

SILVER THE BATTLE CRY.

What Senator Tillman Says of His Tour Through the West.

Senator Tillman is enthused with the silver prospects this year. "I am more confident than ever," he said to a Star reporter, "that the Democrats will be in charge at Chicago. Everywhere I have been I found that silver is the battle cry. At the meetings which I addressed I took hand primaries, and they showed that the masses of the people want silver."

Senator Tillman's "hand primary" is original with him and was introduced in his first campaign for governor in South Carolina. The plan is to call upon all in the audience who favor a certain thing to hold up their right hands. Then he called upon those opposed to do the same thing. This he calls a hand primary. In South Carolina the candidates stump the State together. When Senator Tillman was running for governor six years ago he and his opponent, Judge Early, would make claims as to carrying a certain county. When the campaign meeting was held in that county Tillman would call upon all who intend to vote for him to raise their right hands. His supporters would raise their hands with a shout. Then he would call upon his opponents to raise their right hands.

"On my way from St. Louis to Owensboro," said Senator Tillman, "I talked to an audience at Centralia, Ill., having received telegrams from all along the line asking me to stop over. I found the farmers of both parties solid and enthusiastic for silver."

"Do you think all of the States west of the Mississippi will send silver delegations to Chicago?"

"The only doubtful States are Iowa and Minnesota. The Democratic party in Minnesota was swallowed up by the Populists; that is, the free silver part of the party."

"Do you think there will be contesting delegations from any of the Southern States?"

"Oh, there will be an effort to bamboozle the silver men and to elect traitors to the national convention. They will try to send contesting delegations from many States, so as to get the national committee, which has a majority of gold bugs, to seat the bogus delegations."

"Wouldn't this cause a split?"

"I wouldn't care if there was a split. I am tired of keeping house with any such a set anyhow."

Senator Tillman's mail is filled each day with inventions to speak in different States. He has decided to make a Southern tour, but has not fixed upon the date. He will likely speak in Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Texas and Arkansas.

A Deficiency of \$1,150,000

The Secretary of the Treasury has written a letter to Secretary Allison, chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, calling attention to an estimated deficiency of \$1,150,000 for defraying the expenses of collecting the revenue from customs for 1896. The permanent annual appropriation for this purpose as fixed by the act of 1871 is \$5,500,000, not including fines, etc. The Secretary points to the fact that notwithstanding this provision was made twenty-five years ago the appropriation today is smaller than it was in 1871, while the demands upon it have increased. He says the expense of collecting the customs revenues for 1895 was \$6,900,281, whereas the receipts from that source amounted to \$152,158,617.

The Secretary states that much of the increased expense is due to the increase of the number of inspectors and the additional facilities established for landing passengers and baggage at night. This, he says, is especially true of the port at New York. But there also has been an increase of expenses at Boston and Philadelphia. If this department is compelled to conduct the customs business during the remainder of the fiscal year with the \$85,000 appropriated by the House, says the Secretary, a reduction of \$150,000 each month will be necessary. This can be effected only by a horizontal reduction of salaries and by closing customs houses at ports of delivery where the receipts do not amount to more than \$1,000 per annum. The monthly pay aggregates \$540,000, and such a reduction as would be necessary would mean a loss of 28 per cent on all salaries for May and June. Salaries are fixed by law, and the Secretary says the officials undoubtedly could recover through the courts.

Convicts to Build the Asheboro Road.

This morning sixty convicts were sent to Asheboro, where they have been engaged by Mr. A. F. Page to work upon the construction of the new railroad from Asheboro to Star. Next week 65 more convicts will go to Asheboro making a total of 125 engaged in the construction of the Asheboro road.—Raleigh Visitor.

BLACKBURN FOR PRESIDENT.

Carlisle Will Have a Formidable Adversary.

Senator Blackburn, of Kentucky, is the latest Democratic presidential candidate. To carry Kentucky for gold, the administration people put out Carlisle as one of their favorite son candidates. To neutralize this, the free coinage men have launched Senator Blackburn's boom. They did it at Frankfort and Senator Blackburn's friends think the Kentucky convention will declare for Blackburn and free coinage. This will make the fight in Kentucky the most interesting in the Union. The great mass of the people of the Blue Grass State are for free coinage, but office-holders and the Louisville ring are for gold.

All the prominent Democratic orators of the country on both sides of the question will take part in the campaign. Senator Vest, of Missouri, will probably be the first free coinage orator to invade the state.

Senator Blackburn feels very confident of the result in Kentucky. He expects to actively enter the campaign in a few days.

A Peculiar Light House.

The most extraordinary of all light houses is to be found on Arnish Rock, Stormoway bay—a rock which is separated from the Island of Lewis by a channel over 500 feet wide. It is the Hebrides, Scotland. On this rock a conical beacon is erected, and on its summit a lantern is fixed, from which, night after night, shines a light which is seen by the fishermen far and wide. Yet there is no burning lamp in the lantern, and no attendant ever goes to it, for the simple reason that there is no lamp to attend to, no wick to trim, and no oil well to replenish.

