

crats fuse with the republicans of the South, the opportunity for free and legitimate discussion of national questions would not occur. It would be the signal for an unseemly contest between former friends and associates, which would inevitably result in bad blood, political debauchery, and social disorder. The sound money democrats of the South are generally either men who have succeeded in the various walks of life and do not seek official station, or men who have voluntarily or involuntarily retired from the public service rather than surrender their convictions on what they regard as a vital public question. They can afford to be unselfish and patriotic without making greater sacrifices than they have already made.

In view of the certainty of Mr. Bryan's nomination, immediate steps should be taken to organize the sound money democrats throughout the country. At the proper time a national convention should be called to take authoritative action. There is probably a difference of opinion among sound money democrats as to the propriety of making even a presidential nomination. Those of the southern states would, with few exceptions, oppose making nominations for state, county or municipal offices for the reasons already stated. However, it is certain they would agree with great unanimity, on the convention taking action as follows:

1. The adoption of a sound democratic platform, reasserting the principles of the party as understood and taught by its founders and leaders down to the unfortunate episode at Chicago, and applying these principles to living questions.

2. To declare it to be the duty of sound money democrats, in the interest of sound democracy and the public welfare, to use all honorable means to secure the defeat of Mr. Bryan.

3. To appoint a national executive committee composed of democrats, recognized throughout the country for their ability and patriotism, to take charge of the campaign and see that sound money literature is distributed and the advocates of sound money and sound democracy are heard in every community throughout the country.

If no nominations are made by the sound money democrats for state, county or municipal offices, the way will be left open for affiliation with the free silver democrats in all state and local elections. If this policy is pursued the division between democrats will be confined within its proper limitations and the discussion will be applicable only to the presidential contest.

The course here suggested, if carried out, will be absolutely patriotic and unselfish, and it is especially desirable in the southern states. When the idea is eliminated that white supremacy is in

any way involved in the contest, the way will be open for argument. Then all antagonisms will be avoided and the sound money democrats can challenge their free silver brethren to make an honest inquiry into the merits of their case. This, if there is any truth in logic, will result in the destruction of Bryanism in the southern states, and destroyed there it fails everywhere.—From the Conservative Review, November, 1899.

## POLITICAL.

The Turn Society of Springfield, Mass., has sent Congressman Gillett a petition asking him to exert his influence in congress against the policy of the administration in the Philippines. The action was taken at the suggestion of the national executive committee of the societies of the country.

Winslow Warren, ex-collector of the port of Boston, says in a letter to the Springfield Republican that opposition to changes that imperil the American ideals cannot be successfully united under the leadership of William J. Bryan, and that, therefore, the only thing to do is to organize another party.

"Bryan's preëminence can, perhaps, best be explained upon the principle that among the blind the one-eyed is easily king," says the Baltimore Sun (dem.). "The reign of small men has succeeded to that of men who were really great, and the stupendous folly of Chicago was the natural consequence of the little modicum of brains by which the party has been governed."

William H. Smyth, the postmaster at Atlanta, sees no occasion for the proposed constitutional amendment in Georgia to limit negro suffrage. "Practically," he says, "the negroes now are barred from voting by a statute that requires the citizen to have paid his taxes without intermission for a period approximating twenty years. Unless he can make affidavit that all back taxes have been settled for that length of time, his vote is refused. Now, it is the fact that scarcely half the negroes are able to make the required showing, and so they absent themselves from the polls."

The Portland (Me.) Press (rep.) finds in the election returns "no rebuke to the administration's Philippine policy, nor is there anything that indicates an enthusiastic endorsement of it. It is hardly likely," it says, "that if imperialism or the trusts had been determining factors, there would have been democratic losses in Iowa and democratic gains in Nebraska. The indications are, to our mind, that the comparative strength of the two leading parties has been very little affected by the developments of the past year, and what slight gains or losses have come to either side have been due to local causes and conditions."

## RAILROAD ROBBERY.

The railroad companies of the United States receive an enormous sum of money. It amounts every year to more than one and one quarter billion dollars. According to the official report of the Interstate Commerce Commission, the railroads received in the year 1897, over twelve hundred million dollars. What was done with this money?

## Railroad Extravagance.

Their operating expenses took  
 Rents, interest and other fixed charges \$753,000,000  
 Taxes 413,000,000  
 Taxes 43,000,000

The railroad companies ought to pay taxes, and ought to pay the rents they owe, and interest on the money they borrow. Practically all the remainder that they take in is paid out immediately, in wages to the men and in other expenses of running the roads.

## Wasted in Wages.

Out of every one hundred dollars that they received they paid out more than sixty-four for wages and taxes and other operating expenses. The remaining thirty-six dollars was consumed in interest, and other fixed charges. Some railroad companies paid dividends, but the shortage in the non-paying roads about equalled all the dividends.

## Who Got it?

Who got the 753 million dollars paid out for expense of operating the railroads?

401 millions went for running the trains, that is, wages to engineers, firemen, and for fuel, supplies, etc.

145 millions was paid for maintenance and repairs of road bed and buildings.

113 millions was paid for repairs and renewals of cars and engines.

These three items, all of which, practically, go to manual labor, aggregate 659 million dollars.

## One Cent on the Dollar.

The salaries of the presidents, vice-presidents, managers and all the general officers of all the railroads in the United States, amounted to one per cent of the operating expenses.

Out of every one hundred dollars paid out in operating expenses, by all the railroads, the officers and managers received one dollar. Insurance, lawyers, clerks, printing and office supplies, and like expenses took nine dollars. The remaining ninety dollars was paid out for conducting the transportation and keeping up the road bed and equipment, that is, to labor.

This shows where the money goes, that is received by the great railroad companies of this country. Aside from what they are compelled to pay in interest on borrowed money, and in fixed charges and taxes, the money virtually all goes to labor, and the labor of men who work with their hands.