

THE WOLCOTT FIASCO.

NO SHOW FOR INTERNATIONAL BIMETALLISM.

The Republican Party Must Now Meet Democracy and Defend the Obnoxious British Gold Standard—People Fooled Long Enough.

The reply of Premier Salisbury of the British government to the proposals of the bimetallic commissioners sent abroad by the federal administration for the purpose of fooling the people, seems to be very much in the nature of the action of that little bird which once was in danger of being caught through the process of throwing salt on its tail. It is quite possible, at least so far as we are able to judge, it is quite possible that the salt has been thrown and the throwers have been in a position to watch results. But throwing salt on tails is not an approved manner of capturing birds in this day and age, and so it seems that the bimetallic commissioners and the federal administration they represent are in pretty much the same position as a bird catcher who confined himself to the use of salt, and the upshot of the matter is that the proposal of the federal administration looking toward another international conference has left matters just where they were when the present federal administration went into power. The truth is that this whole affair has been one stupendous sham. There has been a pretense of honest effort. But there is little sense in running up against a stone wall, no matter how honest may be the intentions of the runner. Great Britain gave no promise of favoring another conference, even if it were to be granted that another international conference would amount to any more than the previous conferences have amounted to. There has been no hope at any time that the commissioners could accomplish anything. All that they have been able to do at the most has been to raise a disturbance when the Bank of England was mentioned as giving a slight promise of doing impossible circumstances what it is expected by authority of its charter to do at all times. The long drawn out negotiations may or may not have been the result of diplomatic delays. The fact is, that defeat faced the commissioners when they were appointed, and it has been facing them ever since. If defeat had taken its eye off of them for a moment their lack of authority and general uncertainty of object would immediately have drawn the eyes back. It is no wonder, therefore, that the matter has turned out as it has, her only wonder in the matter being in the patience of the American people in the face of this wide-open slim-flam game. The gullibility of the American public is great, but it is almost too much to believe that it has been misled into the belief that the present national administration means to do anything for the rehabilitation of silver. The present administration dare do nothing in this line. The McKinley following sold itself body and soul to the Platt faction, dominated by the gold standard extremists at the St. Louis convention last year, and it dare not now call its soul its own. It is comforting in all this to know that this commission sham is now a thing of the past, and that the real policy of the administration will now soon be brought to light in the proposition of Secretary Gage to retire the Greenbacks, run the nation into the hands of the banks through bank currency and bind the nation for generations yet to come by a bond issue ad libitum.

Is a Red Rag.

Whatever may be the real opinion of the British press as to silver and practical bimetallicism, it is quite certain that the very mention of the subject has the same effect as that of a red rag upon a bull. The present course of the British ministry in maintaining secrecy with respect to its course toward the representatives of the United States commission of supplication for the granting of charitable relief from the present monetary ills is the object of most violent attacks from British newspapers, and the least mention of anything in the nature of a movement toward an international agreement seems to be as exasperating to them as a personal insult. This great show of indignation is quite useless in its way, for there is every reason in the world to believe that nothing will come from this pretended movement on the part of the administration of government in these United States. At the same time it is perhaps only reasonable to believe that the coming of practical bimetallicism is now so near that even the newspapers of the United Kingdom can see its approach. They already are commencing the fight they must make for the preservation of the gold standard, if it is to be preserved.

Commerce and Industry Department.

