

The Columbus Journal.

VOLUME XXVII.—NUMBER 30.

COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1896.

WHOLE NUMBER 1,382.

SILVER IN MEXICO.

A TRIP OF OBSERVATION THROUGH THAT COUNTRY.

Wages Low and Cost of Living High—Miscellaneous Conditions of the Farmer—Such Conditions Would Bring on a Speedy Revolution Here.

El Paso, Texas, Oct. 26.—I have just concluded a tour of Mexico, which I made for the purpose of determining whether business and wages and prices of farm produce were really as satisfactory as has been claimed and particularly whether the conditions are such as to encourage the people of this country in adopting the financial system of Mexico.

I met and talked with two passenger conductors between Torreon and El Paso, Texas, about the wages of their class of railroad employees. Unlike the officials of the Mexican Central and other roads in Mexico, the men in the operating department do not receive gold for their services. They are paid in paper money or silver worth a little more than 50 cents on the dollar. These gentlemen would not permit me to quote them, but talked freely with the understanding that their names were not to be used. They said it was the policy of all railroad corporations in that country to "stand in" with the powers that be, and refuse to discuss the financial system of the republic. This, they explained, was because the government granted big concessions to the railroads which were developing



FARM HOUSES IN MEXICO.

the resources of the country. One of these conductors said: "My salary is \$100 per month. I pay \$20 a month rent, or \$240 a year. I pay for board that I would not eat in the States, \$1 per day, or \$365 a year. It costs me \$20 per month for room rent for my wife. There's \$240 more. Then I have to pay \$25 per month for her board—\$300 a year more to add to the total. The rates compel me to buy two suits of clothes per year, for which I have to pay \$70 per suit. Out of the 50-cent dollars which we have left after paying out these sums we must buy all of our clothing. Figure it out yourself and you will find that it takes considerable financing to make both ends meet. The American who is down here railroading ought to be pretty well up in arithmetic, because he has got to do some calculating each month to find out just how much his dollar is worth."

The other conductor corroborated all this and more. "My expenses in Mexico are greater," he said, "than in the United States. For a while I was on the upper end of a run on the Eagle Pass route and boarded at San Antonio, Texas. There I paid \$18 per month board. Now I am boarding in Torreon and pay \$40 per month in Mexican money. But the greatest expense to a railroad man in this country is the high price he has to pay for clothing. If I could do as the Mexicans do, go half naked, wear sandals for shoes, or go barefooted, I could get along pretty well on \$30 per month, for that is what \$160 in Mexican money is worth as a character here in Mexico suitable for our use, so when I buy a pair of shoes I have to pay double value and the duty added. This pair of shoes I am wearing cost me

country, he would find himself bankrupt at the end of the first month. He is a slave, while they are in any of the towns or cities of the United States. For instance, in the City of Mexico a six-room house crowded up into a row of one or two story buildings rents for \$60 per month—\$10 per room. A railroad man who cares for the comforts of his wife and children would not get them up in a sun-dried mud house of two or three rooms for which he would have to pay \$25 to \$30 per month—all he could afford to pay—so he leaves them in this country and if he has anything left after his living expenses are paid at the end of each month he converts his 50-cent dollars into dollars worth 100 cents the world over and sends them to his family.

Railroad Wages. Locomotive engineers in Mexico receive from \$125 to \$225 per month in Mexican money, while on the western roads in the United States they are paid from \$125 to \$200 per month in gold or its equivalent.

Freight conductors are paid from \$125 to \$200 per month in this country with a dollar worth twice as much. Firemen get from \$70 to \$100 per month in Mexico. Here they get from \$60 to \$100, and at the end of the month they don't have to figure how much their dollars are worth.

Division superintendents in Mexico receive \$350 per month in the cheap dollars, but just as well discuss their salaries range from \$250 to \$325 in gold.

Trainmasters average about \$165 in Mexico, but in this country their average is about \$160—nearly double when figured on a gold basis.

Mexican railroads pay telegraph operators in a depreciated currency, from \$40 to \$50 per month. On our western roads they get from \$40 to \$100 a month in dollars worth 100 cents everywhere.

Chief operators, to whose hands are entrusted life and property, are paid from \$80 to \$150 per month in Mexican silver, while the same class of men in this section are paid an average of \$140, or almost double.

