

SMALL CHANGE.

Silverites claim that the adoption of their scheme would "make more work." In the sense that men would have to work harder to get the things they need, free silver would certainly make more work.

The progress of civilization in any country is best shown by the use of superior tools and labor saving inventions. There is no doubt that if the skilled American mechanic were compelled to work with the crude tools used in China and India, it would take him far longer to make an article, and he would thus have to work harder than he does now.

In the same way the adoption of an inferior metal like silver for a standard of value would make the process of production and exchange of commodities more difficult, and thus the working classes would have "more work." But since it is not merely work in itself, but the products of labor, which workingmen really want, their best interests are served by the use of that standard of value under which production and exchange are greatest and easiest.

There can be no question that it is in the countries which have deliberately adopted the gold standard that the intelligence of the people, as shown through their superiority in methods of production, art, science, literature, etc., has reached its highest level. Since this is the case it is reasonable to infer that their use of a particular metal for a measure of value was guided by the same wisdom which they have shown in other directions.

All attempts to show how free coinage would increase the demand for goods, and, therefore, create a business boom, have miserably failed, and the silver cause is rapidly losing the support of better times under the silver standard. The proof that cheap money does not encourage consumption, and therefore would not increase the volume of exchanges of goods, is found in the undeniable fact that in all countries using only silver money the average consumption is much smaller than in the gold standard countries.

In the silverite arguments intended to show the farmer that he would be richer if he received more "dollars" for his products, it is taken for granted that the dollars he would get under free coinage would be worth just as much as those he gets to-day. If the farmers once understood that the value of the money they are paid for their crop depends entirely on the quantity of goods which it will buy, and that with free silver a dollar would only purchase half of what it will now, they would quickly cease their agitation for cheap money.

It will now be in order for some of our "16 ter ones" to kick on the golden streets because they are not paved with silver, and swear that the whole plan of salvation is a scheme of the gold bugs to put heaven on a gold basis.

WHAT FREE COINAGE WOULD DO.



GROCER—Yes, prices are just about double. WAGE EARNER—But my wages are just about the same.

FOREIGN CAPITAL BUGABOO.

Our Debts Abroad Need Not Worry Anybody—Advantages of an Influx of Foreign Money.

Our foreign debts are a great source of worryment to the free coinage people. Every instance of bonds sold abroad is taken up by them to prove that our property is passing into the hands of foreigners, that Germany, France and England will soon own this country, and that we cannot possibly pay our interest to them in gold.

Strangely enough it never seems to occur to them that the Americans who are selling this property may be getting full value for it. And yet when you meet one of these Americans who has just completed a sale to a foreign syndicate he never seems dejected. If anybody in America has lost anything by the sale he must be the man, but who ever saw an American struggling to escape from the clutches of an English syndicate who were trying to buy his property.

The United States has been greatly benefited in the past by the flow of European capital hither for investment. It has hastened the development of the country, reduced the cost of transportation, increased the value of Western farms and lowered the rates of interest.

"You can't draw all the money of the world into one country any more than you can partition the Atlantic and pump one side dry. England leaks gold at every pore after enough is piled up there to depress interest rates."—George E. Roberts.

The "Dollar of Our Daddies."

It looks as though the people did not want the "dollar of our daddies." We have coined hundreds of millions of them, and for twenty years the Treasury has tried by every conceivable means to get them into circulation, and yet the report of the Director of the Mint last fall shows that there were only \$55,000,000 in circulation. Our people refuse to receive them as change in any amount, and they accumulate in the banks, which in turn dump them into the United States Treasury. Hundreds of millions of them lie there in useless heaps, which we cannot dispose of in any manner whatsoever.

Disaster With Dishonor.

National dishonor is the dishonor of every citizen; and any change in the standard of value, or anything done which shall deprive any creditor of the United States of payment in full in money recognized as valid by the leading commercial Nations of the world, will not only be dishonorable, but will result in the pecuniary loss to every citizen in the United States.—R. Weissinger, in "What Is Money?"

A Question.

