

THE PEOPLE'S PILOT.

FOR THE FREE AND UNLIMITED COINAGE OF SILVER AND GOLD AT THE PARITY RATIO OF SIXTEEN TO ONE WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANY OTHER NATION ON EARTH.

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2000 POPULIST EDITORS MEET.

National Reform Press Association in Annual Session at Dallas, Texas, Last Saturday.

Harmonious Meeting of the Wheel Horses Who Shape the Policy of the Reform Movement.

IT SIGNIFIES UNION WITH THE SILVER FORCES.

Special Correspondence of The People's Pilot.

DALLAS, TEXAS, Feb. 23.—The fifth annual meeting of the National Reform Press Association, which assembled in this city yesterday, is the most momentous gathering of the association ever held. Nearly 2,000 editors of populist papers are gathered here and their deliberations are characterized by unusual harmony and enthusiasm. The great interest in Saturday's session centered in the report of the committee on resolutions. The committee itself had a long and spirited session, they made a report that was unanimously adopted by the convention. The report does not compromise any of the fundamental principles of the Omaha platform and is perfectly satisfactory to the free coinage people. It is a broader policy calculated to satisfy the dissatisfied in the old parties.

PART OF THE RESOLUTIONS.

The significant portion of the resolutions, after reiterating the unequivocal demand of the party for the restoration of the free coinage of silver at a ratio of 16 to 1, without waiting for any other nation, are as follows:

"We proclaim to the world that we are in favor of an honorable union and that our doors are open to the north, south, east and west, and all desiring a change in the nation and the emancipation of our land, industries and institutions from the rule of the British gold power are cordially invited to unite with us and join in the grand work of redemption. We invite them to come now, without waiting for the slow movement of so-called leaders, who are chained to the policy of delay until the two subsidized parties act.

"We will continue to wage a determined fight for a fair ballot and an honest count, and we are a unit in favor of free schools; and, while we greet with open arms of welcome the intelligent and honorable immigrants from the oppressed nations of the old world, we unitedly deprecate the invasion of this nation by the pauper labor of Europe, who drive free and honest American toilers from active employment to idleness, want and desperation.

"Realizing that many of our demands, such as the income tax, the referendum, election of senators by the people, ownership of telegraphs and railroads, one term for the president, cannot be accomplished without the revision or amendment of the federal constitution, and the document has stood for 109 years and been amended fifteen times, while all the older states have changed their organic law more than once, we recommend that our editors and people study and discuss the advisability of the St. Louis convention declaring in favor of a national constitutional convention as prescribed in our federal constitution."

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Paul Vandervoort of Nebraska; vice-president, Frank Burkitt of Mississippi; secretary and treasurer, A. Rosselle of Missouri; recording secretary, Jo. H. Parker of Kentucky. There was a warm contest for the position of official editor of the association and W. S. Morgan of Arkansas, the present incumbent, was re-elected, the opposing candidate being A. Rosselle.

Chairman Taubeneck of the national committee, who is present as an invited guest of the association, expressed himself as well pleased with the results of the session thus far, as the policy of the national committee to throw the doors of the party wide open to the advocates of free coinage has been fully sustained.

PRESIDENTIAL POSSIBILITIES.

The correspondent of the Chicago Record has the following to say concerning the discussion on this all-important topic:

"Hotel lobbies today presented an animated appearance. Much quiet talk has been indulged in regarding presidential possibilities and the platform to be adopted at St. Louis in July. There is a general feeling that in the political upheaval sure to come this year many new men will come to the surface. Mr. Sibley of Pennsylvania is much discussed, and also Senator Allen of Nebraska. The name, however, which evokes the greatest enthusiasm and which is on everybody's lips is that of Judge Henry C. Caldwell of Arkansas. It is urged in his favor that he is recognized as a friend of the working classes and an avowed enemy of corporate greed; that he is the only living appointee of President Lincoln, and that, while taking no part in politics, he has expressed himself unequivocally as endorsing the populist platform. Besides, his residence in the south makes his candidacy desirable,

as it is conceded on all hands that, all other things being equal, the nomination should go to the south. There has been little talk as to vice-presidential candidates. The name of Dr. Howard S. Taylor of Chicago is favorably mentioned in that connection."

