

The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ - ED. & PROP.

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For Sheriff—W. M. CRONISTER.
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For Coroner—W. U. IRVIN.

EDITORIAL

PLAIN POINTERS.

The farmer and the laboring man should be intensely interested in this campaign. The issue is a vital one, as it means much for them. When they vote, they will either endorse the present monetary system with its attending ills, and indicate that they desire its continuance by having only the use of gold for primary money. Persons who are in distress from depression of business, reduction in the price of their products and the inability to obtain employment at a remunerative rate will likely vote for a change. They will ask the government to return to its constitutional money—use of both precious metals, gold and silver. There may be many who are uncertain as to how they should vote, they hesitate—not sure which course to follow.

On the first page of this issue we have a carefully prepared article for the farmer. It shows the effect of the money legislation, as to his products. It is compiled from the highest authorities—government reports. From it he can learn why the farmer is discontented and in great distress. Somebody else is reaping the just benefits of his toil. The increase in the purchasing power of the dollar has depressed prices. Every farmer is urged to give this his careful attention and honest consideration. If he likes the present state of affairs, he is justified in voting for a continuance of our present monetary system. If he wants a change, let him vote for free silver, more money and higher prices. That is Wm. J. Bryan's cause.

To the laboring man. Not for many years has your condition been more deplorable. To-day there are many thousands of your fellowmen roving the country searching for employment—willing even to work for a mere pittance to provide something for the hungry mouths at home. To day, men dig and delve in the mines near Bellefonte for 85 cents per day, and many can not secure employment at these meagre rates. There was a time when there was plenty of employment and wages were about double. Mark you, during that time we had different kinds of tariff, but since that the same monetary system. You have had gold for over twenty three years. Do you want more of it? Do you think you can stand it any longer? Gold may be good for some people, but what has it done for you? You should know. If you want this state of affairs to continue, vote for a continuance of the present gold standard. To laboring men who are in doubt, as to their duty, we call their attention to an address on the front page of this issue. It comes from the official heads of the great labor organizations of the country. They have carefully studied this question and know your needs. Can you not accept their counsel and advice? Or will you follow the bankers and bondholders, the greedy shysters, for scarce money, low wages and a continuance of present conditions.

You are an independent American citizen. You are on an equality with any man. When you vote, pursue an intelligent course. Act for your best interest. Until then, read and think for yourself upon this grave issue.

WHY THERE IS DISCONTENT.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.)

Principal farm products—wheat, oats, hay, cotton, potatoes, beef, corn and pork—as shown by the following table of crops of 1893:

Produce.	Bushels.	Price.	Value
Wheat.....	500,000,000	\$0.74	\$370,000,000
Corn.....	704,000,000	0.44	309,760,000
Oats.....	1,600,000,000	0.31	496,000,000
Potatoes.....	600,000,000	0.31	186,000,000
Cotton.....	156,000,000	0.75	117,000,000
Hogs.....	3,000,000,000	0.10	300,000,000
Cattle.....	4,000,000,000	0.06	240,000,000
Hay, tons.....	6,000,000,000	0.03½	210,000,000
Total.....	45,000,000	9.00	405,000,000

Total..... \$2,531,250,000

FIXED CHARGES AGAINST PRODUCERS.

Expenses National Government, annual.....	\$ 500,000,000
Expenses, state, county and municipal.....	500,000,000
Interest and dividends, railroads.....	250,000,000
Interest on \$9,000,000,000 real estate mortgages.....	720,000,000
Interest on other private debts.....	720,000,000

Total fixed charges..... \$2,690,000,000
Value of crops named..... 2,531,250,000
Balance charges..... \$ 158,750,000
—Iowa Tribune.

A NATIONAL DEBT UNDER FALLING PRICES.

The national debt as given by the Secretary of the Treasury in 1866 was..... \$2,783,000,000

Paid on principal.....	\$1,756,000,000
Paid as interest.....	2,538,000,000
Paid as premium.....	58,000,000
Total Paid.....	\$4,352,000,000

Amount due 1893..... \$1,027,450,000

NATIONAL DEBT MEASURED BY WHEAT.

