

THE PEOPLE'S MONEY

THE London Times, which is the particular and especial organ of British interests, puts the whole money question in a nutshell as follows:

"It seems impossible to get bimetalists to understand that there is quite a large number of us for whom a general rise of prices has no charms whatever. We like them low, and the lower the better. If they all went down to half their present figures we should rejoice, because we have nothing to sell and a great many things to buy. For those who have things to sell we do not feel any great concern."

Now, says the Atlanta Constitution, this is all there is in the whole business. The London Times speaks for what is technically known as the city—the banking interests—the interests of Lombard street. When it says "we have nothing to sell," it speaks for the large and growing class in this country and in England that produces nothing—the class that collects its annuities and clips its coupons, having nothing to sell and everything to buy.

Honest people ought to be thankful to the Times for speaking out so plainly. It states the whole case in a nutshell. It speaks for the whole class of those who have nothing to sell, but everything to buy. This class, representing one man in every one hundred thousand of the world's population—maybe less, is undoubtedly right in desiring to make prices lower and lower all the time. They care nothing for the progress of the world, nor for the state of business. All that they are interested in is the increase in the purchasing power of the money in which their debts, and the interest on them, are paid.

That is the main thing. They do not look to the future, nor do they anticipate a moment when their debtors will be unable to pay in gold. They know that if liquidation occurs they will get in the neighborhood of gold values for whatever may be realized, and so they are content to wag along under the gold standard, which makes money dealers richer and all producers poorer. The Constitution has stated heretofore that the money question was merely a question of prices—a simple contest between those who deal in money and those who buy money with the products of their labor. The London Times, the organ of the British gold monometallists, makes this perfectly plain when it says that "a general rise in prices has no charms whatever." No charms, of course, to the creditor class, for then debtors would be able to pay their debts on easier terms. Producers would have to give a less quantity of their cotton and wheat in order to procure a given quantity of debt-paying and tax-paying money.

When the Times says that "a general rise in prices has no charms whatever," it means that general prosperity in the United States has no charms whatever for the British shillcock. We have no criticism to offer on the somewhat selfish remarks of the Times. From the point of view of an organ of British interests the Times is undoubtedly correct. A general rise of prices in the United States—or, what is the same thing, general prosperity—instead of helping Great Britain, would hurt it, and hurt it very seriously. It would have to give a larger amount of gold for our products—for our cotton and wheat—and as a result, its profits would be tremendously cut down.

Great Britain is the buyer of cotton, wheat and other staple commodities, and the people of the United States are the sellers. A general rise in prices would bring about general prosperity here at the expense of Great Britain. The gold monometallists would declare that we had no sound money; but prices would be sound, and Great Britain would have to give up her "sound" money in order to obtain our cotton and our wheat.

The whole business is as simple as a sum in addition to those whose minds are not confused. England, being the buyer of our food products and of our raw material, is interested in low prices. The people of the United States, being the producers of food products and the raw material that Great Britain is obliged to have, are interested in higher prices.

By remonetizing silver, they can, at one stroke, secure higher prices and a return of prosperity. The question is, will they allow the politicians to fool them in this business?

Not a Novelty.

Bimetallism is no novelty. It is 4,000 years old. Gold monometallism is not yet 50 years old in this country, not 25 years old. Bimetallism for centuries was a triumphant success. If we may judge by the conditions prevailing in the treasury at Washington gold monometallism is a failure.

The Director of the Mint has shown that the world now produces as much gold as its total product of gold and silver in 1865. This means that the world's business is thirty years ahead of its supply of standard money. It is beyond dispute that if gold should be generally demonetized, it would lose value as silver did. Why should men deny, with respect to silver, that which they must admit with respect to gold?

The stock of wheat is not enlarged by issue of elevator certificates. The stock of sound money cannot be increased by the emission of paper notes and other bank credits. A vegetarian

who would starve to death when beef was available, because he could not get vegetables, would be pronounced a fool. A nation is not less foolish if it permit scarcity of gold violently to disorder its business when it may have security and peace by using silver with gold. The period of greatest prosperity the world ever saw followed immediately upon discovery of gold and silver deposits in the West. No nation ever had, or can have, too much metal money. We have deliberately discarded half of that which the Creator gave to us.—Manufacturer, Philadelphia.

