

Arkansas City, Kan., July 13, 1896. To "The Auditor."

In the last issue of the Railway Age, under the date of July 10th, 1896, and beginning at page 24, under the heading "Railway Matters and Railway Men," you state your position upon the money question, which is at present more talked of than any other economic question.

From this article it is easily seen that you are a believer in "the single gold standard" and opposed to "free silver." I am free to confess that I have for the past ten years been a voting Republican and an ardent supporter its doctrines, but under the present condition of affairs, generally speaking, I am inclined to put my faith with the "free silverites."

To the end therefore that you may lend your might to the "campaign of education," I would be pleased to receive from you your reasons and promises upon which you base your several conclusions contained in your article. Your early reply will be appreciated.

Yours very truly, CHAS. L. BROWN

Yes; both "The Auditor" and "The Railway Age" are in favor of "the single gold standard"—until such a time as a double standard at a common ratio is agreed upon by the commercial nations of the world. We are unconditionally opposed to the free coinage of silver to-day in this country at any ratio.

Our correspondent asks for the "reasons and premises" on which the "general conclusion" in "The Auditor's" article of last week were based. His general conclusions were stated as follows:

The exhaustion of gold, the immediate arrival at a purely silver basis; the total withholding of all outside investment from this country; the universal default of every American commercial institution on all interest or other obligations payable abroad; the entire severance of commercial relations with other countries, except in so far as we were still willing to sell them our goods for silver at our terms and pay other countries for their goods on their terms—all these things are as certain and as demonstrable as is gravitation of a stone toward the ground if dropped from the top of the Washington monument. It is not necessary to go and drop the stone to see if it will go downward.

Let us take up these points in order:

(1) "The exhaustion of gold."

The free and unlimited coinage of silver at a ratio to gold of 16 to 1 means that any man can take silver bullion in any quantities to our mints and have that bullion coined into silver dollars, each dollar containing 16 times as much silver as there is of gold in a gold dollar. When coined the silver dollar is to be exchangeable on all equality with the gold dollar. This is to say that in this country 16 parts of silver (whether ounces or grains or any other weight) are to be considered as equal to one part of gold. In other words you will always be able to buy gold at the price of 16 times its weight in silver as long as there is gold to buy.

Now silver is a commodity as well as, when coined, a medium of exchange. It is quoted and can be bought in the various markets of the world. London is the chief financial market of the world and we will therefore speak of London as the place where the silver is to be bought. In London, then, silver is quoted at a certain figure every day in the year, that figure being the price in gold at which silver can be bought. That price varies. The price has not been 16 for many years and there is no possibility of its being 16 again. We will suppose it to be 24 simply for fairness, and as being easier to figure with than 29 or 30.

The market ratio to-day is 29.94—very nearly 30. It is probable

that it will go to 32. Advocates of free silver claim, however, that free coinage in this country would materially raise the market ratio in London. The best bimetallic authorities in Europe (who are, of course, the friends of silver) think that any rise would be very slight and very temporary. Afterwards the price of silver would fall even lower than it is to-day. It would be perfectly fair for us to argue on the present ratio of 30 or even 32. That we may be plainly conceding every argument to the other side, however, we will assume it to be possible that the London market ratio would be forced down to 24—which is 150 per cent of 16.

In London, therefore, if a man wanted to buy gold with silver he would have to pay 24 parts of silver for one part of gold, 24 ounces of silver for one ounce of gold, 24 pounds of silver for one pound of gold, etc., etc. But in the United States, it is to be provided under the free-coinage of silver that he can always buy gold at a proportion of 16 to 1. What then will the man do? Will he buy his gold in London? Hardly. He will buy it in the United States where he only has to pay, for it in silver 16 times instead of 24 times.

That is to say, that silver being so much more valuable in proportion to gold in the United States than anywhere else—or gold so much cheaper in proportion to silver—no one in any part of the world will think of exchanging his silver for gold anywhere except in the United States. Everybody all over the world will want to send his silver over here and get gold for it—as long, again we say, as there is gold to get. But the supply of gold in this country is far from inexhaustible. We have already learned that much to our cost; and in the rush that would come to exchange silver for it that supply would soon be exhausted. Gold would be drained from the United States.