The Mexican railroad companies pay their station agents from \$50 to \$175 per month. On western roads the wages range from \$40 to \$150 per month in 100-cent dollars—that's the difference. I am certain that there is not an American laborer who works on the section who would want to go to Mexico. There the average price paid section hands is 50 cents per day, and they work from sunrise to sunset. Compared with the money paid to American laborers, these men are practically penniless. On my return home I talked with several gauges of section men who receive from \$1 to \$1.25 per day in sound money, and I did not find one who intended to vote for a policy which would reduce the value of American labor to a level with that of Mexico.

Another class of poorly paid railroad laborers in Mexico is the freight brakemen. They, too, are the victims of the policy of the Mexican railroads. They receive from \$35 to \$75 per month, while on this side of the Rio Grande American railroads pay from \$60 to \$100, in gold if they want it.

In Mexico a section foreman who lives in a mud house on a mud floor, with a sheep skin to sleep on, without a change of clothing or enough table linen to wash a gun, is paid the minimum salary of from 75 cents to \$1.25 per day, in cheap dollars, or \$37.50 per month, while on this side of the Rio Grande American railroads pay from \$60 to \$100, in gold if they want it.

At these things the section foreman has accumulated from his salary, which averages anywhere from \$45 to \$75 per month. The reason is plain. Every dollar is worth 100 cents and its purchasing power is three times that of the Mexican dollar.

Fought for Corn. At the town of Silo, 150 miles from the City of Mexico, I saw an object lesson of Mexican energy and activity. Travelers who have explored Mexico will tell you that the masses are lazy, listless and indifferent, but there are exceptions to the rule. When the Mexican Central passenger train halted at the station the usual great crowd of natives were there to meet it. The vendors and beggars and the curious specimens of humanity of the neighborhood were all there. On the opposite side of the depot stood a train of hogs which were being shipped by Armour of Kansas City to the City of Mexico. It had been sidetracked for the passenger. Instantly there was a mad rush of men, women and children for the hog train. The brakemen had taken from the caboose several sacks of shelled corn and were feeding the hogs. A few gallons of the corn fell to the ground, and one hundred men, women and children fought each other like demons to get hold of a few kernels to eat. The race was to the swift, and decrepit old women and half-clad children were trampled upon by the muscular Mexicans whose hunger for food made demons of them.

The traveler who goes to Mexico to study the conditions of the people ought to stop a day or two at the border, as I did. I crossed the line at El Paso, Texas, where I had a good opportunity for comparing the methods of farming in both countries. On the Mexican side of the Rio Grande is a valley which has been under a crude system of cultivation for over three hundred years. The lack of enterprise, thrift and prosperity is noticeable everywhere, while over on the Texas border with fewer natural advantages, a large and commodious houses, well improved farms, big stock ranches, and every evidence of a contented and prosperous people.

The Classes of Mexico. There are only two classes in Mexico—the very rich and the very poor.

Railroad men are consumers and are interested in buying their goods where they can get them cheapest. If the Mexican dollar would buy as much as the American dollar in such articles as food and clothing, the railroad man in Mexico would have little to complain of. The American dollar will buy double the amount of the staple commodities in Mexico, and in this country it will buy nearly three times as much in the common articles of food. The best place to ascertain the cost of articles in general use is at El Paso and Juarez, border towns separated by the Rio Grande river, which is the bound-

ary line. There the man who desires to ascertain the relative values of the two moneys will gain some valuable information. While I was there Mayor R. F. Campbell of El Paso went to the stores in El Paso and secured prices on the staple groceries and articles that laboring men would have to use. Then he went over to Juarez and got the prices of the Mexican merchants on the same articles, for which they would pay in Mexican silver. After compiling his figures he made affidavit to the statement which follows:

There are about 13,000,000 people in the republic, and one million of these own the lands, the mines, the manufactures and other enterprises. The railroads are owned by foreign capitalists. This class is prosperous because it is the policy of the government to aid by large concessions any enterprise that will tend to the development of Mexico's inexhaustible resources. Back of this is President Diaz' standing army which would shoot to death any body of laboring men who would even consider the matter of striking for better wages. Why should not these big enterprises prosper when they can employ

and hard-working class of people on the globe than the poor laborers of Mexico. They are responsible for the policy that has tended to degrade rather than lift them up. They know nothing about the benefits and blessings of education, but they can look about them and observe the conditions of the rich, and although they may never hope to advance from the life of slavery that is now upon them, it is idle folly to say that these people would not appreciate the little home-comforts that make life worth the living.

