

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

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THE VOTING MACHINE.

One of the constitutional amendments submitted by the last legislature for the ratification of the voters of Nebraska at the election next November is intended to open the way to the introduction into this state of the voting machine.

All votes shall be by ballot or such other method as may be prescribed by law, provided the secrecy of voting be preserved. Any one who reads carefully the article of the constitution relating to the suffrage and who considers the requirement of a ballot for voting in connection with the other related provisions will see at once that the aim of our constitution makers was to insure to every one entitled to the suffrage a chance to vote his honest convictions and to have his vote counted.

Nebraska has always been in the van in the movement for ballot reform. As soon as the advantages of the Australian ballot system over the old individual ballot system were demonstrated, an Australian ballot law was enacted by the legislature of this state. When the improvement which the new system brought to the regular elections was noted and its use began to be extended also to primary elections, Nebraska promptly made its Australian ballot law applicable to primary elections.

Without going into a detailed description of any of the mechanical vote-registering devices, it is sufficient to say here that their advantages are undoubted. Briefly enumerated, these advantages are: First, on the score of economy, they are much less expensive than the present voting system. Second, they give absolute assurance of secrecy of voting. Third, they prevent fraud in the count. Fourth, they tell the result immediately on the close of the polls and do away with the delays of the count. While the voting machine may not yet be perfect, it already closely approximates perfection and unquestionably constitutes a long advance on the paper ballot.

CANADIAN INDEPENDENCE.

The American people have an interest in all that is taking place politically among our northern neighbors. Hence the movement that has recently started in Canada having in view the complete separation of the country from England merits attention, even though it has as yet attained very small proportions. A few months ago a small republican group was formed at Toronto which issued a manifesto strongly anti-imperialistic in tone. It was widely published and while generally disapproved by the press, is said to have met with a great deal of private approval.

Senator Sherman shows by citing historical facts that the gold standard was established in 1834, during the administration of President Jackson, this having been declared to be the purpose of the legislation of that year, because both metals had never circulated simultaneously and concurrently in any country. This was the fact more than sixty years ago and it has been the fact in all subsequent experience. The law of 1834, approved by Andrew Jackson, practically demonetized silver and established gold as practically the only coin in circulation.

But notwithstanding all this, it would be a mistake to conclude that Canadian independence is a matter of the near future. There are still powerful influences there which are opposed to the

idea of separating from the mother country, both from political and patriotic reasons. A great many Canadians understand that separation from England might be followed by a movement to open the way to the introduction into this state of the voting machine.

Through the medium of a lurid circular we have been graciously apprised that to keep up with the times and take advantage of the presidential campaign, an eastern weekly, which makes a specialty of entertaining the growing generation of youth with inspiring dime novels, has begun the publication of the life and adventures of the candidate on the democratic ticket, entitled, "Billy Bryan, the Boy Orator of the Platte; or, from Plough to President."

No matter how we may view it, there is no question that many voters are as much influenced by impressive demonstrations as by convincing arguments. It was a recognition of this fact that prompted Bryan's theatrical pilgrimage across the country and his pyrotechnic launching upon the New York public, and it is the knowledge that the display failed of the desired effect that has deepened the disappointment of the free silver people over the fizzle.

At the same time we may expect the months intervening before November to bring forth a continuous round of lesser stellar attractions. Grand rallies, joint debates, torchlight processions, political plunders, will follow one another in rapid succession and repeat. Enthusiasm begets enthusiasm and no one will have any excuse for not becoming enthusiastic.

SHERMAN ON THE CURRENCY.

The speech of Senator John Sherman, delivered at Columbus, O., yesterday, ought to be carefully read by every man who is interested in the currency issue before the country. It is an historical statement of the whole controversy, presented so clearly and plainly that no man of ordinary intelligence can fail to understand just what has taken place in the relations between gold and silver since the beginning of the government, while any one who cares to take the trouble to verify the statements of the Ohio statesman will have no difficulty in doing so, for he refers to times and dates.

Senator Sherman is not an enemy of silver. He believes in the largest use of that metal consistent with its maintenance at a parity with gold. But he is opposed to its free and unlimited coinage by the United States alone because he knows that the result of that policy would be to bring this country to the single silver standard, with all the evils incident to such a change in our monetary basis.

A Good Motto. A motto for workmen and women: "A dollar's worth of dollar for a dollar's worth of work."

Hitting 'Em on Both Sides. According to Mr. Bryan, the republican party in this campaign is on the "high gold standard policy." If republican errors are to be believed, the democratic party stands for "free trade." Under such circumstances, what party affiliations can a man have whose Americanism has been stripped of both these adornments or account of having gained the displeasure of his employer.

Free Silver and the Railroads. American railroads have loaded more than \$5,000,000,000 worth of gold bonds. With free coinage of silver at 16 to 1, and the consequent advance of gold to a premium of at least 50 or 60 per cent, these railroads would be utterly unable to pay these bonds. Bankruptcy is the most enormous scale, reputation, and history of any great country, would be the certain result.

Prof. Lewis of the Commercial Museum has assumed the work so well performed by the late Prof. Seebacher, whose tables showing the annual production and use of the precious metals have long been regarded as the nearest practicable approximation to accuracy. In a recently published report Prof. Lewis brings the data down to 1885, and his acknowledgments to the director of the United States mint for figures representing the gold production of this country are so complete that they are of great value to the student of the gold production for 1885 was \$202,750,000, a large increase over 1884, when the production was \$184,510,000, both estimates being for the fiscal year.

