading.

"Would be Barbarous."

The reorganizers depend upon the "needful equipment" for success. They are amply supplied with money and will use it unsparingly in the effort to republicanize the democratic party. Those who believe in the preservation of democratic principles must rely upon the active co-operation of other democrats who believe as they do and these must work unceasingly for the protection of the party. In order to accomplish the desired result a democratic club should be organized in every precinct in the United States. These clubs may accomplish important results and should count among their membership every man who believes that the preservation of popular government depends upon the democratic party. The fact of the organization of a democratic club should be promptly reported to The Commoner. Those who contemplate the organization of such clubs will be supplied with a form of constitution and membership blanks upon application to this office.

Protect the Party.

Mr. Bristow, fourth assistant postmaster general, says that during the investigation in the postoffice department four years ago he was advised by the chief inspector that that official had instructed his subordinates that they had better make no reference to certain appointments as they had been ordered personally by the postmaster general. Mr. Bristow says that he told the chief of inspectors to instruct the inspectors to report the facts as they would in any other inspection, and that he did not believe the postmaster general had knowingly authorized any irregularities. And then Mr. Bristow says that he personally submitted the facts of these "glaring irregularities" to the postmaster general; but the public knows, and of course Mr. Bristow knows now, that these questionable transactions, after having been reported to the postmaster general were kept dark until the year of 1903 when their publication was forced by statements made to the public by Seymour W. Tulloch. Mr. Bristow's report will not place him in line for second place on the republican ticket in 1904. Indeed there are already evidences that the fourth assistant postmaster general is very unpopular in republican circles.

Bristow Will be Unpopular.

The Ishmaelite, of Sparta, Ga., after answering the Atlanta Journal's attack, says: "There is but one answer for the millions of democrats, who still honor William J. Bryan, to make to the shallow and indecent tirades of the Clevelandites against him, and that is to renominate him in 1904. It would be cowardly and shameless not to stand by him, when the gang that effected his defeat as the party leader proposes to heap humiliation on him even in the retirement of private life. If that is to be the issue, let the democrats who were not treacherous in the two last elections know it. They will meet the bolters at that Philippi." Our good friend of the Ishmaelite is right in his criticism, but wrong in his remedy. The leaders of the reorganizers will not support any one who is loyal to the people, but there are a great many of the rank and file who have been deceived by the leaders, and these can be brought to the support of a loyal democrat who has not been in position to arouse their prejudices. Mr. Bryan has been honored enough. His place is in the ranks and he will be found where the fight is thickest and the enemy most numerous.

A Better Remedy.