

GOLD STANDARD. There must be no dodging by the real friends of the single gold standard for the United States. To be sure it was established in 1873 when congress declared and the president approved the act of February 12th, reading as follows:

"That the gold coins of the United States shall be a dollar piece, which, at the standard weight of twenty-five and one-eighth grains shall be the unit of value."

The act then enumerates the other denominations of gold coins and excludes and precludes the free coinage of silver. That was, is, and may remain the crime of 1873. It was discussed by both houses of congress until columns of the Congressional Record were filled with reports of the debate. There was no secrecy about it, no stealth and the gold standard then as now was advocated by the best ability known to American citizenship, including lawyers, merchants, manufacturers, bankers and farmers. THE CONSERVATIVE is for its reaffirmation.

FARM VALUES.

THE CONSERVATIVE has witnessed the enhancement

of lands in Otoe county and other parts of Nebraska for forty-four years. Steadily, in spite of the often-repeated falsehood that "farming does not pay" and in the face of hundreds of calamity orators, who each autumn pity the farmer's fate and ask for his vote, the price of land has marched onward and upward.

This advance has been made with most celerity where lands are located conveniently to railroad depots. The nearer a good farm is found to the station and grain elevator of one of the robbing railroads the higher the valuation. After hearing House Rent Holcomb, Bryan and Allen depict the extortions of railroads in Nebraska one would conclude that the further from railroads one could get a farm the better and more saleable that farm would be. But the facts tell us that nearness to shipping points makes farms worth more than remoteness from such points. In the sound of the voice of disaster, within ear-shot of the long-time talker of calamity, extortion, corporate greed and the tyranny of "the money power," the Hon. Wm. Vincent Allen, Nebraska lands which he says are ravaged and robbed by railroads continue to enhance in value. Capital seeks them. It pays higher and higher prices for them. These lands are among the most fertile and productive of the whole globe. The surplus product per acre of a Nebraska farm well tilled, after feeding, housing comfortably and clothing an ordinary family, is bigger, better and more remunerative to the farmer than the similar surplus in any other state in this

republic. Labor seeks these lands also and the relatively poor man buys of railroads on long time and with the distinct understanding and agreement that his payments are to be earned out of the land itself. Intelligent men of good muscle and good mind abound in all parts of Nebraska who have acquired large estates by the surplus productions of the estates themselves.

There are more acres of land in Nebraska which have paid for themselves out of themselves, built good houses and barns out of themselves and made prosperous men and women out of the tillage of the soil than in any other state in this Union.

And all this before our eyes, all this forcing the fact of advancing land values into notice does not halt the everlasting lamentations as to the hardships, woes, penury and squalor of Nebraska farmers by a lot of pot-hunters for office every autumn.

They are just now getting into tune and keying up for concerted action. The season for howling and calumny of the state and its people is at hand. Coin Harvey, Allen, Bryan and Bill Dech will begin the itineracy at once and exhortations against the value of farms, in favor of anything and everything that does not exist, and against everything which does exist, will be frequent and fervid until after all gudgeons and suckers shall have been caught by their snares.

LABOR COST.

The average citizen too frequently confounds wages and labor cost. With higher wages in the United States than are paid in highly protected Germany the assertion is made that the labor cost in American products is greater than in German products.

But that does not follow. The man working for three dollars a day in the United States, by his superior skill and intelligence, may produce more of a finished article in one day than his German competitor, working at seventy-five cents a day, can produce in four days. The highest and best wages are paid in the United States because the workmen, operatives and artisans of the United States are the best educated, disciplined and skilled in the world.

They are so superior that with big wages they make the labor cost less in all woolen and cotton fabrics than it is in Europe. They are so skilled and deft in handling metals that notwithstanding higher wages, they make the labor cost in railroad bars less here than in England.

A man who gets ten dollars a month and board and husks forty bushels of corn a day gets more labor cost into corn than one who gets twenty dollars a month and board and husks one hundred bushels a day.

THAT BALLOT TRUST.

The conspiracy and combine under the silver-plated dome of the capitol at Lincoln by which the populist managers proposed, as has been proved, to count in some amendments to the organic law of Nebraska and two members of the supreme court has not yet been prosecuted by Attorney-General Smyth. But as soon as the legislative committee officially publish their report and the evidence upon which that report is based, proceedings will no doubt be instituted against the ballot trust, made up of several populist office-holders. Whether House Rent Holcomb, who seems to have been governor for "the money rather than the honor" appertaining to the position, will be sued is a question. Did he ever say with Bryan, "it is the money that attracts me rather than the honor" of an office?

FUSTIAN FOR FUSION.

As a weaver of fustian there is not one in Nebraska superior to the chairman of the state committee of the office-seekers' trust, Mr. J. H. Edmiston.

The three corporations which combined at Omaha on August 22, 1899, to make this office-seekers' trust were the Chicago platformers, the silver republicans and the populists. This trust is supported by the silver smelter trust which it recognizes and regards as its own twin. Mr. Edmiston issues appeals, manufactures war-whoops and originates paroxysmal rhetoric, for the inspiration of the conglomerate forces. In a recent address to the ballot-casters Edmiston says:

"The magnificent record of Silas A. Holcomb appeals to every thinking man."

"Every thinking man" who wishes to employ a rent reducer, rent collector and voucher maker will apply at once to Silas A. Holcomb. He has no peer. He is without a parallel. Compare him with Crouse. The latter did not get a cent where Holcomb got dollars.

William J. Bryan had a big meeting in San Francisco last evening and an enthusiastic one. He is a man who can count upon attracting an audience wherever he goes, and he possesses a great deal of oratorical ability. But neither in his speech last evening nor in any other made by him which we can remember do we discover much evidence that he is a man who would stand up and fight for ideas which he believed were very unpopular.—Oakland Enquirer, September 7th.

When the trust is so conducted as to threaten its entirety, that is, the welfare of the individuals comprising it, it is no longer an ethical organization.