

Democratic Watchman

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Bellefonte, Pa., Sept. 11, 1896.

P. GRAY MEEK, EDITOR.

Democratic National Ticket.

FOR PRESIDENT
WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN,
of Nebraska.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT
ARTHUR SEWELL,
of Maine.

Democratic State Ticket.

FOR CONGRESSMEN AT-LARGE,
JOHN M. BRADLEY, Washington Co.
BENJ. C. POTTS, Delaware Co.

FOR ELECTORS AT-LARGE,
WILLIAM M. SINGERLY, Philadelphia.
JAS. DENTON HANCOCK, Venango.
A. H. COFFROTH, Somerset.
GEO. W. GUTHRIE, Pittsburgh.

FOR DISTRICT ELECTORS.

Samuel Dickson, John M. Carroll,
Albert M. Hicks, Chas. J. Reilly,
John M. Campbell, J. P. Hoffar,
James J. Ryan, Lucien Banks,
John H. Hickson, A. E. Brady,
John B. Storm, George W. Rhine,
Thos. A. Haak, John C. Patton,
Chas. F. Reninger, William Weibe,
Chas. H. Schadt, Judson J. Brooks,
Thomas R. Phillips, John J. McFarland,
Charles F. King, C. H. Aikens,
John K. Royal, Seymour S. Hackett,
William Stahler, Harry Alvin Hall.

Democratic County Ticket.

FOR CONGRESS.
J. L. SPANGLER.

For Assembly—
[JAS. SCHOFIELD,
ROBERT M. FOSTER.

For Sheriff—W. M. CRONISTER.

For Treasurer—C. A. WEAVER.

For Recorder—J. C. HARPER.

For Register—GEO. W. RUMBERGER.

For Commissioners—
[P. H. MEYER,
DANIEL HECKMAN.

For Auditors—
[B. F. KISTER.

For County Surveyor—
J. H. WETZEL.

For Coroner—
W. U. IRVIN.

The Next State Legislature.

The people of Pennsylvania will be called upon this year to renew the Legislative branch of the state government. The body of Legislators, whose acts at the last session left such an unsavory memory, and whose general conduct was as much of a discredit to the State as it was a drain on the treasury, will have to be succeeded by a new set of lawmakers. It is, therefore, a matter of great importance to the people whether the State capital is to be filled by the same old gang or one equally as bad, or whether the next legislative body of this State shall be composed of men who will have some regard for their own reputations and some consideration for the public interest.

It is scarcely necessary for us to recount the misdeeds and short comings of the last State Legislature. Every intelligent citizen knows what it did and what it left undone, and has good reason to be ashamed of it. He has also reason to have a pecuniary feeling in the matter on account of the increase of State expenses caused by the profligate extravagance of that body.

Taught by the expensive and humiliating object lesson of last session the prudent citizen should be warned against electing Legislators this year who will be likely to imitate the bad example of the last Republican State Legislature. He certainly does not want a repetition of the reckless extravagance displayed in making a lot of new offices for which there was no use, and increasing salaries that were high enough without a further rise. It is not to be supposed that Republican official greed has been satisfied, and that there will not be a clamor for more offices and higher salaries at the next session. The prudent citizen wants no more DELANEY profligacy in the official equipment and ornamentation of the capitol grounds and buildings, and in the palatial furnishing and adornment of the Governor's mansion. Can it be doubted that DELANEY will be given another fling at the state treasury if the next Legislature shall be like the last one?

The honest, as well as the prudent citizen, can not desire another installment of the rascally legislation of last session which put the lawmaking function at the service of the corporations and money interest that could bring the kind of influence required to effect their purpose. Among such infamous legislation was the betrayal of street railway passengers to the greed of traction companies, the surrender of the coal oil interests of the State to the complete control of the Standard oil company, and other base legislative bargains with corporations and monopolies, while legislation that would have been of benefit to the working class and the agricultural interest was neglected, or absolutely ignored.