Puzzles of the Period.

Why was silver demonetized? Who knows?

Who were the beneficiaries? Who can tell?

Why was a prosperous industry crippled?

Why does everybody favor bimetalism?

Why do some who favor (?) it oppose it?

Why does everybody admit demonetization was wrong?

Why do so many of them assent to its continuance?

Why, if it was wrong, can it not be put right?

Who stands in the way of it, and why?

Who is running this country, anyhow?

Who are they running it to benefit?

Why should the English banker be more favored than the American silver miner?

Why should the United States Government stand in with the Englishmen?

Why do bankers assume the average citizen has no sense?

Why does the average citizen submit to such an assumption? These are the puzzles of the period.

This Is a Clincher.

The Denver News says that one of the arguments now floating about the country as a clincher upon the advocates of free coinage is that a very large proportion of all bonds and other instruments of indebtedness is payable specifically in gold. We are asked what good it would do to restore bimetalism since those debts must be met in one metal only. Those who advance this statement do not seem to realize that the trouble lies in the appreciation of gold.

If silver were restored to an equality with gold as primary money the appreciated quotation of the yellow metal, due to its being the sole money of final redemption would fall. Gold would come down. Sixteen ounces of silver would buy an ounce of gold. In relation to all manner of commodities gold would fall likewise and a bushel of wheat would exchange for as nearly as much gold as it will now procure. It follows, therefore, that the redemption of bonds payable in gold could practically be made in gold or silver. An automatic law would quickly adjust the relations of gold with other products of human labor and strip the metal of the valuation given to it by the selfish legislation in the interest of the gold owners.

When Will We See?

At Berlin, at Vienna, at Paris, one day last week the Eastern question had so unsettled the stock exchange that shares fell 20, 22, 40 and 44 florins and that "since the memorable collapse of 1873 no such startling panic had occurred at Vienna." It is only two years since our panic was induced by shipping gold to Austria—"to put her finances on a sound money basis."

When will common sense open its eyes and see the position to which gold legislation has brought the world—that the finances of the world are so in the hands of the brokers and speculators in stocks that a war rumor is in danger of bankrupting business everywhere. In Europe all governments but Russia belong to the gold syndicate and a crisis anywhere breeds, in the language of the press dispatches—ruin. And yet every effort is now being made to include the United States in this "ruin." Russia is free from it because she is a silver nation—makes and uses her own money.

The Way It Works.

If the people have confidence in the banks to leave their deposits with them, and the banks have confidence in the people enough to loan freely, and in each other—so as to work together, everything may move swimmingly.

But if one-eighth of the deposits should be withdrawn, it would call for all the actual cash in the vaults. It would compel the banks to call in loans in even greater proportion. It would mean hardship and trouble, especially for those who are weak financially and dependent on their credit.

Or, if the banks become frightened, as they did in 1893 (and they always stand on ticklish ground), they may precipitate disaster for all the weak and dependent, both among themselves and their customers.

Why is the practice of the Chinese in making the feet of their females fit their shoes and not making the shoes fit the feet, like the gold standard? Because the gold standard makes the business of the country fit the volume of money and does not make the volume of money fit the business of the country.—Silver Knight.

SAD ELECTION MUSINGS.

The Democratic donkey is dead, Ah, me! Ah, me! What a very sad sight to behold! It died of goldbug founder, alkali. Or ponderous King Grover may have broken its back. There is grief in the thought, it will never come back! Boo hoo! Boo hoo!

The cuckoos are all moulted, How sad! How sad! All their plumage will soon be gone! Those innocent birds so fleet of wing, Pathetic they coo and sweetly sing. They will never bloom out again in the spring. Boo hoo! Boo hoo!

The mugwump is rapidly passing away. More tears! More tears! This political missing link. He came forth a mushroom—sprang up through the dew. A tory in principle, his merits were few. The mugwump died, 'twas all he could do. Boo hoo! Boo hoo!

