

The Chatham Record

TUESDAY, January 4, 1890.

A. LONDON, EDITOR.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Record extends to its readers the compliments and greetings of the New Year, and hopes that it may be for each and all the happiest of their life.

While time and chance happen to all men and we are oftentimes the creatures of circumstances, yet a man's happiness and peace of mind are his own. Therefore in the coming year let us all so act as to bring happiness and prosperity not only to ourselves but all around us.

The old year has been quite an eventful one and closes with the two most enlightened and powerful nations in the world waging war upon a weaker and almost insignificant people. Yes, notwithstanding the international Peace Conference held last summer at The Hague, Great Britain is waging war against the insignificant Dutch Republic in Africa and the United States are waging war against the Philippines and of the warring countries being several thousand miles distant from the other.

Many of those who started the year 1889 with us have passed away and during the year 1890 many others will drop by the wayside on life's journey. The thought of this makes seems the most thoughtless and causes every one to pause at the threshold of every new year and consider the uncertainty of life. The Record hopes that all its readers will profit by their experience of the past year, and by it be the better prepared to be more useful and happy during the coming year.

GENERAL Manager St. John, of the S. A. L., has sent a circular letter to all the officers and employees of that system of roads, expressing his thanks and acknowledgments for the faithful, intelligent and efficient service rendered by them during the year 1889, and extending the greetings of the New Year. He states that "no one is more encouraging me than the second Air Line is undoubtedly to become in every way a system of vast importance, and air travel will be largely increased and the principal cities of the South will be reached by land upon the basis of a shorter and easier route." A shorter and easier route exists by stage coaches.

The Record wishes with pleasure the pleasant relations existing between the officers and employees of this progressive and public-spirited system of railroads, which is contributing so much to the development and prosperity of the South.

Ever Sunday's issue of the News and Observer contained a most interesting review of the industrial, educational and religious progress of North Carolina during the year 1889. Letters were published from all parts of the State giving an account of the progress in their respective sections and the prospect for 1890. All these letters are very encouraging and show a state of affairs that should stop the complaints of every cynic-howler.

Congressman Atwater's Speech.

The following is the speech made by Hon. John W. Atwater in Congress, on the 14th of last month, in opposition to the Republican gold standard bill:

Mr. CHAIRMAN. The limited time allotted to me in this debate will not permit me to make an extended argument upon this great financial question. However, it is not necessary that I should do so, as the question has heretofore been very fully discussed and the great American people have studied this question of bimetallism or monometallism and have already made up their verdict. My own position among the people of my district is too well known to need any affirmation at this time. With the intelligence which always characterizes them in their study of public questions, they have concluded that the success of bimetallism is necessary to the prosperity of the great body of our people. I do not think I am exaggerating the truth when I say that a large majority of the citizens of the United States have reached a similar conclusion. The Republican party have never declared against bimetallism, and when their leaders and speakers have been charged heretofore with favoring the sin-

years of age. It is bad enough for grown men to get drunk at any time, but it is peculiarly sad to think of our youths—the hope of our country—getting drunk at Christmas and thus degrading themselves and desecrating the birthday of the Prince of Peace.

PUBLIC SCHOOL MURKEL.

The Record has heretofore insisted that all the acts of the new committee appointed by the democratic school directors were valid and binding. This view of the law is sustained by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Elton G. H. Melham, who although a Populist seems to be anxious to do his duty and obey the law without regard to politics. Having regard of the trouble in this county caused by the Fusion school committee, Superintendent Melham wrote a letter a week ago last to Mr. R. B. Linsbury, the Fusion county superintendent, from which we copy the following extracts:

"As a matter of administration I shall also hold that all the acts of Mr. Griffin in accordance with the general school law up to the decision of the supreme court in full force and effect and should be carried out in good faith by you."

"All contracts made with teachers by the committees appointed by the new board in accordance with the school law are regarded as valid and should be carried out in good faith by you."

This position of the Republican party and of the distinguished members was either a result of sincere conviction or was perhaps part of a deliberately pre-conceived plan to deceive the people of this country. Great treaties are not intended to be broken about from year to year, or to be

"In those districts where two sets of committees were attempting to act and where both committees employed teachers, I shall hold that the committee appointed by the new board and where said committee employed teachers, that these contracts are to be established themselves as firmly as any well known principle of political economy, and one of these is the theory of bimetallism."