The way in which this peculiar light house is illuminated is this: "On the Island of Lewis, 500 feet or so away, is a light house, and from a window in the lower a stream of light is projected on a mirror in the lantern on the summit of Arnish Rock. These rays are reflected to an arrangement of prisms, and by their action are converged to a focus outside the lantern, from where they diverge in the necessary direction."

The consequence is that to all intents and purposes a light house exists which has neither lamp nor light house keeper, and yet which gives as serviceable a light, taking into account the requirements of this locality—as if an elaborate and costly light house, with lamps, stove room, bed room, living room, store room, oil room, water tanks and all other accessories were erected on the summit of the rock.

What a Woman Can Do.

Mrs. Leland Stanford has shown that a woman's word is as good as her bond. When the endowment fund of \$2,500,000 bequeathed by her husband to the University of California was released by the recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, she announced her intention to pay over this entire amount within sixty days. Financiers and lawyers both laughed at the idea and declared that she would never be able to do this. However, the court's decision was announced on the 2d day of March and on the 2d of May interest bearing securities to the full amount were delivered to the trustees of the University. But Mrs. Stanford's generosity does not stop here. The three great ranches which formed part of the University endowment are unproductive at present, under the management of men, and Mrs. Stanford has undertaken to make them profitable. Doubtless she will do so, and thus demonstrate afresh what a woman can do when she is in earnest.

Waddell Always Right.

The Raleigh Observer says: "Col. Waddell has been on the side of justice and right during the whole of his political career. He is an able advocate of the free coinage of silver because he is conscious that a great wrong has been done the masses of the American people by placing the currency of this country on a contracted gold basis. Knowing this to be so, he could not advocate any policy that did not have for its ultimate object a righting of this wrong."

International Agreement.

"We can't have the free coinage of silver unless by international agreement," say some of the gold men. Here is one thing we want to know. Did we have international agreement when the Declaration of Independence was proclaimed, or when the Constitution was adopted?—Durham Sun.

In a Nut Shell.

Tennessee sends a solid silver delegation to Chicago to be offset by the Massachusetts gold delegation. Tennessee is always Democratic. Massachusetts is always Republican. Here's the whole story of the currency fight in Democratic ranks.—News & Observer.

McKINLEY'S POSITION ON SILVER.

This Declaration Was Printed Last Spring and Denied.

The Times-Herald prints this conclusive statement as to Major McKinley's position on free coinage: "A year ago in Thomasville, Ga., Major McKinley when offered the delegates of the three Southern States if he would declare for free silver, said in the presence of the editor of this journal: "If the Republican platform declares for free coinage, I will not be a candidate, I would not run on a free coinage platform."

The editor of the Times-Herald, it will be remembered, is H. H. Kohlsaat, one of Mr. McKinley's most intimate friends, and who next to Mark Hanna, is generally understood to be most competent to speak for the Ohio states.

The Rainy Season in Cuba.

In a long article showing how the rainy season is expected to help Cuba in the war, a writer in the Washington Star says, among other things: There is another danger which threatens the Spaniards during the approaching seasons, and that is famine. The Cubans will absolutely control the country between the various towns where the Spanish troops are quartered during the wet season, because the roads, which are now nearly impassable, and which are guarded by strong branches of the Spanish army of occupation, will become entirely useless, save for the passage of very small and very light convoys. It is a part of the Cuban plan of warfare the coming summer to pay their attention almost exclusively to the destruction of these convoys, and thus cut off the supplies intended for the garrisons and the other Spanish soldiers occupying towns. The Cubans are accustomed to traveling in the wet and rainy season, and they are not bothered about the all important question of water.

They are familiar with the location of the various springs that dot the country and that sometimes bubble out in the middle of the swamp, and then they know the value of the water vine, what they call the bejuco de agua. This peculiar vine grows profusely in most parts of Cuba, and particularly in the low lying portions of the island, and the stem of a single vine when cut will produce about a pint of clear and crystal water, which, it is said, also has the properties of a mild tonic. The only healthy portion of Cuba during the rainy season is in the mountains, and these are entirely under control of the insurgents.

It will consequently be readily appreciated why the revolutionists are looking forward with such pleasant anticipations to the rainy season, which begins in this month and lasts, to a greater or less intensity, until September. The Spanish soldiers are weakened by exposure already and are unaccustomed to the fatigue of campaigning, as they are nearly all young men and volunteers and will not be able to withstand the constant inroads upon their systems, so the fatalities among them this year may be expected to be enormous. Yellow fever and dysentery will be the two great allies of the Cuban patriots from now until September.

Income Tax Returns.

