

UNIFORMITY OF RATIO.

The Plea of a Leading Economist for a Universal Bimetallic Standard.

Speaking of the Mansion house conference, you recently said:

"More confidence might, perhaps, be felt in the maintenance of a ratio by agreement if bimetallicists would design to tell us what ratio they would fix if they had their way. But it is at this point that the courage of bimetallicists fails them. One and all they shrink from giving the smallest indication of what they think the ratio ought to be."

I beg your leave to reply:

Either it will be stipulated that silver is to be universal money and that gold is to be money in Europe and the United States at the ratio of 1 to 15½ of silver, or nothing will be stipulated.

Why? Because if, for the 15½ ratio, a ratio more favorable to gold were substituted, France would either have to melt down her gold francs in order to create lighter ones, or to melt down her silver francs in order to create heavier ones. I am about to demonstrate that France cannot and should not engage to melt down either her gold francs or her silver francs.

Two hundred silver francs (9-10 fine) weigh one kilogramme (40 pieces of 5 francs). Three thousand, one hundred gold francs (9-10 fine) also weigh one kilogramme (155 pieces of 20 francs). These 200 francs in silver and these 3,100 francs in gold exhibit the old 1 to 15½ ratio, constituted by free bimetallic coining prior to 1873.

Suppose that, according to what is proposed in several quarters, France agreed to adopt, as international ratio between silver and gold, the 1 to 25 ratio in lieu of her old 1 to 15½ ratio.

If France were to set about this change by creating gold francs of less weight than the present franc she would have to cut up the kilogramme of gold no longer into 155 pieces but into 250 pieces, each to be current as 20 francs, although lighter. There would then be 5,000 gold francs confronting 200 silver francs; for 6,000 is to 200 as 25 to 1. He who now possesses 3,100 gold francs would find himself possessing 5,000. He would melt down the 155 pieces and would present his ingot to the mint, which would give it back to him cut up into 250 pieces of 20 francs each (5,000 francs). He would so gain 1,900 francs, or 62 per cent. This is absurd, ridiculous, inadmissible.

But if, to realize the ratio of 1 to 25, France, instead of altering the gold francs, called in the silver francs and created the heavier ones, what would happen? The kilogramme of silver would have to be cut up, no longer into 200 francs, but only into 124 francs; for 3,100 francs gold are to 124 francs silver as 25 to 1. A loss of 76 francs, or 38 per cent. This loss would have to be borne, not by the holders, but by the government. In exchange for every milliard of francs withdrawn from circulation the French treasury would have to deliver fresh milliard in silver pieces at the increased weight of 38 per cent., or else in gold francs. A loss of 380,000,000 of francs on every milliard.

It is true that the 5-franc pieces, since 1873, have been metallic assignates, just like all the silver pieces existing in Europe and in the United States, and just like rupees since the free coining of silver was prohibited in India. But the gold francs are so plentiful that they are not at a premium on the silver francs. If England declines bimetallism at 15½, France will have to keep to the status quo. She will wait.

The disappearance of the French bimetallic par in 1873 has had two consequences. 1. Frequent and violent fluctuations in the rate of exchange between the countries coining only gold, on the one hand, and on the other hand the silver monometallic countries. 2. A heavy fall in the rate of exchange.

Fluctuations in the rate of exchange would cease of course if any ratio (10, 15, 20, 25) were fixed by the great metallic powers. But the incommensurable evil which the heavy fall in that exchange has caused and is causing cannot cease except by the revival of the 15½ ratio. If the ratio 1 to 25 were established by an international convention it would only confirm that evil, consecrating and maintaining it for ever. The Indian treasury, which has already in twenty years expended a thousand million rupees, taken from Indian tax-payers, to meet the losses on the exchange between the rupee and the sovereign since the fall of the rupee below 2 shillings in 1873, would find itself doomed every year to obtain by taxes or loans about one hundred and fifty millions of rupees, if, instead of the 15½ ratio, 1 to 25 were internationally adopted as the new ratio. The losses inflicted by the fall in exchange upon agriculture, commerce, and upon many industries in Europe, but especially in Great Britain, as well as the losses inflicted upon the finances of the silver monometallic states, and upon the creditors of those states, would become chronic, perpetual.

The 15½ ratio was proposed jointly by the government of the United States and of France at the monetary conference held in Paris in 1881. That ratio cannot but suit Germany, for the thaler, which is full legal tender for three marks, is in the 15½ ratio of weight to three gold marks. The Dutch silver florin weighs almost exactly 15½ gold florins. The silver double weighs 15½ gold pesetas. Thus the 15½ ratio suits also Holland, Russia and Spain.