A full report of the great gathering will be given in The Pilot next week. Owing to the "pressure" the editor of The Pilot was obliged to forego the pleasure of attending the meeting although he desired very much to do so.

Jasper County's New Court House.

To the Editor of the People's Pilot.

The statute requires that the board of commissioners shall keep all the public buildings in the county in repair and shall make the offices of clerk, recorder, treasurer and auditor fire proof if practicable. Sec. 7833 R. S. 1894.

The statute also provides that the board shall not make any contract to construct any court house until plans and specifications have been adopted and deposited in the auditor's office for the inspection of the people of the county, and all contracts attempted to be made in violation of the provision for inspecting the plan and specifications shall be null and void. Sec. 5589 R. S. 1894.

This statute contemplates that the people who pay for a court house should discuss and suggest what they deem advisable as to plans and specifications.

The supreme court has held that changes may be made in details and minor particulars, even after specifications are prepared and filed and proposals to build are invited.

One of the most important minor particulars connected with a safe, convenient and beautiful court house is the plan for heating and lighting the same. See Bass Foundry Co. vs. Board, 115 Ind., 234, and Board vs. Heating Co., 128 Ind., 240.

The supreme court in the case of Kitchell vs. Board decided that the county commissioners could not be enjoined from building a new court house unless it could be shown that the decision of the board to build was influenced by corrupt or fraudulent means, or unless the resolve to build was so prejudicial to the public interest as to create a conviction that such act could only have resulted from a palpable disregard of official duty. See 123 Ind., 540, 542.

It seems that the county board of this county has determined that the old court house is insufficient and insecure. Plans and specifications could only be prepared by some one skilled in designing and drawing and also possessed of a practicable knowledge of building.

At present the board of commissioners by the aid of an architect are trying to agree upon definite plans and specifications so that the contractor may know upon what to base an estimate of the cost. These specifications should be as perfect as possible so that there would be few occasions for other arrangements for extra work by reason of changes. The county of Jasper owns a lot across the street north-east of the court house which is convenient to the jail and to the court house square. The heating and lighting apparatus for both court house and jail could be placed upon said lot and the county buildings heated by steam and lighted by gas or electricity with the apparatus therefor upon said lot. This would make the public buildings safer, more easily kept clean, more easily heated, better lighted, more comfortable and beautiful. The heating and lighting machinery is being taken away from all public buildings where practicable. This would make the insurance less and would in fact make the public offices almost perfectly free from liability and injury from fire, dust, or explosion. Why not in adopting plans and specifications utilize this lot and there manufacture materials to warm the buildings by day and light them by night. If we build why not build after the most approved pattern and according to the best rules for the preservation of the public records and the comfort of those who may be in said buildings?

The citizens of the county might as well do all they can to get the best possible building for the money and let those who come after us foot as much of the bill as possible.

SIMON P. THOMPSON.

Washington's Birthday, 1896.

[please note comments on above on page two.—Editor.]

THE BOND AND THE DOLLAR.

BY JOHN CLARK RIDPATH, LL. D.

PART III. THE MONSTER REIGNS.

From the Arena, March number.

By the year 1890 the people of the United States rightly reckoned that the time had come to end the discrimination against silver money. By the same date Shylock concluded that a favorable crisis had arrived for him to get undone in toto the legislation of 1878. He had succeeded in the interim, by means of the discrimination against silver as primary money, and by availing himself of the results of the stoppage of free coinage in the Latin Union, in raising the price of gold about thirty per cent. This fact taken the other way gave opportunity to Shylock to deplore the

existence of a seventy-cent dollar. He was grieved beyond measure at the dishonesty of such a dollar—not on his own account, but for the credit of his country! The purchasing power of raw silver had not, according to the average prices of the other great commodities of the world's market, declined at all in the twelve intervening years; but the fund-holding interests had contrived a condition of values and prices that enabled them, by jugglery and falsehood, to denounce the silver dollar as a depreciated and dishonest coin, and thus to force a disparity in the bullion values of the two metals.

