

STRANGE SILENCE

After having made two national campaigns with silver as the paramount issue, it is strange that the democratic party is not alive to the present situation. Congress at the last session provided for the purchase of enough silver bullion to coin five million new pesos for the Philippines. As soon as the government began to purchase, the price of silver bullion began to rise—but the great democratic dailies took no note of the fact editorially and in their headlines over the press dispatches announcing the rise in price seemed to be imbued with the idea that it was sun spots or some equally occult thing which had started silver on the up grade again.

The following, quoted from the Philadelphia Public Ledger, is worth noticing:

Washington, D. C., April 28.—Since the last government purchase of silver, on Thursday last, the metal has gone up 2 cents, and treasury officials are beginning to apprehend further advances in the price. There were 475,000 ounces bought yesterday by the director of the mint, at an average of 54.46 cents an ounce. Some was bought at 54½ and some at 54.375 cents.

The average is 5 cents above what was paid when the first purchases were made, on account of the new coinage for the Philippines. The increase was unexpected by treasury officers. They fear that silver may go above the coinage value of the new coins to be provided for the Philippines. The advance is not likely, it is said, to cause the island government any serious losses in values, because the large quantity of Mexican silver on hand will appreciate as bullion goes up.

Should silver go up 5 cents more an ounce pesos will be hoarded in the Philippines, it is believed. The explanation given at the treasury of the advance in price is that it is caused by the purchases to provide the 5,000,000 new pesos for the Philippines.

Populists always insisted that the real question was and is the money question—not simply the question of silver—and any man with an ounce of brains must have known that with Uncle Sam in the market for several million ounces of silver, the price was sure to rise. Why doesn't some democratic paper break the silence and say something about silver?

What is the use of ever holding an election in any city or state where there are two or more parties if every man is to always "vote 'er straight?" One election would settle the whole matter for a generation at least. If the republicans had the majority they might as well meet and name the men to hold offices among themselves and the remainder of the community not bother themselves about government at all. The fact is that this country is not governed by the men who "vote 'er straight," but by the independent voters, the men who are not slaves to any party. There is nothing more disgusting to a sensible person than to hear a man boasting that "I am a democrat" or "I am a republican." That is simply to announce that he has no principles of his own and he is led to the polls with a ring in his nose by the few men who manage party affairs and make platforms.

The rate of wages and the "labor cost" of production are two entirely different things. For years The Independent has insisted (and the soundness of the assertion no man who has investigated the question could truthfully deny) that the labor cost of production in the United States is less than that in any other nation. That has resulted from the superior intelligence of American workmen and labor-saving machinery. The claim that we must have a high protective tariff to equalize the cost of production between this and European countries has no foundation in truth at all. Every man who has ever employed labor knows that the highest price workmen are very often by far the cheapest.

The supreme court of New York has handed down an unanimous decision declaring the law to assess franchises is constitutional. It will add over \$10,000,000 to the income of the cities where these franchises have been granted. If New York can tax franchises of street railroads, gas and electric companies, why should not Nebraska do the same where the constitution expressly provides for it. A few poles and some miles of wire of a telephone or telegraph company is not the basis of their value. If a company only owned the poles and wire without any franchise then only

their value should be taxed. But it owns something else far more valuable. That value is transferable and is sold in the open market every day in the year. Why should it not be taxed the same as other things of value?

At one time in his early life John Stuart Mill was overcome by despondency. The cause of it was that he noticed that the most cogent and convincing logic failed to convince or even make an impression upon the educated audiences which he addressed. He came to the conclusion that there was no hope for people so constituted, and give up in despair. It took him a long time to recover from this state of feeling. If he had been alive and taken part in the discussions of the last two presidential campaigns, the probability is that he never would have recovered. The barren, abstract vagueness of the propositions defended by the ruling party expressed in such terms as "good money," "sound money," "money of the world" and like meaningless nothings was enough to make any one despondent.

As banking is all "confidence" from whatever point it is viewed, there is nothing gained by the juggling figures that are so often printed in the papers. The Independent is glad to note that there is a set of bankers in one city that has dropped the old-fashioned lie contained in most of the reports. The bankers of the city of Denver recently made a statement that the ordinary farmer can understand without assistance and without figuring over the matter for an hour. It stated that the amount of deposits was \$40,385,550; bonds and stocks, \$10,843,307; loans, \$21,251,421; CASH ON HAND, \$19,957,956. There is no

chance with such a report as that for some reporter to declare that the people of Denver have \$60 cash per capita deposited in the banks. Such a declaration is usually appended to every bank report printed in republican papers. But then they are so in the habit of lying that probably they can't help it.

