

ON CURRENT TOPICS.

THE "SOUND" MONEY ADVOCATES ARE SCARED.

"Iron in the Hands of Kings and Princes"—The Railroad Corporations Have No Use for Populists—Keep 'Em on the Run.

It seems to be a well settled question now that the currency problem will be the leading issue in the campaign of 1896. The labor and reform element in the country have been pushing this question forward for years, but have always been told that the tariff question was the paramount issue. While the people have been misled in this way and fighting each other over a sham issue, the money powers of this country and Europe have been preparing for a struggle which they cannot put off any longer. The *Globe-Democrat*, the leading Republican paper of the Mississippi valley, commenting on the situation, says:

"The finance question will undoubtedly be the chief issue in 1896. It far exceeds the tariff or any other question in importance. A campaign of education on this issue is urgently demanded. The popular ignorance on this vital subject is dense, particularly in the west and south. Demagogues like those who founded the Greenback party and like those who are at the head of the Populists and of their annex, the new silver party, play upon this ignorance for their own selfish purposes. Thus panics are brought about, millions of persons are thrown out of employment, and the country suffers for years. The remedy for this sort of things is correct information. This the New York Reform club is furnishing. The sound money cause would be invincible if the people had a little elementary knowledge of financial subjects. It is neither dishonesty nor malignity that impels men to clamor for the unrestricted coinage of 46-cent dollars or the unlimited issue of inconvertible government paper, but merely ignorance of the rudimentary principles of finance, and the newspapers and other agencies which are in a position to dispel this ignorance ought to begin the work at once."

In the meantime the people are being educated on the "sound money" doctrine through a series of object lessons that are much more impressive than the literature which the New York Reform club is sending out. Forty-cent wheat and 4-cent cotton to make our money "sound" in Europe may tickle the fancy of bankers, but it is not a condition which the producers in this country will exert themselves to any great extent to perpetuate.

In Europe they have not got over the idea that kings rule by "divine right," yet either to avoid troubling divinity or to assist him in preserving a balance in human affairs, they keep large standing armies. Recently the army in Prussia celebrated Prince Bismarck's birthday, at which the emperor was present. The following extract from the speech of the emperor would more fittingly come from the lips of a cannibal than the ruler of a great nation. In presenting Bismarck a sword he said:

"Your serene highness sees in the spirit behind this band the whole band in battle array who celebrate the day with us. In the presence of this band I come to hand you a gift. I could not find a better weapon than the sword, the noblest weapon of the Germans, symbol of that instrument which you and my blessed grandfather helped to forge, sharpen and wield—symbol of the great building time during which mortar was blood. Iron is a remedy which never fails, and which, in the hands of kings and princes, will, in case of need, preserve unity in the interior of the fatherland, even as, when applied outside the country, it led to internal union. You see engraved on the sword the arms of the Reichslands, and your own. May your serene highness look upon this as token of gratitude for deeds recorded in history, which were brought to a conclusion twenty-five years ago."

"Let us, comrades, shout hurrah for our serene highness, Prince Bismarck."

This speech is a declaration that all you have to do is to put plenty of "iron in the hands of kings and princes" and they will have peace if they have to fight for it.

There is no denying the fact that the corporations are doing everything they can to disrupt the People's party. If there was no further evidence that the Populists are right than this fact alone, it would be sufficient. We give below an affidavit from an old Missouri boy which is only one of many that might be obtained of railroad discrimination against employees who were Populists:

"State of California,
County of Alameda, s.s.

