

THEY WANT SILVER.

An Urgent Appeal from the Miners of Montana.

The Agricultural Classes Are Warned of the Depreciation of Their Products—The History of Silver Legislation.

The leading citizens of Butte, Mont., held a mass meeting on the evening of July 22, to discuss the silver question. Prominent free coinage advocates were present and addressed the assemblage, and the following address, prepared by the Free Coinage association, was unanimously adopted:

The citizens of the state of Montana, in sending forth to their fellow-citizens throughout the union this appeal against what they sincerely believe to be an existing wrong of cruel proportions, and for a redress of that wrong, desire first to extend the assurance to all who may differ from them in opinion that, despite the disastrous conditions which at this moment surround them; despite the fact that many of their mines and mills and smelters are now idle and labor unemployed notwithstanding that their products in value have not been largely decreased, their credit greatly improved, they are to-day, as they have ever been in the past, loyal citizens of the republic, devoted to its institutions, obedient to its laws, loving and cherishing its traditions and history, and proud of its magnificent achievements.

"We assert with all sincerity that although it directly and most injuriously affects one of our principal industries, and one that has formed in a great part the basis of our prosperity, we yet would not advocate the full recognition and restoration of silver money, did we not solemnly believe that such a policy would redound to the happiness and welfare of the great mass of producers and toilers of the land, and to the increased prosperity of the nation. We place our demand for the free coinage of silver at the ratio of sixteen to one of gold, and its full equipment with all money functions equally with gold, upon the simple plan of justice. In support of the plan we assert, and to this assertion we challenge contradiction, that for centuries, and before legislation undertook to control and direct its action and movement, silver maintained its parity with gold with slight variation, and despite the wide divergence in the ratio of production which frequently existed.

In 1816 England demonetized silver. She was even then the creditor nation of the world, and her financiers foresaw that this policy would enhance the value of gold and render it harder for other nations to pay her what they owed. For nearly sixty years thereafter France, the Latin Union and the United States maintained the parity of the two metals. In 1871 Germany, flushed with her victory over France and her treasury filled with France's ransom of \$1,000,000,000 in gold, determined to demonetize silver.

Uncle Sam Demonetizes Silver.
In 1873 the United States, the greatest producer of silver of all the nations, following the course marked out by Germany, struck the silver dollar from our coinage laws. In 1875, the Latin Union, deprived of the support of the United States and Germany, stopped the coinage of silver. In 1892 Austria abandoned silver and is striving unsuccessfully to get upon a gold basis. Within the past month England, taking advantage of the depression existing all over the world, has struck silver a last savage blow by closing the mints of India to the coinage of a scarcity of gold.

Sherman Law Wrong in Principle.

"We contend that the Sherman law is wrong in principle, because it degrades silver into a mere commodity to be bartered about by unprincipled speculators. At the same time the treasury notes issued under the provisions of that law have been of inestimable benefit in increasing the circulation at a critical time and thus preventing disaster.

"To repeat this law unconditionally would be to destroy silver forever, and would be playing directly into the hands of the advocates of a single gold standard, and a contracted currency. It would be the cruelest blow ever struck at the rights of the great mass of the people, and particularly at the debtor class, for it would enormously increase the purchasing power of gold, and correspondingly lower the value of silver, and every other form of property. The Sherman law was never favored by the advocates of free silver currency, but, bad as it is, it is now all that remains between the desires of the gold standard men and the consummation of their selfish ends, and must be retained in the interest of the common people until something better is conceded in its stead.

Favor Both Gold and Silver.
We are in favor of both gold and silver as money to be coined upon equal terms at the ratio of 16 to 1. This is the money which the fathers of the republic bequeathed to us. It is the money of the constitution. For eighty years we thrived and prospered with this currency. It was destroyed at the dictation of England and Germany through their agents in this country and in the interests of the creditor class, those with fixed incomes and annuities. We now demand that it be restored again to the nation where the fathers left it, in the interest of the people.

"The constantly repeated charge that the silver dollar is a cheap dollar is manifestly illogical and absurd as to render it worthy of notice among intelligent people. There are as cheap dollars. A silver dollar will purchase as much as a gold dollar or any other kind of a dollar. Equally untrue is the statement that the government has lost money upon its silver purchases, because of the depreciation in its price. The facts are that the government has made a profit amounting to more than \$100,000,000 on its silver purchases under the Bland and Sherman laws, being the difference between the market and coining value. And this profit has gone to the credit of the people because the government has paid its current expenses and obligations out of its silver, either of itself or by its paper representatives, in circulation to-day, bearing the burdens of trade, performing the functions of money, while the gold is locked up in the vaults of the money kings. It is gold that is hoarded, not silver.

