

Press and Carolinian

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THE FAKE REPORT GOES VISITING.

In The Nashville American, The Louisville Courier-Journal and other papers which print the news service of the Associated Press we find repeated the fake report that the Farmers' National Congress, recently held in Atlanta, defeated the resolution declaring for the free coinage of silver. Basing its statement on this fake report, The American and other Associated Press papers, which do not publish the resolution adopted, head the canard which they spread as follows: 'Their Forces Routed, Farmers' National Congress Declares Against Free Silver. Resolutions Favoring Such Policy Overwhelmingly Defeated. Fight Was Squarilly on the Merits of the Question.'

Now, these papers are not to be blamed for their misleading headlines. They had received the fake report from the Associated Press, and relied absolutely on the accuracy of that concern, notwithstanding some of its recent experiences as, for instance, the report that the British yacht had won in the first race for the cup.

We do not see what the Associated Press has to gain in thus lending itself to the circulation of news that is absolutely false. At the rate that things are now going the public will be justified in doubting every piece of news that is sent out under the auspices of the association. It is natural, of course, that an occasional mistake should be made by those who gather the news for the press associations; but the matter to which we refer is not a mistake but a deliberate misrepresentation, having for its purpose a desire to belittle the movement among the people for the restoration of silver as a money metal.

What the Associated Press may or may not do is no concern of ours; but, as a part of the public, and in behalf of fair and honest methods we may be permitted to regret that the concern in question allows itself to be made an instrument of misrepresentation.

As the Constitution pointed out yesterday, the Farmers' National Congress did not declare against silver, but declared in favor of the free and unlimited coinage of the white metal. The resolution in which the declaration was made is as conservative as it is emphatic, and is as follows:

Resolved, That we favor the free and unlimited coinage of both silver and gold at an agreed ratio guarded by an import duty upon foreign bullion and foreign coin equal to the difference between the bullion value and the coinage value of the metal at the date of importation, whenever the bullion value of the metal is less than its coin value.

When the Farmers' National Congress declared in favor of "the free and unlimited coinage of both silver and gold at a ratio to be agreed upon," it announced a platform on which every true friend of the people can stand.

If, as the cuckoos and gold-bug organs say, the resolution is "a declaration against free silver," they ought to be willing to endorse it.—Constitution.

John Sherman says Ohio will go Republican by 60,000 this year; Gov. McKinley says it will go that way by 40,000. Meanwhile Brice is spending as much money, and Campbell is doing as much stump speaking, as they would if both thought Ohio would go Democratic this year.

SPANISH PERTINACITY.

Serious complications are threatened between the United States and Spain over matters that are growing out of the insurrection in Cuba. By a treaty entered into between the United States and Spain in 1877, the American consul at Havana was vested with diplomatic authority. That is, on emergency questions requiring immediate settlement, the American consul deals with the governor general of Cuba direct, the same as if the governor general were the king of Spain and the consul president of the United States. Since the outbreak of the present insurrection, quite a number of individuals, claiming to be American citizens, have made themselves seriously amenable to Spanish laws, both civil and military. These people, as a rule, are either directly or indirectly identified with the insurrectionists, and when they fall into the hands of the Spaniards, there is, of course, a desire to dispose of them summarily. Generally, however, there is an appeal to the American consul, and the action of that official almost invariably interferes with the programme of the Spaniards. A few weeks ago, the governor general of Cuba notified United States Consul Williams that his diplomatic authority would no longer be recognized. Consul Williams immediately transmitted the information to Secretary of State Olney, and that official has just notified Senor Canovas, the prime minister of Spain, that if any American citizen in Cuba should be tried by court martial, or should Consul Williams be ignored in any case requiring prompt action, the circumstance might involve serious consequences to Spain. This is not exactly the shape in which Secretary Olney's message was transmitted; but this is what it means, and if Spain does not back down, the probability is that she will have to fight.

TURKEY AND THE ARMENIANS.

Recently, England, France, Germany, Russia, Austria and Italy united in a note to Turkey warning that country that she must put a stop to her fearful persecution of the defenseless Armenians. Turkey's reply was not altogether satisfactory, and as the result, England sent a fleet to the entrance of the Dardanelles and Russia sent a fleet to entrance of the Bosphorus; but it seems that Turkey is not seriously alarmed. The sultan has ordered the placing of torpedoes in the Bosphorus and Dardanelles, and is continuing to do with the Armenians pretty much as he pleases. It is well known that there is a great deal of jealousy on the part of the powers in regard to Turkey, and no one of them is inclined to run any big risk of allowing any of the others to get very much of the advantage. Turkey understands this fact well. She believes that the powers will put politics high above the blood of the persecuted Armenians, and for that reason she chooses to continue to run the doing as she pleases. The situation, especially in view of the length to which matters have gone, is growing extremely interesting.