"C. E. Gardner, of lawful age, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

"I have been in the employ of the Southern Pacific Railroad company, in W. B. Ludlow's department, since July 26, 1894. Shortly before the defeat of the Reilly Funding bill Mr. Ludlow secured the addresses of all his employees in their own handwriting. There-

morning, February 12, 1895, I secured a lay off for a few days. Tuesday morning, February 19, 1895, a man calling himself Kidney called at my residence, 951 Cypress street, Oakland, and inquired of my wife if I was the C. E. Gardner who presided at the People's party mass meeting at the Tabernacle Monday night. My wife answered him in the affirmative. He then told her to tell me at Mr. Ludlow's office, West Oakland, on Wednesday morning. I did so, and after telling Mr. Ludlow the position I occupied in the People's party, was informed by him that I could not engage in politics and work for the Southern Pacific company. I then told Mr. Ludlow that I was a member of the People's party campaign committee, also of the auditing committee, and that I proposed to exercise my right of citizenship. He then informed me that I could get my time. I did so and received my discharge.

"C. E. GARDNER.
"Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20th day of February, 1895.
(Seal.)

"R. B. MEYERS,
"Notary public in and for Alameda county, state of California."

It is a notable fact, however, that such discriminations are opening the people's eyes, and in the very county where Mr. Gardner lives, in the city of Oakland, the Populists defeated both old parties combined, with all the railroad influence, by about 800 majority. "The mills of the gods grind slowly," but they do grind.

Deaf Phenomena.

In showing how one sense is sharpened to supply the loss of another, Dr. S. Millington Miller writes that Alexander Hunter, of the land office at Washington, though entirely deaf, spelled without mistake 150 words read to him from the dictionary. He had become able to read the motion of the lips of those addressing him. This faculty is not rare among the deaf, and by means of it, some of them, like Mitchell, the chemist of the United States patent office, have been able to understand the lectures necessary for their graduation at college.

The School House Must Go. If we are to judge by the trend of sentiment among those who arrogate themselves the power to govern in this country it is only a question of time when the schoolhouse or the free-school system must go.

Only recently a judge in passing sentence on some laborers for violating the orders of the court gave one man three months extra time, for, as the judge said, "he is more intelligent and therefore more dangerous."

Only a few years ago the chancellor of the Kansas university was removed because of his advanced views on economic questions.

Prof. Bemis of the Chicago university was compelled to resign recently

because of his outspoken opinions and his tendency toward socialism.

Only a year or so ago the present governor of Alabama—by fraud and ballot-box stealing—declared in substance that it was not necessary to educate the farmers' sons and daughters.

The aristocracy that has grown up in this country realize that the systems that sustain the social conditions now extant must necessarily be at war with intelligence and freedom of thought and hence we see the unmistakable outcroppings of what will eventually terminate in the abolition of our free-school system, with the higher institutions of learning in the hands of men who will be as clay in the hands of the potter—teaching whatever their plutocratic masters may dictate.

There may be those who will pooh-pooh this idea, but as surely as day follows night will this result follow if the American people do not arouse from their lethargy.

Slavery and intelligence cannot go together. The old slave oligarchy fully realized this when it was made a crime to teach a slave to read.

A nation or people do not lose their liberties in a day. It is little by little—the giving by degrees their rights to the power encroaching upon them—that as stealthily does its work as the snake that crawls upon its victim.

The American people are submitting to conditions and wrongs heaped upon them that would not have been endured ten years ago, and it is because they have been brought upon us so gradually that we have come to accept them as a natural consequence, and, while the burdens are increasing, the people seem to be so benumbed as to have almost reached the point where they are unable to resist the encroachments upon them.

We verily believe that the American people are menaced with more danger than ever before since the founding of the republic.

Searchlight's Flashes.

Honest men do not leave their parties. Their parties leave them.

On every American coin should be stamped "In trusts we trust."

There is good authority for saying that the race isn't always to the swift. Mr. Swift.

Constant reader is hereby informed that George M. Pullman will not vote the People's Party ticket.

Protection and free trade alike mean that the thousands shall be poor that the hundreds may grow richer.

Vote the People's Party ticket and government of the boodlers by the boodlers and for the boodle will vanish from the earth.

If the embargo on the American hog could only be extended to the hogfish trusts and combinations it wouldn't be an unmixed evil.

The boodlers claim to have a "graft" on the two old parties. Show by your ballots that the two old parties have not a "graft" on the people.

