

POLITICS OF THE DAY

A BUGABOO.

Among the arguments frequently advanced by the advocates of the gold standard is the one to the effect that the adoption of the silver policy would result in the instant withdrawal from the country of all the gold now here, amounting to about six hundred millions, and that in consequence of this sudden and severe contraction of the currency there would be panic and business disaster. Even so intelligent and scholarly a man as Carl Schurz was guilty of making this assertion in his recent speech at Chicago. As in immediate conjunction with this argument most speakers and writers also assert that free coinage will result in flooding the country with silver from the rest of the world and a great inflation of our currency, the average man is confused and ends in thinking that the speaker is inconsistent, or that the subject is too deep for comprehension. The simple truth of the matter is that the speaker who makes this claim takes a very superficial view of the subject. They have heard of the Gresham law, so-called, which shows that the cheaper money invariably drives out the dearer, and they see that as soon as the free coinage policy is adopted gold will go to a premium. They connect the two facts and assume that gold will immediately take wings and fly away. A very little thought will show that there is no need to be alarmed on this account. All the gold in the country is now practically in the banks and United States treasury. In case the free coinage policy is adopted it will still be there, and will remain there. The banks are obliged by law to keep a certain amount of money on hand as a reserve for the protection of their depositors and bill-holders. Gold will still be legal tender money when free silver is adopted, and the best kind of money, just as it is now. The banks will not rush into the market to get rid of it, but will keep it as a part of their reserve and will hold it for the premium. It will constitute the best kind of a reserve because it will, according to both the free silver advocates and the adherents of the gold standard, continue to increase in value compared with silver. It will not, to be sure, be in circulation, but it will nevertheless continue to keep the circulation at its present point because it will avoid the necessity of calling other money from active circulation for reserve purposes. It may eventually leave the country, but the process will be a very gradual one, and as it goes other money will take its place. It will not cause any contraction either immediately or in the future. In fact, it may never leave the country at all. Being the best kind of reserve, owing to its constantly increasing value, it is quite likely that the banks will gather in as much as they can and retain it for the purpose of attracting patronage by the strength of their position, as well as for the sake of making a profit on a fund which will otherwise earn nothing.

Words of Truth.

Speaking of the political situation in the Middle West, Hon. Leon O. Bailey, of Indiana, declares that there have been no negotiations looking toward the abandonment of silver by the Democrats of that section. Mr. Bailey says: "The Chicago platform will not be abandoned. The principles therein enunciated are eternally right and must ultimately prevail. To abandon them or to modify our position by the slightest shadow of reasoning would not only show us treacherous to the truth, but forever stamp the party as unworthy of public confidence and incapable of carrying on the affairs of state. The platform speaks of no new theory, advances no new doctrine of a government wherein the people are sovereign and their interests held as paramount. Its declarations are as old as the republic and represent the thought and purpose of our institutions and of the Democratic party from the days of Jefferson. To abandon them would mean, as it should mean, an overwhelming repudiation by the plain people. Supposed leaders may confer as much as they please; the Chicago platform must stand."

Col. Bryan's Support.

W. H. Harvey, Unity Building, Chicago, Ill.—My Dear Sir: I inclose a pledge for monthly contributions to the cause of bimetalism until October, 1900, together with the installment for this month. I most cordially endorse the plan adopted by the committee and am confident it will result in the collection of a large fund for the circulation of bimetallic literature. Since our fight is in the interest of the "plain people"—to use Lincoln's phrase—or the "common people"—to borrow a Bible term—we must appeal to them for the means of carrying on the contest. The financiers can contribute large sums to support the gold standard, because the monopoly of money gives them great pecuniary profit. Surely, you can appeal with confidence to the millions who suffer from a rising dollar and falling prices. Having brought freedom to Cuba, the American people can renew the struggle for the financial independence of the United States, yours truly.

W. J. BRYAN.

Between Satan and the Deep.

A battle royal is on between the bankers' association and the Republican politicians. The bankers are demanding the passage of the McCleary-Gage banking bill now before Congress.