Major McKinley's Significant Remarks on the Issue. One sentence of William McKinley's speech yesterday to the veterans of the war, which he delivered at the veterans of the war, which he served more than four years in the civil war, contained more meat than the entire address of William J. Bryan at the Madison Square Garden. A small band of survivors of that historic regiment, of which General Rogers, General E. P. Scammon and General H. H. Hays were in turn colonels, and Stanley Matthews was once lieutenant colonel, visited Mr. McKinley at Canton. After referring to subjects living in their mutual memories, he spoke of their loyalty to their country, its credit and currency in the present emergency, and said:

"I do not know what you think about it, but I believe it is best for the United States to open up the mints of the United States to the labor of America than to open up the mints of the United States to the silver of the world."

An Interesting Document for Wage Earners to Study. If the wage earners have any doubt as to the indifference of the leaders of the silver movement to their interests, they should study a document that was presented to the senate and senate committee at the first session of the Fifty-fourth congress. This document consists of some letters written by John D. Rockefeller to the San Francisco Chronicle, and published in that paper on December 13, 1895, and February 2, 1896. They were presented to the senate by Mr. Teller, the chief of the free coinage party, and were printed in obedience to the order of that free silver body. Wage earners will find in them a remarkable argument for the purpose of warning them of the competition with the manufacturers of this country by the manufacturers of Japan, and suggesting a way to meet it. In brief, Mr. Teller complains and endorses the argument that Japan has realized decreased prices by becoming a silver country, and that her manufacturers are to be feared, and cannot be met unless our own manufacturers also reduce their wages by adopting the silver standard.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE. An Ohio man has declined a nomination for far he might be elected. Harvard university has conferred the honorary degree of LL. D. upon Prof. Alexander Bell of telephone fame. Henry Waterson is in Switzerland, and writes that it is impossible for a man to get drunk on the Swiss wines.

Delimiting the Color Line. The League of American Wheelmen shows a petty, mean and un-American spirit in debarring its twelve negro members from all social functions at the national meeting in Louisville. If the blacks are fit for membership, they are worthy to be treated as equals.

On His Travels. A man who has been seen at various points in the west, and who is said to be a member of the league, is certainly not that of a well-bred people. A vineyard at Fresno, Cal., boasts of a barrel thirty feet high and ninety-one feet in circumference. The tree of Maine need not take this as a hint.

It appears that the land for the new Cleveland park, which John D. Rockefeller presented to the city, is in itself worth a full million, although its value was placed at \$600,000. He had it bought up quietly, with no hint of silver in the favor of which purpose it was destined, or its price would have nearly doubled.

GOLD OF THE WORLD.

Production for 1895 the Greatest on Record. Prof. Lewis of the Commercial Museum has assumed the work so well performed by the late Prof. Seebacher, whose tables showing the annual production and use of the precious metals have long been regarded as the nearest practicable approximation to accuracy.

France and Free Silver. OMAHA, Aug. 15.—To the Editor of The Bee: I notice from the World-Herald that Mr. Bryan is sure of election and that free coinage of silver is assured, and that in consequence thereof Mexican silver dollars, now worth 85 cents, will be worth \$1 in United States money. I would inquire if it would not be a good investment to immediately purchase the Mexican silver dollars at 85 cents each? Do you not think the goldbugs and money sharks will monopolize the silver trade in this way even before November? Q12.

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SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

A Speculation Scheme. WEEPIING WATER, Aug. 14.—To the Editor of The Bee: I notice from the World-Herald that Mr. Bryan is sure of election and that free coinage of silver is assured, and that in consequence thereof Mexican silver dollars, now worth 85 cents, will be worth \$1 in United States money.

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the government for the coinage. On same plan as a miller collects toll. A's contention is correct. There is charge for the coinage of gold at the United States mints. A charge of one-fifth per cent was made at one time, but it discontinued a few years before specie was coined.

Early American Gold Miners. COLLEMBUS, Neb., Aug. 14.—To the Editor of The Bee: When gold first discovered in the United States and did a Mexican empire operate any gold mine previous to that date? READER: Gold was discovered in the valley of the James river by the original Virginia colonists as early as 1610. There was then a Mexican empire.

The Surplus of Silver. OMAHA, Aug. 15.—To the Editor of The Bee: Kindly explain how much silver would have to coin in order to use up the surplus, or we could fix the price by demand for silver rather than the supply. ROBERT H. BLAKE: It is impossible to say just how much silver the United States would have to coin to get ahead of the present output. The total coined silver of the world is estimated at \$4,000,000,000. The uncoined silver in the arts and industries probably approximates that much again. The annual silver production of the world for 1894 was estimated at \$210,000,000 and for 1895, \$225,000,000. The silver output of the United States for 1894 was \$36,445,000, market value.

DOMESTIC IDOLS. Chicago Tribune: "What would you think of a man who had one wife and yet no more children?" "I should admire his nerve," he replied. "I should admire his nerve," he replied. "I should admire his nerve," he replied.

Philadelphia Times: He—Will you let me kiss you? She—Lumors say that kissing breeds disease. He—Then make me an invalid for life.

OPPOSED TO FUSION. "I cannot be your wife," she cried; "You hug a vain delusion. In my heart I am opposed to fusion. But his pleadings and his arguments. Set all his brain a-whirl; He quirk the vain delusion dropped, And then he hugged the girl."

THE CLOCK THAT WON'T GO. When the work-a-day world is in a wobble, When weather is torrid and life a struggle, When a minute or so more will bring the thought of the clock that won't go.

A PASTORAL. He sang beneath my window, And though I did not respond, He kept up the serenade. At last a window opened, I heard somebody sigh, And I saw a man's face peep out upon The circumambient air.

WHEN WE OPEN Next Saturday is our opening day and we will then show the ladies of Omaha the newest conceptions in this fall's styles—Skirts—Capes—Jackets—Suits and Waists.

1511 DOUGLAS THE STATE 1511 DOUGLAS