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OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIOLOGICAL  
QUESTIONS.

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1900.

The presidential election in 1900 will be a triumph for the gold standard. The money question is over and above all other questions.

The government can live and maintain its authority with or without expansion, with or without war. But without a permanently established monetary system conforming to the standard of value which all the commercial peoples of the earth have adopted the United States can not command and enforce respect among the nations. Honesty in national as in personal character is the only safe and secure foundation.

### RAILROAD EXPENDITURES.

The railroads of the country are said to be alarmed at the startling advances that have taken place in the cost of materials.

During the last year steel rails have advanced from \$18.00 per ton to \$33.00 per ton; spliced bars have increased in cost from \$1.00 per 100 pounds to \$2.20; steel bridge material has gone up from \$2.15 to \$4.00 per 100 pounds; ties and timber have advanced about 25 per cent; coal is hard to get in sufficient quantity to operate the roads at advanced prices of over 10 to 50 cents per ton; and all other supplies and materials have had corresponding advances in price.

These are the hardships of prosperity and naturally the railroads of the country are very much interested in their own charges for transportation of passengers and freight.

It is not at all unlikely that there will be advances made in rates of transpor-

tation. The railroad rates of the United States are lower than they are anywhere else in the world and without doubt the service rendered is superior to that offered in any other country.

These advances in cost of supplies and material are estimated by careful students of the question to approximate \$300.00 a mile of road on basis of normal maintenance of track and equipment. This means for a road, 7,000 miles long, net earnings will have to be increased over two million dollars per year to attain the same result yielded last year.

These things all go to show that there is a good deal of sense in the claim, on the part of some of the railroad officials of the country, that it is unfair to establish maximum rates. Transportation is strictly a composite service and it does seem unreasonable to establish a price for the service the railroad renders without in any degree considering the cost of labor, supplies and other component parts. \$300.00 a mile increase in the cost of operation is equivalent to nearly sixty millions of dollars per year that the American railroads will have to pay for their supplies, as compared with last year.

### WHEAT AND SILVER.

The government of India has adopted the gold standard. American wheat raisers were told by Bryanarchists in 1896 that they could never compete with the wheat producers of India who were getting twice as much for their wheat as the Americans were getting on a gold basis.

Concerning the establishment of the gold standard in India the Chicago Tribune aptly observed: "The free silverites used to contend that the India wheat raisers were able to undersell their American competitors because the former had the silver standard. Therefore, Mr. Bryan and his admirers ought to thank the India Council for having legislated in the interest of American farmers by removing a great cause of cheap wheat. But free silver has become such a dead issue that it is not likely Mr. Bryan or any of his followers will mention this new departure in India. An event which would have attracted general attention three years ago is almost unnoticed now. The battle of the standards has been won by gold, and the few remaining silver standard countries will change to gold in the near future."

### COURTS.

State and federal courts, whether elective or appointed, are established to execute the decrees of right and justice. When any proven criminal escapes the penalty of his crimes the judge who, by misconstruing the law permits it, is himself suspected, if not convicted. Carlyle says: "Just hatred of scoundrels, fixed irreconcilable enmity to the enemies of law and order; this, and not love of them, is the back bone of any religion whatsoever, let alone the Christian."

### REFRIGERATION.

When gentlemen seeking small offices in their "beginnings here" in Nebraska frankly avow their desire for public life to be based upon "the money that is in the office" and commit that patriotic sentiment, with ennobling zeal, to paper with a pen that is dipped in ink and directed by their own hands they should remember that letters keep without being put in cold storage. There is no refrigeration needed to conserve radical utterances of their desire for cash out of public offices so eloquently set forth by great reformers who now pose as the only patriotic, the only pure among the people of this country.

### LAWS.

Ruskin wisely said that "Laws are usually most beneficial in operation on people who would have most strongly objected to their enactment."

Laws well understood, rigidly observed, properly construed by wise judges are the protection of the poor and the defenseless. Badly construed, twisted, tortured and misapplied as to rules of evidence, however, by shallow and incompetent expounders, laws become the robbers of the defenseless and the oppressors of the poor.

### JUDGES.

Lord Bacon wisely said: "Judges ought to be more learned than witty, more reverent than plausible, and more advised than confident. Above all things integrity is their portion and proper virtue."

House Rent Holcomb should quote that in every speech. Any president of a mutual fire insurance company, running for a membership of the supreme court, should ponder this wisdom.