Nor would the gold being produced annually in this country help at all to prevent this. For this reason:

The owner of a gold mine produces so many ounces of gold. With each ounce of that gold he could in the United States get only 16 ounces of silver. In London he can get 24 ounces. No producer of gold is going to be fool enough to use his gold in this country. He will send it to London to get silver, just as the Londoner will send his silver over here to get gold.

This process is not a question of opinion, but a matter of fact and mathematical demonstration. The law governing the process is stated by economists as: "In any country the cheaper metal will always drive out the dearer." We have explained (in elementary language) the reason why this is so, and what was meant by the first conclusion, viz: "the exhaustion of gold."

(2) "The immediate arrival at a purely silver basis."

This hardly needs any further exposition. Gold being exhausted from this country, will disappear totally from circulation, and we shall be in fact and practice on a purely silver basis—just as Mexico or China is to-day. This is why the best friends of bimetalism in Europe are pleading with the United States not to adopt free silver coinage. The result would not be bimetalism in this country but simple silver monometalism. In the opinion of all the bimetalists of Europe the result would be the fastening of the single gold standard on all the rest of the world for an indefinite time which we will explain later if anybody wishes.

(3) "The universal default of every American institution on all interest or other obligations payable abroad."

Silver monometalism and the absence of all gold from this country might not seriously matter if the United States was entirely self-sufficing and did all its business inside a Chinese wall, without buying from or selling to a foreign country.

Unfortunately, we have foreign commercial relations. It is one of the penalties which we pay for being a great nation. In our hurry to become a great nation also we have built ourselves up largely with foreign capital. We have for years gone all over Europe begging the European to invest his money here. He has done so to very large amounts, and the fact that he has done so has enabled us to develop our resources. But the money which he has invested has been the standard money of Europe, namely, gold; and it is gold and gold only that he stipulated to have returned to him and which we have promised to pay. That is to say, that all our interest on money borrowed in Europe, and all the principal of those loans are gold obligations. They must be paid in gold and we are in honor bound to see that they are.

Where are we going to get the gold to do it? We shall not have it here and we can get it only in one way, viz, by buying it in Europe, and the only thing that we can buy it with will be our silver. We cannot, however, buy it with our silver at our ratio of 16 to 1. We must buy it at the world's market ratio—the ratio of 24. Suppose then that the Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul railway has \$5,000,000 of interest to pay annually. Its earnings are all in money of this country—silver. To pay these \$5,000,000 of gold in our silver will take at 24 \$120,000,000 and at 32 \$160,000,000. For how long can any railway company or other commercial institution continue to do that? For how long can American institutions go on paying 12 and 14 per cent for their money? And when the principals mature—with the \$100,000,000 of borrowed money of the C. M. & St. P. converted at \$100,000,000 at 24, or \$200,000,000 at 32—how can we hope to meet our obligations?

Every commercial institution in this country will receive all its income and earnings in our silver. It will have to pay all its obligations abroad in gold. While some concerns might stagger for a while under the tremendous load, there is only one possible end, viz: "The universal default of every American institution on all interest or other obligations payable abroad."

(4) "The total withholding of all outside investment from this country," and

(5) "The entire severance of commercial relations with other countries, except in so far as we were still willing to sell them our goods for silver at our terms and pay other countries for their goods on their terms."

Again, these conclusions follow necessarily from what has gone before. Assuredly no European will send any of his money here for investment with the certainty staring him in the face of our inability to repay the loan—the certainty of repudiation and default.

Assuredly also we cannot hope to buy the goods of Europe on other terms than the terms of Europe—with gold or (if we have no gold) then with silver at the world's ratio. Now can we expect to sell our goods to them except in the competition of the world's markets. To sell our wheat or anything else in London we must sell it more cheaply than London can get the same thing from other sources. The artificial ratio, differing from the ratio of the world, would be a barrier between all the world and us; a burden on our trade with foreign countries which we could not hope to carry and compete with them in the great race of progress.

