

# The News and Observer.

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## THE LARGEST CIRCULATION OF ANY NORTH CAROLINA DAILY.

### HILL AND WOLCOTT

THEY ENGAGE IN A HOT DEBATE ON THE FINANCIAL QUESTION.

### HILL DEFENDS THE PRESIDENT.

After discussing at length his resolution declaring bi-metalism to be the true policy of the government Mr. Hill replies to Senator Wolcott's wanton attack on the President and his gold bond contract—declares he did the best possible.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 16.—President Cleveland and his Secretary of the Treasury came in for the principal share of attention in the Senate to-day.

The debate was launched upon a resolution offered some days ago by Senator Hill (Dem.) of New York, declaring it to be the policy of the government to establish a safe system of bi-metalism and to maintain gold and silver at a parity; and upon a substitute for it offered by Senator Sherman, making a similar declaration, except that it asserts that the policy is to be the established policy of the United States.

#### Senator Hill's Speech.

In opening the debate Mr. Hill said he assumed that nearly every Senator was a bi-metalist in the proper sense and that therefore his resolution embodied their views. He said of course some of them might be gold mono-metallists of silver mono-metallists.

He recalled to the attention of the Senate the act which repealed the purchase clause of the Sherman bill and which declared that it was the duty of the government to pursue steadily steps towards the maintenance of bi-metalism. He appealed to the true friends of both silver and gold, to the men who desired the double standard. To those who said it was impossible to maintain the double standard in this country, he had nothing to say. He believed that it is possible to maintain it. It might take preparation. It might require wise laws. It might require a friendly administration.

He thought it of the most supreme importance at this hour that Congress should inform the country and inform the world as well that the policy of the United States was not to maintain the single silver standard or the single gold standard, but the double standard, and he thought it wise to make this declaration emphatic, brief and appropriate.

He said that the true policy of the United States was bi-metalism in which silver and gold should be maintained at a parity, and meaning also that the government reserved in the right, the absolute, technical, logical right, to pay its debts in the authorized coin of the country.

The next question was, he said, "How shall we pay our bonded debt, or our other debt?"

"It is proposed to pay our indebtedness in a depreciated currency! Do you propose to foist depreciated silver currency on the creditors of the government? If there should be a difference in the value of gold and silver! It is likely that in a short time gold will be at a premium in reason of cases which it is not now necessary to discuss. Where is the Senator who insists upon it that we shall not pay in the best money in use!—that we shall not be ourselves strictly to the precise language of the act but that we shall maintain the credit and honor of this country and pay our debts in the best money in use!"

"My resolution is a safe, prudent and proper resolution at this time, when we are drifting apart. We are further apart, I hear, than we were six weeks or two months ago. The suggestion of a gold bond on one side is answered by the suggestion of the free coinage of silver on the other. The proposition for the retirement of the greenbacks is lost sight of. The duty which confronts us, I think, would be the retirement of the greenbacks. There is the danger. There is the drain upon the gold of the country. But that, it seems, is impossible. We can, however, at least, take the first step. We can at least assure the people of this country, we can assure those from whom we have borrowed money in other countries, that, although we are so tied by disagreements that we cannot pass the bills which are suggested—we can at least say to them: 'Take our coin bonds. We will pay them in the best currency in the world.'"

"This resolution of mine will do that. We gain nothing by trying to wreck the government. I reiterate that I believe it is the imperative duty of Congress to proceed to take steps to retire the greenback currency. Need I argue before this Senate that this is one of the principal difficulties that now confronts us?"

Senator Wolcott's Speech.

Wolcott, (Republican), of Colorado, replied to the speech of Hill, which he characterized as "thrashing old straw."

The House, he said, had Thursday disposed—so far as this session was concerned—of the subject of the issue, or the endorsement of gold bonds. Notwithstanding the frantic efforts of an administration, with all its power and all its patronage; notwithstanding the efforts of the leaders of both parties, the House of Representatives had, by a decisive vote, refused to sanction the policy outlined and approved by the resolution offered by the Senator from New York, so that the Senator was quite out of date.

Wolcott asserted that no genuine bi-metalist had voted for the repeal of the purchasing clause of the Sherman act

except, perhaps, two or three who had voted in the shadow of a hope that the promise given by the administration would be carried out that the repeal would be followed by some fair measure for the recognition of silver.