The officers and members of the executive committee of the National Business League have sent a petition to President McKinley asking him to call attention in his forthcoming message to the matter of the creation of an executive department to be called the "department of commerce and industry." They suggest that the department should include, among other things, "matters relative to the gathering of information with a view to the systematic extension of our commerce with the South and Central American States and other foreign countries and the collecting and tabulating of statistics as to the various industries of this country—with reports and recommendations as to the same—as a basis of intelligent action in the interest of such

industries and the employes therein." That is all well enough so far, provided agriculture is included as one of the industries. Agriculture is as truly an industry as the production of iron or woolen cloth. It is a vicious trick of the crafty protectionist to include manufacturing and some few other pursuits among the industries and leave agriculture out, as though it was not an industry. It would be a still more vicious practice for congress to establish an executive department separate and apart from the department of agriculture, as though there was some radical difference between agriculture and other branches of industry. Such a proceeding would tend to create and foment antagonism where there ought to be harmony. Agriculture is by far the most important of the industries, and it lies at the very foundation of most others. That fact may be accepted as a sufficient reason for establishing an agricultural department first. But there is no good reason why another department should be created and all other industries assigned to it, as though there was a natural and radical difference between the chief industry and every other.

Kansas Robbery.

The Republican administration cannot clear its reputation by compromising with the railroad pool and allowing a steal of \$12,000,000 to be perpetrated in the Kansas Pacific matter. There appears to be little reason to believe that the great robbery of \$20,000,000 would have been prevented had not the Democratic press of the United States shown the iniquity of the plot and in unmistakable terms denounced the plotters from the head of the administration down to the smallest man in the robber syndicate. The New York Journal charges that the administration with complicity in the proposed looking of the treasury, and among other strong statements says: "Today the country knows that a comedy was played for its deception, with Mr. McKinley as the star and the syndicate the supporting company. The bid for the Union Pacific has been raised \$8,000,000, and the sale will take place on Nov. 2, according to the original program. Postponement is asked for only in the case of the Kansas Pacific, which, except as a part of the Union Pacific, is of comparatively small value. When the Union Pacific has been taken possession of by the conspirators, as it will be on Nov. 2, the Kansas Pacific will be on the market. It owes about \$13,000,000 to the government, and the government will be allowed to keep it, unless it shall consent to sell on the ring's terms." This is the situation as it stands today, and unless the administration heeds the warnings of the Democratic press, the stigma of a gigantic steal will still be placed upon the Republican party. President McKinley cannot afford to go down in history as the first chief magistrate of the United States who allowed the people to be robbed of \$12,000,000, but he may be forced into that disgraceful position by the powerful influence of the trusts.

Gold Men and the Farmers.

One of the many evidences of the perturbed state of mind of our gold friends is the eagerness with which they seize upon the temporarily increased price for the farmers' wheat to argue that the farmer must now be prosperous and happy; that he no longer looks for the restoration of silver as a necessary means of maintaining the price of farm products. They halt the apparent improvement of the farmers' condition as the forerunner of coming prosperity for all. However, we must remind them that this verifies our contention "that to the extent the agriculturist prosper so may we expect the country generally to prosper." Up to this hour, however, it has not been usual, in these parts at least, to see farmers driving in coach and four, nor do they, as a rule, wear silk hats or tanned shoes. They feel and look just as they have felt and looked for many years past. It is true the failure of the wheat crop in other countries has, for the time being, strengthened the wheat market, and just now our farmers are getting a price for their wheat just about sufficient to pay the cost of its production.—R. P. Bland in North American Review.

Only Outside Markets Needed.

Knoxville (Tenn.) Tribune: Informing Englishmen admit that this country excels England in the cheapness of iron and steel manufacturing, and that the south has superior advantages over all other sections. The south contains about 40 per cent of the total coal area of this country and in less than two decades has increased its coal output from 14 to 24 per cent of the total production of American mines. The coal and iron industries of the south need no tariff protection. Demand from outside markets will be worth more to them than all the tariffs that can be levied.

How Bosses Keep in Power.

Baltimore Sun: The boss cannot afford to be scrupulous about means. Bribery, corruption, the purchasing of support and of votes, with money or with office or the promise of office, are among the most innocent means to which he can resort. Violence, the intimidation of voters, election murders, padding tickets, repeating, ballot-box stuffing, the falsifying of election returns, the burning of ballots to prevent the discovery of fraud—these are among the methods by which "bossism" has been perpetuated.

Bondage is an Innovation.

