

POLITICS OF THE DAY

WE CAN WIN 1900.

Senator Jones, Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, has issued the following statement in reply to the inquiries that have come to the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee:

The claim of the Republican papers that the Senate is already irrevocably against silver and will so stand until 1903 at the earliest, is like many of their extreme claims, in my opinion, not well founded. Upon the passage of what is known as the Teller resolution of Jan. 28, 1898, which declared that the bonds of the Government are payable, "principal and interest in silver dollars, coins of the United States, containing 412 1/2 grains of standard silver," and that "to restore to its coinage such silver coins as a legal tender in the payment of such bonds, principal and interest, is not in violation of the public faith, nor in derogation of the rights of the public creditors," there was a majority of fifteen votes in the Senate in its favor. This may be reasonably accepted as a test vote on the silver question. A gentleman has since been elected from Oregon to fill a vacancy, which reduces our majority now to fourteen. Of those who voted in favor of that proposition at that time, seven Senators will probably be succeeded on the 4th of March next by Senators opposed to the unlimited coinage of silver, namely: Senators Allen of Nebraska, Mitchell of Wisconsin, Murphy of New York, Roach of North Dakota, Smith of New Jersey, Turpie of Indiana and White of California. This will leave the two sides equal and the deciding vote will be in the hands of the Vice-President. This condition of things hardly warrants the triumphant claims of the gold men that they have captured the Senate and will hold it for many years to come. This year an unusual proportion of bimetallics, who come from close States, have had their terms to expire. In 1900, however, all this will be evened up by a larger proportion of the gold men retiring, who come from close States. What is likely to be the condition of the Senate in 1901 can be easily seen. The terms of thirty Senators expire at that time. Of those thirty, eleven who are now friendly to silver may safely be counted as absolutely certain to be succeeded by silver men. These Senators come from the following States: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Texas and Virginia. The following States may be expected to elect gold men to succeed gold men at that time: Maine, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. New Hampshire is now represented by a silver man, whose term will expire in 1901. Much will depend in that State upon the personal popularity of the present Senator, Mr. Chandler, but if he should be succeeded by a gold man, Louisiana and Kentucky, now represented by gold men, are certain to send two bimetallics in their stead, leaving the advantage so far with the silver men. In two States—South Dakota and Delaware—where we now have silver Senators, there will be contests, and the most that can be claimed by the gold men is that we are not positively certain to hold these States; while the following States, now represented by gold men, can certainly not be claimed as sure to return a solid gold delegation, namely: Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, Oregon, West Virginia and Wyoming. From all this it is perfectly safe to assert, without fear of contradiction, that if the bimetallics succeed in electing the President in 1900, they will unquestionably have a clear working majority in the United States Senate.

JAMES K. JONES.

Tribune for the Free Trade.
It is our painful duty to call the attention of the Republican saunders-in to the fact that the Chicago Tribune is openly advocating free trade again. This fall from grace occurs at intervals of about four years, usually midway between presidential elections, and continues until the Republican national convention is called, when the Tribune restudies the tariff question and gets into line with more or less grace and enthusiasm. This time the Tribune is approaching the flop with the shy and coy demeanor of a tomcat reconnoitering a saucer of cream. It has begun by advocating free trade in coal, under the pretext that we can undersell the Canadian coal miners in their own territory. But this, of course, is merely an entering wedge. The symptoms are unmistakable. Within a few weeks the Tribune will be shouting for free trade all along the line and quoting heterodox authorities like Sumner and Wells to prove that absolute commercial freedom is the only salvation. The saunders-in will have to look after the Tribune if it would avert this distressing exhibition.—Chicago Chronicle.

Philippines as Rotten Boroughs.
The Philippine Islands once annexed, how long would it be before the Republican party would resolve that all Malays are brethren and entitled to full political rights? Does any sane man believe that the free institutions of this republic can withstand such an inoculation of political disease as this would be? Does any man imagine that the Republican party leaders would shrink from increasing their power by the creation of rotten boroughs in the Philippines? We hope the opponents of annexation will prevent the ratification of the treaty by all known parliamentary methods until some guarantee is given against the untold evils that would result from it.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

No Pinning McKinley Down.
In default of an authoritative declaration of public policy there can be no assurance whatever of the direction in which the country may go, with McKinley at the helm of affairs. He is constitutionally averse to showing his hand; he is past master in the art of keeping things smooth and quiet and he will always do so unless absolutely

compelled to declare himself. The Senators who are unwilling to accept the peace treaty unless some assurance is given of the public policy which will be pursued under it cannot afford to rely upon any general promises nor can they hope to bring the administration or its friends to a stand after the treaty has once been ratified.—Baltimore News.