A special committee, consisting of Messrs. P. V. Dolan, C. H. Ingram and T. M. Robertson, reported to Secretary Carlisle today that they had personally supervised the complete destruction by fire of all the income tax returns, and the records of every description appertaining to the enforcement of the income tax provisions of the Wilson tariff law. Soon after the Supreme Court pronounced the income tax provisions unconstitutional, Congress provided that all the records in the possession of the government relating thereto should be destroyed. The greatest secrecy was observed in the matter, and the destruction of the papers was confined to the clerks whose duties had already made them familiar therewith. They did their work well, and there are no official records of the amount and character of the incomes of private citizens and corporations.

200,000 Acres Sold Under Mortgage.

Mr. R. T. Gray is now in Dare county. He went there to foreclose a mortgage on 200,000 acres of land. The mortgage is held by a New York company, for which he is the attorney. Thousands of acres of swamp lands in the eastern counties have been bought from the State by Northern parties. These lands are held in vast tracts.—Raleigh News and Observer.

Good All Around.

Hurrah! for North Carolina! To ship from Wilmington \$60,000 worth of strawberries in three days is a very big thing and will do to crow over. Up in Western Carolina a farmer 74 years old raised 137 bushels of corn on one acre. His name is Benjamin West and he too is hard to beat.—Wilmington Messenger.

How it Stands in Virginia.

For silver. Gold Standard.

Belford, Halifax, Montgomery, Westmoreland, Loudoun, Greenville, Pulaski, Franklin, Charlotte, Richmond, S. cotsylvania, Gloucester, Fuvanna, Powhatan, Isle of Wight, King & Queen, Sussex, Russell, Grayson, King George, Appomattox, Lunenburg, Nottoway.

How Populist Delegates Will Be Chosen.

The Populists will not hold a State convention to elect delegates as their leaders think it would be unwise to call together that party in the State for any purpose until after they see what the Democratic and Republican conventions are going to do. Then, the Populist party will shape its course accordingly.

The plan of organization is very flexible, and has been adapted to the emergency. North Carolina is entitled to ninety-five delegates. The executive committee elected the central committee of six and Secretary Ayer delegates at large, and provided for the election of one delegate from each of the fifty senatorial districts. The remaining thirty-five are apportioned among the districts according to the vote for Weaver in 1899.

In November.

Republicans think they have got the President grabbed, and McKinley begins to dream of nights that he has got the Republican nomination grabbed, to speak in the vernacular of the Populists.

And yet, the one obtrusive fact of the political situation, glaring as the noonday sun, is that the vast majority of American voters do not desire a reversion to Republican politics and methods of government, and will not stomach another dose of McKinley protection.

The g. o. p. may run against a surprise before the dial on the zodiac gets around to November 3.—St. Louis Republic.

Success Depends Upon Labor.

What does the average politician care for the farmer and working man?

If our success in business or in agriculture depends upon the labors of the politicians, no matter of what party, we will not realize much on net results. The sooner we understand this thoroughly the better it will be. What the country really needs is a restoration of confidence, better business methods, and a freedom from agitators. This and a willingness to earn an honest living by a little old fashioned hard work will beat all the financial theories ever expounded.—Durham Sun.

A Sensible Gold Man.

"I am not a silver man," said a delegate to the meeting of the Royal Arcanum yesterday, "but I am firmly of the opinion that North Carolina can be carried by the Democrats if a silver candidate is nominated for President. I want to see it done because I'd rather have the Governor and Legislature in Democratic hands than to have any National victory. The people are for silver and I say let them have it if it will keep North Carolina out of the hands of the negro party."—Raleigh Observer.

