

LABOR'S RINGING PROTEST.

How the Laboringmen and Producers Have Been Wronged by Our Monetary System--A Strong Appeal From Leaders--Free Coinage of Silver the Remedy--Labor's Great Cause.

To the Members of Organized Labor and all other Producers and Toilers throughout the United States:

In view of the general distress now prevailing throughout our country, which has existed for so many years and which will continue until remedial legislation is enacted--and all this occurring, too, at a time when our granaries are full to repletion, and when, in the natural order of things, our producers and toilers should be enjoying to the full the fruits of their hard and conscientious labors--it seems to us that the time has come for united action on the part of those who create the wealth of the country.

The respective demands and platforms of principles of our several organizations set forth our opinions as to the causes that have brought about this condition of things. Inasmuch as the leading representatives and friends of all our organizations have placed one of the causes of the tribulations of our beloved republic to the departure of our government from the wise bimetallic financial policy of Washington, Jefferson and Hamilton, and the substitution thereof of the present monometallic policy recommended by European money owners and advocated by their American allies, we, the undersigned officers of industrial, agricultural and commercial organizations, have thought it best, at this particular time, to submit for your careful consideration a synopsis of the legislation respecting the precious metals enacted in this country since the foundation of this government that you may judge for yourselves as to what portion of such legislation was enacted in the interest of the producing and what in the interest of the non-producing classes, and as to whether or not the shrewd manipulators of our finances foresaw that the result of their work would be to largely help in the subjugation of the people. Whatever the object, certain it is that before the demonetization of silver and the enactment of other financial legislation which our organizations condemn, 3,500 bushels of wheat, or 35,000 pounds of cotton, was the annual pay for our congressmen and senators, while to-day 10,000 bushels of wheat, or 100,000 pounds of cotton, barely suffice. Before demonetization 35,000 bushels of wheat, or 350,000 pounds of cotton, per year, would have paid the salary of the president; to-day he receives the equivalent of 100,000 bushels of wheat, or 1,000,000 pounds of cotton. And in like proportion it is with all other fixed salaries and incomes.

Was such legislation just? Was it honest? Does it not necessarily follow that the demoralization of the food-producing sections of the country, through failure to procure reasonable prices for their products, causes the manufacturing sections to accumulate excessive stocks, and that, in consequence of a poor market, hundreds of thousands of operatives are thrown out of employment, thus robbing them of the power, even at the low prices, to purchase the necessaries of life.

Again is it not obvious to everyone that the striking down of one-half the world's volume of money makes the remaining half a comparatively easy matter for capitalists to control and manipulate, and that toilers, to obtain money for the purchase of their food supplies, are placed entirely at the mercy of the foreign American money-sharks, who, by contracting the currency, can force a panic or famine in money at their supreme will?

Would they be guilty of such a crime? We only say in reply, look at our present helpless condition. Does it not seem to you, in the light of the facts here given, that, where in the midst of plenty there is widespread suffering and unhappiness, there is considerable meat in the refrain from Wall street: "Dig on, ye toilers, dig; the legislative button that we press will do the rest!"

The first coinage law enacted under the constitution, as recommended by Hamilton, concurred in by Jefferson and approved by Washington, provided for the free and unlimited coinage of both gold and silver, the silver dollar containing 371 1/4 grains of pure metal.

In 1837 the mint laws were revised, and the standard for both gold and silver was made nine-tenths fine; that is, nine-tenths pure metal and one part alloy, the number of pure silver grains to the dollar unaltered, viz: 371 1/4 grains. This law established our present ratio of 16 to 1.

In August, 1865, the public debt, which grew out of the war, reached its highest point, the debt, less cash in the treasury, being \$2,756,431,000. This debt was not payable in gold. No bonds or other governmental obligations were ever made specifically payable in gold. The interest on the bonds was made payable in coin, the greater portion of the principal of the original bonds in lawful money, and the refunding bonds in coin--not gold coin, but coin of either gold or silver.

In 1869 the principal of the bonded debt was also made payable in coin.

In 1870 the standard of coin was by the refunding act nominated in the bond; that is to say, all the obligations of the United States were then declared payable in either gold or silver, of the present ratio, at the option, not of the bond-holders, but of the people of the United States.

All the acts passed since the close of the civil war, it will be observed, were in the interest of the bond-holders, and against that of the producers and toilers.

But it remained for the year 1873 to witness the crowning blow of all. In that year, an innocent-appearing bill, entitled "An Act Revising the Laws Relative to the Mint, Assay Offices, and Coinage of the United States," was successfully smuggled through congress.