Great Britain Blamed.
"We are filled with a great and just indignation at our country, of which we are so proud, strong in its credit and wonderful beyond expression in its rich and varied resources, is yet so weak and unsettled in its financial system that England can in a day, by the dishonest manipulation of the currency of far-off India, bring upon the people of free America a panic which, in the moment's warning, transforms hope and prosperity into communities of comparative paupers. Such a condition is humiliating beyond words to describe. It is destructive to the pride and faith of the loyal citizens we have so long and dearly cherished in our government. We warn those in this country who are waging this unjustifiable war on silver as money that they are casting a boomerang which will return to crush them. They may destroy the property of a great and growing section of our country and bring poverty and suffering upon some millions of their fellow citizens, but the return tide will carry with it hundreds of millions of securities in the form of railroads, state, county, and municipal bonds, made worthless by their narrow policy and selfish aims. The signs are not wanting to prove the truth of this assertion, even thus early, and, unless the gold contractors are defeated in the coming session of congress, we believe that within a year there will not be a railroad west of the Missouri river that will not be in the hands of a receiver.

Last Appeal for Silver.
"We have recently had occasion to wear a boot of which the 'wamp' or cut-front section consists entirely of flexus fibra, and have purposely submitted it to somewhat undue strain, in spite of which no cracking of the material was perceived, while the sense of comfort to the foot was very evident. Flexus fibra, being a material of vegetable origin, is calculated also to facilitate free ventilation and thereby to obviate the discomfort arising from what is called 'drawing' the feet. Tests with a view to prove its damp-resisting power were made with the material by placing a small section over an open glass tube with true ends, so that on applying pressure at the other end of the tube it was found to be practically air tight. This having been ascertained a little water was placed in the tube resting on the flexus fibra and pressure once more applied. After some time traces of liquid had oozed through; but, of course, this was an exaggerated state of things, and, as a matter of fact, no oozing of water took place at all when it was simply allowed to rest on the material several hours. The structure of flexus fibra is better seen when the oil in it is removed with ether, to which it imparts distinct fluorescence, and when the black dye is washed out (being at the same time changed to red) by hydrochloric acid.—London Lancet.

Sherman Law Not Blamed.
"We denounce as wholly absurd and absolutely false the charge that the Sherman act is responsible for the present financial difficulties which overwhelm the land. We admit that the false cry raised against silver by the gold men at a time when a panic threatened has created a prejudice against the silver among the interested and uninformed, but we emphatically assert that the outflow of gold during the past few days is due solely and only to the fact that the balance of trade has during that period been again nearly \$100,000,000. We say that had there been silver last existence the gold would have left the same. Any child can understand that as gold is the money with which international balances are settled, if we as a nation buy more goods than we sell we must ship out our gold to pay the difference. Australia is passing through a panic that exceeds our own in the depression of values and the amount of insolvency, but Australia has no Sherman law. To what then are the financial difficulties in that continent to be ascribed?

Cost in Producing Silver.
"We deny as wholly unfounded the statement so often made that silver can be produced at 40 cents or less an ounce. Such assertions prove nothing except the ignorance of the persons making them. We make the statement, based upon practical knowledge acquired in gold and silver mining over a period of many years, that every ounce of silver produced in the United States does not cost more than \$1.29 per ounce. To associate this statement one must have lived in mining communities. He must have seen the numberless shafts sunk upon uncounted hills, in which never an ounce of payable mineral has been discovered. He must

have been familiar with the thousands of hardy prospectors who have devoted a lifetime to the search for the precious metal and who have finally succeeded, and those who have unsuccess-fully, their search unwarded. He has witnessed the organization of scores of great companies whose aggregated capital runs into the hundreds of millions, and which started out with bright prospects only to wind up in bankruptcy. But if the cost of production is to be the gauge of value, then silver has nothing to fear from gold, for silver costs far more to produce than is indicated by the established rates between gold and silver. Gold mining in the main, and generally speaking does not build up a country or develop its resources to any great extent. The production of gold requires comparatively cheap and simple processes, which the world over are well known. As to the amount of labor and capital required. On the other hand, silver mining has become an established industry, its production has developed and people a vast area of country comprising whole states. It is permanent in character, it requires skilled labor and vast outlays of capital to successfully engage in it. The processes of extraction and reduction of ores are costly and difficult. It calls into existence communities, makes towns, cities and even states, sustains millions of people, gives traffic to railroads and pours a stream of pure wealth into the channels of commerce, without suffering and untroubled by greed. We therefore maintain that the only way to ascertain the true value of the combined both metals is to balance the total value of all the time and labor employed in producing them against the total value of the combined product. And we see that on such a basis every ounce of silver, as well as every ounce of gold, costs more than its statutory value, and that these pursuits are largely followed on account of the prizes and hazards of fortune, which are so captivating to the disposition of mankind. We also say further, that if the flat value was taken from gold, it would be worth but little more as a commodity than silver.

