

## ON CURRENT TOPICS.

## WHAT PRESS AND PEOPLE ARE SAYING.

Democrats Want an Extra Session of Congress—Gov. Altgeld Talks—Senator Isham G. Harris on the Situation—Gold Bugs Want Everything.

The gold bugs are leaving nothing undone to check what they call the "silver craze" in the South and West. It is thought now if an extra session of congress is called and the responsibility of the situation thrown on the Republicans it could help their cause. A dispatch from Washington says:

A large percentage of the Democratic party have become convinced of the immediate necessity of an extra session. They urge that it would serve to divert popular attention and cause a temporary cessation of the silver craze and would place the Republicans in the same attitude of incompetency and imbecility as that ascribed to the Democrats of the Fifty-third congress.

It is considered by men of both parties that it will be as impossible for the Republicans to enact financial legislation as the Democrats. The result would be, it is urged, the division of the Republicans into factions which would devour each other. As a consequence, the masses would experience a revulsion of disgust. The Democrats would have nothing to lose and might stand to be greatly benefited by internal dissensions in the ranks of their rivals.

"These arguments, opinions and facts are now, it is said, being daily laid before the president by resident and visiting Democratic leaders, who urge the great party advantage to be gained by calling upon the Fifty-fourth congress to make necessary alterations in the present financial system. They call attention to the situation in New York as a bright and shining illustration of what may be expected when the Republicans come into national control."

It is believed among politicians in this city that the pressure upon the president to call an extra session, will increase rather than diminish. As free silver sentiment spreads, party leaders will become more and more unanimous in pleading with Mr. Cleveland to save the cause by embracing the great opportunity offered of deriving enormous advantage from Republican indifference and indecision."

Governor Altgeld has a way of calling things by the right name in a manner that is refreshing. The Democrats in Chicago recently formed what they called an "Honest Money League." In an interview in which the governor was asked what he thought about it, he said:

"Well, they are apparently starting out under false colors, and evince an intent to deceive, for they know or ought to know that the money system they advocate is the most dishonest and damnable that was ever invented, because it doubled the burdens of the entire producing classes. It broke down the purchasing power of the world and left the laborer without bread because there was no market for his products. These gentlemen also know, or ought to know, that this was done at the instance and for the benefit of the bondholding and salary drawing officials of Europe and the East. Consequently the name 'Honest Money League' must have been adopted because it was calculated to deceive the public. You sometimes see a bank or a store or a restaurant with some high-sounding name over it. Did you ever know one that paid a hundred cents on the dollar, or that gave your money's worth when you ordered apple pie? Now, if these gentlemen were honest in this movement and intended to be candid with the public, they would have called themselves 'The Paralysis, Panic and Poverty Club.' Had they done this we could at least respect them."

"Do you think, governor, that this association will be able to accomplish much?"

"No, not as it is now constituted. Major Hopkins sized it up in a nut-shell when he pointed out the fact that just one-third of them were federal office-holders and the remainder consisted of some bankers, some corporation lawyers, a few business men, and some 'hangers-on.'"

Senator Isham G. Harris, of Tennessee, thinks that neither of the two old parties will be able to organize the United States senate in the Fifty-fourth congress, but that the Populist senators will hold the balance of power. Speaking of the silver question, he says:

"The sentiment in favor of the utilization and the rehabilitation of silver to its position as a money metal and as a money of ultimate redemption; and in connection with gold as the regulator of volume, or amount of that thing called money, is overwhelmingly strong in the South and West, and in my opinion ought to be strong and conclusive everywhere, if people would recognize the undeniable fact that money is purely the creature of law. It is now, always was, and always must be, just what the law of its own country makes it, and when it passes beyond the limits of its own country it is not money, but immediately becomes a commodity, which goes upon the market at its market value just as your bale of cotton, hogheads of tobacco or bushel of wheat goes upon the foreign market at its value."

"To illustrate: Four hundred and twelve and one-half grains of standard silver, coined into a dollar and 25.8 grains of gold coined into a dollar, are legal tender dollars anywhere and everywhere in the United States. Within the boundaries of the United States each of these dollars performs precisely the same functions, each pays exact-

ly the same amount of debt and buys the same amount of property. Under the laws of the United States, certain treasury notes have been made legal tender money, owing to which fact the treasury note will perform every function as money that gold or silver coin can perform; will buy as much or pay as much, dollar for dollar, as any other money in the United States."