The bill purposely omitted, from the list of the coins to be minted, the silver dollar.

By that clandestine act, of which the people and the people's representatives were ignorant, and by the subsequent act of 1874, adopting the revised statutes, silver was demonetized, and the world's volume of ultimate redemption money was reduced from about seven billions to three and one-half billions.

In 1878, after the discovery of the crime of 1873, congress passed what is known as the "Bland Bill." This bill was vetoed by President Hayes (John Sherman being secretary of the treasury), and congress passed the bill over the veto. The act of 1878 added to our volume of money over 370,000,000 standard silver dollars.

In 1890, what is known as the "Sherman Act" was passed as a substitute for the "Bland Act" of 1878. This law further increased our volume of money over \$150,000,000.

Under the Bland and Sherman laws over \$500,000,000, or about \$9 per capita, were added to our volume of money. As all reflecting men are agreed that the present distress is due to a scarcity of money, we must leave it to the imagination as to what would now be our condition if the gold standard men had had their way, and our present insufficient volume of money were half a billion dollars less.

The Sherman bill was adding over fifty millions a year to the money of the country when in 1893 its repeal was imperiously demanded by European financiers, through their American allies; and, although the people's representatives made one of the grandest efforts ever witnessed in behalf of the producers and toilers of our country, yet the power of the financial institutions of Europe was so great that our people were compelled to submit to temporary defeat.

Now, the question is: What do the tens of millions of victims in this country, to the diabolical gold standard policy of Lombard and Wall streets, propose doing about it? Submit to subjugation, or demand in no uncertain tones the immediate restoration of silver as standard money? No! they will no longer submit to such injustice! And therefore we earnestly recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

"We demand of the present congress the immediate return to the money of the constitution as established by our fathers, by restoring free and unlimited coinage of both gold and silver at the present ratio of 16 to 1, the coins of both metals to be equally full legal tender for all debts, public and private, as before the fraudulent demonetization of silver in 1873.



"Alas, poor Yorick! * * * To what base uses we may return!"
—New York News.

"We also condemn the increase of the national debt in time of peace, and the use of interest-bearing bonds at any time."

Signed:
J. R. SOVEREIGN,
Grand Master Workman, Knights of Labor.
JNO. W. HAYES,
Grand Secretary and Treasurer, Knights of Labor.
SAMUEL GOMPERS,
President of American Federation of Labor.
MARION BUTLER,
President of the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union.
H. H. TRENER,
General President, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.
J. P. MCGUIRE,
General Secretary, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.
P. M. ARTHUR,
Chief of the United Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.
C. A. ROBINSON,
President of the Farmers' Mutual Benefit Association.
FRANK P. SARGENT,
Grand Master of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen.
F. W. ARNOLD,
Grand Secretary and Treasurer of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen.
JOHN MCBRIDE,
President of the United Mine Workers of America.

MISINFORMED, EVIDENTLY.

"Ira C. Mitchell and another gentleman made populist speeches at Mt Eagle on Tuesday night and all went well until some one in the audience asked them in what respect free silver would benefit the laboring man, and another asked how it happened that the 'Crime of '73' was not discovered until 23 years after. It knocked the sand out of them, and the meeting adjourned to allow the speakers time to hunt up an answer."
—Gazette.

My attention having been called to the above publication in the Keystone Gazette, I beg leave to say, that the publisher of that paper has evidently been imposed upon. The only truth it contains is that another gentleman (W. Harrison Walker Esq.) and myself made speeches at that place at the date named. The meeting was not interrupted in any manner. It was orderly throughout and at the close I called for questions, as my manner is, but none were asked. Certainly such simple questions as those, said to have been asked, would not puzzle the veriest tyro. When three millions of workingmen, in the United States, are wandering over the country seeking work and finding none, it is not difficult to tell voters how the laboring man's condition will be improved by restoring our currency to what it was during the eighty years of our country's prosperity. As to the other question, the editor of the Gazette must not imagine that because it took him 23 years to learn of the "Crime of '73," nobody else knew of it. For more than twenty years an earnest fight was made in Congress to restore it, and the fight kept up until the people all over the country have found out where the "nigger" is "in the woodpile," and they are going to get him out, "don't you forget it" friend Harter.

IRA C. MITCHELL.
Last week a free silver meeting, at Baileysville, Ferguson township, was disturbed by republicans. The speakers were insulted and roughly treated. Such conduct is truly a disgrace to that community, and many of the more sensible republicans are sorry that it occurred. We are informed that similar conduct took place in Milesburg, at Stormstown and other points. It is disgraceful, and the individuals participating in it, could be punished.