As far as least as our race is concerned freedom is everywhere older than bondage. It is liberty that is ancient, tyranny that is modern.—E. A. Freeman.

SOLON CHASE TALKS.

CURING HARD TIMES BY A BREAD FAMINE.

The Man Who Once Carried Maine for Greenbackism Discusses Finance and Prices—Gives Us Silver and All Will Be Well.

The gold that is now coming here for our wheat will cause a rise in gold abroad, and the gold gamblers who are now operating in the wheat pit will find profit in starting the endless chain, but the vitalized silver dollar would choke the endless chain.

If our mints were open to silver and gold frozen out of the business of the country as our single gold standard friends contend, what would be the harm?

If there was no demand for gold in the internal commerce of this country gold would be plentier in other countries; that is, gold prices would rise the world over. The farmers would get more gold for a bushel of wheat in this country, and on sale in terms of silver, the same as paper, hogs, and wheat, than if gold alone is the standard of value. When you take from gold alone the power to redeem the money of the United States and pay the debts of the people you diminish the value of gold the world over.

The American cities and railroads that have issued gold bonds did not write in the contract that the United States should maintain the single gold standard. The United States government paid coin bonds in gold when gold cut no figure as money in this country easier than when gold alone was the standard of value. Before values settled down to the level of the single gold standard the payment of the public debt stopped, and President Cleveland issued \$23,000,000 of bonds to maintain the single gold standard. The gold standard is not maintained in this country to give the people "honest money," but to increase the value of gold, and likewise increase the burden of all debts.

If silver should drive gold to the earth or out of the country as the greenback did we should consume less of foreign goods and four times as much of home made goods, and we would then have American money for Americans and American markets for Americans.

It was claimed until last year that very few people in the United States favored free coinage of silver, but the vote for Bryan was an eye-opener to two continents. The money kings know that without the aid of the United States the single gold standard will lose its grip. They hail with delight the bread famine that causes widespread distress in foreign lands, and gives a rise in food products in this country which they hope will throw our people off their guard, while they rivet the chain that fastens the single gold standard to this country.

Last year it was said dollar wheat would cut in halves the poor man's dollar. Now they say a bread famine abroad is the keystone of the arch of prosperity. Dollar wheat will lower the standard of living of the masses in the famine stricken nations, and diminish the demand for all of our products except food products. A rise in the cost of living without a compensatory rise in other products will make the times harder for many of our people.

Prosperity built on famine will be short lived and delusive. Prosperity built on plenty and large consumption of the luxuries and necessities of life is what the world needs.

SOLON CHASE.

Chase's Mills, Maine.

McKinley and Silver.

In discussing the actions of Cleveland, Maj. McKinley said: "During all his years at the head of the government he was dishonoring one of our precious metals, one of our great products; he was dishonoring silver and enhancing the price of gold. He was determined to contract the circulating medium. Demonetize one of the coins of commerce and limit the volume of money among the people. Make money scarce and thereby dear. He would have increased the value of money and diminished the value of everything else; money the master and everything else the servant.

"He was not thinking of the poor then; he had left their side; he was not standing forth in their defense. Cheap coats, cheap labor and cheap money! The sponsor and promoter of those professing to stand guard over the poor and lowly! Was there ever more glaring inconsistency or reckless assumption? He believes that poverty is a blessing to be promoted and encouraged, and that a shrinkage in everything but money is a national benediction."

Unfulfilled Republican Pledges.

Atlanta Constitution: During the campaign last year, the most distinct pledges were given by everybody connected with the Republican party that if the people would elect McKinley and place the Republican party in power confidence would be restored, prosperity would return, and everything would go on swimmingly. How has this pledge been fulfilled? During the less than eight months of McKinley's administration more foreign capital has been withdrawn from investment in American securities than the whole of our immense wheat crop amounts to.

Too Much of a Private Affair.

New York Evening Journal: Platt, after visiting McKinley, said their conversation did not interest the public. In fact, the whole administration seems to be a private affair.

