

**RAILROAD RIGHTS.**

The populists and fusionists of Nebraska and the Northwest deny the right of railroads to issue stock as evidence of enhanced value. But the right of the state to raise the valuation of railroad property for the purposes of taxation nobody denies. Thus the state—in view of increased passenger and freight traffic which may have accrued to a railroad because of an increased population having become tributary to each mile of its line—may assess a railroad eight thousand dollars a mile today which in 1879 was valued at only four thousand dollars a mile. The railroad is worth more now than it was then. But its owners have no right to issue any tangible evidence of its enhancement, nor to demand dividends thereupon. For the owners to attempt it is to water their stock, we are told by fusionists and populists.

But the farmer who mortgages a farm for five thousand, which cost him four hundred, and gets prices for his products which will enable him to pay the interest on five thousand dollars, which is more than twelve times the original cost, does a perfectly proper and legitimate bit of finance. He has not watered the valuation of his real estate. It is possible that the proximity to a railroad has really raised the value of his land. And this being true have not the tillage and product of the land reciprocated by really raising the value of the railroad and the stock representing it? And if the farmer may innocently and without wrong to anyone place on the market negotiable mortgages which in amount are ten times as much as he paid for the land, get the money for them and pay interest thereon, why may not his co-worker—his distributor—also properly and legally and justly have something to show for the better value of his railroad?

Land along a line of railroad which has risen from a donated homestead to a market value of fifty dollars an acre may have been watered equally as much—or more—as the stock and bonds of the railroad which put up the price of the land. The farmers and the railroads are interdependent. They ought to be and will be sooner or later fast friends.

**D. E. THOMPSON.** THE CONSERVATIVE has never been politically, personally nor in a business way associated with Mr. D. E. Thompson. But it has heard and learned enough of his ability as a man and manager to affirm that he is able, fearless and effective in whatever enterprise he may undertake. There is no doubt as to his having been potent in the election of an anti-populist legislature during the campaign of 1898. He is one of the few leaders of republican-

ism in Nebraska who works for his party all the year round and who can forecast the effect of elections, their defeats and triumphs with considerable accuracy. It has come to THE CONSERVATIVE that Mr. Thompson, as an advocate of the single gold standard, seemingly realizes the national importance of the Nebraska election next November and that he is endeavoring to inoculate his copartisans with vigor and vigilance. At the present writing there is no sign of his succeeding. But an awakening may come at last, just as at last, the Nebraska troops were brought home.

**COIN HARVEY.**

This distinguished monetary sophist who delights in depicting the despotism of money and the imperialism of combined capital still lingers in Nebraska. The exhortations of Mr. Harvey are all for cash money with which to carry on a campaign for the debasement of the currency of the United States. He denounces money and its evil influences in one sentence and begs for more money and its influence in the next. If with the present number of millions of dollars in circulation the money power is indeed a menace what will the money power do when the number of millions of dollars now in circulation has been doubled, trebled? If money is an evil and a jeopardy to the republic what will it be when its volume has been quadrupled? Will the money-getters of today be paralyzed and cease their avaricious efforts and their acquisitive endeavors when money shall have been made more plentiful by the free coinage of silver at sixteen to one?

What is the matter in Nebraska that Coin Harvey lingereth and exhorteth so long?

**QUESTIONS RENEWED.**

THE CONSERVATIVE has asked time and again, what good has come to Nebraska, what good has come to the republic, from the denunciatory eloquence of Bryanarchy? What county in Nebraska can find within its borders new capital, new manufacturing plants, new farms which have been resultant of the lamentations of Allen, Bill Dech or Bryan over the alleged oppression of the plain people by plutocracy?

Has that everlasting lie, that farming in Nebraska cannot pay, helped enhance lands in this state? Have the constantly rising values of farms in Nebraska been instituted and accelerated by the deplorable conditions of their owners as depicted by these tearful guardians of the plain people? Has declaring, by Allen and Bryan, that railroads were robbing and other corporations oppressing the farmers of Nebraska, caused farms to rise ten and twenty dollars an acre during the last two years? What good

has come of depreciating farms and the condition of farmers either in Nebraska or elsewhere? Is the American republic made better and grander by calumny and vituperation?

**THERE IS NO DEMOCRACY.**

Government by the people, that is, government which, in its legislative, executive and judicial departments, is made up of men selected by a free and uncorrupted democracy, to represent equality, justice and fraternity has ceased to exist in France and is sick almost unto death even in the United States.

“Representative government is Justice organized, Reason in living action and Morality armed.”

Has such government a foothold in the Philippines? Does it prevail anywhere in the West Indies? Is it dominating, directing and upbuilding the institutions of this country as they were planned and founded by our revolutionary sires?

Where is there evidence of a living, free and uncorrupted democracy anywhere on the globe outside of Switzerland?

IN 1896.

Col. William Jennings Bryan in one of his most eloquent and irresistible orations, during the calamity campaign for the presidency, with wrathful vehemence declared:

“The promulgation of the gold standard is an attack upon your homes and firesides and you have as much right to resist it as to resist an army marching to take your children captive and burn the roof over your head.”

The gold standard has been promulgated for years. It has been established more than a quarter of a century right here in the United States.

It has “attacked your homes” with columns of figures showing their enhanced value.

It has brightened and cheered your farm firesides with luxuries in musical instruments and with choicest literature from all over the world.

You have bought gold with the products of your industry. With that gold you have been able to buy anywhere on earth all the products of other industry offered for sale.

The gold standard holds “captive” for your children the markets of the world. Whatever you sell of Nebraska production must be good enough for any market on the globe. And the money which you buy with what you sell must be also current in all markets; and that money is gold.

“Every day makes it more evident” to the Philadelphia Record (dem.) “that the democratic party cannot be rallied in undivided support of the anti-expansion policy.”