"Now here are three kinds of legal tender money in the United States, and under the laws of the United States every dollar of either can and does perform all the functions of legal tender money, or, in other words, each dollar of which, as money, is the exact equal of any other dollar that the laws of the United States have made a legal tender; and, therefore, the idea of talking about the market value, commercial value or intrinsic value of the material of which money is made is simply absurd, and a device—I will not say a contemptible device (though I think it is)—intended simply to complicate the question as far as possible to confuse the public mind."

The present attitude of the goldbugs towards all those who oppose their so-called sound money doctrines reminds us of the story of the mean man who owned a cow in partnership with his brother. The mean man insisted that the hinder half of the cow was his and that the forward part was his brother's, which he was in duty bound to feed and care for. The mean man refused to divide any of the milk, refused to pay for any of the feed, and then sued his brother for damage when the cow hooked him. All the bankers and sound money want is to give them bonds on which to base their banknotes, pay them interest on the bonds, pay interest on their notes, pay interest on the deposits, demand no security from them, and all of their notes that become destroyed to become a clear gain to them. This is the "Sound Money" doctrine that is being preached all over the country."

The plutocrats seem to be getting their eyes open. In the American Banker of March 20, we find the following significant paragraph:

"Of particular interest this week was the arguments made before the United States supreme court in defense of the constitutionality of the income tax. Aside from the purely legal problems which are involved there were utterances made by lawyers of eminence in favor of the tax which were inspired by exaggerated conceptions of the growth and power of revolutionary sentiment in this country. Attorney General Olney intimated that unless the court sustains congress in this case there might come by and by a revolution which would sweep the court as at present organized out of existence, and Mr. Carter, of New York, argued to the effect that the rich men ought to be made to pay a much larger share of their possessions in the way of taxes than the poor, and that a dangerous social uprising might be avoided by enforcing this principle."

That is about the right view of the situation, and coming from such men as Olney and Carter ought to have much weight with those who seem to think that if the law and the courts are on their side they constitute a perfect refuge of safety. The people know that either the court or constitution is wrong and they have a strong suspicion that it is the court, hence as Mr. Olney intimated, there is danger of the people wiping out the court. The court is made by and for the people and the honorable judges don't want to lose sight of this fact."

This so-called international conference is becoming the greatest fraud of the age. There is not much likelihood of there being any international conference, and if there was nothing would be done. England will never consent to silver coinage from the fact she is a creditor nation and wants dear money. De Rothschild made this fact perfectly plain at the last conference at Brussels. Senator Cockrell sized up the situation in pretty good shape in the following words:

"Their desire is to make silver merely a subsidiary currency, redeemable in gold. In fact, they want everything under the sun redeemable in gold. The gold of the world is held by a syndicate of bankers, and the elevation of the gold standard will make more profit for the owners of the gold than any other employment to which that metal can be placed. They regard silver as currency, and even the president in his letter to day speaks of it as such."

## Overproduction of Wheat.

The best answer to the theory that overproduction of wheat is the cause of its low price is to be found in the "Corn Trade Year Book," England, probably the most reliable authority published. According to that authority the world's wheat crop for 1891 was 2,456,000,000 bushels, and the average price was \$1.11 per bushel. In 1892 the crop was 2,440,000,000 bushels, but the price had fallen to 90 cents. In 1893 the crop was the same as in 1891, but the price had fallen to a fraction less than 30 cents. In 1894 both crop and price were smaller than any of the foregoing figures, the price the lowest on record. The same authority also shows that in the period of 1874-84 the population of the chief wheat producing countries was 397,000,000, and the production of rye and wheat in those countries per head of population was 7.08 bushels. In the next period of ten years, 1885-94, with the population increased to 434,000,000, the production of both these crops per head of population was only 6.84 bushels.

The dollar that is constantly increasing in value is a dishonest dollar, and that is the dollar that the gold bugs want.

## FOREIGN.

The German Reichstag defeated the anti-revolutionary bill, a pet measure of Emperor William.

It is claimed that after the last battle between the Japanese and Chinese troops the Japanese butchered all their helpless prisoners.