The position of silver in Austria is peculiar. The Austrian florin is too heavy in relation to the newly-coined gold crown. If 15½ became the international ratio Austria would have to convert her florins into silver crowns, weighing 15½ gold crowns. The holders of florins would realize a bonus, but other countries would have nothing to complain of, especially as most of these florins were coined at the time when silver was everywhere 15½ compared to gold.

What about the United States? The silver dollar weighs 412½ grains—that is to say, 16 gold dollars. It is too heavy. It would have to be replaced

by a new dollar weighing 15½ gold dollars—that is to say, 400 grains. This process would afford a profit of nearly three cents per dollar to holders of the silver dollars or their representative silver certificates. Moreover, the federal government, without any expense, would become owner of the balance remaining (the so-called seigniorage) of the silver bought at a low price from July, 1890, to November, 1893. But these profits would not injure Europe; they have been, so to speak, disbursed in advance by the mine-owners who have sold their metal to the government.

As for England, while retaining her gold sovereign and her subsidiary silver coins, she would only have to re-open the Indian mints to the free coining of rupees and to open the London mint to the free coining of a 4-shilling piece containing 350 grains of pure silver, in order to constitute the 15½ ratio of silver with the gold pound.

Were any other power to propose an international ratio more favorable to gold, that proposal should be resisted and defeated by England as most injurious to the interests of the British empire.—Henri Cernuschi, in London Times.

GOLD IN SUPERFLUITY.

The Great Piles of Money That Are Lying Unused in English Banks.

Gold-gluts calculated to make one's mouth water have been known to exist before, but never to the extent of the present one. It is a dream of Midas. The metal is piled up everywhere, useless—except just when it is wanted. The Old Lady of Threadneedle street has thirty-five millions sterling in her pocket, and looks back upon last year, when she was making more profit, in spite of the irregularities of her officers, with twenty-eight millions. Monetarily the world is at a standstill. It is the calm after the storm, the storm being the financial crisis of three years ago.

Once the Barrings were willing to ship all our surplus cash to Argentina, to enable the Spanish-Americans to revel in luxury; the continent, too, was encouraged to look upon Great Britain as a kind of loan office; whilst, indulgent parents that we were, our Australian children had our savings showered upon them that their unemployed might construct useless railways and undertake superfluous public works. Now all this is changed; Argentina is pretending to try to pay us back, and has donned the white sheet of repentance and economy; the countries of the continent turn rather to each other than to us for help in the financial straits in which most of them are wallowing, and as to Australia, she is endeavoring to resuscitate her banks and to retrench. In fact, our debtors in the colonies and abroad are not in a position to ask for money, and we have no inclination to supply them with it. At home the bogus company promoter is being held at bay in a manner he never experienced before, while legitimate trade is not in such an active condition as to make much demand upon the pile of gold which is growing up and has already reached such gigantic proportions.

But this is generalizing. How will the glut affect each individual investor, to whom it is of little importance that there is too much gold, if he is so dissatisfied in his share as to want to make a little more? The answer is simple. Although it has been delayed, and hope deferred has made the heart sick, it is beyond the bounds of doubt that a recovery in those securities which are now under a cloud of depression must sooner or later come. The stream of gold, which is now dammed up, will break the barrier and will overflow into those channels which are now parched and dry.

It is an unfortunate time for him who seeks absolute safety in his investments, for all absolutely safe securities are too high in value, from consols downwards.

The policy is to spread one's money over a fairly wide area of those securities which are now neglected because they are not absolutely safe, but which will sooner or later be buoyed up by the overflowing of gold into their channels. There are some bargains to be picked up out of the beaten track, amongst, for instance, the little-heard-of prior securities of some industrial concerns. A glance through the stock exchange list will show many which are yielding a rate of interest quite high enough, even considering the risk which attaches to such securities.

Within a short two or three weeks, we who hold railway stock will be on the tip-toe of expectation as to our dividends. There is more to fear than to hope. Most of the railways show some increase in their traffic receipts this half-year, but this is due more to the conveyance of goods than of passengers, which interpreted means that working expenses will be higher. Every extra ton of goods that is carried brings with it its own expense, whereas a full passenger train costs no more to run than an empty one. This being so, net receipts will be very little larger than at this time last year; and taking into consideration the growth of capital charges, there is not a single individual line of which it can be prophesied that the dividend will be greater than a year ago. Great Westerns and Sheffields will probably show up the best of a poor lot. But it will be a struggle all round to maintain dividends, and some of the lines will prove unequal to the struggle.—Pall Mall Budget.