One by one these Democrats humbly debase, Tears flow! Tears flow! Unwept and unhonored they pass away, Sound money humbuggery—its die has been cast; "Public office a trust," Grover's humbug, has passed, And revenue tariff went off with a gasp, Boo hoo! Boo hoo! —Dallas Mercury.

The Octopus Reaches Out. The trusts, not content with pooling the railroads, now propose to lay their unholy hands on the great inland seas over which passes the mightiest internal commerce in the world. A few more turns of the screws and they will have every vessel owner, every shipper and every dweller on the great lakes as completely at their mercy as a mouse in the claws of the cat. As soon as they get the tools drawn they propose to demand of Congress the legalizing of their unholy pool. And just at this juncture the plutocratic press shout, with ghoulish glee, "The Populist party is dead." Only that party stands between them and universal dominion. Never was there such a demand for the growth and success of the Populist party, which is the only one that offers a hostile front to just such conspiracies as that boldly described in the press dispatches. Let every Populist read this infamous story and highly resolve that he will fight as never before to rescue the people from the awful fate with which they are threatened. This is no time for despondency, no time for weakening. The logic of events, the very instinct of self-preservation, will drive into the reform ranks many of those who refused to listen until they felt the screws tightening, but will be forced to resist when they find themselves being made victims. The "Presidents' Agreement" and lordly sweep to grasp the whole universe will prove an effective recruiting agent for the principle of Government control.—Non-conformist.

What It Means.

The result of the recent elections—Means down with humbug Democracy!

It means that the bankers cannot run the government.

It means that Clevelandism cannot be palmed off as Jeffersonianism.

It means that the Monroe doctrine must be enforced.

It means that English bondocracy cannot run this country.

It means that toryism in the White House is not popular.

It means that this government can make money, and will do it.

It means that the people know when they have had enough of a bad thing.

It means that death awaits any party that deserts the masses for the classes.

It means that party bondage is broken, and that the people will hereafter vote independently.

It means that a political revolution is coming in 1896, and that the people's cause will win.

It means that the people will not longer submit to a dictator in the White House.

It means that the people do not want the treasury of the United States turned over to the Rothschilds.

It means many things that the leading men of the country should study and understand, for the people are hereafter to control.

It means that there is public wrath in store for a party that defies the people and robs the laboring and wealth producing masses. Let all future administrations take warning.

Senator Sherman Has Soured.

Poor Senator Sherman is growing sour in his old age. The publication of the remarkable confessions he has made would seem to indicate one fact very clearly. That fact is that the magnates of the Republican party are a lot of scheming rogues, and they treated the Sherman boom like a football in college fashion. One thing the Senator asserts, which shows that for all his political experience he fails to understand the institutions of his country. He attributes the perpetual defeat he has sustained in his efforts to attain the presidency to the "selling out" process. He is mistaken. He would have been nominated in spite of the politicians if he had won the confidence of the people. He failed to get nominated because there was never any popular demand for his nomination. Sherman was never a man of the people. He was always on the side of the money power. He could only have been nominated through the favor of the bosses. But the bosses could not rely upon him any more than the people could. When thieves fall out honest men get their due, and it is a good thing that Sherman has begun to quarrel.—Twentieth Century.

How Fared the People's Party.

The People's party vote in the States where the party possessed an organization has, as usual, been about doubled. In Ohio the reports show that the Populists polled about 100,000 votes.

This is more than double the vote ever cast by the reformers in Ohio. In Nebraska there was a close race between the People's party candidate for judge and the Republican candidate. The Nebraska Populists claim to have doubled their vote this year. The People's vote of Iowa was greatly increased. The People's party carried a majority of the counties in Colorado and in Utah the People's party loomed up in reasonable proportion at the very first election, where statehood is an issue. In Boston, Mass., where we never had a ticket out before, more than 4,000 reform votes were polled.

In Mississippi the People's party ticket gave the Democrats a hard tussle, and gallant Burkitt ran close on the heels of the old party ticket. The result is highly satisfactory to the People's party.—Exchange.

The Populist Candidate.

The Pops don't want a fisherman for Presidential candidate.

Who, all the time, with pole and line and demijohn and bait.

Will fish and fish for suckers, but a sea serpent often sees.

While the nation's destiny and weal is floating with the breeze.