Querious—"What do the silver people mean by 16 to 1?" Jollicus—"Those are the odds against their winning."

MILLS'S POSITION.

OUTSIDE THE SILVER CAMP.

He Finds It Impossible Longer to Believe in the Free Coinage Delusion.—He Gives Most Excellent Reasons for His Change of Front.

Senator Mills, of Texas, like many others, has during the past six months renewed his study of the money question and, like many other distinguished men, has come to the conclusion that free coinage of silver at a ratio of 16 to 1 with gold is a delusion and a snare. His recent letter to the Chairman of the Democratic State Committee of Texas has created consternation in the camp of the silverites.

"The proposition is not to be disputed that the increase of currency, all other things being equal, raises prices wherever the money circulates. But prices are not affected in any country where the money does not circulate. The opening of our mints to the unlimited coinage of silver will increase prices in the United States, but not in Europe. As the prices of commodities rise here, the value of the dollar falls here in precisely the same proportion.

"I object to the silver standard being adopted in lieu of the existing standard because it will defraud all creditors out of one-half the value of their debts. Every debt contracted since January 1, 1879, was contracted on the gold standard. The debtor honestly owes the value of 23.22 grains of gold for every dollar promised, and the creditor is honestly entitled to receive it.

"No persons would receive the least benefit from the change of standard to silver except the man who owes 100 cents and wishes to pay it with 50. He would under the silver standard be able to discharge his debt by paying one-half of what he promised. This would be a scheme to enrich one-half of a community by despoiling the other half.

"I object to the silver standard again, because it is not the standard of the country with which we conduct our largest commerce. Mr. Jefferson says, 'To trade on equal terms the common measure of value should be as nearly as possible on a par with that of its corresponding Nation, whose medium is in a sound state.' The reason for it is, as he says, 'being of universal value, it will keep itself on a general level, flowing out from where it is too high into parts where it is lower.' Gold is the common measure of value of the people with whom we carry on nine-tenths of our foreign trade, and, according to the principles enunciated by him, gold should be our standard, as it has been since the days of Jackson, Van Buren, Polk, Pierce and Buchanan, except during the war period from 1861 to 1879, when paper was the standard.

By a misuse of the words "cheap" and "dear" the free coinage advocates pretend that the believers in the gold standard want money scarce and interest high. Pointing to the sound currency objections against "cheap money," a leading silver organ asks: "What does this mean, if not that the men opposed to cheap money want money scarce and dear?" This trick of words should deceive no one.

"Believing that the silver standard would prove injurious to the people of the United States, and especially to that part of them engaged in growing cotton, I am unwilling to take any steps in legislation calculated to imperil that great industry upon which the welfare of my constituency so greatly depends.

"The vast army of wage-workers will be injured, and seriously injured, by the expulsion of the present standard and the adoption of any depreciated standard of values. The paper standard, as I have said, is the worst, because the paper has no appreciable intrinsic value to check its expansion. The silver standard is the next in order, but its mischief is limited by the market value of the metal in the dollar. The most stable, invariable and the best of all monies is that one of the precious metals which is recognized as 'the common measure of value' of the commercial world.

Advocates of our present standard believe in having money as plentiful as the business of the country requires, but they insist that it must all be good money.

A BITTER EXPERIENCE.

That of the Wage-Earner With Depreciated Currency During Our Greenback Period.

Perhaps there is no better or clearer demonstration of the effect of a depreciated currency upon wages than that offered by the experience of the United States during the Civil War. Prices advanced as soon as the Government began to issue legal tender notes. Wages advanced a little later but less rapidly.