LABOR'S POWER.

The Whole Federated Trades of America Are for Bimetallicism.

The affiliation of the various organized bodies of railroad employes in a central federation is a natural outcome of conditions that have grown up within recent years. Within the last decade railroad trainmen, conductors, switchmen and telegraphers have succeeded in vastly strengthening their organizations. There have been occasions when these newer organizations and the older brotherhoods, composed of engineers and firemen, have had interests so palpably in common that they have acted in unison. The birth of a new federation of railroad employes simply means that the affiliation of separate organizations already existing in practice at last becomes formal.

But the supreme lesson which these railroad men have taught the general world of organized labor is that a divided house lacks real power in times of emergency. They have taken a leaf from the book of capital and have themselves learned that the power of a united force is practically irresistible when its cause is just. The victories of capital over organized labor, taking the history of the leading strikes of the last decade as a criterion, have been due to superior organization, and when to these victories there has been added crushing tyranny it has been usual because labor has been demoralized and disorganized.

Victories of labor over oppressive organizations of capital are rarer than the other kind, but when they do occur it is not solely due to moral force or public sentiment. It is because labor has been equipped to enforce its just demands. When organized labor makes unreasonable demands it usually falls to enforce them and its leaders have learned equity from experience. Labor must be equitable to be successful, and thanks to the world's general progress the standard of labor is higher than ever before. In the general upward trend of social conditions it is only the theorists who will claim that the day of brotherly love between capital and labor is already here. Mutual understandings between the two worlds are becoming more easily reached, but it is folly to attempt to disguise the fact that, like the military ridden nations of Europe, organized capital and organized labor via their greatest bloodless victories by a display of reserve force and power.

Labor's latent power is supreme in the wisdom and conservation of its intelligent leaders do not falter when needed most. In the United States republic, where the ballot makes every voter a sovereign, the kings of labor have within their grasp the national destiny. They have also by wise organization and federation of interests a latent power that tyrannous capital can never overthrow. The great federation stands for free coinage of silver.

The Study of Finance.

The October Forum brings an able article by Edward Tuck in which he says:

"It is undoubtedly true that the great majority of men, not having carefully studied the monetary question, incline at first to the side of gold monometallism. This has been the case with nearly all the great advocates of bimetallicism in Europe today. They have become converted to the bimetallic faith from observation of the consequences of the gold standard, and by careful, unbiased search for the cause. It is only after study and reflection that the true bearings of the silver question can be understood. The opinion of the great mass of the agricultural classes of both Europe and America, supported by distinguished economists and statesmen in every country, deserves a respectful hearing. Those who wear the shod knock where it pinches. The agricultural classes have in the past suffered most from the shrinkage in prices brought about by the wireless error of surrendering silver from and subordinating it to gold. Even those who scoff at silver and hug their gold are short-sighted indeed, if they believe that they can permanently prosper while the great producing classes are being impoverished."

Tariff Tax Fiends.

We have in America a school of politicians who assert that all tariff taxes are paid by foreign manufacturers, not by American consumers, yet we pay but \$50,000 a year to our president, whereas if the effete monarchies of Europe are supporting the republican court why should we not pay it on parity?

It is true, as repeatedly asserted, that the president of the United States is compensated less than the executive of any first-class republic or the sovereign of any state of consequence, but the salary of \$50,000 is ample compensation, especially as it is coupled with allowances for conservatories, horse-hold employes and other perquisites, the whole amounting to nearly \$100,000. A thousand dollars a week is salary enough for any man under the sun in whatever position he is placed. All presidents of the United States antedating Grant received but \$25,000, and were amply compensated. It is not improbable that if no compensation at all were attached to the office it would be struggled for as eagerly as at any time in the history of the republic.

Much Cry and Little Wool.