The people are fully aware of the character of the last Legislature, and they can be just as fully assured that if it is returned to Harrisburg, or one like it, and of the same party, the proceedings of the next session will surpass those of the last in the general profligacy of their character. In the event of another selection of such lawmakers, no other conclusion could be drawn than that the people of Pennsylvania have a preference for that kind of a Legislature, and as such a conclusion would entirely withdraw the restraint of the public disapprobation, unchecked license would reign supreme in the capitol at Harrisburg.

They Didn't Like the Income Tax.

The best evidence that the Indianapolis so-called Democratic convention was composed of the aristocracy of the Democracy, a plutocratic branch split off from the old Jeffersonian tree, was furnished by the fact that it had not a word to say in favor of making superfluous wealth bear its share of governmental taxation. A tax on incomes would affect the millionaires, and as the convention was run in the millionaires' interest no room was found in its platform for a plank demanding an income tax. Democratic plutocrats are as selfish as those of the Republican stamp, and just as willing to shove taxation onto the poorer classes.

Of course the millionaires at Indianapolis, who assumed to be the real Jeffersonians, indulged in glittering generalities about taxation "imposed only for public purposes," and expressed solicitude for the people "whose food and shelter, comfort and prosperity are attacked by higher taxes and depreciated money," but their entire ignorance of the income tax showed that the people in whom they were the most interested on the tax question were the millionaires.

If they really had at heart the interest of the common people who are "attacked by higher taxes" they would have favored the tax on incomes that was designed to reduce tariff taxation on the necessities of life.

Wiping Out The Gold Reserve.

Among other dreadful things which a goldbug paper says Mr. BRYAN would do, if he should be elected President, would be the wiping out of the gold reserve which is kept on hand to "maintain the credit of the government."

If Mr. BRYAN should become President it is not likely that he would lay profane hands upon that reserve, so sacred in the eyes of the gold-bugs, but it is entirely probable that he would adopt a policy that would render a gold reserve unnecessary. In all likelihood he would direct his Secretary of the Treasury to use his option in redeeming government notes with gold or silver, an option which the law gives him, and which was exercised by the Secretaries of the Treasury until HARRISON's secretary, FOSTER, concluded that the "public credit" couldn't be maintained without giving the gold-bugs a chance to raid the reserve and, by depleting it, compel the necessity for more gold loans, and more profit for the Wall street money lenders.

If it should become known that the Treasury would exercise its option of using silver in paying government notes, as is clearly allowed by law, and as Secretary MANNING, on a memorable occasion, declared it to be his intention to do, raids on the reserve would cease, and, in fact, the necessity for a gold reserve would no longer exist.

Let the Poor Man Make Some Money.

A very significant conversation took place the other day, in Bellefonte, between a bolo-crat, who recently came into the possession of a sum of money, and an old time Democrat, who is rated as one of the rich men of the town. They were discussing the money question, when their conversation took the following turn:

Bolo-crat.—I am for gold because I believe it is to my individual interest to support such a policy. I have to look out for myself first.

Democrat.—Well, if that is the way you look at it I suppose it would be to my interest to be for gold too, but I made my money in the times when we had both gold and silver and I am an honest man and I want such a monetary condition now that will enable other poor people to make some money, as I did, long ago."

What a contrast. The extreme of selfishness on the one hand, the liberality of Democracy on the other.

Well Rid of Them.

The plutocrats of the Democratic party are arrayed against BRYAN. Millionaire Democrats engineered the Indianapolis convention. Their great wealth has put them out of sympathy with the plain people who compose the rank and file of the party of JEFFERSON and JACKSON. To them the profits of trusts and syndicates are more desirable than JEFFERSONIAN principles, and gold loans are of more account to them than the homely interests of labor. Their greed for gold is disguised under the claim of devotion to "honest money," and the charge of anarchy is brought against people less anarchical than themselves, to cover their purpose of establishing a monied aristocracy. These plutocrats have long been out of place in the Democratic party, which is well rid of such an element.

Erratum.

In last week's issue of the WATCHMAN, in publishing a comparative statement of price for farm products and for labor, in 1873, as compared with those paid to-day, a typographical error made us state that talow was thirty cents a pound in 1873. This quotation was an error. The price was eight cents instead of thirty. Otherwise the quotations were right.