The passage of this bill will in effect put a saddle upon the backs of the business men, property owners and laborers of the country, and put the bankers in the saddle, booted and spurred. The demand of the bankers for the passage of this measure is the most brazen demand ever made by any class of citizens of their government in any age. It is a criminal demand that the people surrender their right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, because the effect of this bill will be to put into the hands of the banking combination the power to plunder the people ad libitum.

Why Quay Shivers.

Another defaulting Philadelphia bank official has been sentenced to the penitentiary, and the Honorable Matt Quay shivers with renewed apprehension as he thinks of the dark "conspiracy" to treat him in a similar manner. The Honorable Matt Quay and the Honorable Richard K. Quay are respectively President and Vice President—as well as the entire charter membership—of the Association of Persecuted Patriots.

Danger to Labor.

There is great influence being exerted by politicians to control the labor unions of the country in behalf of the Republican party. This may mean the downfall of labor societies and organizations, for in their very nature they must be non-partisan. The defeat of Lewis at Zanesville for President of the Ohio State Federation was the first result of the political interference.

Why the Treasury Is Full.

The treasury of the United States is overflowing with borrowed money. Cleveland borrowed \$262,000,000, McKinley \$200,000,000, making \$462,000,000 borrowed within six years. The Republican press point to the large treasury balance as evidence of prosperity. If a nation can borrow itself rich, why cannot an individual do the same? Verily, this is a new doctrine.

The Fear of Death in Sickness.

I have been much struck by the fact that patients afflicted with chronic and lingering diseases appear careless about death, and even have often an ardent confidence in life and hope to enjoy it long. The phenomenon is especially remarkable in consumptive patients, although they know well enough that science has no remedy for their disease, and only one of those miracles that sometimes are wrought in the organism can save them. Their belief in a near recovery is sometimes so strong that it takes the form of a real hallucination and a delirium. I can say nothing precise about those who suffer from acute diseases. There are those who remain sick, recover or die without ever saying a word about death or showing any apprehension of it; others, on the contrary, are desperate, mourn their fate and exhibit in their talk and acts poignant and profound anguish at the prospect of death. Still others manifest a resigned preoccupation and a regret modified by a stoic recognition of the inevitableness of death. It is impossible now to say what the causes of these differences are; but the question is an interesting one. A most curious phenomenon is the fact that death sometimes loses its horrible character and is contemplated with pleasure. Few psychological facts seem more strange and astonishing than this. The ancient Brahmanical custom of burning the bodies of widows with their husbands became almost a moral privilege for the women, and to many of them represented the magnificent ending of a beautiful existence.—Popular Science Monthly.

Practical Wives.

The wives of men of sentiment often possess a vein of strong common sense and a matter-of-fact nature which may at times serve to bring their poetical husbands down from their flights of fancy rather rudely.

Jean Paul represents Sienbenkas as reading one of his beautiful fancies to his wife, who listened with eyes cast down, apparently absorbed in his words. As he finished and waited for her appreciation to express itself, she said, quickly:

"Don't put on those stockings to-morrow, dear. I must mend that hole in the left one."

One day, when Sir Walter and Lady Scott were roaming about their estate, they saw some playful lambs in a meadow.

"Ah," said Sir Walter, "it is no wonder that poets from the earliest ages have made the lamb the emblem of peace and innocence!"

"They are indeed delightful animals," said Lady Scott, "particularly with mint sauce!"

Some Treasury Girls Widows.

Lots of the treasury girls at Washington are widows. Hundreds of them are old maids, and several thousand are sweet, marriageable girls, with pretty faces, good hearts, and a high grade of culture and education. Many of them had governors and generals for fathers, not a few are the widows of noted soldiers and statesmen, and all are far above the average of their sex in the United States over. Many have traveled widely.

The Congo.

It is only 20 years since Stanley solved the mystery of the Congo River. To-day 55 steamers ply on its waters, half of them belonging to the Congo State, the others to foreign countries.

BOY-PREACHER AND PANTHER.

