

POLITICAL INSURANCE.

THE CONSERVATIVE is willing to become a small stockholder in a proposed political insurance company with large capital. The object of the company is to insure against the election to office of named candidates. Each policy will indemnify against possible loss in property values by the election of the candidates named. The possibility of the election of the person designated in the policy is regarded from the same standpoint as a possible fire.

The company will issue policies against the election of Col. Bryan or any other candidate running for the presidency on a platform which affirms the Chicago platform of 1896.

Absolute defeat insured to any candidate in the United States who avows that the stamp of the government alone confers value upon the commodity used as money.

Special and attractive endowments made payable every day during life from the time a free silver man is inaugurated president of the United States, will be put on sale at very small premiums by this company. There will be no limit to the amounts of these endowments. Premiums microscopic!

FLIES.

Judge Edgar Howard, in a recent number of his spirited *Papillion Times*, treats fusionists as "flies." In an editorial of considerable force, which has the merit of charming frankness, he denominates gold-standard democrats, "spiders." He refers with pathetic tenderness to a time when he believed all that gold-standard democrats proclaimed as to the necessity of a currency for this republic of the least possible fluctuating purchasing power—a currency upon a gold basis acceptable in all the markets of the world.

It seems, however, that Judge Howard has renounced his faith in the democracy of Benton and Jackson. That democracy advocated the importance of a single standard of value for this country. But men who taught in the early days of the republic that a ratio between gold and silver coins established merely by enactment could not fix the relative value of gold and silver in the bullion markets of the world are now condemned and denounced by Mr. Howard and all other Bryanarchists. The men of today who declare that the relative value between coins of gold and silver, established by a congressionally enacted ratio, fixes the relative value of the bullion of gold and silver throughout the world are apotheosized.

It is regrettable that men of seemingly good common sense and average common school acquirements can for a moment believe that a given quantity of metal, certificated and stamped as coin, will have a greater market value than

the same quantity of the same metal, of equal fineness and purity, will have as bullion.

Judge Howard and all Bryanarchists admit that one hundred dollars of gold coin may be melted down and every vestige of the government stamp lost and the molten mass yet retain almost its original purchasing power.

Judge Howard and other Bryanarchists know likewise that one hundred dollars of silver coins melted down will not have to exceed 45 per cent of the purchasing power which had been guaranteedly stamped upon them by the government, under the national pledge to keep silver coin at a parity with gold.

If, under the present coinage system, where the bullion is worked up by the government, for the government, at the government's expense, the bullion value of silver cannot be maintained at par with its money value, how could the unlimited free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 for anybody and everybody maintain the price? A miller may be able to grind dollar-a-bushel wheat for others during the entire year, not being compelled to buy it or to maintain the price; but the same miller, if compelled to take all the wheat presented at a dollar a bushel and to maintain that price would become bankrupt.

The honest-money doctrines of the Tilden campaign enunciated in 1876 were descended from Benton and Jackson. Those patriots believed that all debts, public and private, should be liquidated on the same basis upon which they were contracted. They never for a moment tolerated, by implication even, dishonesty in the liquidation of debts, private or public. It is not honest to attempt to pay a dollar of debt with a dollar of less purchasing power in the general markets than the dollar had at the time of that debt's creation.

The great principles to which THE CONSERVATIVE alluded when it said: "Is it possible that Judge Howard and his followers indicate a return to principles after the storm and disaster of fusion have ceased," were Honesty and Fidelity to Law as interpreted by the Supreme Court of the Republic. It is therefore saddening and surprising to learn that there is not the slightest sign of any recusant democrats returning to honesty in finance and to fidelity in upholding the law as interpreted by the courts.

Judge Howard seems to be quite unable to distinguish the difference between swallowing and being swallowed. Consequently he confounds the campaign of 1884—wherein the democratic party sacrificed not a single principle, made its own nomination as a distinct organization and caused the submergence of the people's party—with the fusion campaigns of today wherein there is neither name nor mention of a Nebraska democracy. The democracy of

1884 and of 1892 in the state of Nebraska was a living, organized force devoted to principles and as different from the fusion combines of today as a sound loin of wholesome fat beef is from a putrescent sausage of unknown origin.

A FEW FACTS.

Distances in New York City are a matter of interest to a Dakota reader of THE CONSERVATIVE, and he is therefore informed that: It is eight and a half miles from Castle Garden to Harlem Bridge, New York, at One Hundred and Thirtieth street and Third avenue. The territory of New York from Castle Garden to Harlem Bridge, between East and North rivers, has an average of two miles in width.

A half dollar of 1807, a \$5 piece of 1835, half dollars of 1835 and 1826 do not command premiums. Neither does a half cent of 1805 command a premium.

The pay of third-class postmasters is not more than \$2000 nor less than \$1000. There is an allowance on box rents under certain conditions and an allowance for rent not exceeding \$400 a year. In case of a rush of business such postmaster may be allowed compensation for clerical assistance during such rush.

Grover Cleveland's second term commenced March 4, 1893, and terminated March 4, 1897. During that period there was in session the Fifty-third Congress, which had on joint ballot March 4, 1893, 162 republicans and 263 democrats; the Fifty-fourth Congress, which had March 4, 1895, 296 republicans and 132 democrats. The Fifty-fifth Congress had March 4, 1897, 253 republicans and 154 democrats, and the Fifty-sixth Congress had on March 4, 1899, 240 republicans and 189 democrats.

Verbascum thapsus is the botanical name of the common mullein or mullein dock. Generally it is found growing in neglected places. In favorable soil it will grow to a height of from four to five feet. It is furnished with elliptical densely woolly leaves, the upper part being closely occupied by yellow flowers. It is used as a medicine in pulmonary diseases in cattle and for that reason is called bullock's lungwort. The dry stalks and leaves were in ancient times dipped in grease and used as a substitute for candles and lamp wicks. In England it is called "hig" or "hag taper," on account of a superstition that it was used by witches. In the illustrated Dictionary of Gardening, volume IV., page 144, that is to be found in the reference room of the Free Public Library, can be seen an illustration of the mullein and a technical description of it.

He, or that, which is useful is self-preserving, while that which is not useful invariably tends to be antagonistic or destructive.