Every man who is opposed to the use of silver coin as a part of the legal currency of the country I disagree with. Every man who is opposed to the actual legal use of both metals I disagree with. I would endow the two dollars with equality, and make the coinage free.

JAMES A. GARFIELD.

The Democratic county ticket will be elected from one end to the other this fall, and it has become merely a matter of majorities. You can rest assured that CAL HARPER's won't be the least, either.

The Truth About Mexico.

Mining Engineer W. George Waring Exposes the Gold Standard Fallacies and Tells the Facts. Gold Mining the Rich Man's Industry. Silver Mining the Poor Man's Industry. Correlative Business.

FRIEND RYNDER:

You have asked for the result of my experience in the Republic of Mexico and in this country, as bearing upon the silver question. I must say, at the outset, that they have led me to a firm conviction of the righteousness and justice of the free coinage idea.

Nearly one-third of my time, for ten years past, has been passed in the pursuit of my profession in nearly every part of Mexico, and latterly, through a good command of the Spanish tongue, a closer familiarity with the people, has removed a great many of the erroneous impressions which I at first received, in common with nearly all casual visitors to Mexico. Since so many of these erroneous ideas are nowadays being given to the public as facts tending to discredit bimetallism, it may help to clear up some points in the silver controversy if I refer to them in some detail.

That Mexico is to-day the most prosperous nation on earth, is a statement that may surprise many, but it is an undeniable fact. Industries of every kind are being constantly started up all over the Republic, without any protective tariff, and all are successful. There has not been a single failure involving over \$30,000 in Mexico since the beginning of the panic and general business depression that has spread all over the gold standard countries in the past three years, beginning with the cessation of free coinage in India and the repeal of the Sherman Act in the United States. There has been no panic in Mexico, and *no fall in prices*. There was a marked rise in the prices of imported goods after the sudden drop in the London silver quotations in 1893, but no change whatever in domestic goods or labor, and now all articles formerly imported are made at home at the old prices. *The purchasing value of the silver dollar has not changed in Mexico.* The home market for all kinds of merchandise and farm truck is increasing at an enormous rate, and the rapidly growing investments of Americans and Europeans in Mexican industries is furnishing constant employment for everybody. Mexicans, Negroes, Indians and Chinese. An export duty of 5 per cent has been levied upon gold and silver to keep them in the country. As Mexico imports but little now, and exports immense quantities of coffee, textile materials, etc., the balance of trade is now in her favor, notwithstanding newspaper reports here to the contrary, and gold pours in from everywhere; but being at a premium of about \$1.93 it is hoarded away in private and public vaults, while the silver, in accordance with the well known "Gresham" law, is in actual circulation. The credit of the republic is of the very highest. Should silver rise to par in London, owing to the adoption of free coinage in the United States or by subsequent international bimetallism, it is believed that the only effect in Mexico will be to bring her immense stock of gold into circulation, while on the other hand silver goes to a premium it would be retired and the gold take its place. In any event it would seem that Mexico is fortunately secured against the future, and it is not at all surprising that she enjoys a financial tranquillity that is in strong contrast with the unrest so prevalent here and in Europe. No wonder that her newspaper editors can poke, fun, as they do, at the "credit money" system of the United States, liable to tumble over at the least sign of its insignificant gold basis giving way.

Now it is common to read about Mexico as a land where riches and poverty are at extremes, beggary a common sight and labor great underpaid. The traveler upon the Mexican Central, national and international railroads especially, will have at first sight an apparent verification of these statements yet they are untrue as anything can be.