Thrilling Adventure in the Wilderness of Early Indiana.

A venerable presiding elder of the Methodist Church, Rev. Frank A. Hardin, now of the Rockford, Illinois, district, began his ministerial career at the age of sixteen as a "junior preacher" in Indiana, when the region that he served was for the most part an unbroken wilderness. He spent most of his time on horseback, and used his saddle-bags at night for pillows.

On one occasion, the story of which was told by Rev. Mr. Hardin at a recent conference, the boy-preacher found the settlement of Millersville in a high state of excitement over the ravages of a great panther amongst the live stock.

At a wayside cabin Hardin was warned not to go on, as the panther had been seen on the road and it was necessary for him to travel at night in order to meet an appointment for the next day.

But the servant of the church had no notion of being turned from his duty by the presence of a wild beast in the woods. Moreover, he had no fear, for the moon was shining and his "clay-bank" mare was a spirited animal.

The trail led through a dense piece of woods known as the Sugar Flats. Hardin had not gone far into them before the forest of maples, then in full leaf, quite shut out the moon.

"A good place this to meet the panther," the boy-preacher said to himself.

Almost at that moment his mare seemed to drop to the earth, or to crouch close to the ground. He knew well enough that she had seen something that he had not, and that that something was highly dangerous to them both.

He knew that her next move would be a jump, and on the instant he prepared himself for a possible parting of the saddle-girth by gripping the mare's mane. He had no sooner done this, and leaped as far forward as the horn of the saddle would permit, than the mare made a leap, and went bounding along the dark trail like lightning.

At the very instant in which she leaped Hardin heard the most terrible scream that ever smote his ears. It seemed to come from directly over his head; and in less than one second after the screech and the leap of his mare, Hardin heard a heavy body strike the ground in the very spot where the mare had been standing while she crouched preparatory to the spring. She had plunged forward just in time to avoid the claws of the panther, which had dropped from the tree at horse and rider.

Now the mare was flying through the woods to escape possible pursuit. Probably Hardin could not have held her if he had tried—and he did not try. He had all he could do to cling to her back on the uneven ground, with tree-branches brushing him.

Not until she had reached a large open space on the crest of a ridge did the mare slacken her pace. Then she stopped and drew a deep, shivering sigh, as if to say, "That was a narrow escape for both of us!"

The mare went on now at an easy trot, as if she had put the whole episode behind her. The young preacher could not say as much, for the terrible scream of the animal haunted him for weeks. His destination was the cabin of a doctor. When he reached there and told his story, the doctor said:

"Nonsense! You must have heard an owl."

Hardin knew better, but he made no reply. He was not surprised when, a little later, the doctor took him aside and said:

"That was undoubtedly the big panther that you encountered, but you know I often have to ride at night through the sugar flats, and my wife would be in constant terror if she knew there was a panther there."

In a few days two young boys went into the same woods in quest of wild turkeys. Reconnoitering a brush-heap, they saw under it a huge animal, watching them exactly as a cat watches a mouse when preparing to spring.

One of the boys took aim at the creature's head, losing no time in doing it, and fired. The panther gave one kick and died in his lair. The lads pulled him out and ran for home, and brought their father and neighbors. The panther turned out to be one of the largest ever killed in Indiana.

A Strange Marriage.

While a woman, aged 26, an ironer by trade, was being charged before the Harlesden magistrates with bigamy, a curious scene took place. The mother was the chief witness against her daughter, and told how she and the husband had sat in a pew in the church while the second marriage went on. The mother said she had seen her son-in-law and better stop the proceedings, but he answered: "I don't want to. I hope he'll be a better husband to her than I've been." The second husband, she said, knew it was a bigamous marriage. When she had finished the first husband came forward to corroborate the strange story.—London Tid Bits.

British Army Eye Test.

Of the candidates for the British army who fail to pass the tests four out of five are rejected because of defective vision. The eyesight test consists of being able to count correctly with both eyes, as well as each eye separately, a number of small black dots exhibited on a card ten feet from the candidate.

