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PRISON FOR A YEAR.

SUPREME COURT SUSTAINS THE MEADOWCROFT SENTENCE.

Must Pay the Penalty for Criminally Handling Money—Crime of a Brutal Assassin in Ohio—Chicago Burglars Cleverly Caught While at Work.

The Meadowcroft Case.

Several opinions of importance were handed down by the Illinois Supreme Court late Saturday night. Chief among them is the decision sustaining the verdict rendered in Judge Brentano's court, sentencing Frank R. and Charles J. Meadowcroft, of Chicago, to one year each in the penitentiary. The verdict was rendered Dec. 14, 1894, since which time the Meadowcrots have been out on bail pending the final decision of the Supreme Court. The decision is especially important, as it establishes the constitutionality of the banking law under which they were convicted, thus being the first case under that law in this State. The case was a long and bitterly fought one. The Meadowcrots were convicted of receiving deposits when they knew they were insolvent. They were defended by ex-Judge Collins, Edwin Walker and A. J. Eddy, while A. S. Trude conducted the prosecution. Judge Collins said the case was taken to the Supreme Court on constitutional grounds. Unless the opinion discussed the exceptions entered by the defense during the trial, they would have grounds for another appeal. In their appeal to the Supreme Court their argument was they were conducting a legitimate business, such as a dry goods or any other business, and claimed the banking law was unconstitutional because it placed certain restrictions on one branch of business and not on all.

Kills an Aged Couple.

At an early hour Sunday morning a double murder—it may prove to be a triple murder—was committed on a farm seven miles east of Akron. O. Alvin N. Stone, aged 68, and his wife, Serena, aged 63, are the victims, and Ira Stillson, the hired man, is fatally injured. Two daughters, Emma, aged 29, and Hattie, aged 23, are seriously injured, while a third daughter, Flora, is the only one of the entire household who escaped the assassin's murderous blows. The crime was committed about 1 o'clock by an unknown man wearing a mask. The crime is a mystery. There is no possible motive for the murders so far as can be learned. Certainly the murderer was not bent on robbery, for in a bureau drawer in Mr. Stone's room were two gold watches and some money and nothing had been taken apparently.

No Change in Trade.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade says: "No important change has occurred in the general condition of business during the week, and if trade in some respects looks worse, in other respects it looks better. Some failures of magnitude have occurred, which caused much apprehension and unwillingness to lend among bankers, and there have been somewhat less favorable features in the dry goods market, but in iron and steel conditions are slightly improved, and in boots and shoes considerably more hope is felt. The labor controversies, mainly in the clothing trade, still cause much interruption of that business. Foreign trade is a little more satisfactory."

Caught in the Act.

Secreted behind a sofa in the Chicago Central Detail Police Station, witnessed Frank Swift, an ex-convict, took a safe in the home of Catherine Johnson, at No. 449 South Clinton street Friday night. Then when the burglar had prepared to leave with his plunder, the policeman leaped forward and overpowered him. Policeman Cleary, who had remained outside, arrested one of Swift's two confederates, who was identified at the station as Michael Murphy, said by the police to be a well-known burglar. The third man escaped, but it is believed by the police his apprehension will soon follow.

Bay State for Reed.

The State convention for the election of delegates to the Republican national convention at St. Louis was held at Boston Friday. Delegates-at-large are H. C. Lodge, W. T. M. Crane, Ebenezer D. Draper, Curtis Guild Jr., Alternates—L. C. Southard, R. H. Boutwell, R. F. Hawkins, S. E. Courtney. They were instructed for T. B. Reed, of Maine.

NEWS NUGGETS.

Dr. J. D. Buck, of Cincinnati, will succeed the late W. Q. Judge as president of the Theological Society of America.

Negroes are holding a Frenchman in confinement near Columbia, O. T., and declare they will not release him until France accedes to the demands of Consul Waller.

A severe gale swept over the channel, causing considerable damage to shipping, and it is feared that a large steamer which was in distress off the Goodwin sands has foundered.

The Egyptian debt commission have paid the first installment from the reserve fund, amounting to \$1,000,000, of the money required for the expenses of the British-Egyptian expedition up the Nile.

Fred Gorrell, a moulder of West Columbus, O., aged 21, Sunday afternoon shot his wife, who is but 17, and then stood before a mirror and cut his throat with a razor. Gorrell died almost instantly, but his wife will recover. Jealousy was the cause of the affair.

At Richmond, Ky., Friday morning, a couple from Lee County, Virginia, obtained a marriage license. The groom, Hiram H. Ely, is 15 years old, while the bride, Mrs. Jane Ely, his sister-in-law, is 40, fat, and has four children. An order from the boy's mother was produced which granted permission for his marriage.

