

GOLD STANDARD. Hon. John Mat-tes, jr., a gold standard democrat, has been elected mayor of Nebraska City. His friends put him on the ticket by petition. He will make a most excellent officer if, as mayor, he carries his business methods and capabilities into the service of the city.

FOUR OF A KIND. "Four of a Kind" in the innocent game of drawpoker make a good betting hand. Modesty and inanity of expression are meekly assumed by the fortunate mortal who in that game holds that hand.

Col. Bryan in a mammoth deliverance at Philadelphia, in 1896, which may be found on the 477th page of the Colonel's "First Battle," said:

One of the papers said that I "lacked dignity." I have been looking into the matter, and have decided that I would rather have it said that I lacked dignity than to have it said that I lack backbone to meet the enemies of the Government [that was before he threw up his military commission] who work against its welfare in Wall Street. What other Presidential candidates did they ever charge with lack of dignity (a voice, Lincoln) yes, my friends, they said it of Lincoln, (a voice, Jackson) yes, they said it of Jackson, (a voice, and Jefferson,) yes, and of Jefferson; he was lacking in dignity, too.

The small boys and heelers who had been coached and planted in the audience, to make responses on dignity, halted as soon as with the gallant Colonel they had four of a kind. With the quartet of dignity-less Statesmen, Jefferson, Jackson, Lincoln and Bryan, a winning hand was formed.

OBSTACLES TO TRADE. We print in another column a table of comparative prices furnished by Mr. Henry W. Lamb, president of the New England Free Trade League. It presents the United States prices on about a score of articles produced by "trusts" under the protection of tariff duties, and compares them with the corresponding but much lower prices in England.

The articles in this table are of great importance to countless American industries, into which they enter, either incidentally, or as the chief materials. The effect of the trust prices is to put all production which these articles are required upon an unsound, because artificially high, basis. We are developing an export trade in many lines of American manufacture that is becoming the wonder and admiration of the whole world. Americans are not only proud of what has already been accomplished, but look forward with eagerness to every promised increase in our exports.

This eagerness is the more intense because we have reached such a stage in our industrial development that the

prosperity and even the maintenance of thousands of our people absolutely depend upon selling their products abroad. And yet, at the outset, at the very foundation of manufacturing enterprise, the tariff enables the trusts which it has created to extort for materials of industry a price twenty-five, fifty, sometimes one hundred per cent above what a foreign competitor pays for the same materials.

Every handicap, every disadvantage of this sort must be removed if American producers are to continue to win in the sharp competition of foreign commerce. Every trust extortion, then, should be resented for two reasons: It makes our consumers pay more and our producers sell less. And every tariff duty that protects a trust in its extortions should be abolished.

DRONES. In one of his heart to heart talks with farmers at Dover, Delaware, during his migratory campaign in 1896, Mr. Bryan delivered himself of the following:

"Let me tell you what Prince Bismarck said about classes on the question which concerns agricultural depression. A little more than a year ago he was quoted as saying before a farmer audience in Germany that the farmers must stand together and protect themselves from the drones of society who produce nothing but laws. Remember the significance of those words—that the farmers must stand together and protect themselves from the drones of society who produce nothing but laws."

What a severe self-condemnation! What has this self-appointed protector of bucolic industry ever accomplished but produce or attempt to produce laws? What law of substantial benefit to the "farmers" can he point to and call his own? The CONSERVATIVE adopts the language of Bismarck, and urges the farmers, "to stand together and protect themselves from the drones of society, who produce nothing but laws."

STARVATION IN PORTO RICO. A gentleman who recently returned from Porto Rico, in writing to the editor of THE CONSERVATIVE, says:

"I note your reference to Porto Rico. I have just returned from there. I have seen people starving in the streets and in their homes. In one town the doctor told me there were five times as many deaths as births during the past year, and most of the deaths were from this cause. Business is absolutely at a standstill, and until some definite action is taken by our 'dilatatory congress,' people must continue to starve because no one will do any more business than is absolutely necessary without definite action on the part of our legislators.

"The island is an extremely rich one—coffee, tobacco and sugar are the prin-

cipal crops. Fruit will be important in the future, and probably market gardening can be carried on successfully. I was impressed with the cleanliness, general intelligence and anxiety to learn among the children in the schools. Only a small per cent are given school facilities, however. Personally, I believe that the Porto Ricans who can read and write and who have property are quite able to govern themselves. They would make the shrewdest kind of politicians, however."

CONSISTENCY. Without question, nearly every sane man believes the silver question is not a vital issue in this campaign and recognizes that another question has arisen completely overshadowing it. Notwithstanding this fact the leaders of the political organization opposed to the republicans seem to be determined to weigh the platform down with an unpopular and discredited scheme of finance simply because it was incorporated in the platform in 1896. The platform then declared that the gold standard resulted in an "appreciation of gold, a fall in the price of commodities, the prostration of industry and the impoverishment of the people."

A continued experience of four more years under the gold standard shows that there has not been any appreciation in gold, that there has not been a fall in the price of commodities, that industry has not been prostrated and that the people have not been impoverished, thereby disproving most effectually and completely the theories entertained in 1896 relative to the gold standard and the predictions of disaster because of a continuation of that standard. Will the democrats this year be consistent with error and reaffirm the financial fallacies of four years ago or will they be consistent with economic truth, since clearly demonstrated, and omit such an affirmation? Will they endanger the triumph of vital principles of government by making their success dependent upon the endorsement of false ideas of finance and unsound theories of economics?

CHAUNCEY TALKS. Senator Depew most eloquently and forcefully recounted the benefits to Porto Rico of the removal of tariff duties upon food products imported from the United States. He said:

"This bill is the people's law. It restricts, as far as can be done, the power of trusts or combinations or concentration of industries. It puts upon the free list these products going from the United States into Porto Rico—the food products from the American farmer—so that the American farmer has this market free as against the agriculture of other countries, whose imports must pay Dingley tariff rates. It gives to the Porto Ricans the fullest opportunity for