Teacher—I hope all you little boys love to commence the week right by getting up early Monday morning. Little Johnny—Yes'm, I always love to get up early Monday morning. Teacher—And you feel all the better for it, don't you, Johnny? Little Johnny—Yes'm. That's the mornin' we have pay'ceakes.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

THE PEOPLE'S MONEY

Legal Tender Power.

The full legal tender power or value of silver is what the gold monometalists are really contending against, as the unlimited coinage without this restoration is merely a secondary affair. Our trouble has been caused mainly, not from the scarcity of our silver dollars, but from the misuse of these dollars after they were coined by officially discarding them, while it was both lawful and equitable to utilize them. We should by statute law restore to the present silver dollar its old function as a full legal tender under our flag absolutely equal to gold, as it was from 1792 to June 22, 1874. Statute law did this for over eighty years, and can do it again. As an economic blunder of great magnitude, the official discarding of silver as a liquidator of government coin debts should be promptly stopped by positive legislation.

While this option is permitted by statute law the abuse of it is particularly unwise and notoriously unfair to the great mass of the people. Should this restoration of silver be accomplished, gold as an exchangeable commodity would then decrease in commercial value, while silver would correspondingly increase. It would at one stroke inject our entire coinage up to June 30, 1898, of 466,201,380 silver dollars, which then would be full legal tender money, into the currency of the country; should we make no allowance for those dollars lost or exported. This would certainly cause a healthy advance in prices, and the long-looked-for era of prosperity would then have something like a fair chance for a healthy growth.

Every pound of our exported products would then bring more gold to us than it does at present. We could then liquidate our domestic as well as our foreign gold debts with greater ease. A great burden would be removed from the mass of debtors of this country. There would not only be a healthy advance in prices, but also in the wages of Americans and a greater steadiness in employment, as well as an increase in the returns to that large portion of our people who do not depend on wages, but on the sale of the products of their labor as their industrial reward.—John A. Grier.

Demonetization.

The long-continued practical parity of the metals was not due to a close correspondence in their production. From 1681 to 1720 there was produced 80 per cent. more silver than gold; from 1721 to 1760, 38 per cent. more silver than gold; from 1761 to 1800, 150 per cent. more silver than gold; from 1792 to 1848, 100 per cent. more silver than gold; from 1849 to 1862, 200 per cent. more gold than silver; from 1863 to 1873, 100 per cent. more gold than silver; and from 1874 to 1897, 10 per cent. more silver than gold.

Moreover, as Mulhall's dictionary and the mint report show, there were at the following dates these respective numbers of ounces of silver in the world's stock of coin and bullion available for coinage, to one ounce of gold:

Ounces.	Value.
1800-1820	32.2
1820-1840	31.1
1840-1860	32.0
1860-1870	22.6
1873-1890	18.5
1892-1897	16.0

Hence it is perfectly apparent that it was the open mints, behind which were the multifarious commercial uses for money equally as demandant of silver as of gold, which maintained substantial parity between the metals for nearly 200 years.

On the other hand, it is equally clear that the diminution of the money demand on silver caused its fall as measured in gold; because, as has been shown, the production of gold and silver has been very much more nearly equal since 1873 than at any other time in two centuries. In view of these easily accessible and familiar facts, it is astonishing to hear able and reputable defenders of the gold standard still claiming that "the enormous overproduction of silver during the last twenty years has caused its price to fall." The second result that was sure to follow this substitution of gold alone as responsive to the growing money demand in the place of gold and silver together was a progressive fall of average prices.—Charles A. Towne.

Gold as a Standard.

When we speak of value we speak of a subject around which the goldites have cast a halo of superstition, which has contributed more to the martyrdom of man than war, pestilence and famine. The gold standard advocate declares that money must have intrinsic value; that gold only has intrinsic value; therefore, gold alone is fit for money. This doctrine has never been taught by a reputable economist. It is refuted by science and denied by experience. Value in economics is purely a relation, and the idea of value being intrinsic, or independent of anything intrinsic, is an unthinkable absurdity. The value of anything is what it will exchange for. The value of a dollar is so many bushels of wheat, or so many barrels of pork, or so many bales of cotton, or so many days of labor, etc.