"The class of bi-metalists," Wolcott added in a sneering tone, "to which the Senator from New York belongs is 'bi-metalism on a gold basis.' He wants to use the two metals, but he wants them measured by the value of gold. He is a bi-metalist, because he is a gold mono-metallist. Measured by gold, he is willing that silver shall be used to a limited extent in place of paper."

The President's wanton attack upon the credit of the United States has been the most disastrous occurrence of this generation. It has been the most wanton and criminal and deliberate attack upon the credit of our country that could be indulged in. Our nest was befooled by the man who should have stood for our credit. The President entered into a secret negotiation with the Rothschilds of Europe whereby he shall give them 'long bonds' at an excessive rate of interest, so that he can make an apparent showing to the discredit of our country and its finances.

"But, even before the bonds are issued, the reaction has come. The subscribers of this syndicate are called upon for only ten per cent of their subscription. The balance of it they will never be called upon to pay. The syndicate has already been offered 112 1/2 for these bonds; and the President of one of the leading banks of New York says that within ninety days they will rise to 120. If there ever was a bond which ought to be paid in silver or depreciated money, if it can be found, it is this issue of bonds which the syndicate has purchased at less than its worth."

More of the same kind of denunciations were indulged in by Mr. Lodge, the syndicate agreement being characterized by him as "the blackest contract ever made by the government."

#### Mr. Hill's Reply.

Replying to Mr. Wolcott's attack on the President, Mr. Hill said:

"I know it has been diplytantly said here and elsewhere that the President of the United States should have done this and he should have done that, and it has been asked why did he not issue bonds for a less term of years? Why did he not secure a less rate of interest? Senators forget and the public forget that the President of the United States was hampered by an old statute that absolutely dictated to him substantially the terms under which he could issue bonds. If he has been driven into a corner, if he has been compelled to make a harsh bargain in behalf of this country, it is because of the non-action of this Congress, supposed to be controlled by the Democratic party."

"We deliberately waited and refused and put off the discussion of this question until we found ourselves in a minority in this body. Mr. President, there has been various efforts to bring this question to an issue."

"It has been suggested that the old act of 1875 should be amended so that the President might have been able to get better terms. Congress has refused to amend that law, Congress has kept the President bound by this old statute, and if he has made a harsh bargain it is perhaps because the situation has compelled him to do it. At least, this much is proper to be said in defense of the President's action."

"But, Mr. President, we hear the Senator from Colorado denouncing the President in unmeasured terms, accusing him of making an attack on the credit of this country and then in the same breath tells us that a short time after this contract had been made, the credit of the country, instead of being impaired, had increased, and the bonds, he tells us, are about to be sold in the market at from 115 to 120."

"And this is the attack that has been made by the President upon the credit of the country. Men may be blind to the signs of the times if they have a mind to. Men can shut their eyes. Without at this time approving, because it is not necessary for me to express an opinion on that point, the details of this contract, without approving of the suggestions made in the message of the President, I am here to say that the President has undoubtedly endeavored to do his duty as he understood it. I am here to say that the statement is unwarranted, unjustified; that the President has desired or endeavored to give to the syndicate a higher rate of interest than he felt obliged to do."

#### Unworthy of Senators.

"Mr. President, it is unworthy of Senators upon this floor, to make such an attack. It is not necessary that I should reply to it. Mr. Cleveland has his faults; but, sir, no Senator has a right to say that he has deliberately gone to work and given a higher rate of interest for the bonds than he was compelled or felt constrained to do. It ought not to have been said. What do we know of the efforts that have been made, except as we may glean them from some statements in the public press which may or may not be entirely reliable. I pass over such charges as substantially unworthy of notice. It is sufficient for me that the President and the Secretary of the Treasury tell us that they obtained the best terms possible under all circumstances in the case, and I am disposed to accept that statement in good faith."

"Mr. President, no prejudice can be stirred up and the Senator who thinks he can stir up prejudice against this administration simply because a contract has been made with the Rothschilds is mistaken. I am no defender of the Rothschilds, but I say the attitude of Congress has compelled the financial officer of this government to make a contract with whoever has the money."

"Is this the first time in the history of this country that we have borrowed money from the Rothschilds? No, the records of this government show that repeatedly, over and over again, Republican administrations borrowed money from Rothschilds and from other money lenders of Europe. The attempt to stir up some prejudice among the people because the administration borrowed this money in London is uncalled for and unwarranted."