Had this debt been contracted payable in wheat it would stand as follows: In 1866 the entire debt could have been paid, with bushels of wheat..... 1,007,000,000

Paid on principal, bushels of wheat since 1866.....	1,986,000,000
Paid as interest, bushels of wheat since 1866.....	2,974,000,000
Paid as premium, bushels of wheat since 1866.....	62,000,000
Total bushels of wheat paid on debt since 1866.....	5,022,000,000

Amount still due 1893, bushels of wheat..... 2,054,900,000

NATIONAL DEBT MEASURED IN COTTON.

Had the debt been contracted payable in cotton it would stand as follows: In 1867 it could have been paid in full with, bales of cotton..... 14,184,000

We have paid on principal, bales of cotton.....	34,800,000
We have paid as interest, bales of cotton.....	58,760,000
We have paid as premium, bales of cotton.....	1,130,000
Amount paid to 1893, bales of cotton.....	94,690,000

Amount due 1893, bales of cotton..... 34,251,600

It now requires nearly two and one-half times as much cotton to pay the debt as it did in 1867. It also requires more than double the number of bushels of wheat to pay it now than it did in 1866. This statement is based upon Government reports, and we claim upon this showing that the national debt has increased, instead of having decreased.—N. A. Dunning.

A further showing of the increase of the National debt, if paid in farm products:

Debt in 1866, \$2,783,000,000; debt in 1894, \$1,071,979,527.

Products necessary to pay the debts as per prices in years specified.	Am't, 1866.	Am't, 1894.	Showing actual increase.
Beef, barrels.....	129,000,000	178,663,254	49,663,254
Pork, barrels.....	87,000,000	107,197,952	20,197,952
Wheat, bushels.....	1,007,000,000	2,143,959,014	1,136,959,014
Oats, bushels.....	3,262,350,000	4,287,918,028	1,025,568,028
Corn, bushels.....	2,218,000,000	3,970,294,174	1,652,294,174
Cotton, pounds, 1867.....	7,092,000,000	15,313,993,242	8,221,993,242
Coal, tons.....	213,307,000	267,994,881	54,687,881
Bar iron, tons.....	24,110,000	26,145,842	2,035,842

DENNING.

GREAT DECLINE OF FARM VALUES—WHO GOT IT.

Here are some more figures about farm values, and they are official, coming from the last census reports:

In 1860 the wealth of the United States was.....	\$16,000,000,000
Of this the farmers were worth.....	7,000,000,000
In 1870 the wealth was.....	30,000,000,000
Of this the farmers were worth.....	11,000,000,000
In 1880 the wealth of the nation was.....	45,000,000,000
Of this the farmers were worth.....	12,000,000,000
In 1890 the wealth of the nation was.....	62,000,000,000
Of this the farmers were worth.....	15,000,000,000

From this \$15,000,000,000 we must deduct the mortgages, \$4,000,000,000. It leaves them worth \$11,000,000,000 out of \$62,000,000,000, while they represent 45 per cent, about one half, of our most industrious, hardest working and the most substantial portion of our population.

DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH.

These things all point to one more table, telling how wealth is distributed among the American people (Census Report):

Class.	Number of families.	Average per family.	Total for class.
Millionaire.....	4,047	\$3,000,000	\$12,000,000,000
Rich.....	1,092,218	28,735	30,500,000,000
Home owners.....	4,994,091	2,915	14,560,939,303
Homeless.....	6,599,796	418	2,795,898,000

Yet, according to some sarcastic wag, "they all get what they want."

"I want a dollar that is worth a dollar," shouts the fool farmer, and he hauls two bushels of wheat to market that have cost him \$1.40 to produce—and gets it.

"I want a dollar that is worth a dollar," yells the silly planter, and he carts to market 15 pounds of cotton that have cost him \$1.30 to make—and he gets it.

"I want an honest dollar," howls the laboring man, and he does \$2 worth of work—and he gets it.

"I want an honest dollar," shrieks the hide-bound merchant, and he advertises his goods at panic prices—and he gets it.