These are the conclusions which Mr. Brown asks us to explain. Probably in Arkansas City he has neighbors who are free silver men. We have talked straightforwardly, avoiding technical terms and treating the complicated processes of international commerce and exchange in their simplest form, reducing everything to first principles. It is only the advocates of

false reasoning who are interested in beclouding an issue. The nearer we get to the marrow of the truth, the more clearly will the truth be seen and understood.

We have avoided traveling off on side issues, confining ourselves only to the immediate conclusions in question. And we shall be glad to know how, under free coinage of silver, there is anything but bankruptcy and default ahead of our institutions—anything but shame and humiliation in prospect for us as a nation—anything but hardship and struggle for the wage-earner and the worker on a salary.—Railway Age.

AN ANCIENT CUSTOM.

"Honoring For the Bottle" a Feature of Wedding Ceremonies. Mr. Wes B. Smith writes to The Democrat of the last time he attended a wedding where running for the bottle was a feature. Of course in those degenerate days a wedding is not necessary to precipitate a chase for the receptacle, but accounts of the former custom may not be uninteresting.

The practice was, in vogue among the aristocracy of England as far back as the sixteenth century. It was handed down to America through the early colonists, but has long since been out of date here.

The last chase of this kind, says Mr. Smith, that was performed in this section occurred in November, 1830, at the wedding of Emanuel Mann, father of Judge Russell Mann of Paris, and Ellen Snodgrass, daughter of David Snodgrass, afterward county judge of Harrison. The groom is still living at Millersburg, Emanuel was the wife of Peter Mann, a Nicholas county farmer of considerable wealth and intelligence, and of course, Effen was a young lady of prominence. So, then, the wedding was quite "swell."

As the custom was, on the morning of the wedding the guests assembled at the home of the bride to await the coming of the bridegroom and his attendants. About one hour before the expected arrival three of the younger gentlemen, Messrs. DeWitt Henry, Jack Barrett and Long Sam Van Hook, equipped with whip and spur, mounted their snorting steeds and prepared for the race.

Off they went, cutting and steelying upon the horses' hides, over fences, over ditches, through the fields, across the meadows—on they raced to meet the bridegroom. At least the bridegroom was sighted, the "best man" riding in front and holding in view the much-prized bottle of whiskey. The race then assumed fresh proportions. Faster flew the steeds. Thicker grew the dust behind them. Now Barrett is in front. Over the next jump Long Sam leads by a nose. Henry leads at the next jump. Now all are together. Down the straight they come as one team. The riders are whipping for their lives. One more leap, one more stride, a supreme effort, and Jack Barrett captured the bottle.

Now Jack has won the right to head the procession. Proudly riding in front, shaking the bottle above his head in the pride of supremacy, he guides the way to the bridal parlor and the ceremony is ended.

The bottle, surrounded by a gay array of accoutrements, with suitable floral decorations of mint, was proudly stationed on the sideboard all the livelong day, that he who could might partake of its contents without let or hindrance.

Mr. Smith adds that no one so far forgot himself as to imbibe too freely. Mr. Snodgrass was a preacher in the Christian church and a model of the occasion, the preacher vouching all efforts on the part of the younger folks to dance, play "old Sister Phoebe," or even play "pleased or displeased."—Cynthiana (Ky.) Democrat.

Swims Learning to Swim.

Young seals do not know how to swim. They have to become gradually accustomed to the water either by entering it to paddle about by themselves or by being carried into it in their mothers' jaws. They have great fear of the waves that break into foam, and as soon as they see one approaching take to flight in terror and do not turn round until they have ascended to a very high place above the sea.

Deleterious Steam at Winston.

WINSTON, N. C., Sept. 2.—Fire broke out in Masonic hall, over Smith's drug store, at 2:30 a. m. Damage by fire and water to the drug store, Justice & Browder's book store, Scholer's dry-goods store, Olanon's drug store, all in the same block will aggregate \$50,000. The Masonic hall was completely destroyed.