A goldbug poll of the House of Representatives in the next Congress shows 216 opponents of free silver coinage, 88 who favor free coinage, and 52 who refuse to declare themselves. Of the free silver Representatives there are 51 Democrats, 30 Republicans and 7 Populists. Should the uncommitted Representatives all vote for free coinage, there will still be a majority against it of 76. All the more necessity for harder work if the poll be a true one.

MORE OF THE SAME SORT.

It is reported on good authority from Washington that the President and the Secretary of the Treasury are thinking about putting a tax of a dollar a barrel on beer and a stamp tax on bank checks as a means of replenishing the vacuum in the Treasury which has been produced since Mr. Cleveland took office.

No doubt the money can be raised in this way; but it is worth noticing that this measure is in line with everything that they have done concerning the revenue during the past three years. The Democratic platform of 1892 laid down the law when it declared that "the Federal Government has no constitutional power to impose and collect tariff duties, except for the purpose of revenue only." On this platform Mr. Cleveland accepted the nomination, made the canvass, and was elected, Mr. Carlisle keeping with him through the whole transaction.

But after the election, neither Cleveland nor Carlisle has ever proposed or endeavored to procure a tariff for revenue only. Instead of that, Congress enacted a tariff for protection. Mr. Cleveland approved it, and it has produced a deficit; and now continuing in the same course of ignoring the Democratic platform and trampling upon its great principle of raising revenue, they are going to tax beer and bank checks to make up the necessary sum that would have been furnished by the tariff had they made one according to the platform they were bound by.

A worse case of political false pretence and of humbug practiced upon the voters by the highest leaders of a party is not recorded among all the tricks and humbugs of the lowest and basest politics.—N. Y. Sun.

A correspondent of The Pall Mall Gazette gives an account of the trial of the Chinese suspected of implication in the massacre of the missionaries at Ku Cheng recently. The witnesses would be brought into the court room one by one. They were always handcuffed, and would invariably open the proceeding by swearing that they knew nothing of the matter whatever. No sooner was this testimony delivered, than at a signal from the judges, the prisoner would be seized by the soldiers in attendance and put to torture. The man would be compelled to kneel with his bare knees on a coil of chains. Then a pole would be laid across the calves of his legs and a heavy man would get on each end of the pole and press the poor fellow's legs down into the chains. Nothing would be accepted as evidence except a confession of guilt, and if the man was somewhat stubborn at first, it did not generally take a great while to force him to a conclusion that it would be a good idea to confess guilt, whether he was guilty or not. The foreigners in attendance on the investigation, protested against these methods, and instead of in open court, the prisoner was thereafter taken to a private room. If, however, he should deny what had been extorted out of him after being brought before the judges again, he was at once threatened with another taste of the chains. This is the way the Chinese prove anything they want proved.

THE SENATE SILVER MEN.

It is the avowed purpose of the senators who are in favor of free coinage to reorganize the senate in accordance with that policy. A very prominent silver senator says that there will be a strong effort made to bring the free coinage men of all parties into caucus together for the purpose of arranging for the reorganization of the senate as against the goldbugs.

The same authority says that there are enough free coinage men in the senate to accomplish this result with several to spare. The Washington Post, which chronicles the foregoing information, says that hardly anything will prevent this but the promise of the eastern republicans to take their nominee for the vice presidency from the silver states. Of course he will have to be a dyed-in-the-wool free coinage man.

The free coinage men have a considerable majority in the senate, and if they cannot accomplish any positive legislation they can at least block and shelve any bill that has for its purpose the perpetuation of the single gold standard.

So far as the house is concerned the republicans will be in a very ticklish position so far as the silver question is concerned. They will have to go on record one way or another, unless the Reed rules are employed to stifle the matter, and this will not be at all agreeable.

The Mormons intend to hold on to Utah. A majority of the candidates nominated by both parties to hold the first offices in the new State of Utah are Mormons. Both the Republican and Democratic candidates for Governor are members of the Church of Latter-Day Saints, while the Democrat's candidate has been a missionary of that church to the Sandwich Islands, and for years has been high in its councils. Both of the Senators from the new State will probably be Mormons.

Tom Watson, the red-headed and redmouthed Georgian who has been twice defeated for a seat in the Fifty-fourth Congress by Maj. Black, announces himself a candidate for re-defeat in 1896. Meantime he proposes to amuse himself contesting Maj. Black's last election. Watson is no Solomon, but he is as game a cock as was ever gaffed, though his courage is largely in excess of his discretion.—Times.

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When Hayti was a Spanish possession Spain exterminated the native population and reduced the country to a waste. If means are not taken to put a stop to the ravagement of Cuba by Spain, the story of Hayti may be repeated in the unhappy island which lies adjacent to it. Rather than continue to bear the Spanish yoke, the Cuban patriots say they would perish amid the ruins of their beautiful native land.

Mr. Stevenson's views on the silver question would make interesting reading.

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