Beggars Everywhere. The City of Mexico is the flower of

the republic. I was not disappointed in finding there the concentration of enormous wealth, because I had heard much of the magnificent homes, fine business blocks, the beautiful drive to Chapultepec, the great parks—and the bull fights. But amid all this gorgeous display of wealth I found undeniable evidences of poverty and hunger everywhere. The halt, the lame and the blind are not the only class who are given to give them money on nearly every street corner. Strong men and women, able to work, vie with the afflicted in their appeals for "centavos." The only reason I can give for this general begging is that they can make more money at it than they can work from one to three bits per day. How many thousand beggars there are in the City of Mexico can only be guessed at. The newspapers of that city admit that the beggars are a reproach to the republic. It is claimed that of the 300,000 inhabitants, 7,000 are houseless and



Wm. McKinley, Jr., Republican Candidate for President.

labor for almost nothing? But the magic touch of this prosperity has not left its impress on the other 12,900,000 who constitute the toiling masses of Mexico. The men who work on the great haciendas, or plantations of the rich, are today in as deplorable condition as they were before a mile of railroad track was laid in the republic. During the past seventeen years that country has experienced its greatest growth in railroad building and mining. Within this period the Mexican dollar has fallen from 8 per cent above par, as compared with American gold, but labor has remained stationary. The common farm labor has ranged from 25 to 37 cents per day, while the Mexican dollar has fluctuated from \$1.08 to 48 cents. Therefore, it is not true that there is a tendency to increase the wages of the millions whose toil produces the wheat, the corn, the cotton, the coffee, the tobacco and the fruits of Mexico.

The agricultural lands of Mexico are owned by a few men. They have amassed great fortunes of the cheap labor of the poor people and are growing richer every year. These great haciendas contain from 40,000 to 350,000 acres. Each landlord employs from 300 to 1,500 men. I visited several of these haciendas. The owners live in palaces and are surrounded with every comfort that heart could wish. Around and about these palaces are scattered the shabby and squalid one-room mud huts of the laborers. The average wages paid these men is 25 cents per day. A few get three bits a day, but the number is limited. In many of these so-called homes the luxury of a dining table, chairs, bedsteads and knives and forks to eat with are unknown. A sheepskin or a mat thrown upon the dirt floor serves as a bed. Not one in twenty of these huts have a floor. There is no paper on the wall, no pictures, no books, no music, except the cries for food which come from the lips of the half-naked, hungry children. It matters not to this great class of people who plant, cultivate and harvest the crops what the price of wheat, barley, potatoes or other staple may be, for they have no share in the profits of their labor. In fact, they never taste many of these articles. Their food is corn, with an occasional allowance of beans. They get through the hacienda store. The ration for each man is one and one-half pints of corn per day. If he has a wife and six children, as is generally the case, he would have to draw from the store account twelve pints each day. The hacienda owner charges all the way from 8 to 12 cents per pint for shelled corn, and at the end of the year when a settler is made the poor farmer finds himself helplessly in debt, and his slavery continues.

There are those who insist that these people do not desire and would not employ and appreciate a better condition in life; that they prefer a mud house to a comfortable home, a sheepskin in preference to a bed, and a blanket to cover their nakedness and keep them warm instead of clothing. There is just as much reason and truth in such a declaration as in the oft-repeated claim that the free silver policy of that country is beneficial to the laboring classes, for neither assertion is true. There is no more peaceable, patient

the republic. I was not disappointed in finding there the concentration of enormous wealth, because I had heard much of the magnificent homes, fine business blocks, the beautiful drive to Chapultepec, the great parks—and the bull fights. But amid all this gorgeous display of wealth I found undeniable evidences of poverty and hunger everywhere. The halt, the lame and the blind are not the only class who are given to give them money on nearly every street corner. Strong men and women, able to work, vie with the afflicted in their appeals for "centavos." The only reason I can give for this general begging is that they can make more money at it than they can work from one to three bits per day. How many thousand beggars there are in the City of Mexico can only be guessed at. The newspapers of that city admit that the beggars are a reproach to the republic. It is claimed that of the 300,000 inhabitants, 7,000 are houseless and

This little incident caused me to make some investigations as to the price of staple commodities on each side of the line. In Juarez these prices prevailed:

Beans, 5 to 6 cents per pound.
Sugar, 14 to 15 cents per pound.
Coffee, 50 to 60 cents per pound.
Soap, 9 cents per pound.
Bleached sheeting, 20 cents per yard.
Prints, 12½ cents per yard (33 inches).

