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UNION LABEL

SCRANTON, APRIL 25, 1895.

The argument that compulsory education is unconstitutional in Pennsylvania because the state constitution does not say that all children shall go to school is no doubt intended as a last gasp. As such, it is a moderate success; but in any other sense, it cannot expect to be taken seriously.

Get Down to the Gist of It.

For practical purposes, the current discussion of the so-called "silver question" might well be restricted to two points: First, is an international bimetallic agreement possible; is it probable; are we in America doing our best to bring it about? Second, in the event of a failure to reach an international agreement within the next few years, would it be feasible for the United States to attempt the full remonetization of silver alone, upon a ratio to be fixed by congress, and with a prohibitive tariff erected as a barrier against the importation of silver from other countries?

Mr. Cleveland, and his Wall street admirers, indeed, may shout for complete gold monometalism as lustily as ever they please; but the believers in such a policy now number and will ever number only a small minority. Nine-tenths of the American people are bimetallists, of one kind or another. It seems to us that the point for these persons to consider is how they may cooperate rather than how far they can drift apart. The difference between them is more nominal than real. Mr. Charles Emory Smith and Senator Cameron, for instance, appear to be irreconcilably separated on this question, yet the truth is they are in precisely the same boat. The only distinction is that Senator Cameron sits in the prow of the boat while Editor Smith sits on the middle seat. Senator Cameron is tired of waiting for Europe to agree to an international ratio between silver and gold, and wants to restore bimetalism in the United States, independently. Editor Smith professes to want bimetallism restored, but he suggests the expediency of deferring positive action a while longer, in the hope that Europe may yet come to our rescue. Why don't these two alleged friends of bimetallism, instead of trying hard to work up sentiment, one against the other, make some effort to get together?

Another mistake commonly made by some alleged bimetallists is in assuming that the great bulk of those who argue for the rehabilitation of silver do so for silver's sake. The truth is, they do so, or at least think they do so, for their own sake. Neither silver nor gold has any intrinsic value. We value both metals solely because of what they will do for us. If, therefore, the free coinage of silver alongside with gold under a fixed ratio, either international or domestic in its origin, will, by affording a sufficient and a stable currency, promote prosperity, people are justified in shouting for silver, just as they would be justified in shouting for copper, brass or iron, did those baser metals promise a corresponding service. The incidental assistance which this advocacy of silver will afford to the American silver industry certainly ought not to make the advocacy less popular among Americans. We cannot have too many prosperous industries in this country.

According to Dr. Cyrus R. Teed the world is soon to be run on a wholly new plan. On wheels, no doubt.

Theodore Roosevelt.

The acceptance, by Theodore Roosevelt, of a civil service commissionership under Mayor Strong insures the honest performance of official duties by a man whom all genuine Americans respect. All Americans, we regret to say, do not agree with Mr. Roosevelt's views on civil service reform; but all who are acquainted with the facts admire his virile loyalty to his convictions, and the wholesomeness of his views on the duties of citizenship.

Mr. Roosevelt is an example of a young man of wealth, lineage and high social position who has not felt it necessary to expatriate or denationalize himself; who has never formed the habit of admiring things foreign because they are foreign; and who, in an atmosphere of opulent snobbery and idleness, has felt no shame in getting out into the busy whirl of American public affairs and there doing a man's manly duty. Whatever he is, there is no uncertainty as to what Theodore Roosevelt is not. He is not a cad, not a coward and not ashamed of his age, his country or his civic heritage.

The position of civil service commissioner in New York city at this time is both inviting and repellent. It offers great opportunity for honest endeavor along the lines of genuine municipal reform. But it also offers almost fathomless possibilities of personal abuse, public ridicule and deliberate misrepresentation. Luckily, Theodore Roosevelt is not thin skinned. He has been reared in the toughening school of active participation in the public affairs of his generation; and he is brave enough to know that in the end, merit will come out triumphant, no matter what its obstacles.

The Lancaster Intelligencer, a Democratic paper, pointedly observes that "as it appears that Secretary Morton, though of the inmost circle of the president's council, failed to comprehend what sound money is, under the presidential interpretation of it, evidently we should have the interpretation given us at first hand." If dangers threaten, let the president, who tells us of it, also specify the remedy. Otherwise, how can an anxious public intelligently prepare to protect itself?