In Mexico the maimed, deformed, blind or otherwise helpless natives are allowed by the municipal authorities to beg upon certain days—once a week or fortnight. First, as to the extremes of wealth and poverty. As a matter of fact the rich in Mexico are not nearly so numerous in proportion nor so wealthy as here, nor are the poor—the same class of poor, so desperately poor as in the United States. The great middle class in Mexico, the people who have received a common school or high school education, is composed of artisans, merchants, clerks and workmen in all vocations, and those of this class who labor receive approximately the same wages or salaries that are paid for similar services here. In many cases however especially in the case of skilled mechanical labor, better wages are paid in Mexico than here. There is however another class which in this country is not in evidence as a laboring class. This is the aboriginal Indian. Here this class is set apart upon government reservations, and maintained out of sight in idleness, being fed and clothed at the people's expense. In Mexico the Indian is very much in evidence, since there is plenty of work for him to do and he does it for 25 or 50 cents a day, all it is worth, as a rule. The Yaquis and some other of the more industrious and intelligent races get much better pay. Tourists who travel in Pullman coaches along the railways, invariably remark the number of mud huts to be seen in the Indian villages along the lines and the dirty appearance of the natives, and if it happens to be beggars day, they express surprise at the number of beggars they see at the stations. It seems that the Mexican Indian has discovered the liberality of the American public toward poor Lo, and that the railway stations offer the best opportunity for its exercise. This custom, however, is common all over Mexico and Mexican shopkeepers are almost equally liberal toward the helpless native. There is nothing in it that really indicates excessive poverty; it only results from the absence of Indian reservations, alms-houses, etc., in Mexico. The mud huts occupied by the Mexican Indian are far in advance of the miserable huts and tepees in which our Indians live, and the difference in favor of the Mexican is immeasurable when the relative climatic conditions are considered. The mistake which nearly all tourists make is in comparing the condition of an Indian race just emerging from barbarism with that of the intelligent and educated American working man.

Another misconception prevails as to the money of Mexico. It has been reported by tourists that owing to the fluctuations in the price of silver in London and New York the Mexican merchant or shopkeeper has to wait for his telegraphic quotations every morning before he can tell what price he shall place upon his goods for the day. This statement is ridiculously absurd, when the fact is that prices do not fluctuate at all in Mexico, except through temporary scarcity (as for example, corn and wheat in seasons of extreme drought), that it hardly needs refutation. There has been no general fall in values in Mexico, and business failures are extremely rare, almost unknown. The man who does inquire daily for the silver is generally the tourist who has a credit in some Mexican bank, for which he desires gold exchange against his return to the states. A Mexican silver dollar buys as much now of almost anything in Mexico as it ever did. No one there (unless it might be a foreigner) ever thinks of questioning its honesty or integrity or purchasing power. It buys as much of every necessary of life, or to put it broadly, it buys as much of all things combined, food, clothing, land, luxuries, labor and enjoyments, in Mexico, as a gold dollar or paper dollar does in the United States. And in addition there is far more contentment and real happiness thrown into the bargain. The silver dollar of Mexico is par excellence the money of the people. The metal itself is widely distributed being found in almost every state, and it is mined in small quantities by nearly everybody. I was recently consulted by one of the very largest reduction and smelting works in Mexico, near Parral, and the most interesting sight I saw in the neighborhood was the endless procession of burro trains bearing small lots of silver ore from many small mines worked by owners or lessees, all of them persons in moderate circumstances. The "Silver Basin" is not known in Mexico, even as a newspaper myth. Nor is any sectional feeling, as between east and west, ever heard of. For the matter of rich silver mine owners, I know of but very few in the United States who are clamoring for free coinage, and I am well acquainted in nearly every mining region in the west. Those who were so fortunate as to make much money out of silver mining during the good times, so far as my observation goes, have found a richer mine in the national banking business, and are naturally opposed to free coinage, as a rule. Silver mining is not profitable here now, because it costs as much on the average to mine and refine an ounce of silver as the metal is worth, while the average cost of mining an ounce of gold, as has been well shown in a recent pamphlet (No. 14) on the subject issued by the Pennsylvania Sound Money League of Philadelphia, is from one-third to one-half its coinage value, and the ratio of cost of production of the two metals is still about the same as the old coinage ratio, very nearly 16 to 1; that is to cost about 11 to 16 times as much to produce an ounce of gold as it does to produce an ounce of silver. The cost of producing an ounce of gold in the great South Africa gold mines is stated to be \$7.72 per ounce, while the cost of producing an ounce of silver in the United States is 60 cents per ounce, a cost ratio of 11½ to 1. At the Alaska-Treadwell mines, the cost of producing gold averaged \$9.12 per ounce during four years past of 13.8 times the cost of producing an ounce of silver. No outcry is being raised about the profits of gold mining, probably because gold mining is now distinctly a rich man's industry. Since the exhaustion of the placer deposits in the United States gold is mined chiefly from large low grade quartz veins, requiring heavy machinery and capital, and but little labor. The industry does not give rise to collateral industries to any market extent, such as coal and iron mining, railroad haulage, large food and other supplies, because the operation consists simply in crushing the quartz and washing them off by water in the process of catching the gold upon amalgamated plates. There are no by-products. Silver mining on the contrary is at present a poor man's industry, or was during the period when it was extensively coined. The old Mexican proverb about it requiring a gold mine to work a silver mine no longer applies in its original sense, since the establishment of custom smelters and refineries worked upon scientific principles. Under free coinage a poor man can locate for himself a silver lode or deposit, or lease a portion of one already opened, and mine the ore and ship to the smelters, where he receives pay not only for the silver alone, but also for the lead, copper, bismuth, gold, and other metals contained in the ore, for it is a peculiarity of silver ores that they contain a large proportion of other metals, while gold quartz rarely contains anything else of value. The poor silver miner needs little or no machinery, but his work gives rise to a multitude of collateral industries connected with smelting and refining. Should free coinage be established there will, I think, be an exodus of unemployed to the Rocky mountains nearly or quite as great as the sudden influx of miners and laborers from the West to the East and South which occurred at the time of the great fall in silver in the spring of '93 when its coinage was discontinued in India. I was a witness to that disastrous emigration from the mining regions, and saw troops of 30 to 60 miners in separate bands leaving the mountains afoot. The statement so often made that the value of the silver in a dollar is only about 53 or 54 cents is therefore quite misleading, and results from an unfair comparison of the value of a coined dollar with uncoined bullion. Let both metals have equal coinage privileges, and it appears at once that the relative values of equal weights of the coined metals must bear the ratio to each other of the cost of their production, if no coinage ratio whatever were fixed by law. This ratio of cost is if anything less than 16 to 1, certainly not more than 17 or 18 to 1. To my mind this disposed wholly of every possible objection to free coinage. It is the false assumption of a 53-cent dollar that it is at the bottom of every argument that I have seen against free coinage by the United States alone, and I think if it were more generally understood the hesitation of our people to accept this great reform would melt away.