The Pops don't want a President who can't live at home.

In the White House built by government, but every year must roam.

With Wall street bankers in their yachts, thro' rivers, sea and bay.

Who fills the office only when he draws his annual pay.

The Pops don't want a President, all stomach, feet and fat.

Who can slip his collar over his head and never doff his hat.

The Pops don't want a President whose self esteem and gall.

Eclipses judgment, common sense, his reason, mind and all.

The Pops don't want a President save he's honest, brave and true.

And loyal to his country—a tory will not do.

The Pops won't have a President who won't dare do what's right.

The office fill, do the people's will, and if need be, who will fight.

—Southern Mercury.

Nation Needs Men.

If ever a nation was needy this nation is now. If ever a nation was bowed down to the knees by a lot of arrant demagogues this is one. If ever court of king or emperor was surrounded by a lot of brainless flunkies and fawning sycophants the court of King Grover can show it points it never dreamed of in this. We speak of effeminate luxury which possessed the people preceding the downfall of the Roman empire. It needs only a glance to show how rapidly we are approaching the dry rot of laziness and the sapping influences of wealth and luxury on the one hand and abject poverty on the other. What this nation needs most is men.

"Men whom the lust of office does not kill. Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy. Men who possess opinions and will. Men who have honor, men who will not lie."

Men who can stand before a demagogue and damn his treacherous flatteries without winking.

Tall men, sun crowned, who live above the fog.

In public duty and in private thinking: For while the rabble with their thumb worn creeds.

Their large professions and their little deeds.

Mingle in selfish strife, lo! freedom weeps, Wrong rules the land and waiting justice sleeps."

The Cause of It.

Certain Democrats who are a week older than they were seven days ago are very busy explaining how it all came about, and it sounds something like this:

It was all due to the obstinate asininity of Grover Cleveland. I think it will effectually lay that old fraud on the shelf.—Altgeld.

It is because all the Democratic farmers went wild over that 300-pound pumpkin raised in my State and they forgot to vote.—Bill Morrison.

We have met the enemy and we are theirn—but all. I might have known better than to huncle Forsaker.—Calviniss Brice.

It was because Gorman was loyal to genuine Democracy.—David B. Hill.

It is because he wasn't.—Senator Hurst.

About all I can see in it is a Republican occupying my seat in the Senate after March 4, 1897.—Daniel W. Voorhees.

It was the fulfillment of my prophecy that the Democratic party would "march through a slaughter house into an open grave."—Henry Watterson.

It is a vindication of "sound money."—J. P. Morgan.

Too many Republicans in the Democratic party.—Allen W. Thurman.

Among Our Exchanges.

It is reported that the barbers have raised the price of shaving Democrats. Their faces have grown so long that the barbers propose to charge by the yard Owensboro (Ky.) Journal.

If you think more of your party than you do of principle you are a party slave. If you vote for party instead of principle to avoid ridicule you are a moral coward.—Morgan's Buzzsaw.

The farmers are borrowing money to pay their taxes. As they sign the mortgage they can console themselves with the thought that they are getting "sound money."—Auburn (Me.) Populist.

Texas polls more Populist votes than any State in the Union, and she stands square on the Omaha platform, has not got a leader that ever advocated fusion, and had a State platform thirty-three planks long.—Morgan's Buzzsaw.

If a law were passed by which you were to give five days of labor to pay a debt, your creditor would have a kick coming, wouldn't he? You know that it now takes twice as many days of toil to pay a debt as it did thirty years ago, yet some of you call for "honest" money and low wages by voting for limiting our money to gold. Are you crazy or just a fool?—Meadville (Pa.) Sledge Hammer.

THE COMRADE'S FAREWELL.

Around the grinning coal mine men are whispering low;

The beetle is all over now, the engines cease to go.

How quick the change around the place in but a moment's time:

Another soul is called on high from out that dreadful mine.

The victim is young Michael Clarke, his age is twenty-three;

Beloved by every one around, a cheerful lad was he.

'Twas in Mount Vernon, No. 6, he toiled to earn his bread;

A hardy, faithful working lad, so everybody said.