"I want the earth and all that is on it," says the money owner, and he quietly makes his notes and mortgages payable in gold—and he has almost got it.

But the people of the United States, just now, are listening with serious, even dangerous, attention to the summary of John A. Logan:

"You may theorize and argue until you are hoarse, yet you will fail to get the people to prefer low prices to high ones for their products. They know that one bushel of wheat at \$1.25 in currency will buy one acre of Government land, while it takes two and a half bushels at 50 cents to purchase it, though it be in gold. They know that \$1 in paper, if legal tender, will pay \$1 of taxes as well as \$1 in gold. They know well enough from experience that if you run down prices by lessening the currency there will be no corresponding decrease in taxes and salaries of county, state and municipal officers, nor in the debts they owe."

With these stubborn facts staring us in the face, we must exclaim: "How long, O Lord, how long, will the people sleep?"

It should not be forgotten by toilers and producers everywhere that this is the result of the money legislation, since 1873. It has robbed them of the fruits of their labor, it has wrecked their hopes and homes, and that is the righteous cause in which we are now engaged, an irrepressible conflict for the money of our fathers, free coinage of both gold and silver, that must be won or the homes of our country are gone forever, for—

A bold yeomanry, their country's pride,
When once destroyed can never be supplied.

—Owing to the heavy rain on Wednesday morning, the Lewisburg train was delayed three hours. A landslide at Huntington blocked the main line and many trains passed over the Bald Eagle valley.

LAST week's Keystone Gazette abuses the grangers because Judge Furst got badly cleaned up in the money discussion with Whitehead. It is wrong to censure the grangers, for what Judge Furst did not know.

A REJECTED COMMUNICATION

A Few Plain Questions that Could Not Be Answered.

TOO MUCH FOR THE GAZETTE.

Copy of an Article Sent to that Paper.—Refused Publication Because it Could not Answer—Afraid of Questions About Wheat and Silver—Can't Fool the Farmers all the Time.

On Monday a communication was received at this office from Ouray, Colorado. It contained an article that had been sent to the Keystone Gazette, Bellefonte, by Mr. Chas. Bechtel, a regular reader, who evidently is anxious to gain some information on the money question and naturally writes to the editor of that paper in the hope of being enlightened. The Gazette would not publish it. Why, we cannot definitely say. After reading the article it is evident that they feared to allow their readers to see it, as it might open some farmers' eyes and set them to thinking. It is reasonable to suppose that if they had been able to successfully answer the same, it would have received ample space.

We cheerfully give Mr. Bechtel space in our paper so that the Gazette and the farmers of Centre county will see it. On behalf of Mr. Bechtel we ask the Gazette direct to note his few plain inquiries, which are timely and of great interest to all farmers. As it pretends to be the great mouthpiece for McKinley and the fearless advocate of a gold standard in Centre county the dodging of such an issue can be only considered a confession of weakness, and the gold standard, a policy that has no defence.

Again we urge the Gazette to publish this communication, from one of its readers. Mark you, it dare not and will not. It refused it once before, and will do so again. It believes that you can fool the people all of the time.

This is the article entire:

EDITOR KEYSTONE GAZETTE:

Will you give a hearing to the other side of this silver question? The writer is only a common sort of a person and cannot hope to say things as nicely as you can yourself. If you want to criticize my views do so, but would like for you to come out and do it with arguments.

For several issues your editorials and clippings have been trying to prove that silver should not be used as money and that gold is the only money suited as a primary money,—dollars that redeem themselves. Of course you do not get that doctrine from the Republican platform, for it is in favor of bimetalism.

NO 53 CENT DOLLARS.

You quote approvingly the statement that free coinage of silver and gold at the ratio of 16 to 1 means that the government will pay \$1.00 for 53 cents worth of silver, or that the silver mine owner will get \$1.00 for 53 cents worth. You say silver is cheap. It is cheap only in comparison with one thing, and that one thing is gold. Now is gold cheaper or dearer? The general run of prices is the way to find out what is cheaper. Majorities rule. Now an ounce of silver at 68 cents buys as much, year more, wheat than it did in 1873 when silver was worth more than \$1.20 per ounce, so of oats, breadstuffs, and the general run of prices. That is to say gold buys twice as much now as it did in 1873 and every year it buys more. You see shoes and wheat, clothes and oats, iron and meat have each year grown cheaper. Has there been an overproduction? Then why so many crying for bread?