The people and their representatives, however, smiled at the ravings of the Goldites, and went forward to complete the legislation of 1878. At this time, namely in 1890, there was a firm majority in both houses of Congress in favor of the free coinage of silver. The nation as such was in favor of that measure. The administration was against it. The question was introduced into Congress in several forms. Motions and bills were multiplied. At length on the seventeenth of June, 1890, the Senate, which body has never appeared to a better advantage in our history, boldly took the initiative, without giving the enemy a chance to adopt his usual tactics, and suddenly prepared and passed an Act for the absolute restoration of silver to its old-time constitutional place in the currency system of the United States.

The Senate at this date was strongly Republican, and the majority in favor of the Free-Coinage Bill was seventeen. In the House of Representatives there was an unequivocal majority in favor of the measure; but before this majority could declare itself and force upon the President the (to him) dangerous alternative of either accepting the will of the country or of obeying the behest of the money power with a veto, the bill was arrested by the Speaker, Thomas B. Reed, and then under the dictation of the administration and Senator John Sherman a new bill was prepared, which on the whole was the most monstrous contrivance that has ever thus far been injected into the monetary legislation of the country.

This measure, conceived in intrigue and stigmatized by its own inventors from the day of its inception, was insinuated into the House in place of the Free-Coinage Bill of the Senate, and was forced upon that body, whose members could not bear the whip of party and the loss of patronage. The Act thus adopted by the House was taken back to the Senate, and that body was thrown upon its haunches by the same power that had prevailed in the House. The majority of seventeen yielded, and the Sherman Law, so-called, became a fact with the signature of the president. It was the most misbegotten and ill-born measure that ever saw the light. It should have been designated the Bastard Bill; for it was disowned from birth by its father! It pretended to be a bill in the interest of silver money and for the preservation of bimetalism in the United States. On the contrary, it was a cunningly devised expedient of the Goldites, by which they gained in the contest with the majority ten times more than they lost.

*Notwithstanding the fact that the Sherman Law was an anti-silver law, the first effect of it—energized by the popular misapprehension on the subject—was a marked decline in the premium on gold. This was shown in a corresponding rise in the bullion price of silver. The silver rate was advanced from day to day according to the London quotations through a period of eight or ten weeks. Then the advance was checked. The quotations stood for a brief period at the crest; and then began that steady and long-continued decline which reached the depths in 1893-94, when the price of silver bullion was marked at less than fifty cents to the gold dollar.

This phenomenon was caused in large part by the shrewd action of Great Britain. That power was alarmed at the results which seemed to follow the Sherman Law. For many years Great Britain had been purchasing American and Mexican silver at the rate of about fifty millions annually. These purchases she made at bullion rates; and the bullion she coined and sent out at coin rates to her more than three hundred millions of East Indian subjects. It was a harvest bountiful and easy. The United States and Mexico paid the reapers, and Great Britain gathered the sheaves. Seeing the advance in the price of silver in the latter part of 1890, Great Britain boldly and unscrupulously during the remainder of that year and the first half of 1891 cut down her purchases of American silver by fully ten millions of ounces, with a view to glutting the market, reducing the price, and influencing American legislation. She succeeded on all three points! That she nearly ruined her industries in India and brought millions of her subjects to beggary was nothing; she was playing for larger stake!