With all the talk about \$1 wheat, that cereal is, with the aid of the great shortage of fifty years, but 12 cents higher than it was on this date a year ago, when there was an abundant crop and a big surplus. Comment is unnecessary.—Great Falls News.

ASIA'S CROSS OF GOLD.

BEING CRUCIFIED BY THE BANKERS OF LONDON.

The Commerce and Industries—Whole Continent Gradually Passing into the Hands of the Money Lenders—Ruins and Desolation Everywhere.

The government of India has undertaken the negotiation of a loan of three crores of rupees at 3 1/2 per cent, and it was declared at the outset that the money should be raised in India, and without the interference of London capital. Now a crore of rupees consists of 100 lacs, and a lac is 100,000 rupees, so that the loan calls for 30,000,000 rupees, or nominally something less than half that sum in American dollars. It does not appear what success attended the effort to thus further mortgage the resources of the country, but that part of it need not be in doubt a moment, for there is abundant capital seeking investment on such security, despite the starving of hundreds of thousands of impoverished natives. But the volume of this loan is a mere bagatelle to what is coming as a result of the existing troubles on the northern frontier of that rich and productive but unhappy land. There will be fines, heavy enough in all conscience, imposed upon the rebellious tribesmen just as soon as they are properly subdued, and their territory occupied by British soldiery. The bulk of the expenses of the campaign, however, will have to be paid by the people of India, and inasmuch as the revenue of the government is already inadequate the necessity of additional taxation will furnish the next pretext needed for disguising the extortion by the imposition of a gold standard coinage. Taxation has reached such a pass in India that to impose more of it directly on the people would be as dangerous to British supremacy there as were the greased cartridges at the opening of the Sepoy rebellion forty years ago. The expedition required is one that will add to the revenues of the empire of English rule in India, and at the same time blind the eyes of the Hindus to the real cause of the hard times, which must ensue when the producer has to give more and ever more of his productions for the same number of rupees. Many able English economists fear the effect of the gold standard in India, but inasmuch as it has been worked off on a much more intelligent people commercially, the people of the United States, the men in charge of affairs governmentally are confident that with caution the same gold brick can be palmed off on the Hindus without inciting a rebellion. To be sure when Lord Herschell's commission was discussing this matter in London a year or two ago one member of the commission remarked that he washed his hands of the iniquitous proposal because, as he put the case, "it looks too much like setting fire to your neighbor's house to roast your own rucking pig." But conscientious scruples of this kind are in a minority, and the new India loan may therefore be reasonably regarded as part and parcel of the scheme which is to make a larger Ireland out of the fairest section of all India. By systematically depressing the price in gold of silver the London bullionists have already driven China into the market for another loan to enable her to pay her war indemnity, and keep her governmental bonds above water. This is but the beginning of the end there, too. Already the English Straits Settlements dollar is finding its way into the innermost provinces of North China, and the latest consulting reports from the interior are to the effect that sixty per cent of the trading junks on the rivers now fly the flag of British ownership. All this is going on, the economic enslavement of Asia for the benefit of the luxurious few in London and one or two minor financial centers is being visibly accomplished, while an army of political party hacks in the United States are trying to barter honor and intellect for a few paltry offices by doing to their native land what England is doing to her conquered provinces. Usury caused the downfall of ancient Rome, but the modern form of usury is more subtle and difficult to detect, for while nominally reducing the rate of interest it bleeds the debtor of more and ever more of his productions. Just how long it will take the great majority to fully appreciate the enormity of the swindle is the same question as is asked by those who inquire how long government by bribery and corruption can stand. It is the one basic problem upon which the stability of modern civilization as exemplified in the policy of the English speaking and no one living can tell the answer.

Wealth of a British Organ.