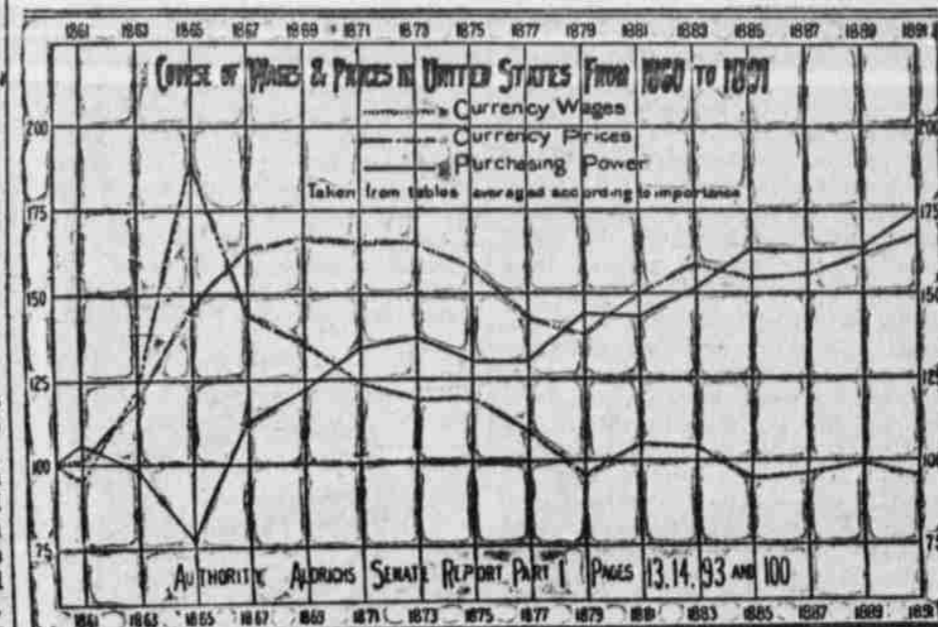
In spite of the fact that about one-fourth of the best workers were serving as soldiers and withdrawn from competition with their fellow wage-earners, so great was the decline in the purchasing power of wages that, in 1865, the workingman found himself working for four-fifths of what he had received in 1861. Since 1865, and especially since the resumption of specie payments in 1879, the purchasing power of a day's labor has been steadily increasing.

In the following table (taken from "Quality of Money and Wages," by Frank L. McVey) the average nominal wages paid in leading occupations in 1860 was taken as a normal—100 per cent.; the prices for the leading necessities of life in 1860 were taken as the normal for prices; and the amount of these necessities that could be purchased by a day's labor in 1860 was taken as the normal for the purchasing power of wages.

TABLE OF WAGES, PRICES AND PURCHASING POWER IN THE UNITED STATES, 1860-1891. (Aldrich's Senate Report, Part I, pp. 13, 93.)

Table with 4 columns: Year, Currency Wages, Currency Prices, Purchasing Power. Rows for years 1860 to 1891.

The wage-earner's loss is shown in a more striking form in the accompanying diagram, also taken from Mr. McVey's pamphlet:



It seems strange, with such a history and such an experience before him, that any wage-earner would be foolish enough to agitate for depreciated silver or any other kind of cheap dollars.

Sound Money; Low Interest.

By a misuse of the words "cheap" and "dear" the free coinage advocates pretend that the believers in the gold standard want money scarce and interest high. Pointing to the sound currency objections against "cheap money," a leading silver organ asks: "What does this mean, if not that the men opposed to cheap money want money scarce and dear?" This trick of words should deceive no one.

That poor money does not mean low interest can be seen by those countries which have the silver standard. In every case the rate of interest is higher than in the Nations which have the gold standard. England is represented by the silverites as a robber gold-bug country, yet in England money is loaned out at lower interest than in any other part of the world, while in Mexico and the silver-using countries of Central and South America, not to speak of semi-civilized China and Japan, the rates of interest are much higher than in the United States.

Advocates of our present standard believe in having money as plentiful as the business of the country requires, but they insist that it must all be good money.

"THE CAT AND THE FIDDLE."



Hey, diddle, diddle. The mine owner's fiddle.

NO SILVER IN CIRCULATION IN 1873.

The plain truth is that this act of 1873, which has been the subject of so much misapprehension and denunciation, was simply a legal recognition of a monetary condition which had existed in fact in this country for about thirty-five years, or ever since a short time after the passage of the coinage act of 1834. From about the year 1838 until after the passage of the Bland-Allison act in 1878, no silver dollars were in circulation in this country, and our whole currency consisted of gold coins and bank notes, except from 1862 to 1878, when our active circulation, outside of California and its neighboring territory, was all paper.