Blaine on Silver.

I believe gold and silver coin to be the money of the constitution, which the great organic law recognized as quite independent of its own existence. No power was conferred on congress to declare either metal should not be money; congress has, therefore, in my judgment, no power to demonetize either (silver or gold) any more than it does to demonetize both. If, therefore, silver has been demonetized, I am in favor of remonetizing it. If its coinage has been prohibited, I am in favor of having it resumed.—James G. Blaine, in Texas Siftings.

MIRACLE IN MISSOURI

The Achievements of Medical Science Far More Wonderful Than the Magic of the East.

The Remarkable Experience of Post Master Woodson, of Panama, Mo.—For Ten Years a Cripple—To-Day a Well and Hearty Man.

(From the Kansas City Times.)

The people of Rich Hill, Mo., and vicinity, have recently been startled by a seeming miracle of healing. For years one of the best known men in Bates and Vernon counties has been Mark M. Woodson, now postmaster at Panama, and brother of ex-State Inspector of Mines C. C. Woodson, of this city. The people of Rich Hill, where he formerly resided, and of his present home, remember well the bent form, misshapen almost from the semblance of man, which had painfully bowed its head half to earth and labored small-like across the walk season after season, and when one day last month it straightened to its full height, threw away the heavy butt of cane which for years had been its only support from total helplessness, and walked erect, firmly, unhesitatingly about the two cities, people looked and wondered. The story of the remarkable case has become the marvel of the two counties. Exactly as Mr. Woodson told it to a *Times* reporter, it is here published:

"For ten years I have suffered the torments of the damned and have been a useless invalid; to-day I am a well and a hearty man free from almost every touch of pain. I don't think man ever suffered more acute and constant agony than I have since 1884. The rheumatism started then in my right knee, and after weeks of suffering in bed I was at last relieved sufficiently to arise, but it was only to get about on crutches for five years, the ailment having settled in the joint. Despite constant treatment of the most eminent physicians, the rheumatism grew worse, and for the last four years I have been compelled to go about bent half toward the ground. In the winter of 1890-91, after the rheumatism had settled into its most chronic form, I went to Kansas City upon advice of my brother, and for six weeks I was treated in one of the largest and best known dispensaries of that city, but without the slightest improvement. Before I came home I secured a strong galvanic battery, this I used for months with the same result. In August, 1892, I went to Kansas City, where I was relieved of my pain, and was soon able to walk without a cane. I was able to attend to the duties of my office, to get about as a well and strong man. I was free from pain and I could enjoy a sound and restful night's sleep, something I had not known for ten years. To-day am practically, I firmly believe, permanently cured of my terrible and agonizing ailment. No magician of the Far East ever wrought the miracle with his wand that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills did for me."

To verify the story beyond all question of doubt Mr. Woodson made the following affidavit:

STATE OF MISSOURI, *ss.*
COUNTY OF BATES, *ss.*
I, M. M. Woodson, before duly sworn on oath state that the following statements are true and correct as I verily believe.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3d day of March, 1894.
JOHN D. MOORE, *Notary Public.*

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People are manufactured by the Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Schenectady, N. Y., and are sold only in boxes bearing the firm's trade mark and wrapper, at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50. Bear in mind that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are never sold in bulk or to the doctor or druggist, but to the dealer who offers substitutes in this form is trying to defraud you and should be avoided. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills may be had of all druggists or direct by mail from Dr. Williams' Medicine Co.

To verify the story beyond all question of doubt Mr. Woodson made the following affidavit:

STATE OF MISSOURI, *ss.*
COUNTY OF BATES, *ss.*
I, M. M. Woodson, before duly sworn on oath state that the following statements are true and correct as I verily believe.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3d day of March, 1894.
JOHN D. MOORE, *Notary Public.*

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People are manufactured by the Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Schenectady, N. Y., and are sold only in boxes bearing the firm's trade mark and wrapper, at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50. Bear in mind that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are never sold in bulk or to the doctor or druggist, but to the dealer who offers substitutes in this form is trying to defraud you and should be avoided. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills may be had of all druggists or direct by mail from Dr. Williams' Medicine Co.