Water as "Solid" Prosperity.
Says Chauncey M. Depew, Senator for the State of Vanderbilt: "This prosperity is solid. There is no doubt of that, and conditions are such that it ought to last. The balance of trade is in our favor for the first time in years, and it ought to continue." Some other "authorities" express concurrences in the opinion of the Vanderbilt Senator that "this prosperity is solid." But others who are less addicted to post-prandial eloquence are not inclined to think that the prosperity which is said to have added over \$150,000,000 to the wealth of twenty-seven men by a mad uprush of stock in Wall street is as solid and lasting as the pyramid of Gizeh.

Union Labor and Prison-Made Goods.
There is much force in the objections of the labor unions against prison-made goods, made cheaply because of the cheap labor, coming on the market in competition with free-labor-made goods. But careful investigation shows, we believe, that the effect of this competition is much less than is the general thought. An Ohio prison expert makes the claim that only fifty-two one-hundredths of one per cent. of the total goods manufactured in this country is made in penal institutions, and if this is true, then the competition from prison-made goods is very insignificant.—Indianapolis News.

The Perilous Boom in Trusts.
The success of two or three great trusts has stimulated the production of all manner of combination schemes for similar purposes, and they are now coming daily upon the market in squads and companies in the particular interest of promoters, of stock market gamblers and of the owners of combined plants who want to sell out, and not in the interest of the public. The more severely investors let such securities alone the less disastrous will be the inevitable crash proceeding from this reckless trust ballooning.—Springfield, Mass., Republican.

An Absurd Situation.
There is something bordering on the absurd when a great military leader in the presence of the enemy, with complete control of the situation, if undisturbed, is liable to be checked, thwarted, or even superseded by a man or set of men who have no accurate knowledge of the real situation at the front, no comprehension of military affairs, and who may be under the influence of advisers whose only object is to ruin the commanding general, or to make political capital for the next election.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Seeing It Differently Now.
When President Cleveland appointed ex-Congressman Blount of Georgia to investigate and report on the Hawaiian conspiracy, Republican papers indignantly proclaimed that the President had exceeded his authority in making the appointment. But President McKinley hasn't taken Republican opinion for his guidance in this matter, for he has appointed more commissioners than any other President we ever had. And the Republican papers do not say a word about exceeding authority.—Utica Observer.

General Eagan's Weak Plea.
Does any sensible citizen believe for a moment that a court-martial, sitting on the case of a private charged with an offense against an officer similar in character to the offense General Eagan is charged with committing, would for an instant consider the plea of "temporary insanity" or "mental aberration" pleaded in defense of General Eagan? Every one knows that under similar circumstances the private would receive the full penalty of military law.—Nashville American.

Begin at the Primaries.
It is more manly to get right down into the arena and work and fight for honest politics and good government than to stand off and whine and grumble because of dishonest politics and bad government. Shove the selfish politicians aside—they are in the minority if reputable Democrats do their duty. Take up your share of party work and do it. Start in with the primaries and go straight up the line.—St. Louis Republic.

Indorsing an Unknown Policy.
The Republican members of the Connecticut House of Representatives have voted to indorse the President's policy over yonder, but not one of them can explain why it is. Even Senator Lodge gave it up in his speech recently, for he admitted that he had no idea what the future would bring forth. It's glorious drifting, anyhow.—Springfield, Mass., Republican.

Facts That Shine Out.
However the facts may be glossed over, the war, brief as it was, disclosed conditions in the military service which are not creditable to the country. Those who did the fighting increased the fame of America, but some of the men in high places did not enhance the national glory.—Des Moines Leader.

MILES OF STAMPS.

Some Idea of the Millions that Were Issued Last Year.