The Cuban rebels are reported to have won a great victory over the Spanish troops.

A big demonstration was held in Phoenix park, Dublin, Sunday. Resolutions asking the government to free the political prisoners were passed.

Japan has made overtures for a treaty with Nicaragua by which she will have equal share with other nations in the proposed canal.

American capital has a splendid show for investment in China.

Japan will retain Port Arthur for a number of years. Her diplomats have scored a victory in the peace negotiations.

A telegram from Algiers says Sir Frederick Leighton, before reported dying, is now recovering.

John Laurence Toole, the well-known English actor, is suffering from paralysis, and will permanently retire from the stage.

United States Vice Consul Dreier was tendered a banquet at Copenhagen by the members of the Royal Danish commission and the Danish exhibitors at the World's Columbian Exposition.

The Spanish Minister at Washington has asked the Secretary of State to locate, if possible, a Spanish boy who ran away from his school in Madrid. His name is Jose Orosio y Morny, aged 16 years, short of stature, with brown eyes and hair, wearing a gray suit and a yachting cap. The boy speaks Spanish, French, German and English.

## CASUALTIES.

At Plainfield, Ind., Palmer Carter, aged 19, accidentally shot dead his brother, aged 15.

A. D. McDonald and James Mabrito were mangled to pieces in the shaft of the Rarus mine near Butte, Mont., and William Bowen was dangerously hurt.

Three men were killed in a railroad wreck on the Erie road near Hornellville, N. Y.

Two children at Saylersville, Ky., poured powder on hot coals. Both will

live.

Five men were seriously hurt at Chicago by the falling of a wall of a building which they were tearing down.

Samuel Oson of Spokane, Wash., was riding a pony and had the picket rope tied around his body. The pony became frightened, threw the boy off, and dragged him to death.

A man was killed at Lyons, N. Y., while walking on the Central railroad tracks. A notebook contained the name, M. E. Avery, Detroit.

The Imperial Varnish company, Akron, O., lost \$60,000 by fire. Insurance \$30,000.

A forty-foot gasoline launch built for Ralph Granger, a National City banker, exploded while on its trial trip in San Francisco bay. Frank Fitzpatrick was fatally hurt.

## LABOR NOTES.

Over 900 wage-earners in mills at Nirost and Broadview, Pa., are in idleness owing to strikes.

The strike at the Illinois steel works at South Chicago is about ended.

The Oliver Iron and Steel company of Pittsburgh has granted the amalgamation scale in all departments of the mill, and the men will return to work at once.

Four thousand iron and steel workers employed in the Riverside and Wheeling, Belmont and Top mills in West Virginia have been given an increase in wages averaging 10 per cent.

The miners at the Shelburne (Ind.) mine have adjusted their differences in regard to dues of the organization and notified the operators they are ready to resume work immediately.

Wages for furnace men at Sharpsville and Middlesex, Pa., have been raised.

In the various Ohio coal mines some of the mines have resumed work at 60 cents pending agreement on a general wage scale; at other mines they refuse.

At Indianapolis, Ind., all the union molders went on strike, demanding a rigid scale of \$2.25 to \$2.50 per day. They are now receiving from \$2 to \$2.40.

The differences at Princeton, Ill., between the government employees, and foremen on the Hennepin canal have been practically settled by a large number of the men resigning.

## CRIME.

Louis Pischitt was sentenced at Menominee, Mich., to five years in prison for arson.

W. G. Sherman, recently elected as a senator, committed suicide by hanging at Oshkosh, Wis.

William Anderson stabbed John Lorton in a fight at Ramsey, Ill., and Lorton is not expected to live.

Julius Lichtenberg, ex-school inspector, was convicted at Detroit, Mich., of accepting a bribe of \$100 in awarding a contract for school furniture. H. J. Lephardt was convicted on a similar charge, James Walsh acquitted, and M. H. Davis fled the country.

A steamer passenger named Stapel on the Adriatic, from New York to Liverpool, committed suicide May 3 by jumping overboard.

Joseph Bruyere, 57 years of age, a merchant of Green Bay, Wis., committed suicide by hanging in his barn.

Volney Beard was shot and killed at Philadelphia, Pa. She would not stop with him.