A sharp earthquake shock was felt at Rawlins, Wyo., at 10 o'clock Saturday night.

Fire destroyed the Springfield, Mo., Grand Opera House. The building cost \$75,000 and was insured for \$25,000.



WHAT WILL THE PEOPLE DO?

THE following dispatch is of exceptional interest at this time:

New York, March 12.—The executive committee of the American Banking Association unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved, The executive council of the American Bankers' Association, assembled at the meeting in New York city, declare unequivocally in favor of the maintenance of the existing gold standard of value and recommend to all the bankers and to the customers of all banks the exercise of all their influence as citizens in their various States to select delegates to the political conventions of both the great parties who will declare unequivocally in favor of the maintenance of the existing gold standard of value."

There is a lesson in this declaration that ought not to be lost on the people. The banks declare that the single gold standard now exists in this country. They feel that it is to their pecuniary advantage that it should continue to exist. They know that it has doubled the value of the commodity in which they deal—money. They know that it has doubled the value of debts and interest. They feel that in this way it has enlarged their profits and increased their power. Consequently they believe that it ought to be maintained, and they do not hesitate to say so.

They do not beat about the bush.

They do not prate about "parity" and the "debt-paying power of the dollar," for they know that the debt-paying power of the dollar remains precisely what it was twenty years ago, while its purchasing power has been doubled. They do not dodge, nor evade, nor try to deceive anybody. They know that the single gold standard now exists, and that it gives them a tremendous advantage in many ways, and they do not hesitate to declare that it ought to be maintained. They do not hesitate to avow their purpose to inaugurate a campaign of their own in order that the single gold standard shall be maintained.

Now, this is business. There is an openness, a boldness about the declaration of the associated banks that ought to attract the admiration of all honest men. Why cannot the people whose interests are hurt and whose prosperity is destroyed by the single gold standard be as open and as bold in expressing their views as the banks are? If the people—the merchants, the business men, the manufacturers and the farmers—the producers of the country—are handicapped by timid and time-serving politicians, it is their own fault. They have only to rise in their might give expression to their desires, and the politicians who now seem to be timid and hesitating will be as bold as lions. But one thing remains, and that is for the people themselves to stand as united, as harmonious, and as bold, in favor of their own interests as the banks do for theirs.

It is useless to criticize the banks for their attitude. They think the gold standard is best for their interests, and it is—at least temporarily. We are of the opinion that the banks outside of the big money centers of the East will find that what the gold standard is putting in at one end it is pinching off at the other. We think that eventually they will be hurt more than they are helped. But that is neither here nor there. Temporarily the gold standard is enlarging their profits and gains, and they are in favor of it purely as a matter of business.

There are more than ten thousand voters to every bank in the country.

Consequently the remedy of the people is to go to the polls and vote down the gold standard and restore prosperity to the country by remonetizing silver.

This will not hurt any banker, but will promote the interests of all. The gold standard helps only those who deal in money—the money lenders—and hurts all who produce or deal in other commodities, for the process by which money, debts, taxes and the rates of loans and discounts have been doubled in value, has taken away half the value of the products of factory and farm—the products of human labor—reduced the demand for goods and cut down profits in all lines of business and mercantile pursuits.

These interests, instead of concentrating their opposition to the gold standard in criticism of the attitude of the banks, should boldly and unitedly take issue with the money power and declare in favor of the restoration of silver to its old place as a part of the redemption money of the country.

Never has the money power been as bold and confident as it is now. Never before has it had the courage to declare its program and make public its purposes to contract the currency of the people. Why cannot the people, whose most vital interests are concerned, be as bold and as confident as the money power and the banks? Has the ruin already wrought by the gold standard paralyzed them? Have they already fitted their necks to the yoke of the money power? Let us hope not. They have been deceived, but there is no reason why they should be deceived now.

The money power has published its program to the world, and has announced that it will make a campaign to maintain the gold standard. Now what do the people propose to do about it?—Atlanta Constitution.

No Gold Money There.

Gold, in the form of money, is never seen in China, neither are gold ingots in use in trade, but are used for hoarding only. Hoarded gold is generally

found in only two forms. One is in ingots shaped like a boat about 3.6 inches long, 0.8 inches wide, and weighing 11.575 ounces Troy weight; the other is in the form of gold leaf, measuring about eight inches square and weighing about thirty grammes. The relative value of gold to silver was in the beginning of the Ming Dynasty (A. D. 1375), one to four; under the Emperor Wan Li (1573) of the same dynasty, one to seven; at the end of the Ming Dynasty (1635), one to ten; under the Emperor Kung-hsi (1622) of the present dynasty, one to twelve; under the Emperor Kien-lung (1735), one to twenty; in the middle of the reign of Toak-wang (1840), one to eighteen; at the beginning of the reign of Hung-fung (1850), one to fourteen; in 1882, one to sixteen to eighteen, and at present one to thirty. Gold not being used in China as money but as a commodity, its only value is for hoarding and ornamental purposes, thus the people can readily comprehend that gold has advanced nearly one hundred per cent since 1882. One ounce of silver will buy just as much rice, corn, cotton, silk or other commodity, except gold, as ever it would, but gold is too high for all but the very richest people to indulge in. Precisely the same conditions, as far as values are concerned, prevail in the United States, only our people have been lulled into the belief that all values, except gold, have gone down, down, while the value of gold remains stationary.