Mr. William Henry Houldsworth, Conservative member of parliament for the northwest division of Manchester, who was the delegate of Great Britain at the monetary conference at Brussels in 1892, presided at a meeting held in Manchester recently which adopted a resolution calling upon the government "in view of the injurious effects of the dislocation between gold and silver, to take advantage of the overtures of France and the United States and redeem the government's promise in regard to securing a stable parity with gold and silver." The London Chronicle in mentioning the rumor, stated that the government "intends to do something for silver not involving the opening of the Indian mints, but involving a conference which the English delegates would attend with a free hand," also editorially: "Are we to be plunged into an acute and dangerous controversy over the currency problem? Is this a time for the foremost Manchester statesman Christendoms to revert to the stage from which other states are seeking to rise? We protest against any such act, merely to oblige the United States, who do nothing to oblige us."

LORD BEACONSFIELD.

The Great English Statesman on the Single Standard.

A speech of Lord Beaconsfield's on the subject is very noticeable. Speaking in the House of Lords on March 23, 1879, in a discussion on the depressed state of agriculture and trade, his lordship said:

"Notwithstanding an increase of population—which alone always requires a large increase of gold currency to carry on its transactions—the amount every year has diminished, and is diminishing, until a state of affairs has been brought about by the gold discoveries exactly the reverse of what they produced at first. Gold is every day appreciating in value, and as it appreciates in value the lower become prices. This, I think, is one cause (of the depression) . . . and may lead to consequences which may be of a very serious character . . . It is not impossible that as affairs develop the country may require that some formal investigation may be made by the causes which are affecting the price of the precious metals and the effect which the change in the value of the precious metals has upon the industry of the country and upon the continual fall of prices."

These are very striking words when read in the light of recent events. The appointment of the gold and silver commission in 1890, and the holding of several international monetary conferences, as well as the holding of several inquiries into trade depression and into agricultural depression, all called for by the fall in prices, is a significant commentary on Lord Beaconsfield's sagacity in foreseeing the far-reaching effects of the enormous monetary changes which were then beginning.

Contract Full of Suggestions.

New York Journal: The New York and Philadelphia Traction Company invaded the township of Bridgewater, New Jersey, with an army of 1,000 men, prepared for battle. Without a franchise, and in defiance of a judicial injunction, it tore up a road, built a trolley line and ran a car. It defied the sheriff of the county, and drove away his deputies by force of arms. Its representatives pocketed the writ of the court with a laugh, and ordered the work to proceed. Here was every feature of a lawlessness that was lacking at Haleson. There was not merely the fear that a mob might commit some illegal act; there was the actual violation of law in flagrant progress. There was not merely a fear that the sheriff's posse might be overpowered; there was an actual attack and an actual rout of the forces of order. But when we look for an account of the volleys from the Wimpsters of the outraged guardians of the law, with a list of dead and wounded railway magnates, we do not find it. We do not even find that the militia was called out. On the contrary, the sheriff meekly surrendered, and the lawbreakers finished their work with impunity.

McKinley Diplomacy.

Modern diplomacy is continually bidding its head in the sand. We see the state department at Washington making a ridiculous affectation of secrecy respecting matters of which the whole country is informed. All the "notes" and "representations" and "ultimatums" and "replies" which have been exchanged between our own government and that of Great Britain concerning the seal fisheries or the Venetian question have been printed in plain language several days before the foreign office of either country admitted their existence. The same is true of the diplomatic correspondence respecting Cuba. Newspaper enterprise, the "leakiness" of diplomats and the easiness of cabinet ministers to forestall public opinion have combined to render diplomatic secrecy a mere historical tradition.

A Few Thieves.

These United States Senators are all owners of railroad shares, valued all the way from \$100,000 to \$5,000,000; Hanna and Foraker, Ohio; Platt, New York; Wetmore, Rhode Island; Fairbanks, Indiana; Hawley, Connecticut; Morrill, Vermont; Hoar, Massachusetts; Quay and Penrose, Pennsylvania. We presume that some members of the other branch of congress are in a similar situation. No wonder bills to virtually give away to a syndicate \$30,000,000 or more of United States interests in the Union Pacific can pass. Each of those thieves will of course get a slice.—San Francisco Star.