Consequently, the value of a suit of clothes is the number of dollars for which it can be exchanged; the value of a day's labor is so many dollars. Each measures the other. One is the standard of the other. Thus, the value of a dollar depends upon its power to command labor or the products of labor. A dollar that commands two days

labor is twice as valuable as a dollar that commands one day's labor. This is self-evident, but its truth is virtually denied in every argument that is made for the gold standard. This value is absolutely independent of the intrinsic elements which, combined, constitute the substance of the dollar.—Maynard L. Daggy.

Free Silver Night Schools.

The organization of these schools is becoming widespread. The movement was started by George B. Smith, of Chicago. A number of years ago, when a teacher in a country school, Mr. Smith observed while explaining examples in exchange to a class in arithmetic, that an increasing rate of exchange with India, China, Japan, the South American states, and all countries using the silver standard, would cause untold depression in this country; for, prices being fixed in the country; for the cheaper money, would necessarily be reduced in this country, just in proportion as the rate of exchange increased. In 1895 the rate of exchange had doubled, so that our prices had decreased one-half. The effect was felt more in this country, as we were a debtor nation, so that no matter how much prices decreased, our debts must be paid with the dearer money.

The organization of these schools requires no elaborate speechmaking. Leaflets are furnished containing problems which show, first, the cause of the low prices, next the effect upon the producing classes. A third list of problems shows the foreclosures of mortgages which follow a rising money standard. Examples are also given which show the distribution of the wealth of the nation, the rise of powerful corporations, and the effect upon labor. Leaflets for a school of twenty-five members may be obtained from the local silver committees.

Principle Is Self-Evident.

It seems like folly to argue a principle that is self-evident. All countries that have adopted the gold standard are enduring the throes of declining prices and hard times, while those that have adhered to silver—the people's money—or a government paper currency, are prospering. Japan, which adopted the gold standard less than two years ago, in the midst of an era of unparalleled prosperity, is now in the utmost distress and on the verge of financial ruin. In India, where the gold standard was forced on the people in 1893, the distress from the death of the circulating medium is so great that the colonial government is on the point of issuing paper certificates to supply the place of discarded silver. On the other hand, in Brazil and Argentina, where government paper is the currency, and in Mexico, whose rulers wisely adhere to silver, the times are flourishing beyond all precedent and constantly improving.—Journal of Agriculture.

Cause of Fall of Prices.

Observation and common sense taught mankind that since money and commodities exchange against each other, the equation between them may be altered by a change in either member or in both; that commodities may vary in value among themselves and in price as referred to money, on account of supply and demand as affecting them individually; but that a general rise or fall of all values (merely the mutual exchange ratios of things) is impossible, and that a general rise or fall of average prices cannot occur without an increase or a diminution of the substance that measures them. It was apparent, then, that to demonetize silver would cause a ruinous fall of general prices.

Senator Kennan's Luck.

I was told a curious story the other day, writes a Washington correspondent of the Chicago Record, about the late Senator Kennan of West Virginia. When he first came to Congress a Mrs. Kearon, who lived in the same boarding-house, persuaded him to buy a ticket in a raffle at a church fair for a cooking stove and a complete kitchen outfit. His ticket turned out to be the lucky one, and he sent the goods to his home in West Virginia. While he was arranging for their shipment at the railway station he was introduced to a young lady who afterward became his wife, and joyfully invited her to become his cook. She replied that she would be very glad to do so. The next winter Mrs. Kearon sold Mr. Kennan a ticket in another fair given by the same church. This time the prize was a plain gold ring, and again he was successful. He put the ring carefully away until it was needed at his wedding a few months later, and it so happened that his bride was the first person to use the cook stove.

A Tourist in Havana.