Will Doxery Come Down?

RALEIGH, Sept. 7.—It is stated by prominent Republicans that their state committee will next Tuesday take down the name of O. H. Doxery as nominee for lieutenant governor and nominate either Charles J. Harris or Dilworth or Charles Reynolds of Winston for that position.

A QUEER MANIA.

Stellan Millouatre Who Ruined Himself by Buying Absurd Statuary.

The Sicilian Prince of Valguanera, at the beginning of this century, was a monomaniac of a rare description. He succeeded to one of the largest fortunes in Europe, his habits were studious and economical, he had no children, but in spite of these advantages for saving money he contrived to ruin himself. The prince had a fancy for grotesque statuary, with which he adorned the stately mansion of his forefathers. Many descriptions of the place are extant, for it was renowned throughout Europe in its day. Brydione visited it, and he has left us a pleasant picture. Approaching by a noble avenue, one found the palace encircled by an "army" of monsters. "The absurdity of the wretched imagination which created them is not less astonishing than its wonderful fertility," says Brydione. "Some were a compound of five or six animals which have no resemblance in nature. In one instance the head of a lion was set upon the neck of a goose, with the body of a lizard, the eyes of a goat and the tail of a fox. Upon the back of this object stood another with five or six heads and a grove of horns. There is no kind of horn in the world that he has not collected, and his pleasure is to see them all flourishing on the same skull."

Of such horrors there were 600 in the avenue and courtyard alone when Brydione saw the collection, and the prince maintained a regiment of sculptors who were rewarded proportionately to their success in designing new and unparalleled combinations. The effect upon a superstitious peasantry may be imagined. So serious was the agitation that the government of Sicily threatened to demolish the wonderful array several times, but a prince of Valguanera was not to be offended in those days without the gravest cause. Matrons of Palermo would not take their drives in that direction, fearing dire results. The inside of the house was accented in another fashion.

Here the madman diverted himself with columns and arches and pyramids of cups and saucers, teapots and the like, connected together in a column, for instance, started from a great porcelain vase of shape familiar in bedrooms, but not elsewhere. The shaft was topped, with the spouts protruding, a wheel in size up to a capital of flower pots. The openings of windows were incrustated in this manner, the chimney pieces were loaded up to the ceiling, and the magnificent rooms of the palace were divided by fantastic arches of the same construction. China was rare and fine in every part that day, and most of the pieces thus treated had great value. The prince's bedroom was a chamber of supreme horrors. Repulsive awful beyond conception had their home there, intermingled with pleasing busts and statues which, if turned, showed a skeleton or a hideous representation of desecrated. We have never observed an allusion to these things in a modern work of travel. Perhaps the government destroyed them at the prince's death, beggared by his mania.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

How Animals Bear Pain.

Take horses, for instance, in battle. After the first shock of wound they make no sound. They bear the pain with a mute, wondering endurance, and if at night you hear a wild groan from the battlefield it comes from their loneliness, their loss of that human companionship which seems absolutely indispensable to the comfort of domesticated animals.

The dog will carry a broken leg for days wistfully, but uncomplainingly. The cat, injured by a stone, bears in silence pain which we could not endure. Sheep and other cattle meet the thrust of the butcher's knife without a sound, and even common poultry endure intense agony without complaint.

The pigeon, fatally wounded, flies to some fanciful perch and dies in silence. The wounded deer spends its some thick brake and in pitiful submission waits for death. The eagle, struck in midair, fights to the last against the fatal summons. There is no moan or sound of pain, and the dulcet look never fades from its eyes until the life closes over them never to uncover again.—London Mail.

Teacher's Table.

Clergyman (to his wife, returning very late from a gossiping party): "Whatever made you stay out so dreadfully late, wife?"

Wife: "Oh, I did not wish to disturb you in the preparation of your sermon."

Clergyman's Wife (ready for the fray on Monday night, to her husband, returning very late from his club): "Whatever made you stay out so dreadfully late, hubby?"

