

### A SILVER CONVENTION

MR. SMITH SAYS THE CALL IS MEETING WITH A HEARTY RESPONSE.

#### THE OBJECT OF IT IS TO CONFER

And to Get All Advocates of Bi-metallism and Opponents of Gold Monometallism Together so That They May Consult as to the Best Methods to Secure the Remonetization of Silver--It Will be Composed of Men of All Political Parties.

A NEWS AND OBSERVER reporter called yesterday to see Mr. Ed. Chambers Smith to ascertain the facts in regard to the proposed silver conference. The young silver leader, whose hair is silvered at the ratio of 16 to 1, was reading a pile of letters from silver men who were in favor of the proposed conference.

"Mr. Smith, how is the call for a silver convention progressing?" asked the NEWS AND OBSERVER reporter.

"The tentative call is meeting with a hearty response all over the State. I am informed that in several towns no bank officers are signing, and that among all classes the idea of a gathering of bi-metallists is meeting with hearty approval. The truth is that our people are so earnest in their desire to secure the remonetization of silver as it existed prior to 1873, when Senator Sherman, at the instigation of his British clients, got in his blighting work, that they grasp the opportunity of indicating openly their desire."

"What is the object of the Convention?"

"The object is to get all advocates of bi-metallism and opponents of gold monometallism together, so that they may consult as to the best methods to be adopted to secure the remonetization of silver; and so while the convention is called by Democrats and under Democratic auspices, the doors are opened for all advocates of free silver coinage to gather together and deliberate about the fate of the white metal. The action of the convention will not bind any one; it will not under any old ties, or forge any new ones; but it will in no uncertain tones demonstrate to those politicians, who propose to throttle the people's will, the futility of their efforts. It will be a negating object lesson to those who declare that our State can be held for gold monometallism."

"When do you think the Convention will be called?"

"That has not been decided. I, you know, am not leading this movement, but am simply sending out the call at the instance of leading Democrats here and elsewhere; who think it wise to have the meeting."

"The convention will be a convention of the people, with no boss or leader, and called for the purpose of full discussion. Such men as Gov. Carr, Sup't. Searborough, Judge McKee, S. A. Ashe, W. H. Day, Armistead Jones, N. B. Broughton, W. N. Jones, F. S. Spruill, B. C. Beckwith, S. G. Ryan, S. F. Mordecai, E. B. Barbee, W. C. Stronach and many other prominent Democrats are leading this movement here in Raleigh, and unless all signs fail, in a short time a large majority of the leading Democrats of the State will be heard from in advocacy of the movement. It is pretty well understood that those who have a connection with the administration, or for other reasons are goldites, will do all in their power to deter silver men from advocating the movement, but they will not deceive the people, who will feel sure that those who are not disposed to openly express their views in a gathering of this sort, are not at least warm supporters of the white metal. They will argue that 'By their fruits ye shall know them.'"

"Do you expect any persons other than Democrats to attend the Convention?"

"Yes; we expect all friends of bi-metallism, irrespective of party, to attend. It is not to be a partisan meeting, but rather an economic gathering, and all persons who are opposed to the single gold standard and who believe in the 'free, independent, unlimited coinage of gold and silver at the ratio of 16 to 1,' are included in the call. We expect a large crowd. What the people want is some evidence of sincerity on this question. Platforms, as made by parties, are regarded as only made to be broken, and the earnestness of those who favor bi-metallism can be shown to great advantage in this convention. The people are in earnest in this matter; they are tired of paying five bales of cotton in settlement of a debt that two bales would have settled when the debt was made; they are tired of paying their British bondholders five days of labor where they promised to pay two. They think that it will be better to pay two days of labor or two bales of cotton where three of each was promised than to have to pay five where two of each was promised. The people will be at this convention, and the various party leaders will also be there, because they wish to benefit the masses, and they know that the best means of helping them is to restore silver to its ancient place as 'the people's money.' I have had applications from various parts of the State for the 'bill' to be signed, from those to whom none were sent, and I think you can safely say that there is as great unanimity of sentiment in favor of this movement as of any that has started in the State in many a year."

"The control of our national finances, by a syndicate of foreign bankers, will not be tolerated by our people."

"The Democratic masses are overwhelmingly in favor of the restoration of silver. The opportunity is to be afforded to give expression to this sentiment from the control of extraneous influence."

"Of course, in expressing these views, I am only speaking for myself."

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### WEEKLY WEATHER CROP BULLETIN.

The reports of correspondents of the Weekly Weather Crop Bulletin, issued by the North Carolina State Weather Service, for the week ending Saturday, August 24th, 1895, are very favorable. The week was slightly above normal in temperature, except Wednesday and Thursday, which were cool with abundant rains. The rain-fall, though generally beneficial, was slightly injurious to cotton and tobacco, causing some shedding in the former and rough growth in the latter. Cotton is still two weeks late, and not a boll open yet. Tobacco markets very active. Farmers preparing land for wheat. Late Irish potatoes are not coming up very well.

**EASTERN DISTRICT.**—Reports from this district are generally favorable. There was, perhaps, a little more rain than actually needed, but the rains of Wednesday and Thursday were generally beneficial. The temperature was above normal, except on the 21st and 22d, which were cool. The amount of sunshine was, perhaps, a little below the average. The week closed fair and very favorable for all kinds of work. Fodder-pulling going on, and the bulk of it will be saved next week. Late corn fine. Cotton has too much weed, and generally not much fruit. Some reports of shedding were received this week. Turnip planting going on. Tobacco cures continue fine, and markets everywhere in full blast. Second crop of Irish potatoes not coming up very well. Yield of scuppernon grapes good.

**CENTRAL DISTRICT.**—The past week was very favorable, excepting perhaps too much rain on Wednesday and Thursday, but the fair, warm weather following will prevent any change; all crops are doing well. Some correspondents say cotton is now fruiting well, but it is still about two weeks late, and there is some shedding and some rust. Not a boll is open yet, while the first bale was marketed about the middle of August last year. Fodder-pulling will soon begin in the central and northern parts of the district. There has been a little too much rain for tobacco to ripen well, rough growth caused. Hitherto cures have been good. Turnips still being planted and seeding of large crops of wheat, rye and clover under way.

**WESTERN DISTRICT.**—A very favorable week with plenty of rain, putting land into excellent condition for fall plowing. Rainfall a little injurious to cotton and tobacco, but corn, clover, pea-vines and other crops were much benefited. Farmers are doing much plowing for wheat and still planting turnips; early planted are growing nicely. Cotton is reported at a number of places to have improved considerably, though still about two weeks late; it needs dry weather to mature and open bolls. Tobacco is ripening slowly, with prospects for a good crop; curing will be under way next week. Fodder-pulling is not yet general. The only thing feared for corn is freshets on the streams.

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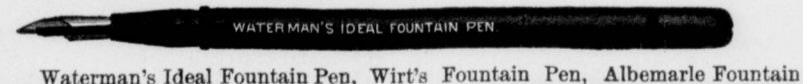


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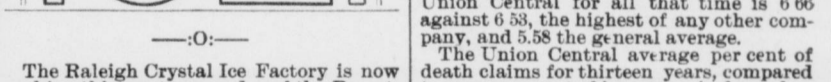
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That is to say, on an equal amount of money invested the Union Central earns as much as the best of the other companies and nearly one fourth more.

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