THE SILVER DISCUSSION.

Disputed Points Definitely Settled During the Past Six Months.

During the past six months the country has been turned into a vast debating society, and the proposition for the free coinage of silver at a ratio of 16 to 1 has been eagerly discussed in the magazines and newspapers, on the platform and in political conventions. At the outset the advocates of free silver appeared to be in the majority, and as their movement was well organized it seemed as though the 16 to 1 issue would sweep the country.

But the advantage of the cheap money shouters was short-lived. Through the sound money press, and in a large number of books and pamphlets, the folly and dishonesty of free silver was clearly shown, and by facts and statistics, which left no room for controversy, the false claims of the silverite agitators were overwhelmingly refuted. Now that public sentiment is strongly inclined in favor of maintaining our present sound financial system, a brief review will show the main points which have been definitely settled during the free coinage discussion.

1. It was asserted by the silverites that by "the crime of 1873" silver was secretly demonetized. It has been proved beyond dispute, so that the charge has been generally dropped, that the coinage laws of 1873 were adopted after being three years before Congress, and with the full knowledge of the members of both Houses.

2. It was claimed that the free coinage of silver at 16 to 1 would establish a bimetallic standard of values, whereby both gold and silver would be used as standard money. It has been proved that in reality free coinage at 16 to 1 would mean silver monometallism, and this is now admitted by such eminent advocates of bimetalism as President Andrews and General Francis A. Walker.

3. It was urged that there was a scarcity of money and that free silver would give a larger volume of currency. It has been proved that there is now more money per capita than at any time in the history of the country, and that the adoption of the silver standard would lead to currency contraction by driving out all our gold.

4. It was said that since 1873 one-half of the money of the country had been struck down. It has been shown that while in 1873 there was less than \$100,000,000 of silver money of all kinds in the country, there is now over \$500,000,000.

5. It was charged that the gold standard was adopted and maintained at the instigation of a small creditor class, against the interests of a large debtor class. It has been proved that the number of creditors far exceeds that of the debtors, and that the only way in which free silver could benefit debtors would be by aiding them to repudiate part of their debts.

6. It was said that the passage of a free coinage law would raise the commercial value of silver from 30 to 1 to the ratio of 16 to 1. It has been proved that it would be impossible for the Government's stamp on silver coins to increase their real value, which, as in the case of all other commodities, depends on supply and demand.

7. It was claimed that free coinage would benefit workingmen by giving them higher wages. It has been proved that under the silver standard the prices of everything the workingman buys would at once be doubled, while any increase in wages would be slow and much smaller in proportion.

8. The cotton planters and wheat growers were told that the decline in the price of their products was caused by the gold standard. It has been shown that during the past six months cotton has advanced 50 per cent., and that wheat rose from 55 to 84 cents per bushel, without any change in the standard or volume of money. It has also been shown that prices of corn (our greatest staple), oats, butter and eggs, and of many other farm products, as well as of the price of labor (wages), are higher now than in 1873.

9. The business depression of 1893-4 was asserted to be due to the alleged demonetization of silver. The present widespread industrial revival, with factories running on full time, new mills being built, and general evidence of prosperity, is a complete answer to the calamity howl which was the main reliance of the silverites.

Unsafe.

Teacher—"Now, Dick, you may repeat the golden text." Dick Hicks—"I don't dare; me fadder is a silver man."

Colorado Ammunition.

"Now," said one of the campaign managers to the candidate, "to start with you are a bimetalist." "Excuse me, I'm a trimetalist."

"What do you mean?" "I propose to run this campaign on gold, silver and brass."—Washington Star.

Too Busy to Talk Silver.

The free silver sentiment grows smaller as the revival of business gives men less time to stand around and argue. This indicates that the agitation was one of the incidental symptoms of a financial stringency and not a cool-headed demand for a radical change of policy.—Washington Star.