In Latin countries church is the chosen field for flirtation of a quiet order, and I remember one Sunday morning, in the cathedral of Havana, being initiated by a friend into the mysteries of fan language. We watched a young lady, extremely good looking and richly apparelled, who, after she had said her preliminary devotions, looked round as if seeking somebody. Presently she opened her fan very wide, which, as the Cuban who was with us at the time assured us, meant, "I see you." Then she half-closed it, this indicating, "Come and see me." Four fingers were next placed upon the upper half of the closed fan, signifying, "at half-past four." The fan was next dropped upon the floor, which, we were told, signified the fact that the lady would be alone. A Havana lady, who is an expert in this system of signaling, can talk by the hour with the help of her fan and a bunch of variously colored flowers, each of which has some special meaning.

Be not merely good; be good for something.—Thoreau.

MINIATURE BICYCLES.

Under Excited Among English Rascals by the First Road Skates. Road-skating has been called the missing link between cycling and walking; it is really roller-skating out-of-doors. A writer in the Standard tells how he took an extended trip, meeting with admiration and derision by the way; how he fought against the wind, ran into the roadside weeds and knocked there, and on a favorable road covered three miles in fourteen minutes. He says that, in appearance, the new road-skates resemble nothing so much as a pair of miniature bicycles. The wheels are six inches in diameter, and are attached to the boot. Jointed splints extend from the skate to the knee, relieving the ankle of an unbearable strain, and an automatic brake, acting upon the front wheel, constantly corrects any backward tendency. So removes the greatest danger of a hill-climbing. The skates are from six to eight pounds a pair. The amazement of natives, who mode of locomotion dawned upon them well expressed in the queries of an old man who, with "an apparently hypnotized donkey," seemed to be the only inhabitant of a certain hamlet upon the route.

"Wart's them?" he asked.
"Skates."
"Wart?"
"Skates."
"Skates?"
"Yes."
"Wart are they for?"
"Skating."
"Skating?"
"Exactly."
"They ain't bicycles, then?"
"No; skates."
"Eh?"
"Skates?"
"You needn't 'oller so loud; I ain't deaf! Wart's them sticks for?"
"To support the ankles."
"In fules?"
"No; ankles."
"Wonderful! I wish my old 'oman were to see 'em!"
"So do I. Where is she?"
"Dead an' gone well-nigh fourteen 'ears ago."
"I am very sorry for you."
"Wart?"
"I'm sorry. You must miss 'er."
"Sally wa'n't 'er name. It's the same as the donkey's is. Feather 'er!"

In conversation languished, and a haveler rolled away.

World's Great Apple Problem.

Probably our great ancestor, Adam, thought of the trouble he would posterity by eating an apple. The question as to how many apples he really did eat is a new dilemma.

How many apples did Adam and Eve eat? Was it one, or was it millions? The subject was first mooted in a very naturally replied, "Why, of course."

"I said the assistant said, 'Eve ate one, and Adam ate one, too, that's all.'"

"The sub-editor passed a slip of paper, on which was written, 'Eve 81 and Adam 81, making 162.'"

"The poet, who is a man of imagination, capped this with, 'Eve 81 and Adam 81, making 162.'"

"The publisher tried his wit, and his contribution was, 'Eve 8142 see how it and Adam 812, equals 8,954.'"

"His assistant beat the poet, asserting that, 'Eve 8142 see how it tasted, and Adam 8142 keep her company, making 16,284.'"

"The poet, who dislikes being passed as much as he has by the others, came up to the secretary again with, 'Eve 8142 see how it tasted, and Adam 81,242 keep her company, making 89,384.'"

"The humorist, who had been listening quietly, handed in his contribution, 'Eve 8142 see how it tasted, and Adam 8,124,210 der a husband, equals 8,132,352.'"

"There the matter rests for the present, and we're very thankful it does rest on Saturday Evening Post."

A Valuable but Deadly Ring. A couple's eyesight may be seen in one of the most interesting things in the world, which is a ring. It is a piece of metal, which is put on the finger of a person, and it is a very valuable thing. It is a piece of metal, which is put on the finger of a person, and it is a very valuable thing. It is a piece of metal, which is put on the finger of a person, and it is a very valuable thing.