During the fluctuations which have occurred from time to time in the production of the precious metals, during the recurring stages of depression and prosperity times—considering the selfish ambitions of large owners of wealth of the country, and the wants and demands of the great mass of the people, considering the conditions of producers and consumers, of the capitalist and of the laborer, of the agriculturists and the manufacturers, the great principle of bimetallism had embodied itself into the financial economies of the world as the best system which could be devised to serve the interest of all classes and to preserve the great principle of equality between the bourgeoisie and the employer of labor.

The Republican party until to-day has never dared to favor legislation which declared openly and unequivocally against bimetallism. Were it not for the description which the other side has practised before the people there would have been an unmistakable majority in this House in favor of this bill. Those who opposed to this bill, have done so, practised a deception upon the people, and they are now attempting to repeat the results of the long period of anxiety and doubt in 1886. What will you do when dealing? I am glad that you have thrown off the担子 which they carried on when it fails to keep pace with the increase of population and commerce and industry of the business world. Then will it be that the falsity of your position and the soundness of our with will be abundantly illustrated, and the blow which you are aiming to lay at the vital part of the American body politic will take full effect, and the people will indignantly remove from power and place the party which inflicts so vital a wound."

Mr. Chairman, the gentleman from Indiana, I believe, it was, said that there was not a section in all those United States which was not prosperous. If he will go into the great tobacco belts of my State and of other States he will observe a condition very far removed from prosperity. In that golden belt of my State which produces the finest bright tobacco there was prosperity fifteen years ago. Tobacco sold at remunerative prices and yielded a fair profit upon the investment. Farm lands were in demand and sold at high prices, and yet the condition is reversed to-day. Tobacco sells at barely the cost of production, if so much, and lands that were formerly not upon the market may now be purchased at a ruinous sacrifice. This result has been largely effected by the tyrannical and ruinous methods of the great tobacco trust. Just as gold has been made the standard of value throughout the world and is controlled by the few, so has the great tobacco industry been absorbed by one gigantic corporation, which is to-day controlling the prices of the leaf tobacco of the farmers and of the manufactured product of the country. No government can be said to be "A government of the people, for the people, and by the people" so long as such a condition is possible under the forms of law.

There are many trusts, with a capital of millions of dollars, which control many of the staple products of the fields and of the mines and of the factories, but there is one other trust which overshadows all the others, as the great mountain overtops the valley below, and this is the great gold trust of the world.

The distinguished senior Senator from my State, Mr. Pinchot, has pledged himself openly before the people to vote for the restoration of silver to its ancient rights as a money metal whenever such a proposition should come before the Senate as a separate bill.

My colleagues in this House

know that when it was charged against the Republican party in our State that they were in favor of the gold standard that in every instance they stood before the people and with unabashed eloquence said, "We are as much in favor of bimetallism as you are, the only difference between us being that we wish it through international agreement."

They have claimed that the United States could not alone put into operation the double standard of gold and silver without the aid and co-operation of the other great powers in the world. The present administration among its first official acts after it came into power was to appoint a investigating commission to visit the continental powers with the professed purpose of obtaining their consent for the restoration of silver to an equality with gold.

It has transpired in this debate that there is scarcely a prominent Republican member of this House, long in public life, who has not heretofore in the discussions of this House some years ago than contained in a speech delivered by the distinguished gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Cannon.

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The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Tracy) said that all the promises that the bimetallists had made in 1886 not a single one had come true, the error of this statement has been most ably controverted by the gentleman from Texas Mr. Butler. No one rejoices at the prosperity which certain sections and industries of our country are enjoying more than myself. We said in 1886 that a greater volume of money, sufficient to meet the necessities not only of the financial centers but of the great agricultural sections of our country, was necessary in order to enhance prices, and we said further that enhanced prices indicated prosperity and that low prices indicated hard times. Today we have a greater volume of money than we had in 1886 and to this fact is most largely attributable the present degree of prosperity.

How has the volume of money been increased? Not by legislation, but because the world's supply of gold has been increased. The wealth of the Klondike has been deposited in our ports, the gold fields of South Africa have yielded the golden metal in unexampled quantities, and from various other sources the production of gold has greatly increased, and having the rights of free minting at the mints in the world, the increase of gold has diffused into the channels of commerce and trade and restored to our system, after so long a period of stagnation, the partial prosperity which characterized the financial condition of the country in 1886. What will you do when dealing? I am glad that you have thrown off the担子 which they carried on when it fails to keep pace with the increase of population and commerce and industry of the business world. Then will it be that the falsity of your position and the soundness of our with will be abundantly illustrated, and the blow which you are aiming to lay at the vital part of the American body politic will take full effect, and the people will indignantly remove from power and place the party which inflicts so vital a wound."

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