What Is Money?

The silver question is a branch of the larger subject of "money," and therefore a glance at the nature of money will be useful before considering the silver question itself. There was a time when money was unknown. Away back in the dim past, before civilization had made much progress, people dealt with each other by "barter;" this is, by exchanging one commodity directly for some other which might be needed. As wheat for beef, or potatoes for cloth, and the like. In newly settled countries much trading is done in this way even now. But it is a very inconvenient way, because the person having wheat and desiring beef, may not readily find one with beef who needs wheat, and so with everything else. Hence, grew up the custom of adopting some one thing as a general medium of exchange—something which every person would receive in return for anything which he might have to dispose of. Many different substances have been thus used. Iron, lead, copper, hides, cattle, slaves, pieces of bark, and many other things have been employed at different times, and by various nations.

But finally gold and silver came to be generally considered the substances best fitted for such use, and for at least three thousand years they have been regarded as the world's two great money metals, other things being only used locally, and, as a rule, in a much smaller way. As a result of this custom (which ripened into law), when a man had wheat that he wanted to exchange for other things, instead of bartering it directly for what he wanted, he would first exchange it for gold or silver (that is, for money), and with this he could procure or buy the other things which he needed.

Gold and Silver in 1873.

At the beginning of the year 1873, the total mass of gold and silver money in the world was not far from \$7,000,000,000—about \$3,500,000,000 of each. Leaving out of consideration the paper money circulating in certain countries, this amount of gold and silver constituted the world's stock of money. In every sale of goods for cash, some of it had to be used. In every sale on credit, the person trusted had to look forward to the time when he could get a sufficient amount of money to pay the debt. But some nations, such as Germany, Austria, India, China, Mexico, etc., used silver as their principal money.

Gold was not legal tender, and if they used it at all it was chiefly for hoarding or export, being more convenient for those purposes. In England and Portugal, gold was the principal money, and silver was only used in small transactions, being limited legal tender. In England it was legal tender for 40 shillings (about \$10) only. England adopted the gold standard for the first time in 1816, and Portugal in 1854. A third class of countries used both gold and silver as full legal tender. That is, a debt of any amount, large or small, could be paid with either gold or silver coin. In these countries coinage was free, except that in some of them there was a small charge, called seigniorage, to cover the expense of minting. These countries were called "bimetallic," because they used the two metals as full legal tender, and without discrimination against either in the matter of coinage.

Monkey Skin Pocketbook a Fad.

Women who aspire to be fashionable now carry pocketbooks made of monkey skin. These pocketbooks are a light chocolate color and have a slightly wrinkled surface. The newest are bound with gold and have a spray of enameled flowers fastened to the cover. A monkey skin pocketbook which has been especially made for an Easter present has its cover adorned with enamel. Another has a spray of sweet peas in white shading to violet as its floral decoration. Narrow belts of monkey skin and chatelaine bags to match are also a fad of the hour.

MICHIGAN'S MEN WIN.

HER UNIVERSITY ORATORS DEFEAT CHICAGO.

Discuss the Principle of Graduated Tax—Alarming Condition of Affairs in Matabeleland—Spain Must Fight Her Own Battles—Consul Criticised.

Chicago Men Lose in Debate.

Michigan and Chicago Universities met for the first time in debate at Ann Arbor Friday night. Michigan secures the first forensic victory and Chicago gets her fourth consecutive defeat. The question was "Is the Principle of a Graduated Tax One That Should Be Adopted by the States?" Michigan took the affirmative side and Chicago the negative. Michigan's speakers in their order were Chas. J. Vert, senior law, of Morristown, N. Y.; Edmund Block, senior law, of Chattanooga, Tenn.; and Paul G. Albright, freshman law, of Philadelphia. Chicago's team consisted of James P. Whyte of Chicago Wesley C. Mitchell of Rushville, Ill., and L. Brent Vaughan of Ohio. The judges were President Ballantine of Oberlin College, Supt. Compton of the Toledo schools, and Judge McLellan of Auburn, Ind. They gave each man a percentage both in argument and delivery, and on the ranking system Michigan had thirty-five and Chicago twenty-seven.

A Bloody Revolt.