ABOUT "CLEMSON'S CATTLE."

EDITOR OF THE CENTRE DEMOCRAT:
I saw an article in the Bellefonte Republican, of September 24th, 1896, from Scotia Mines saying, that the citizens of Scotia were here on the evening of the 10th of September '96, to hear Mr. Arnold's address on sound money and other issues of the G. O. P., and had to be content to listen to W. E. Gray and Ed Chambers, as Mr. Arnold was not here as billed and that a prominent merchant of Stormstown said, "They were Frank Clemson's cattle." This I understand referred to me. I never said so, and will face any man on it, that has any respect for the truth. We, as democrats, treated them with civility and also their speakers. These speakers heaped all the abuse they could bring to bear on the democratic party and their standard bearer, Wm. J. Bryan. They used such language as this: "Wm. J. Bryan is nothing but a bag of wind, and if the wind was all out of him he would fall to pieces," and he was "so green the cows would not eat him." Big argument! It created the loudest applause, they had (enough).

We had a meeting of the democracy, and also the republicans, on the evening of September 24, 1896, addressed by Hammond Sechler and Ira C. Mitchell, and had a fair crowd, but the evening was very chilly for an outdoor meeting. Our speakers abused no one, but gave us facts and sound argument. I am sorry to say, for our community and republican brethren, they could not extend the same courtesy to us, as we did to them. They hissed our speakers, and they cannot deny it. Some of their own party voters told me it was a shame and an outrage on the place. He felt sorry for their party, as the democrats had treated their meeting fair and square.

I am not going to sign my name "A Voter," as I am innocent of saying the "Voters of Scotia Mines were Frank Clemson's Cattle." The article is intended, by the one that circulates it, to injure my business, but a lie never hurts, it always injures its originator the most.
Yours respectfully,
J. W. GRIFFIN.
Stormstown, Pa., Sept., 26, 1896.

New Paper.

Last Thursday a new paper made its appearance at Bellefonte "The National Democrat." It will be published only, we understand, during the campaign and supports Palmer and Buckner for president and vice president and democratic county ticket. The paper is printed in Philadelphia and mailed in Bellefonte. The business office is in the Centre County Bank building.

WHY THERE IS DISCONTENT.

How the Value of the Farmer's Products have Declined under the Gold Standard. The Wealth of the Country in the hands of the few, Public Salaries Measured in Farm Products and other Comparisons.

QUESTION—I wish that you would publish some figures showing just how the increase in the purchasing power of money has affected the farmer.
GRANGER.

The farmers of our country are most vitally interested in the demonetization of silver. It is of very great importance to ascertain how the financial policy we have been pursuing since 1873 has affected them. Our monetary unit has been steadily appreciating in value for the past 23 years, which means a steady decline in farm products. The Atlanta Constitution has given the whole meat of the fall of prices in a nutshell:

"In 1868 there was about \$40 per capita of money in circulation. Cotton was about 30 cents a pound. The farmer then put a 500-pound bale of cotton on his wagon, took it to town and sold it. Then he paid \$40 taxes, bought a cooking stove for \$30, a suit of clothes for \$15, his wife a dress for \$5, 100 pounds of meat for \$18, a barrel of flour for \$12 and went home with \$30 in his pocket. In 1887 there was about \$5 per capita of money in circulation and cotton was 8 1/2 cents a pound. The same farmer put a 500-pound bale of cotton on his wagon, went to town and sold it. He paid \$40 taxes, got discouraged, went to the saloon, spent his remaining \$2.50 and went home dead broke and drunk."

Here is another short sequence of falling prices:
"The farmer who sold his farm 25 years ago and buried his money in some dark vault and has simply worked enough to make a bare living can go and bring his money to the light of day and buy three just as good farms as he sold."
—I. E. Dean, 1894.

The following statistics further illustrate the subject and show why it's interest of certain high officials to favor the gold standard:

THE SALARY OF LINCOLN AND OF HARRISON COMPARED IN THE PRODUCTS OF THE PEOPLE'S TOIL.