According to George D. Perkins of the Sioux City Journal, Senator Allison is hard at work on that plank of the coming republican platform in Iowa which shall say that the tariff shall not be a shelter for the trusts and it shall be a shelter for the trusts, so that it will be satisfactory to both wings of the party. How quick the trusts can make a republican officeholder lay down is shown in the action of Governor Cummins. He's for "harmony" now.

that the people's party entered upon its introduction to the world. It was an unoccupied field, neglected alike by economists and statesmen. The great agents of the distribution of wealth are land, transportation and money. With these rightly controlled, the immense fortunes, that now threaten the welfare of the republic, would never have been accumulated and the mass of the people would have had a greater share in the wealth that has been produced. This is the field that populism has occupied and it is for the best interests of mankind that it should continue to occupy it. The necessities of the people call for the continued existence of the people's party and it will be maintained. It is the only party that points the way to a more equitable distribution of wealth.

Everything in the Philippines seems to have been on the speculation or-

der. Some of these speculations beat all the promoters from Morgan down. One of them was to confine the natives as prisoners of war in camps, get money from congress to feed them and then sell to them rice bought with the money furnished from America, at an extortionate price. That was a "dead sure thing."

A communication from the Young Men's Educational club, New York city, says: "The Young Men's Educational club conduct a free library and reading rooms at 319 East 4th street, in the heart of a thickly populated district. These reading rooms are extensively patronized, and we aim to keep on our files a supply of all publications. Our means, however, are limited as yet. We would greatly appreciate the donation of any of your publications, and are confident that your favor would reap a return in a substantial manner by the advertisement received by placing such publications on our tables." The Independent gladly places this club on its list for a complimentary copy regularly.

The interstate commerce commission, just as lake transportation was beginning, declared that railroad rates on grain were too high. It is the custom of the roads to reduce rates upon the opening of lake navigation, but the managers now say that they won't do it for the action will be construed as obeying the interstate commerce commission. That shows how much that costly commission amounts to. The railroads do not now and never have paid any more attention to its suggestions and orders than they would to those of a Nebraska farmer. The commission furnishes some snug life positions to a few political pets at \$5,000 a year and that is all.

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Beginning this week and continuing for two weeks we are offering special inducements to home-women to buy Carpet and Curtain Furnishings of us. This is the time when every household is being cleaned from top to bottom. There are many new things to be bought. You would probably like to save on some of them, would you? Every thrifty housewife does. A glance over these items will convince you of the good values we're offering. We are remodeling our big store. The moving of stock from one part of the store to another, incident to remodeling time, is an occasion for many bargains in different departments. Don't fail to avail yourself of this opportunity to buy at big savings. Read on.

CARPETS

GRANITE CARPET 36 inches wide, good fast colors, new spring patterns, a regular 35 cent value for yard.....**28c**

ALL-WOOL CARPET—We show many pleasing designs in these carpets which you can buy at a saving of 11 cents per yard. Price during the sale, yard.....**49c**

BEST ALL-WOOL—extra super two-ply Carpet, 50 patterns to select from, regular 75 cent carpet, specially priced for, yard.....**65c**

SMITH'S VELVET CARPET—in Persian, Floral, and Oriental patterns, will be sold at, yard **\$1 10**

BRUSSELS CARPET—Many of these carpets you can secure on very favorable terms, we are anxious to dispose of them to make room for new lines. That's why we are selling them at a reduction of over one-third off. Regular price is 65c a yard, sale price, yard.....**39c**

RUGS

GOOD SMYRNA RUGS—Size 27x54 inches, the regular \$1.65 rug, will be marked for, each **\$1 10**

AXMINSTER RUGS—Size 30x60 inches, worth \$2.35, special price.....**\$1 95**

CURTAINS

NOTTINGHAM LACE CURTAINS—Good width and 3½ yards long, regular price is \$2.25 per pair, sale price, pair.....**\$1 25**

NOTTINGHAM CURTAINS—60 inches wide and 3½ yards long, that are worth \$4.00 will sell for, pair.....**\$2 98**

BRUSSELS NET CURTAINS—Durable net, good width and length, sells regularly for \$5.00 sale price, pair.....**\$3 75**

CABLE NET CURTAINS—Strong twisted cord, a beautiful curtain of excellent wearing quality, worth \$7.50, will be, pair.....**\$5 00**

PORTIERES

ROPE PORTIERES—Extra width, large cord and tassels, and heavy netted lattice top, our regular \$3.50 portiere, will sell for.....**\$2 50**

HEAVY DAMASK PORTIERES—Extra quality mercerized silk, worth \$7.50, sale price..**\$6 00**

CHENILLE PORTIERES—In red and green, that are worth \$4.50, will sell for, pair.....**\$3 25**