Disputes received at Cape Town from Bulawayo, Matabeleland, indicate that the uprising in that part of the colony is very serious. Telegrams from the front first merely outlined a revolt of a few natives in the Inseza and Filibusi districts, the massacre of some white settlers, including Commissary Bentley, and the dispatch of a small force of volunteers to the scene of the disturbance. An extensive uprising of the natives, it is understood, has taken place and the revolt may spread to other parts of South Africa. The settlers in Matabeleland are flocking into the towns, which are being placed in a condition for defense. Volunteers are being enrolled everywhere and provisions are being collected. Re-enforcements of mounted police have already been sent to Bulawayo, Inseza and Gambo and the Cape rifles have received orders to prepare for active service. Supplies of ammunition for the Maxim guns are being hurried to Bulawayo and all the horses of the disturbed territory have been seized by Col. Napier, who is in charge of the government forces. The natives are raiding farms and killing white settlers in the Matobo hills district, and rumor has it that over fifty people have been slain.

Will Not Support Spain.

It has leaked out in Madrid diplomatic cables that the Spanish foreign office has been informed by its ambassadors in the principal European courts that Spain is not likely to receive more than purely platonic sympathy even from the French Government in a conflict with the United States. The Spanish representatives in all the European courts have discovered that it is absolutely absurd to hope that any European Government would act in concert to support Spain even by friendly mediation or moral influence. They have also discovered that both the foreign governments and the whole European public wonder why Spain does not immediately give Cuba and Porto Rico colonial autonomy and self-government, such as England gave to Canada, in order to disarm the secessionists in Cuba and to conciliate American sympathizers.

Incompetent Consul.

Congressman Hopkins, of Illinois, called on Secretary of State Olney and made verbal charges against Consul General Williams, who represents the United States at Havana, Cuba. He accuses the consul general of incompetence for the position he occupies and declares his neglect to investigate and report upon the case of Walter Dykert, a citizen of Illinois and a resident of the district which Mr. Hopkins represents in Congress, who is under arrest in Cuba, shows he is in sympathy with Spanish officials.

BREVITIES.

George Henry Boughton, the distinguished artist, has been elected a Royal Academician.

The Smith, Wilson & Sears Paper Company, of Holyoke, Mass., has called a meeting of its creditors. The liabilities are \$200,000.

A terrible explosion of fire damp has taken place in a mine at Brumpton, New Zealand. Five persons were killed outright and sixty more are entombed, with no hope of being rescued.

The latest contest in the famous Davis will case has just been filed at Butte, Mont., by Mrs. Hulda Queen Davis, of Tschachip, Cal., who claims to be the widow of the dead millionaire.

The Senate Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds voted to recommend the passage of the bill appropriating \$2,000,000 for a new public building at Indianapolis, Ind., the bills for government buildings at Oakland, Cal., and Waterbury, Conn., and also the bill for the purchase of a site for a building at Salem, Oregon.

Mrs. Josephine Snyder died at Port Jarvis, N. Y., of poisoning, as alleged. Her husband, Jacob Snyder, died Tuesday night. At the autopsy evidence of poison was found in his stomach. Mrs. Snyder's ante-mortem statement has been taken, but Coroner Harding declines to reveal its contents. The daughter of the Snyders, Mrs. Martha Whittaker, is under guard.

The Massachusetts State Republican convention, in session at Boston, elected delegates to the St. Louis convention, adopted a platform declaring for protection and against the free and unlimited coinage of silver and presented the name of Thomas B. Reed of Maine as a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination.

The Transvaal republic has formed an offensive and defensive alliance with the Orange Free State.

A Montreal florist is suing Queen Victoria for \$1,900 for flowers supplied at the state funeral of Sir John Thompson.

Marcus Pollasky, of the law firm of Doolittle, Tollman & Pollasky, of Chicago, has brought suit in the United States Circuit Court for the southern district of New York against Collis P. Huntington for \$374,000 for breach of contract in connection with the construction of the San Joaquin Valley Railroad.

THE DEACON'S ADVICE.

It Was Given for Nothing, and Was Worth Less than It Cost.

Opposite the railroad depot in a Southern town was a grocery kept by a colored man, and as we had some time to wait for the train three or four of us crossed over to look at his stock.

Business was very brisk with the merchant, though all of his customers were colored. We noticed that sugar, tea and codfish seemed to sell above all else, and during a temporary lull we approached the battered old scales on which everything was weighed and picked up some of the weights.

The hollow in each one had been filled with lead, and when quite sure that the pound weight would balance at least twenty ounces of codfish I said to the old man:

"I see you have filled your weights with lead?"

"Yes, sah—yes, sah," he replied, rubbing his hands together.

"What was the idea?"

"To keep de dirt out o' de holes, sah. Can't no dirt git in dar now."