### JUST SIXTY YEARS OLD

WAKE FOREST'S LITERARY SOCIETIES CELEBRATE THEIR 60TH ANNIVERSARY.

ORGANIZED FEBRUARY 14, 1835.

Philomathesian and Euzelian Vite with Each Other in Debate and Oratory—Shall the House of Lords be Abolished—The Debate Able and Spirited, and the Orations Brilliant—Social Gathering in the Society Halls.

Special to the News and Observer.

WAKE FOREST, N. C., Feb. 16.—The sixtieth anniversary of the forming of the two literary societies of Wake Forest College was celebrated on yesterday. The exercises of this occasion consist of debate in the afternoon and orations at night. Shortly after 3 o'clock the President of the debate, Wm. Royall, called the assembly to order and gave the audience a cordial welcome to the exercises. The question for debate, "Should the House of Lords be Abolished?" was read by the secretary, J. R. Moore. I. S. Boyles, ably assisted by I. M. Meekins, argued for the affirmative, while the negative was maintained by J. H. Kerr and R. G. Rozier.

Mr. Boyles led off in a speech of fifteen minutes. He maintained that the present crisis in England is of special interest to Americans. In order to clear the way for his argument he briefly outlined the leading features of the English government. This done, the Speaker attacked the Lords with a vigor and earnestness, that, had it been displayed in England, would have made the nobility turn pale with fear. The Lords could initiate, amend, or reject any measure, with a single exception. The existence of such a decidedly aristocratic body must, of necessity, make the general policy of the government detrimental to the best interests of the majority of the people. Remedies had been suggested in the form of the abridgment of their powers, but the only effectual remedy, in his opinion, would be abolition.

Mr. Kerr looked at the question from another point of view. The class he declared, who favored so radical an innovation, is composed of men like Gladstone; the gentlemen of the affirmative, Eugene V. Debs, of labor strike fame, and, if Anarchist Parsons would divorce his mind long enough from the fact that he is a ghost, he too would join his voice to the cry, "Down with the Lords."

The speaker had the greatest respect and admiration for Gladstone as a statesman, but he was at the same time none the less a politician, and had instituted the crusade against the House of Lords for no other reason than that it had turned the cold shoulder upon his pet scheme of Home Rule for Ireland. The aristocracy of England has no counterpart in America, and hence Americans can have no just conception of the principles at stake in the solution of the problem under discussion. Would any sane man think for a moment that satisfactory legislation could be secured in this country on the single chamber system? The Senate of the United States is, in a sense, an aristocracy, and which is preferable, the Speaker asked, an aristocracy of blood, or an aristocracy of boodles? There must always be two chambers in the British Parliament, for the existence of a second chamber is absolutely necessary for the guarantee to all classes of the full and free exercise of their rights.

Mr. Meekins followed for the affirmative, paying a glowing tribute to the national pride which has been and always will be a marked characteristic of liberty-loving people. He proceeded to show that this very pride was one of the great obstacles to progress. The people of England had become so firmly attached to the House of Lords and its traditions that, though it be to their interest for it to be abolished, many of them would foolishly set their heads against the salutary measure, simply because of their abnormally developed national pride. One of the stock objections to the destruction of the House of Lords was its age and prestige. This he proposed to turn into an argument for the affirmative, for the age and political prestige of the upper chamber, together with the hereditary feature in its composition, had produced a haughty and overbearing spirit in legislation which could not be productive of pernicious results. Presently needed legislation had been delayed, so that the House of Lords, in a crisis, is practically useless. No measure, however much desired by the people at large, could ever become a law if it operated to the financial discomfort of the Lords, until the demand from a determined public become so impetuous that, fearful of their annihilation, the Lords were compelled to yield.

The second speaker for the negative was Mr. Rogers, who thought that the Lords were necessary to good government. Just as, in the wisdom of the framers of our own constitution, a second chamber was thought necessary to serve as a check upon the hasty legislation of the lower, so the House of Lords in England operates to secure careful consideration of all public questions and provides against the evils of thoughtless and unwise legislation.

The second speeches, though perhaps showing less thought and containing less argument, were very spirited, and were well received by the audience.

The orations.

According to custom each society had one representative.