Candles, 3 cents each.

On the western coast of Mexico corn is a drug on the market, and the farmers were selling crops grown two years ago for from 20 to 25 cents per bushel.

Beef cattle, as fine as any on the American ranches, are sold on the Mexican plantations at from \$25 to \$35 per head, while ranch cattle bring from \$12 to \$16 per head. All classes of stock produced by the ranches are sold for \$12 per head. Mules were quoted at from \$20 to \$50 per head.

The above prices, of course, prevail in the cheap Mexican dollar, worth a little more than 50 cents and these articles are produced by the toil of millions whose average daily wage is 26 cents, in the same depreciated money.

Where Stump Speaking Originated. A Kentucky paper says the expression "stump speaking" was originated by Kentuckians, and gives this account of its origin: In 1815, John McLean, at the age of 21, moved from Logan county, to Shawanestown, Ill., without other capital than is generally possessed by lawyers of that day—"poor, talented and ambitious." Nature and "life on blue grass soil made him a great orator. Indeed, as a biographer has written, "besides his great strength of mind, there was no man in Illinois, before or since his day that surpassed him in pure, natural eloquence." McLean's first serious trial of his power was for a seat in congress upon the admission of his adopted state into the union, in 1818. His opponent was Daniel P. Cook, also a Kentuckian, from Scott county, "quick, wiry, eloquent and determined." On stumps of trees (literally) the two spoke all over the country, and from that campaign originated the title since given to "word-of-mouth" politicians.

Wittier's Puns. Millais was an inveterate joker and he never could resist any opening. When Cardinal Newman went to give the first sitting for his portrait, Millais said to him: "Will your eminence be good enough to place yourself upon that eminence?" pointing to a platform in the studio. The cardinal was offended for a minute and whispered to the friend who accompanied him: "Don't you think I ought to take notice of that?" However, his wrath quickly abated and he became charmed with Millais before the sittings were finished.—Exchange.

Judge's Destruction. "Did you ever notice any signs of insanity in the deceased?" Witness (a member of the legislature): "Well, once, when he was a member of the legislature, he introduced a bill that wasn't a particle of interest to anybody—except taxpayers."

HOME OF THE SECTION FOREMAN sleep in the parks and on the streets, with the broad canopy of heaven as their shelter.

A Comparison of Prices. The prices of some of the common articles of merchandise furnished an object lesson which I shall not soon forget. The City of Mexico is the metropolis of the republic, and it is fair to presume that the merchants are not undersold by those of the smaller towns. For example, a pair of blankets that I can buy in Topeka for \$2.50 would cost \$6 there. A three-piece oak bed room set that could be purchased at any furniture store in Kansas for \$25 would cost \$40 for \$150 in the City of Mexico.

A street car line connects El Paso, Texas, with the city of Juarez, the Rio Grande river between them forming the boundary line. I rode over to the Mexican town, and on the car was an intelligent young Mexican. When the car approached the Juarez end of the bridge he crowded up into the corner to hide a bundle behind him. Just then the representative of the Mexican government came aboard to



HOME OF THE POOR FARMER WHO WORKS FOR 25¢ PER DAY.

in Bryan's occasional assertion that he "contents" that the adoption of this policy would put the price of silver to \$1.25. Indeed they would lose all interest in the agitation if they supposed that the silver dollar under free coinage was to be worth as much as the gold dollar is now. The real sentiments of these people are clearly expressed by James Kitchin, an extensive farmer and stockman of Grayson, Ky., who, when asked the other day why he was for free silver, made this reply: "I am for free silver because I am in debt, and if we get free coinage I can pay my debts with one-half of what it now costs under our present money standard. And another reason, I employ laborers on my farm. They are my creditors. I am the debtor. Under free coinage I can pay them with one-half it costs me now, for it will raise the price of products, and I can then

FARMER'S FRIEND.

CUTTING DOWN THE WAGES OF HIS HIRED MEN.

A Cool Calculating Farmer Explains the Situation to His Wife—He Thinks He Will Gain Nearly \$2,000 by the System to Use Scheme.

Farmer—I reckon this free silver's about the best friend of us farmers that's come our way since the war. Allowing Bryan's elected all right this year, I calculate I'll be worth nearly \$2,000 more next year than now.