By the Act of 1890, the gold monometallists once more prepared a situation of which they could avail themselves in the future. The law was so framed that when through the abuse of it by the secretary of the treasury it should prove a failure—as from the first it was intended by its makers to be—the only thing required on the part of the money power was, to raise a clamor against a single clause of the law and secure the repeal of that clause. By so doing the whole fabric of the silver legislation of the country, extending at broken intervals from the foundation of the republic to the year 1890, would be dis-

solved like a fiction, and gold monometallism would reign supreme.

The United States now entered upon the era of silver purchasing. The metal which the men of the constitutional era had chosen whereby to measure all other values (gold included) was degraded to merchandise. The Sherman Bill provided for the coinage of silver dollars at the discretion of the secretary of the treasury. It might as well have provided that the directors of the Bank of England should, at their discretion, hold their sittings in Mozambique! It was never intended to coin the purchased silver, but to treat it as merchandise. It was intended to accumulate it, and then to raise an alarm about the accumulation. The law continued in force for three years and four months. During that period the secretary of the treasury purchased monthly four million five hundred thousand ounces of silver, and issued therefor legal-tender treasury notes redeemable in either silver or gold at the option of the secretary. In this instance the option was cunningly restored to the payer, with the full knowledge that the payer would use that option in a manner further to depress the relative price of silver bullion and to make gold the dearer coin! This provision of the law was said to be an expedient for preserving the parity of the two metals, but in reality it was an expedient to exaggerate their disparity by enabling the holders of the treasury notes, with the connivance of the secretary, to draw therefor the gold of the treasury, leaving the silver to accumulate.

We need not here enter at length into the beauties of the Sherman Law. The people of the United States now understand it. They now know what it was intended for, and what it has been made to accomplish. They perceive clearly enough—all intelligent men perceive—that the Act of 1890 was but another adroit step in the processes by which silver was to be ultimately discarded as primary money, and the United States placed in firm monetary league with Great Britain on the single basis of gold. In the short space of three years matters had gone so far that the gold party, then in firm possession of the administration which it had created in 1892 for its own purposes, and triumphant by its power over the House of Representatives, felt sufficiently emboldened to attack the purchasing clause of the Sherman Law, and by annulling that destroy the whole.

It is scarcely worth while to recite the story of the contest of 1893. The miserable melee is still fresh in the minds of men. No doubt the Sherman Law ought to have been abrogated. It was not a silver law, but a law in the interest of gold. Nothing could have been devised more suitable to the ultimate interests of the gold party. That power, now in active control of both the leading political parties, was able to work its will. The repeal of the purchasing clause of the Act of 1890 was affected without conditions, and with the passage of that repeal, on the first of November, 1893, the legislation against silver, which was begun in silence in 1873 against the interests of honest money in the United States and in favor of substituting a long dollar worth fully a hundred and seventy cents for the dollar of the law and the contract, was boisterously and triumphantly completed. By that Act the will of the people of the United States was prostrated. The people themselves were gagged and manacled. Both houses of Congress were thrown down, and Juggernaut was pulled over them by the minions of a power having its head-centre in Lombard Street, London.

The conspiracy of the International Gold Trust seems to have triumphed. The indignation of the people against it has been of no avail. That power which became organic as a bondholding class in America just after the close of the Civil War has, by its league with the financial system of Great Britain, succeeded in tampering down truth and justice, in choking the protests of a mighty people, in destroying their industries, in reducing them from proprietors to tenants, in taking away the rewards of labor and enterprise, and in establishing a condition which tends inevitably to the early and permanent institution in the United States of a peasantry subordinated to the will and purpose of their masters.

The visible gold in the world amounts to about four hundred and eighty-five cubic feet. The greater part of this, nearly all of it indeed, is owned by private parties. It is controlled finally

* Of the gold supply of the world the Rothschild already owns more than sixteen hundred millions!

by a few men who hate free institutions and who care nothing for the rights of mankind and the interests of civilization. On the basis of these four hundred and eighty-five cubic feet of gold it is proposed to conduct the business of all the world! It is the most monstrous scheme ever known in history. The public and private debts of the