That morning, as was usual, he went forth with a smile

To prosecute his labors, little knowing that the while

That dismal shadow, grim death, hung o'er his faithful head.

Before quitting time down in that mine his noble spirit fled.

Without a moment's warning the awful deed was done,

A ponderous stone fell from the roof, it nearly weighed five ton;

His little brother called for help and tried to lift the stone;

Assistance was of no avail, poor Michael's life was gone.

To see the foreman of the mine, none sadder felt than he,

He had an interest in the lad, with him he could agree;

There can no blame unto his name, no one could stay the blow;

His time had come, his toil was done, and who could answer no.

Slowly move the engines now, he has reached the light of day;

Strong men try to stay the tear and turn their heads away;

And to his home they bore him forth, that silent, bleeding face,

Where in that household none on earth can ever fill his place.

Farewell, our loving comrade, then since we must bid adieu,

To a loving brother, faithful son, a comrade good and true;

Although we miss your cheerful voice, thy kind word and thy smile,

'Tis consolation for us to know, 'tis only for awhile.

—Exchange.

A Great Shipping Strike.

The great shipping strike, which has thrown 60,000 workmen out of employment on the Clyde and in Belfast and paralyzed work on the new navy, has attracted general attention in Great Britain from its unreasonableness. The origin of the conflict was a dispute over the wages of a few engineers in Harland & Wolff's yard in Belfast. When times were bad two years ago, their wages were cut down two shillings a week, with the understanding that the reduction should be made good when business improved. Times being better the engineers asked to have their wages restored to the former level. The employers refused on the ground that, while there was plenty of work, they had taken contracts at so low rates that they could not raise wages. The strike in Belfast involved a lockout, and futile efforts have been made to settle the trouble. There was no question at issue between the workmen and their employers on the Clyde. Their relations were friendly, and a future advance in rates had been arranged, but the employers there had signed an agreement to stand by the Belfast masters in all labor disputes, and in obedience to their request they declared a partial lockout on the Clyde, which brought about a general strike.

Work has ceased on the Clyde and may be suspended in other shipbuilding centers for the simple reason that a small group of Belfast engineers had a grievance and their employers have insisted on a sympathetic lockout. The conduct of the latter is generally condemned. They have themselves adopted an expedient which all employers denounced when it was introduced by new unionists. A lockout in sympathy is the complement of a sympathetic strike, and is an equally dangerous experiment. The business of a great industry is suspended when there is an abundance of work and when admiralty contracts essential to the national safety are in process of execution. The pressure of public opinion is so strong that a compromise may be forced.

Report on Trades Unions.

The British Board of Trade has published its report on trades unions in 1893. Compared with 1892 it shows an increase of trades unions of thirty-one registered and fifty-one unregistered societies, but a decrease in membership of 29,010. Accounts were received from 683 unions, showing a membership of 1,270,789. At the beginning of the year the total funds in hand amounted to £1,902,397, while at the end of the year the sum was £1,653,068, the income for the year being £1,996,371 and the expenditure of £2,246,515. The unions chiefly affected by the diminution in aggregate numbers are those representing the less skilled branches of industry. Even with the heavy fall in membership the total income shows an increase of nearly 8½ per cent, due to the fact that in the unions where there was a loss of members the contributions were the lowest, and that the organizations of the more skilled classes have considerably increased.

Forming a New Federation.

Already steps are being taken by the executives of five labor organizations in the employ of the western railroads, Frank B. Sargent, grand master of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen; Grand Secretary Arnold and Second Assistant Grand Master Mayer of the same order; W. B. Powell, grand chief; M. M. Dolphin, first assistant grand chief, and L. A. Tanquary, chairman of the grand executive committee of the railway telegraphers; First Assistant Grand Chief Lee of the railway trainmen, and grand chief clerk of the railway conductors, to counteract the work of Eugene V. Debs. He has claimed

that on his release from jail he would find no difficulty in reviving the American Railway Union and making it a greater power than ever before. Acknowledging his strength and fearing his ability, the men above named have completed arrangements to form a federation which numerically and in power will not possess any less significance than the powerful alliance with which Mr. Debs succeeded in tying up the entire system of several of the largest lines in the country.