Farmer's Wife—Nonsense, Harve! I don't believe silver's going to make folks rich. One'll have to work for a living if Bryan's elected just as hard as if he isn't.

F.—I don't deny but what your head's level there, Jane. Some folks will have to work harder, but it won't be us farmers. We'll come out on top with free silver. That's sure's shooting.

F.—What crazy notion is in your head now anyhow? D'you think farmers are smart enough to make laws that'll take money out of other folks' pockets and put it in theirs?

F.—Praps not, but they're going to try it. I s'pose you don't see how free silver helps us, but I do.

F. W.—If you'll take my advice, you'll not bother yourself to death trying to get rich by free silver. I'll warrant it won't work as you calculate.

F.—I'll tell you what I'll help me, Jane. You know that if we get free coinage we will have silver dollars worth 'bout 50 cents—same's Mexican dollars now.

F. W.—I thought Bryan said that silver'd be worth just as much as gold when we get free silver.

F.—Yes, that's what he says in the east so he won't scare the millhands and savings bank folks too much. But he don't talk that way out here, because he knows that ain't what we're after. We want cheap money so's prices of wheat, corn and pork'll be twice as high, same as in Mexico.

F. W.—Supp'n's all right. Wouldn't you have to pay twice as much for free silver as you'd have to pay for gold? If you got \$2 instead of \$1, you'd have to spend \$2 instead of \$1. It'd be as broad as it's long. If that's the way silver's going to make you rich, you may as well get every \$1 I spend now. You know, we have at least two hired men from April to November, besides the hired team. I'm going to raise their pay when we get free silver?

F. W.—I s'pose so. Why shouldn't you?

F.—Just because I wouldn't have to. Praps after a year or so I'd give 'em \$3 or \$4 more a month, but nothing like double what they're getting now. I calculate I'd save between \$800 and \$1,000 in wages—not quite so much on John and Dave, because they board with us, and of course the prices of some of the things they eat would go up, but I'd save 'bout half on my day hands who live and board at home. That's how I figure it, and it's 'cording to the opinion of Governor Boies and other big silver people. They say farm hands are too high for profits and that silver'll bring 'em down.

F. W.—And so that's why you're for free silver, Harve Grimes; want to cheat your poor hired hands out of half their wages, men who won't eat out of half their families out of the poor-house! I thought it was them Wall street shysters and goldbugs you're after with your free silver stick and that you're trying to square accounts with them rich fellers, but it seems so.

F.—Hold up there, Jane! Free silver's going to save us 'bout \$1,000 on what I still owe on that \$4,000 mortgage. Who d'you think'll lose that?

F. W.—I don't care who'll lose it. I don't care if you never get that other farm paid for. I guess we won't starve on this old farm. I'm going to tell John and Dave and all the others just how free silver will hurt them, and I'll get them all to vote against Bryan. The idea of such farmers as you trying to elect Bryan to cut down the wages of his hired men! I'm ashamed of you, I your hired men!

Farmers Want Cheap Money. The advocates of free coinage in the west and south "don't take any stock" in Bryan's occasional assertion that he "contents" that the adoption of this policy would put the price of silver to \$1.25. Indeed they would lose all interest in the agitation if they supposed that the silver dollar under free coinage was to be worth as much as the gold dollar is now. The real sentiments of these people are clearly expressed by James Kitchin, an extensive farmer and stockman of Grayson, Ky., who, when asked the other day why he was for free silver, made this reply: "I am for free silver because I am in debt, and if we get free coinage I can pay my debts with one-half of what it now costs under our present money standard. And another reason, I employ laborers on my farm. They are my creditors. I am the debtor. Under free coinage I can pay them with one-half it costs me now, for it will raise the price of products, and I can then

like my farm help for 60 cents a day and put them in bacon at 15 cents a pound."

It must become more and more plain, as the campaign proceeds, that this is the motive and must be the result of the free coinage will thus finally resolve itself into the larger question, whether the American people still believe that honesty is the best policy.

SILVER IN A NUTSHELL.

Free Coinage of Metals Would Not Make Us Richer.

Did you ever stop to think what would be the result if the government should by legislation determine that ordinary building bricks 2 by 4 by 8 inches in size should be legal tender in any amount for \$1 each and should arrange to have them so stamped in any quantity less of cost to the person presenting them?