At a recent costume party attended by the elite society of Washington the servants were dressed to represent slaves. Is there any significance in this?

It should be looked after that every Populist takes one or more Populist papers, and after reading them on his neighbor who is "on the fence" or disgusted with his party.

The Populist members of the Washington legislature issued an address advising their constituents to stand by the Omaha platform, and not to "change horses while crossing the stream."

An Indiana judge decided that corporations have the right under the law to discharge employees who belong to labor unions. This ought to be a pointer—not only to labor unionists, but laboringmen generally. The court holds that "under the law" corporations have the right to discharge employees who belong to labor unions. Laws are made by legislation, are they not? Who make legislators to make legislation to make laws? Why, laboring people, of course. What should workingmen do to undo such laws and prevent decisions of this kind? Ah, cease pleading like cravens and be men! Exercise your rights as American freemen and by your votes make such unjust and arbitrary decisions impossible.

A crown that is said to have cost \$40,000 was George Gould's wedding present to his sister Anna. It is said that Anna and her late purchase will reside in this country. Of what use will a crown be to her? Why such regal adornment? Does it foreshadow what plutocracy is looking forward to in this country—a government under a crowned head? Why all this aping of worthless royalty and the nobility of Europe if in the end it does not mean something?

There is nothing surer than the fact that millionairism in this country with its despotic shoddy airs is wearying of our republican form of government and is anxiously looking to the time when it will give place to a more aristocratic and despotic form.

The man who cannot see this in the signs of the times is blind indeed and has made very little use of his opportunities for observation.

The Maxim Gun.

It is suggested that the machine gun, if certain economical considerations could be adjusted, would find a valuable place among the useful arts of peace. As a feller of trees there is no agency in the world like it. Admiral Sir Edmund Commerell, in alluding recently to the superiority in workmanship and effectiveness of the Maxim gun said that a .303 Maxim was capable of cutting down a tree seventeen inches in diameter in a quarter of a minute. He would not only defy any other gun to do this, but he would give any battalion in her majesty's service five hours' firing as much as they liked, at whatever range they pleased, and they would not be the same thing.

S. S. Hale, champion of Missouri, defeated Tom Marshall of Keokuk, Iowa, 70 to 68 in a 75 live bird match for \$100 Thursday. Hale will shoot a 100 bird match against Dr. Carver.

Arthur Clarkson has signed to pitch for St. Louis.

Since Kansas has been "redeemed" the Santa Fe Railway company seems to be again carrying that state around by the tail. In a late published interview the general passenger agent of that company says he distributed 5,000 free passes to the members of the late legislature of that state, their families, and their friends.

How is that for "redeemers?" Kansas was never cursed with a more rotten and corrupt administration than the present one—republican—who boasted of redeeming the state.

The republican house of representatives was so worthless, so faithless to promises, so completely under the power of the corporations and rule of the unscrupulous party bosses as to bring down upon that body the anathemas and condemnation of even stewart republicans. Republican papers and politicians denounce that body in unmeasured terms as being treacherous to the people and unfaithful to the pledges made by the party. And this is the way Kansas was "redeemed from Populist rule!"

"The wicked flee when no man pursueth" is a proverb of the good book that well applies to our eastern millionaires, who are evidently trembling and looking ahead for trouble. The New York legislature has appropriated \$2,000,000 for the construction of armories. It is said that American capitalists have more than \$300,000,000 on deposit in European banks as a matter of safety for fear of trouble here at home. Last winter and the winter before great uneasiness was felt among the dwellers on upper Fifth avenue and Madison street, New York, on account of the great number of destitute and unemployed people in the city and for fear the hungry fellows might break loose many families closed their residences in those fashionable quarters and spent the winter in Europe. Those who remained in the city "received" and "entertained" sparingly for fear of exciting the unemployed. Extra police to the number of 500 at times were employed on Fifth avenue. Several years ago Collis P. Huntington, when asked why he did not erect a palace, replied: "I do not want to be so conspicuous as some of you people when the hungry fellows break loose."