Uncle Sam printed just a few postage stamps during the year 1898. The number of 2-cent stamps issued during the year was about 2,500,000,000. Such a number, obviously, is beyond the grasp of the human mind, but perhaps the matter may be made more clear by putting it otherwise.

An ordinary 2-cent stamp is exactly one inch long. From this fact, by a little calculation, it is easy to discover that the number of stamps of this denomination issued in 1898, placed end to end, would extend a distance considerably exceeding 30,000 miles. In other words, they would make a continuous strip of stamps, each one adorned with the head of the father of his country, stretching in a belt more than once and a half around the equator.

Of course, though the 2-cent stamps are those principally used, there are others. Enough 1-cent postage stamps have been issued during the year 1898 to stretch from New York City, by way of Europe and Asia, to Bombay, India, if similarly arranged in one strip. All other stamps, as to production and sales, are of minor importance comparatively speaking, but it is interesting to know that almost exactly one mile of 81 stamps were manufactured for the demand of 1898. Of 85 stamps the production was equivalent to a little more than half a furlong, or about one-fifth of a mile.

Now, if all the postage stamps printed by the United States Government in 1898 were placed one on top of another, as neatly as might be without putting them under pressure, how high do you suppose the pile of them would be? There is no use guessing; you would never get it nearly right, unless you went to work to calculate it for yourself. The 3,500,000,000 stamps of all denominations printed during the current year—the statement, of course, is approximate—would tower to an elevation of twenty-one miles. This is more than three times the height of the highest mountain in the world—Mount Everest, in the Himalayas. If the same number of stamps was piled up in the form of the ordinary sheets of 100 hundred each, it follows that the stack would be over a fifth of a mile high.

During the year 1898 the number of special delivery stamps sold was about 5,250,000. It is only reasonable to suppose that the average journey of the special delivery messenger is half a mile. Indeed, that is an absurd underestimate; but let it go at that. On this assumption the total distance traveled for special delivery in 1898 was about 2,625,000 miles. That is a very considerable space to traverse, as may be realized when it is considered that a messenger boy, in order to accomplish that total distance, would have to go about 1,000 times around the world, or five times to the moon and back.

It appears, from figures furnished by the Postoffice Department, that the average person in Massachusetts, including men, women and children, spends \$2.39 on postage per annum. New York comes second with an expenditure of \$2.27. The District of Columbia third with \$2.16. Colorado is fourth with \$1.93, and Connecticut is fifth with \$1.89. The States ranking lowest in this regard are South Carolina, with 25 cents per capita; Mississippi, with 24 cents; Alabama, with 25 cents; Arkansas, with 37 cents; and North Carolina, with 41 cents.

Living Out the Hymn.
A colored exhorter, while holding a meeting in Georgia, says the Atlanta Constitution, solicited a special collection to defray the expenses of the meeting. "Well, pass round de hat," he said, "tendurh de singin' of de hymn on page No. 205—'On Jordan's Stormy Banks.'" And then he proceeded to "line out" the hymn, but so intent was he on the collection that he forgot whole lines of it, and supplied others, with the following result:

"On Jordan's stormy banks I stand
En cast a wishful eye
To Cannan's fair and happy land—
(Don't let dat hat pass by.)

"O de transportin', rapturous scene
Dat rises to my sight!
Drop in dat nickel, Brudder Green!
En rivers of delight!

"Could I but stand whar Moses stood
En view de landscape o'er,
Not Jordan's stream, or Death's cold flood
(We wans ten dollars more.)"

The Real England.
A New Year calm seemed to have fallen upon a certain village not twenty miles from London as three American tourists strolled through it. Not a soul was abroad, save the geese and fowls on the common. "This," said the Americans, "is real England." And they nudged up a muddy by lane to an antique cottage with a quaint board over the door. They approached to inspect the board, and from the inside of the cottage came the sound of about twenty yodels' voices, all singing different tunes together in voices all differently drunk. "This," said the Americans, "is more real England."—London Globe.

German Toys Are Poisonous.
Dr. D. E. Salmon, chief of the United States Bureau of Animal Industry, in the course of his report to the Secretary of Agriculture, states that in connection with the examination of imports from Germany it was found that German toys and colored goods were poisonous. Dr. Salmon says all highly painted German toys may be regarded as very dangerous to children, who may suck off the paint or swallow pieces that may be chipped off.