Under such circumstances the price of building bricks would at once advance to \$1,000 a thousand, for if they could be "collected" without cost the bricks "collected" would be worth just as much as the "collected" bricks—\$1 each. But did it ever occur to you that it would not be an advance in the value of the bricks, but a decrease in the value of the dollars, which would thus establish a new "parity between money and property," that under such a system \$1,000 would be worth only 1,000 bricks; that that 1,000 bricks would exchange for no more commodities or labor than it does today, and consequently that \$1,000 would mean as more to us than 1,000 bricks do now?

In other words our government can determine by legislation what commodity and what amount of that commodity silver'd be worth just as much as gold when we get free silver.

F.—Yes, that's what he says in the east so he won't scare the millhands and savings bank folks too much. But he don't talk that way out here, because he knows that ain't what we're after. We want cheap money so's prices of wheat, corn and pork'll be twice as high, same as in Mexico.

F. W.—Supp'n's all right. Wouldn't you have to pay twice as much for free silver as you'd have to pay for gold? If you got \$2 instead of \$1, you'd have to spend \$2 instead of \$1. It'd be as broad as it's long. If that's the way silver's going to make you rich, you may as well get every \$1 I spend now. You know, we have at least two hired men from April to November, besides the hired team. I'm going to raise their pay when we get free silver?

F. W.—I s'pose so. Why shouldn't you?

F.—Just because I wouldn't have to. Praps after a year or so I'd give 'em \$3 or \$4 more a month, but nothing like double what they're getting now. I calculate I'd save between \$800 and \$1,000 in wages—not quite so much on John and Dave, because they board with us, and of course the prices of some of the things they eat would go up, but I'd save 'bout half on my day hands who live and board at home. That's how I figure it, and it's 'cording to the opinion of Governor Boies and other big silver people. They say farm hands are too high for profits and that silver'll bring 'em down.

F. W.—And so that's why you're for free silver, Harve Grimes; want to cheat your poor hired hands out of half their wages, men who won't eat out of half their families out of the poor-house! I thought it was them Wall street shysters and goldbugs you're after with your free silver stick and that you're trying to square accounts with them rich fellers, but it seems so.

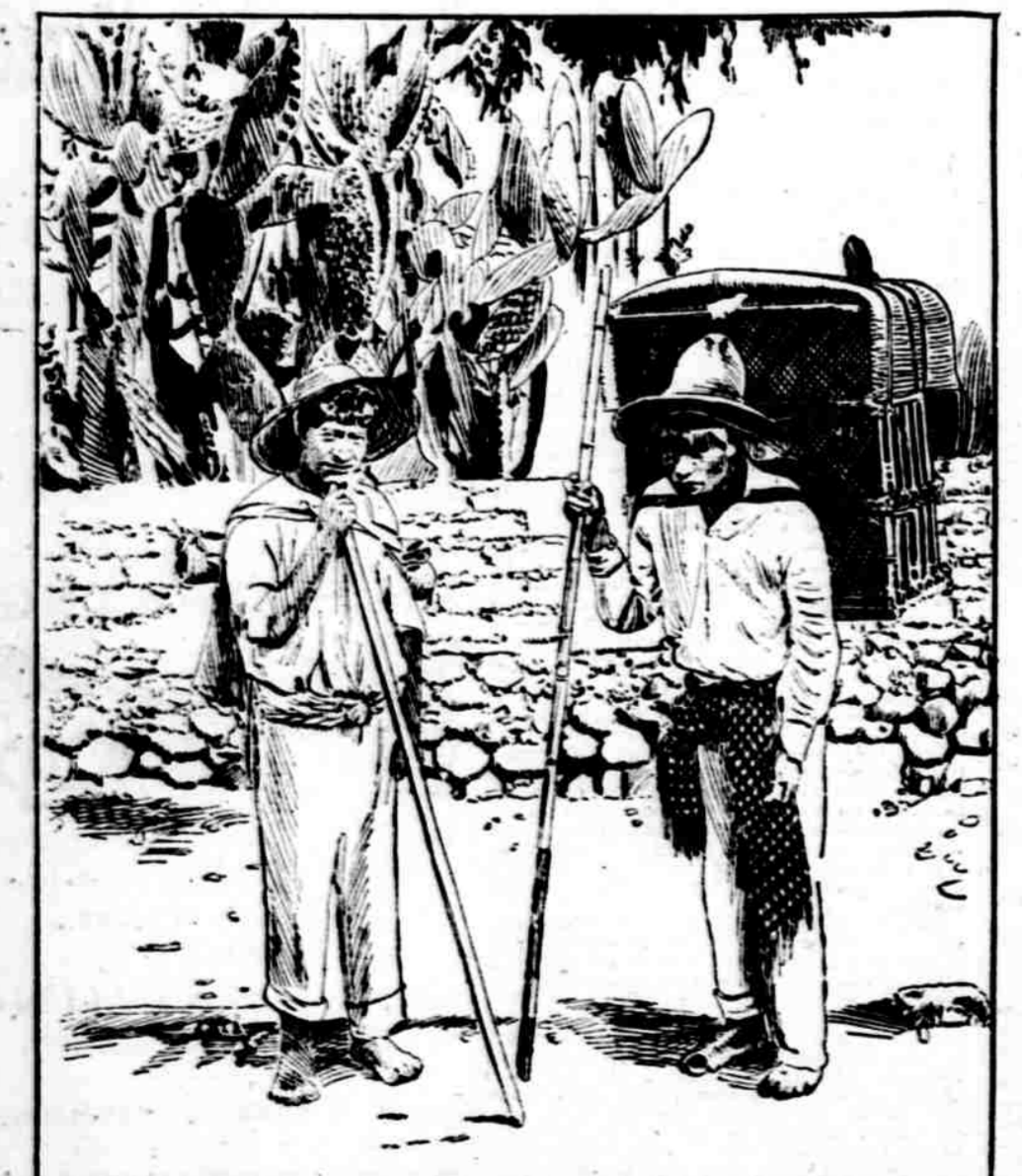
F.—Hold up there, Jane! Free silver's going to save us 'bout \$1,000 on what I still owe on that \$4,000 mortgage. Who d'you think'll lose that?