Conscience makes cowards of us all. Millionairism is a growth foreign to the soil of free America, as will be proven in a few years more, and a consciousness of this fact is beginning to dawn upon the minds of some of these shoddy aristocrats and cause them to have the Belshazzar shakings.

The adjournment of congress will be an unmixed blessing. The country is anxious to push forward toward recuperation, and so long as congress was in session nothing could be done for fear of some egregious folly that might retard prosperity.—Chattanooga Times (Pop.-Dem.).

If the people of the United States had a chance to vote on the proposition they would make the 4th of March a national holiday forever, in grateful commemoration of the fact that on the 4th of March, Anno Domini Eighteen Hundred and Ninety-five, the Fifty-third congress passed out of existence.—Courier Journal (Pop.).

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The culminating culpability and reproach of the Fifty-third congress is not that it failed—since that was inevitable—but that it invested that failure, when it might have been pathetic or heroic, with the characteristics of a monumental farce.—Scranton Tribune (Rep.).

It is possible that in the years to come we may have a congress that will be more incompetent and wrong-headed than the Fifty-third, but God save the United States of America if such a dispensation for its sins should befall it.—Buffalo Commercial (Rep.).

The Republican party may have a remedy for hard times, but it doesn't seem to be in a hurry about applying it.

IS ROUNDLY DAMNED.

OPINIONS OF THE FIFTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

The Most Consummate Set of Political Jackasses Ever Convened on the Face of the Earth—Populists and Republicans Condemn Them.

The congress has been a bad failure. There is no room for difference of opinion on that point. Very hard things are said of it, and many of them are deserved. We have no disposition to add to its denunciation. We might single out members who especially deserve reprobation, and there are others who have stood out strongly as statesmen and patriots in the hour of trial. It need not have failed in dealing with the tariff; the responsibility here is with a few men, who refused to subordinate their selfishness to their party's welfare. It was a foredoomed failure in treating the currency.—Boston Herald (Rep.).

With a legacy of Republican misrule confronting it at the very start it was the duty of the Fifty-third congress by wise statesmanship to increase the revenues, restore financial confidence, decrease expenditures and enlarge rather than restrict the markets for American products. In all these things it has signally failed, and that in the face of light and knowledge.—Philadelphia Times (Pop.).

The country has been saved from much bad legislation by the confusion in the Democratic ranks. Like the men of Sodom, their eyes seem to have been blinded while they were trying to find the door to Lot's house to bring disaster upon them. Let the Republicans take warning from the great failure. They are better organized and better disciplined.—Minneapolis Journal (Rep.).

In its last hours the Fifty-third congress has more than sustained its evil reputation. A few extravagant jobs escaped, but they are not many. There was very little restraint from any quarter upon the profligate disregard for the condition which was headed was that of the lobby urging greater inroads on the treasury.—Pittsburgh Dispatch (Rep.).

At last the Fifty-third congress has expired by limitation, and it will have no more influence over the business and political situation. It has been unequal to the task of improving those conditions, because it did not appreciate the gravity of the emergency. There has been too much of politics in it and too little of patriotism.—Milwaukee Journal (Pop.).

The Fifty-third congress was elected in hope. It has ended in disappointment. It was confronted with great opportunities. It failed to improve them. The whirlwind of popular wrath which swept away the Democratic majority last fall finds an echo in the sigh of relief that greets its disappearance from the scene.—New York World (Pop.-Dem.).

It has spent more time in actual session than any of its predecessors in recent years. It has been more roundly condemned than any of its predecessors of any period. It has had many and grave faults. But it would be unjust to allude to them without adding that it has shown some striking and sterling virtues.—Kansas City Times (Pop.).

Men say it was the worst congress ever known. At least there is a fair prospect that no other like it will be seen for many years to come. Even the free trade fanatics, with all their want of practical sense, will hardly vote for another such congress as the one which buries itself in dishonor today.—New York Tribune (Rep.).

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