W. O. Newton, the orator from the Phi. Society, was the first to be intro-

### WILL REJECT THE SCHEDULE.

The Dissatisfied Employees of the Southern Railway Still in Conference.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 16.—Third Vice-President Baldwin of the Southern Railway, who reports that organization in its dealing with the committee appointed by the dissatisfied employees to secure a new schedule of wages, said at noon to-day that he had heard nothing from the committee. It is reported that the committee had decided to reject the wage schedule offered by the company.

There appears to be a hitch in the proceedings looking toward an adjustment of the wage controversy between the Southern Railway Company and its employes, whose demand for a restoration of the former schedule was refused on Wednesday by the officials of the road, is still in session in this city, but not one of these members will give out any information as to the probable outcome of the matter.

It is understood that late in the afternoon a statement was sent to Vice-President Baldwin rejecting the terms of the schedule proposed by the company.

Everything pertaining to the question of settlement is kept secret, and neither the employees nor railway officials will give out any information for publication.

Matters are evidently badly complicated, but both sides are hopeful that a satisfactory agreement will be reached in a few days. The committee will not assemble tomorrow but will continue its deliberations Monday morning.

### Twenty-two Millions Deposited.

New York, Feb. 16.—J. Pierpont Morgan announced that at the close of business to-day the bond syndicate had deposited in the sub-Treasuries throughout the country and banks acting as local depositories \$22,000,000 in gold, on account of the coming bond issue.

### MINERS IN CONVENTION.

Mark Wild Denounced and Expelled, and new Officers Elected.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Feb. 16.—The miners' convention at its session this morning declared John McBride to be an honest man; denounced Mark Wild, who made the charges of bribery, as a demagogue and unfit to enter a convention of honest men, and as a climax, a resolution was adopted expelling Mr. Wild from the convention.

A resolution was also adopted exonerating the national officials from the charges of alleged corruption made against them by President A. A. Adams, of the Ohio miners in the settlement of the miner's strike, and expressing the utmost confidence in them.

After these matters had been disposed of the convention entered upon the work of electing officers for the ensuing year. President A. A. Adams and several other candidates withdrew their names.

There were thirteen candidates for president, but all declined except Phil H. Penna, Charles Neil and Chris Evans, of Ohio. Penna was elected on the first ballot, the vote standing Penna 286, Neil 17, Evans 70.

Penna acknowledged the honor paid him and said at this time the expression of confidence was particularly pleasing, but he entered upon the office with misgivings. The outlook for the future was serious. The coal trade was depressed, the miners idle and their families starving.

Cameron Miller, of Ohio, was elected vice-president on the first ballot. Patrick McBride was re-elected secretary. W. C. Pearce, of Ohio, ran him a close race.

### MUST PAY INCOME TAX.

Winston Has Forty Citizens Who Must Make Returns Under the Law.

Special to the News and Observer.

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C., Feb. 16.—I am told that no less than forty citizens of Winston-Salem will be in the list to pay an income tax. The blanks are expected to arrive here in a few days.

This has been a dull week with the tobacco warehouses. Very little leaf has been marketed. This was occasioned by the bad weather. The manufacturers, however, still report trade fairly good and their statements are verified by the amount paid out for stamps.

Winston has become a fine market for rabbits. J. W. Smith, of Kernersville, sold 748 here this week at prices ranging from five to eight cents apiece.

Judge William H. Reid, of Tacoma, Washington, is spending a few days here. The judge, in his younger days, lived in Salem and clerked for F. and H. Fries.

Judge Starbuck will hold Barnett court next week.

### Nearly a Foot Deep at Greensboro.

Special to the News and Observer.

GREENSBORO, N. C., Feb. 16.—Snow commenced falling here again last night, and continued all night and to-day, and is still falling. It is now nearly a foot deep. It is the most remarkable cold spell in the memory of the oldest citizen.

### Will Reduce the Cotton Acreage.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Feb. 15.—A convention of west Tennessee farmers, at Jackson, to-day resolved to cut the acreage of the cotton crop this year to 40 cent. below what it was last year.

### England and Russia Offer to Mediate.

LONDON, Feb. 16.—A despatch from Shang Hai to the Pall-Mall Gazette says it is asserted that England and Russia have offered to mediate between China and Japan.