To verify the story beyond all question of doubt Mr. Woodson made the following affidavit:

STATE OF MISSOURI, *ss.*
COUNTY OF BATES, *ss.*
I, M. M. Woodson, before duly sworn on oath state that the following statements are true and correct as I verily believe.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3d day of March, 1894.
JOHN D. MOORE, *Notary Public.*

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People are manufactured by the Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Schenectady, N. Y., and are sold only in boxes bearing the firm's trade mark and wrapper, at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50. Bear in mind that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are never sold in bulk or to the doctor or druggist, but to the dealer who offers substitutes in this form is trying to defraud you and should be avoided. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills may be had of all druggists or direct by mail from Dr. Williams' Medicine Co.

To verify the story beyond all question of doubt Mr. Woodson made the following affidavit:

STATE OF MISSOURI, *ss.*
COUNTY OF BATES, *ss.*
I, M. M. Woodson, before duly sworn on oath state that the following statements are true and correct as I verily believe.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3d day of March, 1894.
JOHN D. MOORE, *Notary Public.*

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People are manufactured by the Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Schenectady, N. Y., and are sold only in boxes bearing the firm's trade mark and wrapper, at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50. Bear in mind that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are never sold in bulk or to the doctor or druggist, but to the dealer who offers substitutes in this form is trying to defraud you and should be avoided. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills may be had of all druggists or direct by mail from Dr. Williams' Medicine Co.

To verify the story beyond all question of doubt Mr. Woodson made the following affidavit:

STATE OF MISSOURI, *ss.*
COUNTY OF BATES, *ss.*
I, M. M. Woodson, before duly sworn on oath state that the following statements are true and correct as I verily believe.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3d day of March, 1894.
JOHN D. MOORE, *Notary Public.*

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People are manufactured by the Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Schenectady, N. Y., and are sold only in boxes bearing the firm's trade mark and wrapper, at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50. Bear in mind that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are never sold in bulk or to the doctor or druggist, but to the dealer who offers substitutes in this form is trying to defraud you and should be avoided. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills may be had of all druggists or direct by mail from Dr. Williams' Medicine Co.

To verify the story beyond all question of doubt Mr. Woodson made the following affidavit:

STATE OF MISSOURI, *ss.*
COUNTY OF BATES, *ss.*
I, M. M. Woodson, before duly sworn on oath state that the following statements are true and correct as I verily believe.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3d day of March, 1894.
JOHN D. MOORE, *Notary Public.*

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People are manufactured by the Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Schenectady, N. Y., and are sold only in boxes bearing the firm's trade mark and wrapper, at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50. Bear in mind that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are never sold in bulk or to the doctor or druggist, but to the dealer who offers substitutes in this form is trying to defraud you and should be avoided. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills may be had of all druggists or direct by mail from Dr. Williams' Medicine Co.

To verify the story beyond all question of doubt Mr. Woodson made the following affidavit:

STATE OF MISSOURI, *ss.*
COUNTY OF BATES, *ss.*
I, M. M. Woodson, before duly sworn on oath state that the following statements are true and correct as I verily believe.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3d day of March, 1894.
JOHN D. MOORE, *Notary Public.*

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People are manufactured by the Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Schenectady, N. Y., and are sold only in boxes bearing the firm's trade mark and wrapper, at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50. Bear in mind that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are never sold in bulk or to the doctor or druggist, but to the dealer who offers substitutes in this form is trying to defraud you and should be avoided. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills may be had of all druggists or direct by mail from Dr. Williams' Medicine Co.

To verify the story beyond all question of doubt Mr. Woodson made the following affidavit:

STATE OF MISSOURI, *ss.*
COUNTY OF BATES, *ss.*
I, M. M. Woodson, before duly sworn on oath state that the following statements are true and correct as I verily believe.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3d day of March, 1894.
JOHN D. MOORE, *Notary Public.*

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People are manufactured by the Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Schenectady, N. Y., and are sold only in boxes bearing the firm's trade mark and wrapper, at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50. Bear in mind that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are never sold in bulk or to the doctor or druggist, but to the dealer who offers substitutes in this form is trying to defraud you and should be avoided. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills may be had of all druggists or direct by mail from Dr. Williams' Medicine Co.

To verify the story beyond all question of doubt Mr. Woodson made the following affidavit:

STATE OF MISSOURI, *ss.*
COUNTY OF BATES, *ss.*
I, M. M. Woodson, before duly sworn on oath state that the following statements are true and correct as I verily believe.