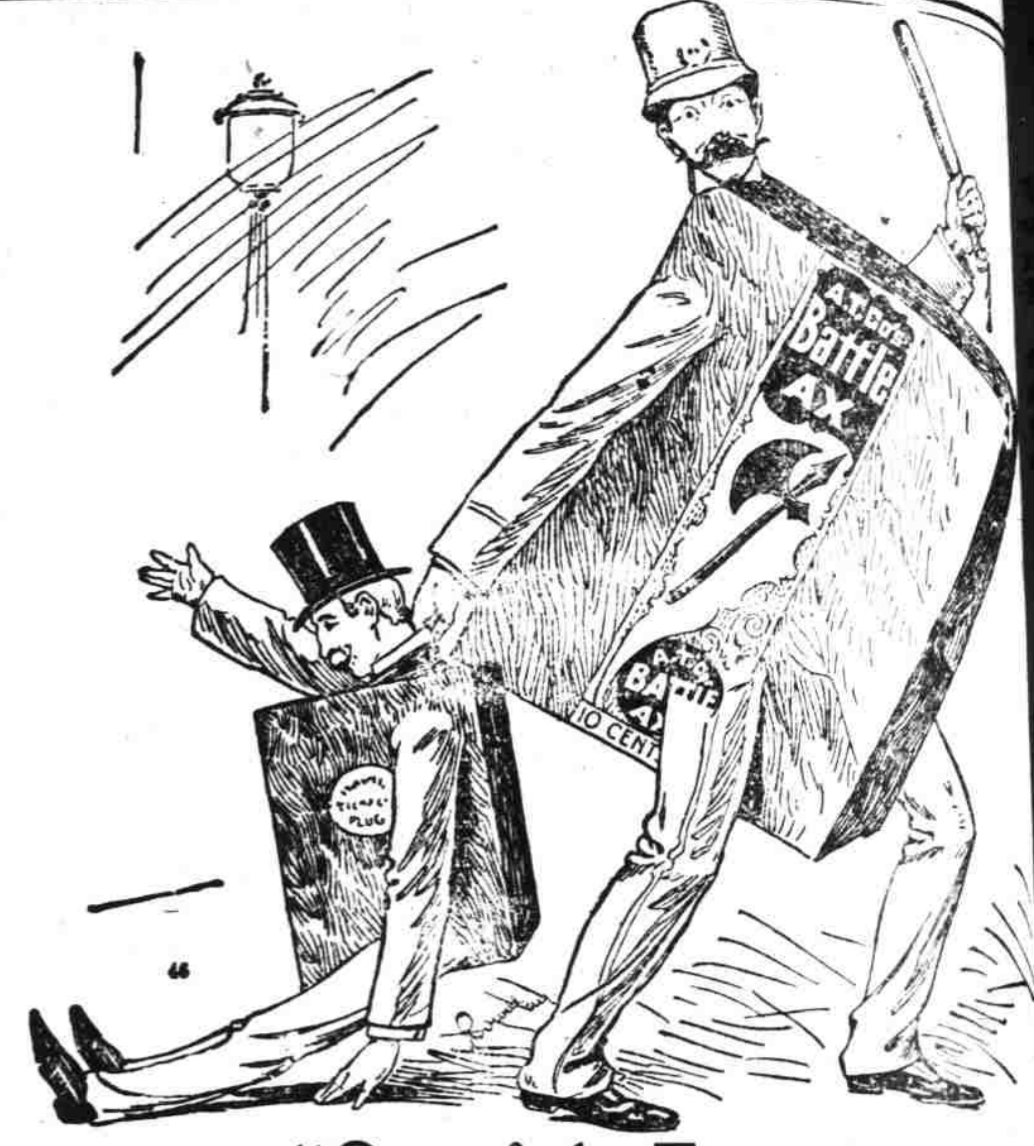
On Waves of Beer and Oil.

One of the Boston papers, in commenting upon the liberality of Mr. John D. Rockefeller, of Chicago, in his recent handsome donation to Vassar college, says: "Mr. Rockefeller, of Standard Oil celebrity, proposes to give \$100,000 to Vassar college. Vassar was founded and endowed on the proceeds of a big brewery. Certainly, that excellent institution, when floating prosperously on a deep sea of mingled lager beer and kerosene oil should have no difficulty in liquidating its bills."

Delegates to the Columbia Convention.

ANDERSON, S. C., May—The county Democratic convention to select delegates to the Columbia convention assembled here today. Editor D. H. Russell offered a resolution instructing the delegates to vote for free silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 and it was carried. A motion was made protesting against having to endorse Tillmanism, but it failed to carry.

If you would a ways be healthy, keep your blood pure with Hood's Sarsaparilla, the One True Blood Purifier.



"One of the Finest."
Battle Ax
PLUG

The largest piece of good tobacco ever sold for 10 cents
and
The 5 cent piece is nearly as large as you get of other high grades for 10 cents

PIANOS!
ORGANS!!

On Easy Installments,

\$2 to \$5 per month for an Organ,
\$5 to \$10 per month for a Piano.
\$35 to \$40 cash will buy a good Organ, right from the factory.

NEW, UPRIGHT PIANOS \$200 UP.

Write for Illustrated Catalogue with full particulars.

Ludden & Bates
SOUTHERN MUSIC HOUSE,
W. M. WHEELER, MANAGER.

Every Farmer FARMERS

Bring us Your Hides

in Mecklenburg and adjoining country that spends cash for his Hardware, will do well to see our stock of cotton hoes, Dowlaw cotton planters, trace chains, plow stocks, etc.

We have a general stock of hardware, tinware, cast iron ware, barbed wire etc.

We have the goods that you want and the prices are right. Call and see us.

J. H. Weddington & Co.
29 East Trade Street.

our Tannery is now ready for Them.

If you need anything in our line come and see us.

Harness, Saddles, Co lars, Whips

Bicycles.

In fact everything in our line will be found in our new building on Fourth Street.

SHAW-HOWELL HARNES CO.