The Nicaraguan Incident.

England is big. Nicaragua is little. A revolution occurs in little Nicaragua, and the sensibilities of two or three Englishmen are ruffled. Big England demands of little Nicaragua an absurdly large indemnity. Little Nicaragua protests she cannot pay so much money in a lump sum, but is willing to arbitrate. Big England refuses to arbitrate, incidentally insults Uncle Sam, and sends a pair of war ships to Corinto, with an ultimatum that little Nicaragua must pay over the money within three days or be bombarded. The American secretary of state scratches his head, consults the precedents, and finally decides that it is not his funeral. Let big England grab Nicaraguan soil if it wants to. Let the Monroe doctrine go into innocuous desuetude. The Washington administration's salary goes right on, all the while. Why should it care?

This, in brief, is the history of the latest diplomatic exploit of Secretary Gresham; the conclusion of his policy of "dignified determination and calm assertion of American rights." To be sure, it is a trifle tame, a bit humiliating. To be sure, it leaves in the mouth of the average American a "sickish" taste, as if it were not properly seasoned. But, as we have already said, the Washington administration's salary goes right on. Why should it care?

If only Mr. Blaine were alive and well!

Senator Allison does not believe that the demonetization of silver in 1873 caused its decline; but he heartily favors its restoration, provided that can be accomplished with safety to business. He wisely takes no stock in the Cleveland idea of a single gold standard.

Fenders That Fend.

A letter recently received by Secretary Atherton, of the Scranton board of trade, sheds valuable light upon the question, Do trolley car fenders fend? It is from H. H. Littell, vice-president and general manager of the Buffalo Railway company. In this letter Mr. Littell says: "The fender that we have in use is manufactured by ourselves and is very satisfactory, indeed. We have picked up quite a large number of men, women and children with the fenders without any serious injury. In one case we picked up a woman and two children at one time without any injury to either of them. The device can be seen on every street car in the city of Buffalo."

Only the other day the New York Sun contained the report of the picking up by a car fender of a luckless pedestrian in Gotham, under circumstances which, had the car been fenderless, would probably have resulted in the man's death. The official testimony of the mayor of Baltimore that fenders fend in that city is also in public evidence; and the question of the success of these life-saving devices is thus practically answered in the affirmative. If fenders fend in Buffalo and Baltimore, why should they not also fend in Scranton? Upon what ground can the Scranton Traction company further delay the fulfillment of its written promise to equip its cars with safety fenders as soon as safety fenders were in the market?

The Washington Post believes that "only a very small percentage of the people of the United States, or of any state in the Union, are gold monometallists. An overwhelming majority of the opponents of free coinage are bimetallists. They do not, however, believe that this country can successfully 'go it alone' and simultaneously maintain free coinage and bimetallism. Indeed, they feel confident that an attempt to do so would speedily put the country on a silver basis." This is a fair statement of the case. But if these "opponents of free coinage" do not look out, Mr. Cleveland and his syndicate of bankers will entrap them into gold monometallism of the baldest character. That's what Mr. Cleveland is working for.

The financial question will be less troublesome when Republican statesmanship shall have raised the government's revenues to where they will more than pay running expenses.

Ambassador Eustis is proud of the fact that the United States is not a professional land-grabber; and so are all good Americans. But when the opportunity offers to secure a rich country like Cuba, for instance, by merely aiding the cause of justice and freedom, would Mr. Eustis like to have Uncle Sam sit back and sulk?

The new Spanish minister to this country, Senor Dupuy de Lome, has celebrated his arrival on American soil by talking like a parrot on subjects of international delicacy. Senor Dupuy should cultivate the acquaintance of some good man like Senator Quay.

Mr. Cleveland is again illustrating his peculiar aptitude for getting on the wrong side of public questions.

The seven largest cities in New York state, under a law just enacted in Albany, must erect and maintain free hot and cold water baths, open to the public fourteen hours each day. This is solving the tramp nuisance by wholesale.

The Scranton Base Ball club should by all means keep up its present winning way. Under its present management it will need to.

If the new telephone company will cheapen talk in Scranton, let it come. But its wires should be laid underground.

FOR GOLD AND SILVER.

Governor Matthews, of Indiana.