John Flood, ex-cashier of the defunct Kelly Bank at San Francisco, accused of embezzling \$167,000, has been sentenced to seven years' imprisonment.

It is claimed that the regularities amounting to over \$1,000,000 have been discovered in Chicago's pay rolls. A big sensation is promised in the investigation.

Thomas Barnes, a tourist from Jacksonville, Ill., was found dead in a chair in his lodging house at Los Angeles, Cal. The coroner is investigating.

At Wapello, Ark., an attempt was made by Constable John Green to serve a warrant on Milt Harper. Green received ten buckshot and Harper twenty-three. Both men died.

Benjamin Radcliffe, who shot and killed the entire school board of Park county, Colo., was removed from Buena Vista jail to escape an attempt at lynching by vigilantes.

## SPORTING NOTES.

A London, Eng., club is considering the advisability of offering a purse for Corbett and Peter Jackson to fight for.

Virginia is after the Corbett-Fitzsimmons fight if the men can be brought together.

The race track at Hawthorne, Ill., was raided by Chicago Civic Federation, and many bookmakers arrested.

John S. Johnson, the bicycle rider, has been declared a professional. He will likely go to France to race for money.

The Corbett-Fitzsimmons fight is now thought to be off. The men cannot meet in Florida and it is not expected they will fight anywhere else.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

The American Protective Association, before adjournment, organized what will be known as the "Junior A. P. A." It is to be composed of boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 18.

It is claimed that Louisiana farmers have been kidnapping negroes in Arkansas and taking them across the line. A race war is threatened.

The Evening Journal of Frankfort, Ky., has been sold by George A. Kendrick to Moses O'Connor, who will make it a stanch republican paper.

The Dominion steamer Petrel made a raid upon the gill nets set in Canadian waters in Lake Erie by Cleveland fishermen. In all there were 182 gill nets seized. The fishermen say they did not know they were fishing in Canadian waters.

J. A. Scott, who celebrated his 100th birthday a few days ago, died at Charleston, W. Va.

Bishop Dubs of Chicago dedicated at Bethlehem the first church built in Pennsylvania by the United Evangelists.

W. M. L. Coplin of the Jefferson Medical college, Philadelphia, has been elected professor of pathology in the Vanderbilt university, Nashville, Tenn.

The San Antonio & Gulf railway mudie resulted in the appointment of Judge Henry Terrell, at one time minister to Germany, as receiver, and he has taken charge of the property.

The Bishop of the Methodist church in Allegheny, Pa., Bishop Phelan objected to the presence of a band, the members of the Board of Erin and the Hibernian Rifles refused to take part in the ceremonies.

Delegates to the Southern Baptist convention occupied the pulpits of churches in Washington, Baltimore and Richmond. A large audience attended the memorial meeting for Rev. John A. Broadbent.

Gross receipts of the life insurance companies doing business in New York are \$1,056,331,682, an increase of \$84,474,459. The liabilities of the several companies, excepting \$8,970,500 of capital stock, are \$916,591,138.

Gov. Watson will probably appoint a man as senator from Delaware to succeed Senator Higgins. This causes a general speculation as to the appointee's chances of being seated, as the governor's right to appoint, when the legislature has failed to elect, would be involved.

Conflicting reports of injury to crops are received. It is thought the frost has not done much serious damage.

Dr. Julius H. Seelye, ex-president of Amherst college, is dead.

Gen. Harrison is to take a trip to New York. He denies it has any political significance.

In the United States court J. G. Harvey of South McAlester, I. T., was appointed United States commissioner, vice Samuel A. Wilkinson, resigned.

Philip W. Moen of Worcester, Mass., confirms the reported purchase by the Washburn and Moen company of the wire rope department of the California Wire Rope works of San Francisco.

A severe sandstorm raged in some parts of Kansas and Oklahoma Friday. No casualties are reported.

It is said that English capital is being invested in the breweries of this country.

Dun's Review of Trade reports business in a generally prosperous condition.

The rumor that Secretary of State Gresham is to resign and be succeeded by Don M. Dickinson, is pronounced untrue.

Gov. Morrill of Kansas has not been arrested for obtaining money under false pretenses, as was threatened.

The election of Senator Dupont of Delaware is considered valid by eminent legal authorities.

The American Protective Association has decided to