PREPARED FOR WAR.

How the Nations of Europe Reached the Limit of Endurance.

What a wonderful spectacle it is that Europe now presents! Her population claims a sort of monopoly in civilization, yet outside of England every nation has reached the limit of its endurance in preparing for war, which nevertheless does not arrive. The surplus energy and money of the whole continent is devoted to keeping up a security which is nowhere felt to be quite sufficient, yet is nowhere overtly threatened—which, indeed, is guaranteed by profuse professions of peaceful intentions.

The work of civilization goes on, every day records some advance in science or in human comfort, the toilers are daily exerting themselves to secure more leisure, better housing and pleasanter food, and yet the nations with one consent are converting themselves into food for powder. It is as if the professor and the merchant and the laborer, while strenuously going on with their business and eager to derive more comfort from it, were all agreed that they must sleep in plate armor. It would be almost comic, were it not so terrible, and as yet there is not a sign that we are arriving at the end of the situation. People say it must end some day, but it has gone on getting worse for twenty years; and though it cannot get worse still, because men and money are alike exhausted, there is no proof that it will not last for twenty years further.

"To repeat this law unconditionally would be to destroy silver forever, and would be playing directly into the hands of the advocates of a single gold standard, and a contracted currency. It would be the cruelest blow ever struck at the rights of the great mass of the people, and particularly at the debtor class, for it would enormously increase the purchasing power of gold, and correspondingly lower the value of silver, and every other form of property. The Sherman law was never favored by the advocates of free silver currency, but, bad as it is, it is now all that remains between the desires of the gold standard men and the consummation of their selfish ends, and must be retained in the interest of the common people until something better is conceded in its stead.

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INDIANA STATE NEWS.

UNKNOWN attempted to assassinate Rufus Rice, a wealthy citizen of Hebron, as he was sitting in his house reading. The shot killed a dog back of its master.

WHILE R. D. Horton and wife were driving to their farm, northwest of Tipton, the team ran away, upsetting the wagon and instantly killing Mr. Horton. Mrs. Horton was seriously injured, and it is believed that she will recover. They had but recently removed there from the eastern part of the state.

THE city council of Winchester has passed an ordinance raising the saloon license to the full limit, \$350.

EVIN MILLARD GOBIN, youngest son of Dr. Gobin, of the faculty of De Pauw university, died at Terre Haute the other night.

JOHN McCARTY, a farmer, aged 87 years, fell from a fence near Tipton the other evening and was killed. He came there when the country was inhabited by Indians, and was the first white settler in the county.

WEALTHY WASHINGTON SALISBURY was found dead on the street in Brazil.

MOLLIE MORGAN took morphine at Brazil, but got over it. Lover the cause.

LILLIE MAY SEDAU, colored, was found in her house at Indianapolis, with a bullet wound in her bowels. All she said was: "Mamma, I've been shot."

THE gas well being drilled near Farm-land by a stock company of farmers, was shot the other day, and the output is estimated at three million cubic feet daily. Several other wells will be put down in that locality immediately.

MRS. HARRY MENTZGER, of North Manchester, was probably fatally injured by being thrown from a buggy in which she was riding with her husband. Mrs. Mentzger tried to raise her parasol, frightening the horses, which ran away, and she was hurled thirty feet, striking on her head, and sustaining concussion of the brain. She was picked up unconscious, and it is not thought that she will recover.

ELIJAH NICKOLSON committed suicide in a schoolhouse twelve miles south of Marion, by hanging himself from a lamp shelf. He was 80 years old.

BIRD TILLEY, aged 70, a wealthy citizen of Chrisney, died very suddenly just after he had taken dinner. He had been in apparent good health up to the time of his death. He died in his chair at the table, and the family thought he was only asleep.

EX-STATE SENATOR S. DAY died the other evening at his home in New Albany, after suffering four years with a cancer on his face. During his last few months he suffered greatly, his entire lower jaw having been eaten away. Mr. Day was 51 years old and had always resided at New Albany. He was superintendent of the Monon system from 1868 to 1874, retiring in his stead.

THE state convention of the colored Baptists met in Crawfordsville a few days ago. There were forty delegates present, and Rev. J. R. Miller, of Crawfordsville, was chosen president; Rev. A. W. Jordan, of Lafayette, secretary; Miss Eugenie Rollins, of Vincennes, assistant secretary; and George Oliver, of Crawfordsville, treasurer.