### HE LEFT ONLY \$6,500.

Investigation Shows That Cashier Figgatt Stole Some \$65,200.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 16.—A special to the Post from Lexington, Va., says: The defalcation of M. Figgatt, which has swamped the bank of Lexington, the only banking institution here, and the principal financial agent of Rockbridge county, with a population of over 30,000 people, a large number of whom are prosperous, well-to-do farmers, business to be the all absorbing topic. Business is practically suspended to discuss the situation.

The news of the bank's collapse did not reach the county until late yesterday afternoon, and this morning at an early hour a large number of country depositors came in to verify the report, which had not received much credit at first. When they got here they soon learned the worst. The bank directors, with experts, have been in session since yesterday continuously trying to ascertain the bank's condition. All day long the streets in the vicinity of the bank building have been dotted with groups of prominent town and country people, depositors and sureties on Cashier Figgatt's bond, discussing the situation in all its phases.

The consensus of opinion is the surprise expressed that Cashier Figgatt's defalcations, covering a period of twenty-three years since 1872, should have gone undetected by the President and board of directors of the bank, who are shrewd, practical business men, personally interested in the successful operation of the bank.

### The Directors' Statement.

Late this evening the statement was posted in the bank windows as a result of the work of the board of directors, and the long-looked for announcement, upon which much speculation has been made, was eagerly read:

"The following statement shows the condition of the bank of Lexington as near as the investigation, made somewhat hurriedly, but which is believed to be approximately correct, indicates:

"Liabilities—balance due depositors and banks \$198,402.42. This sum is made up as follows: Balance due depositors as per ledger \$167,402.49; due per statement, apparently as per loose statements, \$30,999; balance due banks and bankers \$6,000.

"Assets—cash on hand, \$6,573.12; cash tickets, value \$1,129.20; corporation bonds, \$20,500; manufacturing companies bonds, estimated \$9,000; bills and notes, estimated value, \$100,000; real estate and fixtures, \$4,000. To balance, \$65,208.10, making \$198,402.42.

(Signed) J. K. EDMONDSON, Trustee."

This statement develops the astounding fact that Figgatt has swamped the \$50,000 of the bank's capital stock and in addition \$65,000 of the \$72,000 belonging to depositors, leaving cash due depositors the insignificant sum of \$6,573. The bank is therefore short \$68,426.90 in cash with only a little over \$6,000 with which to pay depositors \$72,000.

The Virginia Military Institute is out about \$20,000, which will materially cripple that institution for a time, while the fund of Washington and Lee University loses nothing. All the professors and employes of the latter institution were paid a few days ago, and their money was deposited in this bank. The collapse, therefore, leaves them in a bad fix.

### A Missing Deposit of \$8,000.

A prominent director of the bank, in reply to an inquiry if Mr. Figgatt, the absconding cashier, had taken any of the bank's money with him, said to-day: "There was a deposit of \$8,000 made the evening before the departure of Mr. Figgatt, of which there is evidence, but the money is not to be found," which statement would seem to explode the theory held here, based upon statements made in a note left by Figgatt that he did not carry a cent of the bank's money with him.

It is now believed that Figgatt did take a large sum of money with him. R. K. Godwin, brother-in-law of Figgatt, an assistant in the bank, was exonerated by Figgatt of any blame in the defalcation. Rumors are flying thick and fast from various quarters that one of the most conservative men on the board of directors has stated that there are other people mixed up in this affair with Figgatt outside of the bank, and interesting and startling developments are likely to come to the surface in a few days.

It is said that Figgatt left here with two large valises heavily packed, and it is surmised that he took with him funds of the bank. The closing of the bank involves all branches of business and will seriously cripple trade here for some time to come. The county treasurer's funds were all in this bank.

Steps have been taken to arrest the fugitive cashier, and it is only a question of a few days before he will be apprehended, as he is a man that can be easily distinguished from many others.

Figgatt has been a dissipated man for years and for a year past has drunk hard, but he was not extravagant in his tastes or expenditures, but a simple liver. What he has done with the money is still a mystery.

### HOKERS TO MINISTER GRAY.

They Exceed Any Ever Before Shown by Foreigner Before in Mexico.

CITY OF MEXICO, Feb. 16.—The honors paid Isaac Pinesy Gray, exceed any shown a foreigner before in Mexico. The Americans here are unanimous of the opinion that General Grant should be appointed minister. A petition to this effect is being circulated.

The negotiations with Guatemala are proceeding slowly, but on the whole satisfactorily.