SILVER REGULATES WHEAT.

Look at the production of wheat for the world, from 1874 to 1884, according to the eminent statistician Mulhall, it was 2,068,000,000 bushels per year, and it has gradually increased until in 1895 it was 2,197,121,000 bushels, or by some other authorities 300,000,000 more. Now this increase has been through a period of eleven years. Do you mean to say that the increase has kept pace with the increase in population? Surely not, for the increase in population is placed at 3 per cent per annum, or not less than 2 per cent per annum the world over. Take your pencil and figure and you will find that there has been an increase in the production of wheat, in proportion to the population. The gold export price of wheat, that is New York price, has fallen from \$1.20 in 1873 to 55 cents in 1895. Other things in the same proportion. Mark this, the value of an ounce of silver, then given free access to the mint, in 1873 was \$1.29; the value of an ounce of silver in 1895 was 68 cents, then silver did not have free access to the mint.

INDIA'S CHEAP WHEAT.

Now we see that there is a similarity of falling prices in wheat and silver and other productions. If we stopped here and found only a similarity it would be foolish to urge the parallelism. Remember the price of wheat and silver in 1873. In 1873 India sold only 730,485 bushels of wheat in England and in 1892 India sold 59,000,000 bushels. India has always been on a silver basis, is to-day. The India wheat is sold in Liverpool on a gold basis, but the India producer receives his pay in silver. The English dealer must buy the silver to remit to India for this wheat. The ruling price of India wheat, considered in bushels, has been ever since the exportation of wheat and is to-day, one ounce of silver for one bushel of wheat. It follows that if the English dealer can buy one bushel of India wheat for one ounce of silver that he will not pay the American dealer more per bushel for his wheat than was the price of the ounce of silver. Our very patriotic secretaries of the treasury have always bought silver under the Bland and Sherman laws, at the lowest price; that is they have always taken the London price. It is plain that the London price was the result of those trying to buy cheapest, and hence the United States was also a bear on silver, putting it down to the lowest price. So also was the United States at the same time en-

gaged in bearing down the price of wheat. Now you see why the farmer is bound to consider silver and wheat. You also see why when you talk about a silver dollar being a fifty cent dollar there is wrapt up in that 40 cent wheat. You may even see why it is that England from this standpoint alone is not interested in helping free coinage. One other peculiar feature is explained by this—McKinley heretofore has been the best hated public man of the N. S. in England, and to-day every English paper of any prominence joins in decrying free coinage and hopes for the election of McKinley. Neither is that without reason.

In your famous Swede case where the silver was melted in the fire, what would have happened if his money had been National bank notes? If we had free coinage he could have had his silver re-coined. He would have had his dollars back, just like our farmers could sell to England in a fair and open market.

We have had falling prices for numbers of years. Silver has been coined since '78 by the government solely in a limited amount and with the price fixed all the time by English wheat dealers and silver dealers. But who loses the 50 cents in the present silver dollar? No one. It is a legal tender. If free coinage gives a dollar to the mine owner for a present amount of silver now in the market worth only 50 cents then you see the wheat grower gets more for his wheat. If we have free coinage who has the fifty cent silver to sell? Who could sell for less than it would represent to him abroad? If so then you are not a disciple of McKinley. We all want to export more than we import. We want the balance of trade in our favor. India has driven us out of the wheat and cotton market and is driving us out of the cotton fabric market. "A premium on gold

is added protection," says McKinley. The silver when transported to India is worth to the India dealer and farmer \$1.32 an ounce, because their ratio is about 15 to 1. With prosperous farmers there is a greater home demand for manufactured articles; 16 jobs for one man and not 16 men for one job, as it is to-day. I must not take your space further at present. Wish that you would give me some more space.

CHAS. BECHTEL.

GEO. H. SMULL,
Rebersburg, Pa.,
General Agent for the
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