The scarcity of religion in prisons is probably due to the fact that salvation is free.

THE PEOPLE'S MONEY.

Banks of Issue a Bureau.

Banks of issue were first created and are still maintained to eke out the scanty supply of coin, always inadequate in an era of business expansion. This they do by the issue of their promissory notes, permitted by law to circulate as money substitutes, to be kept at par with coin by being made redeemable in coin. For this purpose it was supposed that one dollar in coin was a sufficient reserve to keep three dollars in bank notes at par, on the theory that only a small amount of such notes would be presented for redemption at one time. The legal right to collect interest upon their debts, evidenced by their promissory notes (bank bills), was an unjust concession to the banks. The right to collect interest upon the greater portion of their deposits (their debts again, in another form), was a still more unjust concession. As greed soon fattens upon what it feeds upon, it was not long before the banks learned to collect additional interest upon billions of fictitious credit, based in part upon their capital, but mainly upon the cash deposits and redemptions of their customers. Favored by these unjust concessions and advantages, they have now grown so powerful that they dominate the earth. Through their power to raise or depress prices almost at will, by expanding or contracting their fictitious credits, they hold all industry in the hollow of their hand. No business can now prosper without their direct or indirect permission. Nations can no longer go to war to vindicate their honor without first gaining their consent. The greatest burden which civilization has ever imposed upon mankind, they now pose before the world as the supporters of its industries and the conservative saviors of society.—W. H. Chaggett.

Silver Night School Lesson.
Organize! We want a silver night school in every precinct in the United States. Organize a school and send to the Literary Bureau, Unity Building, Chicago, for lesson leaflets. What has been done can be done. Four young men organized in one township and agreed to hold a session in every school-house in the township, and incidentally to nominate and elect a safe silver Democratic ticket at the spring election.

Example.—In 1873, when wheat was worth \$1.31 in the United States, what was it worth in the money of India, and what was it worth in Indian money in 1893 when worth 63 cents in the United States? Both countries are exporters of wheat, transportation to European markets being about the same. In 1873 the exchange was 51. In 1893 the exchange was 241; i. e., the Indian rupee was worth but a little over \$2.41 in our money.

Answer: 1873—2 1/2 rupees per bushel; 1893—2 3/5 rupees per bushel, or \$1.32 in our money (silver).
The disadvantage to American wheat raisers is apparent. The example may be easily explained to the school by any one familiar with the rules of computing exchange. Problems are also given in the lesson leaflets to show the disastrous effects of low prices in producing business failures, foreclosures and hard times.

"Value" of Money.
Our forefathers used the commonest kind of common sense in adopting the then existing commercial ratio of 15 to 1 as their coinage ratio, while they could have legally adopted 10 to 1 or 32 to 1 or any other ratio they saw fit. Had they deviated, to any large extent, from the then commercial ratio, they would have damaged their reputation as men of good judgment.

Let us then restate what our forefathers did in defining the word "value" in 1792. They simply made the "attempt" to make the exchangeable value of our gold and silver coins equal when subject to the hammer test or to the melting pot. Paper or credit money, that indispensable instrument of modern civilization, should be issued and controlled by the government, which is alone capable of giving security for its redemption. The government should never abandon this vital function of governing.

It is our strong citadel of financial independence. The loaning of either coin or credit money is a different function from its issue. From the effect of the statute law and by the coinage and issue of these coins they all become "law made" or fiat money.

Bimetallism in Ireland.
In Ireland the question of bimetallism is coming to the front very rapidly. The Secretary of the Bimetallism League for Ireland, whose office is in Dublin, writes: "It would help us very much, indeed, if our Irish friends and sympathizers in the States, as well as our American ones, would interest their correspondents in Ireland on behalf of our work here. All literature and information in connection with the currency question will be supplied free of charge by this office to all inquirers. We have had a number of very successful meetings already in Ireland, and we begin another series to be addressed by Hon. E. L. Hartley, in January."

