

THE GOLD DEMOCRATS.

A reunited democracy with Bryan is impossible. The statement issued by the conference of gold democrats of Indiana, indicates quite accurately the feeling among the Palmer-Buckner men. It reaffirms the platform adopted by the national democratic convention at Indianapolis in 1896, denounces Bryan as an unsteady, dangerous man, and declares an unwillingness to support him upon any platform. Relative to the humiliating position in which populism has forced the party, the platform says:

"There was a time when the democratic party would not even have thought of accepting its candidate at the hands of another party. But now it is expected to take not only the presidential but the vice presidential candidate as well, and also its platform, from the populists, who recently met at Sioux Falls."

The conference was not less unfriendly to McKinley. The following resolution indicates the feeling toward McKinleyism: "We fully realize and admit that there seems at the present time to be no practical way of applying the principles in which we believe to the administration of the government. For McKinleyism we have nothing but abhorrence. There is hardly a democratic doctrine which the republican administration has not violated or threatened to violate. The Dingley tariff law embodies as brutal an abuse of the taxing power as the American people have ever seen. The denial to the Porto Ricans of the rights of American citizens, the imposition of a tariff on the trade between the United States and Porto Rico, the frankly avowed purpose to treat Porto Rico and the Philippines as subject provinces, the threatened passage of a ship subsidy bill, which is known to be favored by the republican leaders in congress, the levying of large assessments on industries that have been or are to be benefited by special legislation, for which they are expected to pay by yielding to the demands made on them by campaign committees, and the flowering of Hannaism and spoilsism in thievery and corruption recently unearthed in the Cuban administration make it impossible, as it seems to us, for any democrat to support Mr. McKinley."

Gold democrats are able to commend the McKinley administration only in its course upon the financial question. The republicans adopted the policy insisted upon by Grover Cleveland of maintaining the gold standard and preserving the national credit unimpaired. Their sole claim to statesmanship is thus indebted for its inspiration to that fearless, courageous and patriotic president whom they vilified, persecuted and denounced because he resisted the importunities of demagogues among whom was our present executive and stood

firm as a rock for sound money and national honor.

The following from the pen of the iridescent and effervescent ex-statesman Iridescent Statesman. of Kansas affords an idea of the republican conception of ex-President Cleveland:

"In 1893, upon the cry of demagogues that the rich were growing richer and the poor were growing poorer, Cleveland again became president, with both houses of congress democratic. It is within bounds to say that the four years of his administration, from '93 to '97, will never be recalled by Americans in any age without blush of indignant shame. The self-complacent ignorance, the vulgar egotism, the bloated conceit, the hypocritical affectation of moral superiority, the brutal sneers at the patriotic defenders of their country, the ruffianly interference with the prerogatives of congress, the prostitution of patronage under the pretext of civil service reform, have their only parallel in that ignominious period of English history described by Macauley as an epoch of servility without loyalty, of dwarfish talents and gigantic vices, the paradise of cold hearts and narrow minds, the golden age of the coward, the bigot and the slave."

Is there in this a suggestion of a reason why gold democrats should rush to the rescue of the Hanna-McKinley combine? The Indianapolis conference wisely refrained from the announcement of a definite policy, as to political action, until after the meeting of the national conventions. THE CONSERVATIVE commends to its readers the thoughtful letter written by William Everett, which appears elsewhere in this paper. It voices the sentiment of the gold democracy throughout the country.

THE ST. LOUIS STRIKE.

The strike inaugurated by the employees of the St. Louis Traction Company has been in progress for nearly three weeks. There is no apparent indication of a compromise on either side. Thus far the other labor unions have not become involved in a sympathetic strike. They have confined the expression of their sympathy to contributing to the support of the strikers and boycotting the street cars.

Resolutions have been prepared and forwarded to congress asking that the appropriation for the World's Fair at St. Louis be made conditional upon the satisfactory adjustment of the strike. The strike has been characterized by the usual lawlessness, the destruction of property and loss of life. Streets have been barricaded and traffic impeded. A day or two ago a car was attacked by strikers and a number of shots fired, one of which killed a police officer, a veteran of the Mexican war, and another dangerously wounded a little child three years old. This is but an illustration of the

inhumanity and cowardly brutality of the methods employed by the St. Louis street car men to win public sympathy.

It is gratifying to note that Governor Stephens appreciates the responsibilities of his position and the obligation of his oath to uphold the law. In the face of a maudlin sympathy, that seems to exist in every community, with crime, when committed for the alleged purpose of righting the wrongs of labor, he has had the courage to steadfastly do his duty by making an effort to suppress riot and disorder.

No matter what the grievance of the employees of the traction company may be, it could not justify the destruction of property and cowardly shooting of innocent people, who are in no way responsible for the wrongs of which the strikers complain.

Thus far three persons have been killed, sixteen wounded by bullets and thirty-one otherwise injured.

Governor Stephens has given out the following statement concerning the strike:

"I am satisfied the trouble along the street car lines and in the whole spirit of anarchy which I find prevails so largely in the city of St. Louis at present, is being fomented and extended by the machinations of a certain coterie of democratic politicians who hope by their course to in some manner make gains in the approaching party primaries. This element is sending speakers to meetings held to express sympathy for the strikers all over the city, and if not counseling disorder it is at least materially encouraging it.

"I desire to say, further, that if, as governor of Missouri, with all the power vested in that office for the purpose, I can put an end to the disgraceful—I may say abominable—condition that prevails in St. Louis today, I shall employ every iota of that power.

"The shooting down of innocent citizens; the stoning of cars; the cutting of wires; the loading of lines with effigies; riot and disorder of every unlawful kind must cease."

THE CURRENCY LAW.

Mr. Henry W. Yates, president of the Nebraska National Bank of Omaha, contributes a lucid exposition, in this issue of THE CONSERVATIVE, of the new currency law. He discusses briefly and logically four points of interest in finance. First, credit money. He believes that gold is the only "real" money and, if credit money must be used, no better can be devised than that stipulated in the law which is based upon gold and has the security of the public debt back of it. Second, the national debt. He would limit taxation to the legitimate expense of government and, if a surplus results, apply it to the reduction of the national