Clergyman: "Well, you see, dear, I didn't want to disturb you in the preparation of your certain lecture."—Eligande Blatter.

MOSQUITOES.

Places Where the Annoying Insects Are Most Numerous.

No one of experience would venture to say which is the country most afflicted by mosquitoes, much more the spot. But it is something to identify the place which all who have visited it, saving one traveler, declare unrivaled. Such visitors have been few, but every one of them was a man specially qualified to pronounce. It is a canal, but of nature's forming, which connects the Sarawak and Samaharan rivers of Borneo. Boats using it avoid a sea passage and gain several hours in time, and on the homeward voyage especially Malays are very far from indifferent to such advantages. But, though a storm be raging outside, they think twice before risking the short cut. In fact, it is officers of the government charged with important news or belated and sick for a Christian welcome before sleeping who dare the horrors of that passage. Naval officers also have used it not infrequently, gathering a yarn to spin for the rest of their natural lives. Sir Spencer St. John is the single witness who thinks there is one more terrible place on earth, and that, "says he, 'is Pahnam, at the entrance to the Siam river.'"

Sir Spencer proceeds: "I took us the whole night to get through, and no one was able to close his eyes. The leaves of the nipa palms nearly met over our heads, and every time one was touched a swarm of mosquitoes settled upon us. I endeavored to shelter myself under a blanket, but the heat was so great as to compel me to unwillfully face the enemy. I have heard of men exposed to this annoyance being thrown into a fever by constant irritation, and I can well believe it."

The last remark must allude to natives and to the irritation of mosquitoes in a general sense, for it is really rather applied to this particular spot. Once on a time we also lingered for Christian society and insisted upon taking the short cut. The mosquitoes were so thick that one could not see the paddler in the bows. Clapping one's palms together one felt the crush of insects between them, and a black paste remained, but we did not spend more than an hour happily in getting through. A few days afterward Captain Bend of her majesty's ship Liffian passed, going on a visit to the rajah. For three years he had been surveying in the China seas, and his crew was marred by mosquitoes, if men can be marred with difficulty they reached Kuching, and four were taken straight to hospital. Doubtless the cure in that narrow passage, shaking the nipa leaves, which are half submerged, brought every mosquito within its reach upon them.

How do the small flies live? The question obtrudes itself in spots like this. Evidently they get no taste of blood. Man do not pass once in a week. Animals there are none in a grove of alpa palms, always under water. So far as we can see, their lancets are sucking tubes serve no purpose, for if they cut one another all the ingenious apparatus is unnecessary. It is the same case with flies in southern Europe and elsewhere. The cornfields are alive with them, and, though at harvest time one in millions may find a victim, generations have lived and died in the months preceding. Darwin's experiments with insect eating plants may possibly throw light upon the matter. Keeping some under conditions which forbade them to catch insects, and others of the same species unrestrained, he found that, although both grew and flowered with equal vigor apparently, those deprived of animal food did not readily set their seed, or ripen it when set, while the young plants were weakly. A supply of insects appears to be necessary for the preservation of the species. So, perhaps, the minute proportion of mosquitoes which find dead fish or something of the sort keep the pernicious brood flourishing.—Pitt Mail Gazette.

The Hottest Attorney.

The prosecuting attorney of a north Missouri county and a young attorney noted for his persistence were recently trying the preliminary hearing of a criminal case before a justice of the peace. The young attorney asked many irrelevant and incompetent questions, and when the prosecuting attorney would object would always say:

"Your honor, before you pass on that objection I want to argue it."

Finally the young man asked the same question the seventh time, against the prosecuting attorney's objection, when the prosecutor, losing his patience, said in a loud aside: "—are you never going to get over being a confounded fool?"

Whereupon the young fellow jumped up with his usual remark:

"Your honor, before you pass on that I want to argue it."—Green Bag.

Once a year the emperor of China plows a furrow in order to dignify agriculture in the eyes of his people. The ceremony is invested with great pomp.