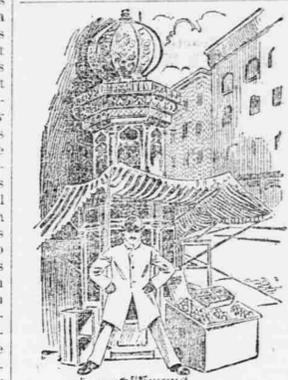
Torn into shreds—a nice amusement for a child, by the way—newspapers can be put into washing ticks and, if frequently changed, make a good bed for a small child.

In the man whose childhood has known caresses and kindness there is always a fiber of memory that can be touched to gentle issues.—George Elliot.

SMALLEST LOT IN NEW YORK.

It Occupies a Curious Niche in a Corner Property.

The smallest piece of real estate in New York is at the northwest corner of 14th street and Irving place. It occupies a curious little niche in the corner property and has a frontage of a few inches on both these important streets. Taxes are regularly paid on it and the high rent which its owner demands for it has been paid regularly for years. The property is so small that a man of ordinary height can readily stand with a foot on each of its boundaries. Despite its diminutive size it has been used for several purposes. A news stand was once located there and at-



NEW YORK'S SMALLEST LOT.

tracted customers from both streets. In using the lot even for this purpose, however, it was found necessary to occupy part of the sidewalk in front. The entire estate was taken up with but two or three piles of folded papers. The man who presided over the news stand was obliged to stand on his neighbor's property while he reached over his own to hand a customer a paper. At another time a peanut stand was set up and the entire property was taken up with the roasting apparatus, and if a peanut was knocked off the stand it fell on the next neighbor's grounds.

The smallest estate is now occupied by a substantial little pavilion, covered with an elaborate roof which extends out over its limits. This diminutive estate is supposed to have been due to a mistake of the surveyors years ago. The present owner will not listen to any offers for its sale. It has been rented for years for \$50 a month and he is well satisfied with the investment. The most determined effort to buy the estate has been made by the owners of the hotel which occupies the adjoining site, but the owner of the smallest estate declares that his property is not on the market.

MILLIONS TO WED MILLIONS.

Scion of the Vanderbilts Will Marry a California Heiress.

The interesting announcement has been made of the engagement of William K. Vanderbilt and Miss Virginia Fair, the California heiress. William K. Vanderbilt, Jr., is the son of William K. Vanderbilt, who is the second son of the late William H. Vanderbilt. Miss Fair, by this alliance, will become the sister-in-law of the Duchess of Marlborough, and will add her own independent fortune to that of her husband, who is the oldest male descendant of William Kissam Vanderbilt, and who will be the possessor of most of the millions of the second branch of the family.

Young Vanderbilt is not very good-looking, but he inherits much of the commercial genius and thrift of his grandfather and of the old "commo-



MISS VIRGINIA FAIR.

done," who began the upbuilding of the prodigious material wealth his numerous descendants now enjoy and conserve. Little Willie K. is 21 years old, and will graduate in two years.
Miss Fair is one of the most winsome of the girls in New York society. To her personal charms is added the luster of immense wealth in her own right. She made her debut in New York society five years ago, at the age of 18. The future Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt has black eyes and hair, lively complexion and a plump figure. Although she is under the medium height, she weighs 130 pounds. The precise amount of Miss Fair's fortune it is difficult to state. The great Fair wealth can only be estimated, but Virginia's share is said to be in the neighborhood of \$5,000,000.

Strategic Move.

"I remember, I remember—" the little boy on the country school-house platform began, and then he stuck. The poem had gone completely. The boy he hated most began tittering. The occasion was becoming critical. The little boy, with a grand rally and a flash of inspiration, pulled from his pocket his red, white and blue (and black, more or less) handkerchief, shouted and wound up with "I remember the Maine."—Indianapolis Journal.

CONGRESS

The controversy in the Senate over the vote upon the various resolutions interpretive of the peace treaty took an acute turn late on Friday. The opposition to a vote first came from the friends of the treaty, who held to the theory that it could be ratified without compromise. Those who apparently were then willing that a vote should be taken that day, held an opposite view and absolutely refused to agree to a time for taking a vote. The contest occurred in the executive session. The next hour and a quarter was spent in a vain endeavor on the one side to get an agreement to a date for a vote upon the resolutions and on the other in a more successful effort to bring the day's session to a close without allowing anything to be accomplished in that direction. For more than five hours the Senate in open session listened to arguments in opposition to expansion and in opposition to the ratification of the treaty of peace. The speakers were Mr. Money (Miss.) and Mr. Daniel (Va.). Mr. Hale (Me.) presented the conference report on the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill, and it was agreed to.