The newspapers are full at the present time of statements to the effect that in the event of free coinage, wage earners will be paid in depreciated money; bankers threaten to pay their depositors in currency worth only 53 cents on the dollar, and the president of a prominent insurance company assures his policy holders that they will only receive half the amount they are insured for if free coinage wins. It is very evident that capitalists, bankers and importers are opposed to any increase in the volume of money, but their sincerity in proposing coolly to defraud their clients and depositors out of 47 cents on the dollar may well be questioned. If they believe that they could double their profits at a single stroke by free coinage, it is very probable they would say nothing about the disaster to their depositors and policy holders, but quietly work for the consummation of the very idea they oppose so vehemently. The same papers which urge the idea of 53 cent dollars, at the same time oppose free coinage because it would enrich the owners of silver mines! And strangely enough they urge protection to special industries at the same time! It is no wonder that the public at large is beginning to mistrust the sincerity and good faith of these self styled "educators" and their loud pretence of upholding national integrity and honor, at the same time that they charge every manner of dishonesty upon those who believe in bimetallism from a sincere conviction that through it alone the people will be delivered from their present unhappy and discontented condition. The free coinage idea cannot be exterminated by ridicule, nor by the power of money. It is bound to prevail sooner or later; that is admitted by most of the opponents of separate action by the United States. The only way to resume free coinage is to resume it.

Very truly yours,

W. GEO. WARING.

Will Bryan be Elected?

From the York Gazette.

A glance to-day reveals the encouraging prospect of the election of WILLIAM J. BRYAN, the people's candidate and friend, in November next. Although the trusts, monopolies and moneyed syndicates do loud boasting and claim the campaign is virtually over and their candidate a sure winner, facts clearly indicate that they desire simply to mislead, and produce apathy thereby amongst the followers of Mr. BRYAN.

The following estimate is based on information taken more from Republican than Democratic sources.

States for Bryan.