F. W.—I don't care who'll lose it. I don't care if you never get that other farm paid for. I guess we won't starve on this old farm. I'm going to tell John and Dave and all the others just how free silver will hurt them, and I'll get them all to vote against Bryan. The idea of such farmers as you trying to elect Bryan to cut down the wages of his hired men! I'm ashamed of you, I your hired men!

Farmers Want Cheap Money. The advocates of free coinage in the west and south "don't take any stock" in Bryan's occasional assertion that he "contents" that the adoption of this policy would put the price of silver to \$1.25. Indeed they would lose all interest in the agitation if they supposed that the silver dollar under free coinage was to be worth as much as the gold dollar is now. The real sentiments of these people are clearly expressed by James Kitchin, an extensive farmer and stockman of Grayson, Ky., who, when asked the other day why he was for free silver, made this reply: "I am for free silver because I am in debt, and if we get free coinage I can pay my debts with one-half of what it now costs under our present money standard. And another reason, I employ laborers on my farm. They are my creditors. I am the debtor. Under free coinage I can pay them with one-half it costs me now, for it will raise the price of products, and I can then

is more silver in each of them than in the American dollar. I bought both of them for that. What is the reason? The sole reason is that our dollar is a limited coinage, backed by gold. There is another coin. That is a French 5 franc piece. I paid 35 cents for that. It carries the same weight as the American dollar. France and the United States are both gold standard countries. They keep in circulation a thousand millions of silver, and Mexico, China and Japan have got one dollar of gold each in circulation. The American dollar is the only silver in circulation. The silver standard country can keep no gold. That is the example of every nation today. Gold all leaves the free coinage country. Gold and silver both circulate in the free coinage country.—From a Speech by Senator Lodge.

Never work for a candidate with a poor memory.



"COMMON CARRIERS."

\$7.50 in Mexican money, and I could buy the same shoes in Texas for \$2.50 or \$3. The same is true of every other article that I wear. I wish every American railroad man who believes that the Mexican 50-cent dollar system is a good thing for wage earners would come to Mexico and take a few object lessons. I have had all I want of it.

House Rent. If the railroad man in Mexico should rent a house as good as the home of the average contractor, engineer, fireman, brakeman or telegraph operator in this

What Money Buys. I found in my investigations of paid mechanics and skilled labor in the shops of the Mexican railroads that wages ranged about as they do in the United States. The shop men at Topeka receive about the same wages that are paid on the Mexican Central and other roads in Mexico, with possibly a few exceptions, but when you consider the 100-cent dollar of Uncle Sam and its purchasing power, and compare it with the Mexican dollar at 50 cents and the prices of the commodities of life in that country, an object lesson is presented that a child can understand.

There are only two classes in Mexico—the very rich and the very poor.