PRODUCTS OF THE FARM.	Lincoln's salary would buy at present prices	Harrison's salary would buy at present prices	Lincoln's salary would buy at present prices	Harrison's salary would buy at present prices
Wheat, bushels.....	1,542	5,900	4,438	17,562
Corn, bushels.....	18,248	106,000	81,752	337,000
Tobacco, pounds.....	132,275	625,000	492,725	2,381,000
Cotton, pounds.....	38,061	355,555	517,504	2,653,000
Wool, pounds.....	48,856	146,092	118,570	85,156
Rice, tons.....	110	800	850	237,728
Butter, pounds.....	68,870	250,000	371,128	87,129
Sugar, raw pounds.....	102,798	1,111,111	917,513	144,223
New Orleans molasses, gal.....	26,321	135,135	169,614	129,774
Hams, pounds.....	169,996	500,000	333,534	128,000
Meat, barrels.....	1,642	6,000	4,438	92,204
Mess pork, barrels.....	859	3,282	4,304	137,562

THE INDUSTRIAL VALUES OF LINCOLN AND HIS CABINET'S SALARIES COMPARED WITH CLEVELAND'S.

Salary of President Lincoln per year.....	\$25,000
Salaries of his cabinet officers each, per year.....	6,000
"During his entire Administration what averaged about \$2 per bushel."	
Grover Cleveland's salary is, per year.....	\$50,000
Salaries of his cabinet officers each, per year.....	8,000
"At the present time wheat is selling in the great wheat-producing states at 35 cents per bushel."	

SALARIES IF PAID IN WHEAT.

	Bushels.		Bushels.
President.....	12,500	President.....	142,857
Secretary of State.....	3,000	Secretary of State.....	22,857
Secretary of War.....	3,000	Secretary of War.....	22,857
Secretary of Navy.....	3,000	Secretary of Navy.....	22,857
Secretary of the Treasury.....	3,000	Secretary of the Treasury.....	22,857
Attorney-General.....	3,000	Attorney-General.....	22,857
Postmaster-General.....	3,000	Postmaster-General.....	22,857
Total.....	36,500	Total.....	280,000

"It might be well to add that doctors' bills, lawyers' fees, salaries of all kinds and interest charges are all paid for at the same proportion as the salaries named above. In this statement can be found the reason why the men who labor get the least reward.—N. A. Dunning.

FARM VALUES UNDER THE FALLING PRICES OF MONEY CONTRACTION.

(Government Statistics.)

The Average Size of a Farm in the United States--1870, 153 acres; 1880, 133 acres; 1890, 107 acres.
Average Value Per Acre--1870, \$56; 1880, \$46; 1890, \$28.
The Average Value of Each Farm--1870, \$3,430; 1880, \$2,428; 1890, \$1,520.
Value of Average Acre of Wheat--1867, \$23.05; 1880, \$12.48; 1892, \$8.35.
Value of Average Acre of Corn--1867, \$18.87; 1880, \$10.91; 1892, \$9.09.
Value of Average Acre of Oats--1867, \$16.05; 1880, \$9.28; 1892, \$7.73.
Value of Average Acre of Rye--1867, \$19.24; 1880, \$10.50; 1888, \$7.07.
Value of Average Acre of Barley--1867, \$20.00; 1880, \$14.11; 1888, \$12.57.
Value of Average Acre of Buckwheat--1867, \$19.11; 1880, \$10.55; 1888, \$8.36.

VALUE AND AMOUNT OF FARM PRODUCTIONS.

	Bushels.	Acres.	Value.
1867.....	1,329,729,400	65,636,449	\$1,284,037,300
1880.....	2,718,193,501	120,926,286	1,361,497,704
1888.....	3,209,742,300	146,281,000	1,320,255,398

It will be noticed that the price of wheat, together with all cereals, has been growing less each year. It will also be noticed that with more than twice the number of bushels of gross production upon nearly three times the number of acres of land that the money received for the products was very nearly the same.

THE RELATION OF PRODUCTS TO INTEREST.

Mr. Brown loaned Mr. Green in 1869 \$1,000 at 10 per cent interest. Each year Mr. Brown received from Mr. Green \$100 as interest money. In order to buy this \$100 Mr. Green sold from the products of his farm at the market price at that date:
50 bushels of wheat,
Or 165 bushels of oats,
Or 125 bushels of corn,
Or 230 pounds of butter,
Or 500 pounds of pork,
Or 250 pounds of wool,
Or 500 pounds of cotton.

THE RESULT 25 YEARS AFTER.
In 1893 the mortgage was renewed at 7 per cent interest. Then in order to buy the \$70 interest tribute Mr. Green would sell:
135 bushels of wheat,
Or 300 bushels of oats,
Or 265 bushels of corn,
Or 535 pounds of butter,
Or 1,100 pounds of pork,
Or 450 pounds of wool,
Or 1,000 pounds of cotton,
This information is here in point.

OUR VAST INDEBTEDNESS.

At present prices the interest charges on the vast indebtedness of this country, corporate and individual, together with taxes, all of which are fixed amounts, require for their annual payment more than the entire proceeds of the eight prin-