

for years, without pay from either state or national government, been doing a corn product trade, and handling vast quantities of the output of the Argo Starch works and the Nebraska City Cereal mills with satisfaction to customers and consumers constantly increasing.

THE CENTENARY OF BEET SUGAR.

A letter to a Vienna paper draws attention to the fact that yesterday was the hundredth anniversary of the creation of the beetroot sugar industry. The text of a short petition, dated January 11, 1799, is given, in which Franz Karl Achard, Director of the Royal Prussian Academy of Science, lays a memorandum before his sovereign, Frederick William III., showing how sugar might be made from beetroot, hitherto used only as fodder, and also submitting samples of the new article. Four days later, on January 15, 1799, the King replied by ordering experiments to be made in all the provinces on a large scale, and awarding Achard a grant of money for the continuation of his studies on the subject. Sugar at that time, and for a short while afterwards, cost 200 to 300 thalers per hundredweight retail, and the consumption of sugar in all Europe at the end of last century was between 200,000 and 250,000 tons. Today, 4,500,000 tons of beetroot sugar is produced in Europe alone, besides 3,000,000 tons of cane sugar. Achard, who refused a bribe of 200,000 thalers, offered him by the cane-sugar interest if he would publish a statement that he had made a mistake, and that beetroot was not adapted for the purposes he proposed, died a poor man, although he was the first practical beet-sugar producer in the world.

In another column of the same paper a revolution in the beetroot-sugar industry by the new electrolytical process, which is already adopted in Belgium, Egypt, Germany, and elsewhere, is described in detail, and its speedy adoption recommended to manufacturers in Austria-Hungary, lest they should be unable to compete with other countries. —[Vienna Correspondence London Standard, January 13.]

TOO MUCH TALK.

The continued garrulousness of Miles, Alger, Eagan and other leading actors in the play of the McKinley administration is becoming wearisome.

The historical reader may recall the wonderful similarity between some of the generals and other high officers of the Hanna-McKinley administration, and a few of the minor and more talkative personages who surrounded Napoleon at the beginning of the first consulship. It was about the time he was preparing the path which he proposed to tread leading from the republic up to the empire and the throne in the year 1800. He ordered a vast funeral

pageant in honor of George Washington, who had died in December, 1799. He utilized the death of Washington and the mourning which ensued as a mask to hide his intention to destroy the republican form of government. It was while he was maturing his schemes for personal aggrandizement that he was most annoyed by the loquacity of some of the executive officers immediately connected with his person. It was then that he said to Bourrienne, his confidential secretary: "I want men with *more head and less tongue.*"

McKinley seems to experience a similar necessity.

CANNED ORATORY.

Since the attention of the American people has been so steadfastly fixed for some time upon canned beef, as embalmed for military rations, and discussed by those distinguished warriors, Miles, Eagan and Alger, diversion to canned eloquence and embalmed oratory may be restful and refreshing.

At Asheville, North Carolina, on September 16, 1896, Colonel Bryan, then running for the presidency, fervidly said:

"If you convert fifty cents' worth of bullion into a fifty-cent dollar there is no profit to the mine owner."

If free coinage does not make cheaper dollars then how can prices be raised by that free coinage? And if the silver dollar, so coined, is not cheaper and easier to get, but jumps at once to a parity with the detested gold dollar, how have the plain people, or any other people, except the money-grabbing plutocracy, been benefited?

At Columbus, Ohio, September 1, 1896, Colonel Bryan declared with ardent vehemence: "I call your attention to the fact that no party in this country has ever in a national convention commended the gold standard. Its effects are so bad that *no party has dared to uphold it.*"

This last chunk of canned eloquence, placed alongside of the following historical facts, looks like a piece of mildewed, moulded, putrescent, embalmed beef, as described by Miles, alongside of freshly dressed stall-fed steaks of the same kind of meat.

In 1806 Jefferson, by executive order, suspended the coinage of the silver dollar and the order remained in vigor thirty years. Did that order uphold the silver or the gold standard?

The act of 1834 placed the United States on a gold basis. It was signed by Andrew Jackson. What party did he belong to and did he not uphold gold?

The act of 1853 demonetized seventy-five millions of silver. Was that then undemocratic?

The act of 1873 merely dropped the silver dollar from American coinage.

And this last act was pending in congress three years.

At St. Louis, September 12, 1896, Colonel Bryan said: "The gold standard then means falling prices, and falling prices mean hard times to everybody, except the man who owns the money or trades in money."

This specimen of embalmed prophecy seems a trifle tainted in the light of the trade and business prosperity of the last twenty-four months.

At Madison Square, however, on August 12, 1896, Colonel Bryan remarked: "We contend that the free and unlimited coinage of silver by the United States alone will raise the bullion value of silver to its coinage value and thus make silver bullion worth \$1.29 per ounce in gold throughout the world."

That seems as fresh and juicy as any embalmed substance uncorked up to this present date.

On August 31, 1896, at Ashtabula, Ohio, Colonel Bryan hopefully asserted: "We do not expect the silver dollar to be a fifty-cent dollar. We expect that with the opening of our mints to free silver that every ounce of silver will be worth \$1.29."

And at Ripley [the same day: "We believe the opening of our mints to the free coinage of silver will create a demand for all the surplus silver of the world. So there will not be a man who can buy an ounce of silver for less than \$1.29 in gold."

Great expectations do not seem to have kept very wholesomely as packed at Ashtabula and when the can put up at Ripley the same day opens up there is an odor of goldbugism about it altogether too suggestive of an equality with that diabolical metal to be appetizing to the average populist.

From time to time THE CONSERVATIVE will serve up cold canned finance from the "pack" of fusion as put upon the market, by Colonel Bryan, and other distinguished and able advocates of the money fallacies, during the exciting and fervid campaign of 1896.

There are many varieties of food for the physical man which taste better served hot, and much mental pabulum which is popular when fervid, but very flat, stale and unpalatable when passed around cold. The truth is that in the United States the people eat all the fruits and meats they can, and the surplus which they can't eat they always can; and so they take in as much oratory and eloquence as they can understand and that which they can't is likewise canned. Of cold, well-carved cutlets of canned financial vagaries—warranted to be of the established brand of 1896—THE CONSERVATIVE will from time to time invite its readers to partake.