At the opening of Saturday's session Mr. Allen (Pop. Neb.) offered a resolution declaring that the United States, in ratifying the treaty of Paris, does not commit itself to the doctrine that the islands acquired through the war with Spain are to be annexed to or become a part of the United States. Mr. Chilton (Dem., Tex.) addressed the Senate on Mr. Vest's anti-expansion resolution. Senator Wolcott made a strong speech in favor of expansion. The Senate went into executive session without voting on any of the pending resolutions regarding expansion. The time of the Senate behind closed doors was consumed almost entirely by Mr. Moran. After disposing of a few routine matters the House took up the bill making appropriations for the expenses of the military academy at West Point.

The treaty of peace with Spain was ratified by the Senate Monday afternoon, the vote being 57 to 27, only one more than the two-thirds majority required. Monday was suspension day in the House and quite a number of bills were passed, some of them of importance. The census bill prepared by the House committee went through by a vote of 147 to 42. The bill differs in several essential features from the Senate bill, particularly in that it makes the census bureau entirely independent of any existing department. A bill was passed to extend the anti-convict labor laws over the Hawaiian islands, and another bill was passed to refer forty-four war claims for stones and supplies to the Court of Claims.

In the Senate on Tuesday a bill granting a right of way through Indian Territory to the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad Company was passed. Mr. Spooner of Wisconsin presented the credentials of Senator-elect Charles. Mr. Tillman of South Carolina, in accordance with notice given, addressed the Senate on the McHenry resolution. Tuesday was the first of two days set aside for the consideration of public building bills. The committee had reported seventy-eight bills for buildings in thirty-five States, authorizing in the aggregate an expenditure of \$14,000,000. Little or no opposition developed and bills were favorably acted upon almost as rapidly as they could be read. There was, however, more or less good-natured chaffing throughout the session. As a result forty bills, carrying or authorizing appropriations aggregating \$11,364,000, had been laid aside with favorable recommendations before adjournment was reached.

In the Senate on Wednesday the Indian appropriation bill, which has been pending for several weeks, was considered and passed. The legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill was taken up, but after twenty-four pages of it had been disposed of it was laid aside for the day. A few measures of minor importance were passed. The net result of the work during the two days allotted for the consideration of public building bills in the House was the passage of a single bill providing for the erection of a building at Newport News, Va., at a cost of \$750,000. Sixty-five bills in all, carrying or authorizing the expenditure of about \$12,000,000, were favorably considered in committee of the whole when the committee rose, but because seventeen other bills reported had not been acted upon in committee all efforts to advance the bills favorably acted upon in committee were blocked. Mr. Corliss (Rep.) of Michigan called up the Senate bill to amend the law requiring ballots for members of Congress to be written or printed, so as to permit the use of machines where authorized by the laws of the State. The bill was passed—94 to 44.

Chairman Cannon of the Appropriations Committee of the House, in the course of the general debate on the sundry civil bill on Thursday, sounded a note of warning against extravagant appropriations, and practically served notice that neither the ship subsidy bill nor the Nicaragua canal bill could be passed at this session. The general debate upon the sundry civil bill was not concluded. Before it was taken up quite a number of minor bills were passed by unanimous consent. Throughout its open session the Senate had under consideration the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill. The following bills were passed: Authorizing the Sioux City and Omaha Railway Company to construct and operate a railway through the Omaha and Winnebago reservation in Thurston County, Neb., and to restore to their original status as to promotion officers of the navy and marine corps who lost numbers by reason of the advancement of other officers for exceptional and meritorious service during the war with Spain.

News of Minor Note.

Russia sells to other countries 1,500,000,000 eggs a year.
The Illinois State fair will increase its purses this year \$10,000 for trotters and pacers.
The best three in five style of racing is a horse-killing system, says a veteran of the turf.
Customs receipts at Havana have nearly doubled since the Americans took possession of the city.
What is known as "Mission Rock," San Francisco Bay, has been officially set apart for a coaling station.