Class Conditions in Europe.

P. J. McGuire, first vice-president of the American Federation of Labor, talks interestingly of the Labor Congress recently held at Cardiff, Wales, and at which American trades unionism was represented by Mr. McGuire and Samuel Gompers. Speaking of his experiences and observations in the old country, Mr. McGuire said:

"In Great Britain and Ireland the workmen have generally the advantage of shorter hours of labor than in the United States, the average working time being from 50 to 54 hours a week, while here it is from 10 to 12 hours a day. I noticed, too, that in those industries where the working hours have been decreased wages have increased and the trades unions are strong."

Mr. McGuire found that the working man in Europe does not live as well as in this country, and that many possessed of exceptional talents are kept down by class conditions. This latter fact, however, redounded to the benefit of the trades unions, which benefited by the advice and executive ability of such men.

New Labor Organization.

Last week saw an addition to the American Federation of Labor in the Dorcas Federal Labor Union, an organization recently formed in Chicago, and composed of the wives and sisters of trades unionists. The design is that by enlisting the women the men may be influenced to attend the meetings of their various organizations. Delegates will be sent to the trade and labor assembly, the women's central council, and also to the convention of the American Federation of Labor. To the latter Fannie Martell of the Bindery Girls' Union will be the delegate. About fifty members have already joined the Dorcas Union. The officers are: President, Mrs. Alzina P. Stevens; Vice President, Mrs. W. C. Hollister; Recording and Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. N. D. B. Maas; Financial Secretary, Miss Mary M. Hollstein; Treasurer, Miss Georgianna Jones. Its charter has been received from the American Federation of Labor, and the organization duly obligated by P. J. Maas, the organizer of the Federation in Illinois.

Wage Reductions.

The reduction of wages which began in 1892 and continued through 1893 and 1894, amounted, on the average, to 20 per cent, says the Cleveland Leader. The actual losses to labor by those reductions during the last two years and a half were at least a billion dollars, an average of \$200 for each of the 5,000,000 workers, or about \$80 a year. The average advance of 10 per cent received by 200,000 workers means a restoration of about half the loss, or \$40 a year. For the half year since last April the restoration has amounted to \$4,000,000. In brief, but \$4,000,000 of the \$1,000,000,000 lost during the panic has been restored to labor. Only 20,000 have been benefited by that restoration.

In Favor of the Operators.

Judge Little, of Xenia, Ohio, who was chosen to arbitrate the basis of wages for mining in Ohio, has found in favor of the operators. The mining scale in Ohio is determined by the prevailing rate in western Pennsylvania. The miners claimed that 69 cents was the prevailing rate, and the operators claimed it was 64 cents. It was shown that seven-tenths of the coal produced in western Pennsylvania was mined at 64 cents, and Judge Little held that was the prevailing rate. Only the operators having their own stores pay 69 cents in western Pennsylvania. On the basis of the arbitration the rate in Ohio will be advanced from 51 to 55 cents a ton.

General Labor Notes.

The painters have a union label. The Massillon miners' strike has been declared off.

The silver burnishers of Boston, Mass., won their strike.

The bicycle toolmakers at Toledo won their strike for a higher minimum rate of wages.

The constitutionality of the California barbers' Sunday closing law will be tested in the Supreme Court.

The labor organizations of San Francisco are strenuously opposing the carrying of mails on street railways.

Cigar makers are discussing the question of starting international co-operative shops to provide work for aged craftsmen.

The strike of weavers in a Philadelphia mill has been ended by the firm granting a part of the advance in wages demanded.

Thirty-nine unions of the A. R. U. have been organized in the Eastern States. Forty unions are to be started in Tennessee and Georgia.

The granite cutters' national union has decided by a referendum vote to affiliate with the American Federation of Labor. The official headquarters are at Baltimore.

The lake seamen's union of Chicago is reported as being in excellent shape. The men are generally employed, wages are good and the membership larger than ever before, and a good treasury.

The report of the secretary-treasurer of the American Federation shows a balance on hand September 1 of \$1,763,87; receipts for September, \$1,176,17; total, \$2,939,04; expenditures, \$750,54, leaving a balance of \$2,188,50.