

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE.

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THE MONEY OF THE CONSTITUTION.

The advocates of free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 constantly prate about restoring the money of the constitution. In his speech at St. Joseph and Kansas City William J. Bryan asserted and reiterated that the object of the agitation for free silver and the paramount public question is the restoration of the gold and silver coinage of the constitution.

What is the money of the constitution? The only references to the coinage of money in the constitution of the United States are contained in article I, sections 8 and 10, enumerating the powers of congress. Section 8 empowers congress "to coin money, regulate the value thereof and of foreign coin and to fix the standards of weights and measures."

Under the broad provision of the constitution congress can at any time change our entire money system, just as it has the power to change the system of weights and measures. Nor is there one word in the constitution about any ratio between gold and silver.

All the talk, therefore, about restoring the money of the constitution is the coarsest josh intended to mislead and deceive the popular mind. The clamor about restoring the money of the constitution is the same pattern as the clamor about the conspiracy and crime of 1873.

The proposition to coin all the silver of the world free of charge into American dollars at the ratio of 16 to 1 under pretense that we are restoring the money of the constitution is a piece of monumental imposture. It is nothing more nor less than a scheme to exchange all the gold in the treasury and all the gold that we can borrow for silver at double its present market price.

Mr. Bryan's position as editor is gaining for him the courtesy of the profession among the newspaper men who are following in his train as representatives of the great papers of the country. That, however, is about as much compensation as his editorial labors have won for him.

Merchants may as well prepare themselves for the various catch-penny advertising schemes which will be sprung upon them by fakirs in the wake of the exposition. The assurance of the exposition affords the merchant a good field for advertising, but the substantial business man has long ago learned by experience that the advertising that pays is the advertising in established reputable newspapers.

American people will not permit the free silver policy to succeed an unwilling to extend their operations before the popular verdict has been rendered. Under such circumstances there can be no doubt that the policy of business men will be to allow matters to float along until November, so that when the election is over they will be prepared for whatever the result shall involve.

INCREASE OF HOMICIDE.

The somewhat startling statement is made that during the last six years there have been 43,902 homicides in this country, or 7,317 a year, over twenty a day. In the same period there have been 723 legal executions and 1,188 lynchings.

It is not easy to decide upon the cause or causes which conduce to such a fearful record of life taking. Doubtless the hard times have much to do with the increase of murder, for when there is no enforced idleness, when those willing to work can find employment and there is general prosperity, there is greater contentment among the people and fewer incentives to lawlessness.

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Under free and unlimited coinage of silver silver will be free only to those who are so fortunate as to own uncoined silver bullion. To all other Americans it will have to be procured precisely as silver is procured now—by working for it as wages or by selling some other article which will have to be sold for more than half what it is worth now.

The courts have declared that \$5,000,000 of the Gould estate received by George Gould is not subject to the inheritance tax, because compensation for services rendered according to agreement. As a loophole for escaping the inheritance tax law this holds forth a promising opening and it will be surprising indeed if the device is not brought into frequent use in states which have such laws unless the laws are amended to prevent.

The Tennessee Centennial exposition at Nashville will be open from May to October, 1897, inclusive. The managers of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition can do considerable missionary work in getting creditable exhibits from the southern states by cultivating the goodwill of the exhibitors at Nashville. The exposition at Omaha should have all the best features of the exposition at Nashville and a great many more.

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publican platform is a distinct and unequivocal declaration for the maintenance of the gold standard as the permanent policy of the nation and it is so recognized by everybody who can read it understandingly. It proposes to promote the free coinage of silver by international agreement, but it does not contemplate, as Mr. Bryan asserts, the substitution of bimetalism for the gold standard, because that is impossible.

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION.

It cannot be said that a general system of arbitration between the United States and Great Britain is absolutely certain to be created, but what was said in the House of Lords by the marquis of Salisbury gives a hopeful aspect to the matter.

The whole tone and spirit of the British prime minister's remarks on this subject must be regarded as reassuring. He stated that the British government had not quarreled with the disposition of the United States to take up the causes of South American republics and even supplied an argument from the course of England in justification of the position of this country.

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The Douglas County Currency Scheme Dissected. The populist program is alarming enough to the conservative and the statesman adopted at the national convention of the party, but the extremely radical views held by the great majority of the populists are completely reflected in the resolutions passed at county conventions which draw excited attention throughout the country.

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It there, no matter what political fortune may come to him. This is certainly flattering to the people of this state. But there is nothing that can prevent Mr. Bryan from changing his mind at any time he may choose to do so.

SOME OLD-TIMERS.

Mr. and Mrs. Burgin are hale and hearty people living in Oakland. Mr. Burgin is 92 years of age and his wife 89. Mrs. Mary Ann Burgin of Pomper, Conn., now 84 years of age, is the only surviving great-granddaughter of General Grant.

The suggestion is made that McKinley open his personal campaign in Nebraska. By all means let McKinley come out here and give the people of this state an opportunity to demonstrate that for the most part they are imbued with the principles of honesty and firmly set against any public policy that has for its object the scaling of debts and the destruction of credits.

It is to be devoutly hoped the country may be spared from forest fires, while the exodus to the woods is in progress. Conservative people will begin plowing a few furrows around their homes before the orators start to setting the prairies on fire.

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Chicago Journal: The country needs men like Governor Russell. He was a very fine type of the young man in politics. His loss is a serious one.

Chicago Record: The regret at his death cannot be confined to any faction or party. He was one of the young men of high ability, clean life and disciplined mind who are today the chief safeguard of the nation in its political life.

Chicago Chronicle: The death of Mr. Russell is a national loss as well as a local one. He had enjoyed the respect of the country and his death will be deeply regretted, especially in Massachusetts, where he was best known.

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