The people are beginning to look with no little doubt and some alarm upon the continued use of the terms of "sound money," "silver mine owners" and "international monetary conferences" in discussing the treatment of the financial problem. The belief is growing that the gold monometallist is as uncompromising and as selfish as the so-called silver monometallist could be; that if the free coinage of silver by this country is to the advantage of the owner of silver mines it is equally to the benefit of the citizen who holds and ships gold interest-bearing coupons to have a single gold standard. The belief is also gaining ground that there is too much insincerity in the talk about international conferences, when no earnest, decided steps are taken to bring this conference about, and that it is only used to kill time—a mere makeshift. It cannot be denied a conference would be a great thing for the commercial relations of the world and our own country, too, could some plan be agreed upon. I further believe that an honest, determined effort should be made to hold this conference, that the United States should take the initiative in this matter and demand and insist that this conference should be held and not ask it as a concession. To say that we, a great nation with as great, if not greater, interests at stake than any other, should hold back waiting for an invitation from others to join, is preposterous and indicative of insincerity on our part, if the conference will provide the solution of our troubles and restore prosperity.

At this conference the United States should go as the sincere friend of silver, with a positive demand for its restoration. No happier nor more patriotic step could be taken toward the settling of this question than a strong, positive and emphatic announcement by our government through the powers that be that it would never be a party nor give its consent to have silver stricken from the money of the world, destroying one of its products and a great source of wealth, if England blocks the way leave her out, and enter an agreement with the other governments, if all fail let the United States adopt the policy which will be just to all her people. To the banking interest there is but little doubt that the "sound money" craze means the gold standard alone, but this interest comprises but a small part of our citizens. We are a nation of farmers, workingmen, manufacturers and business men. We are a debtor nation and by far the larger part of our citizens belong to the debtor class. It is the high privilege and solemn duty of our government to sacredly guard and protect the interests of the creditor and debtor class alike, neither one more than the other. Ours is a great country of great and diversified interests, and no one interest, and this confined to one small section of the country, can safely mark out the policy to be formed for the good of all. We have a great big country, too, lying west of the Atlantic seaboard, and filled with an active, industrious, intelligent people, capable of judging their needs and entitled to consideration.

All sections and all interests are equally interested in the prosperity of their country, and should be recognized in the shaping of national policies. It has been demonstrated beyond a doubt that the business of this country cannot be conducted upon the single standard, be that either gold or silver. To do this would be unjust, perilous and destructive. We need the double standard of value, an honest and sincere bimetallism, gold and silver of equal and interchangeable values. To talk bimetallism and all the time adopt a policy that further puts the equal value in the dim future, as many do, is not acting in good faith. To say that we must have a parity between gold and silver, and by our acts, our policy, toward ourselves as a people and in a faint-hearted dealing with other nations, constantly create a greater disparity, is neither just, sincere nor honest.

A Correct View of It.

From the Wilkes-Barre Record.

The esteemed Tribune must have missed the opening sentence in the Record's comment upon Anna Dickinson's lecture. It is as follows: "Whether Anna Dickinson was insane when she was removed to Danville asylum is a question which still remains for a jury to decide." Nothing which followed that sentence can be construed into a discussion of the question still pending in court. The Record simply repeated what everybody who heard the lecture was free to admit, namely, that whatever may have been Miss Dickinson's condition heretofore, she seems to be in full possession of her faculties now. How such a statement can in any way affect the case now in abeyance we are at a loss to discover. If Miss Dickinson is sane now, it does not follow that she was sane at the time of her incarceration, and nothing contained in the Record can be twisted into such a presumption.

The Governor Will Sign It.

From the Philadelphia Press.

Representative Farr is again rewarded by the passage of his compulsory education bill, which his insistence, persistence and zeal have pushed through two successive legislatures to no purpose, but which now goes to a governor whose liberal spirit disposes him to favor enlightened legislation of this character. It is a most important departure and a beginning, we hope, of better things for public education in Pennsylvania.

Cause and Effect.

From an Exchange.

Max O'Rell, who is now lecturing in the states, declares that Americans don't know how to enjoy life. They go too fast. "One sees here," he said, "a notice on office doors: 'Gone to dinner; will be back in five minutes.'" And this is why the landscape from New York to San Francisco to New York is disfigured by liver pill advertisements.

Calling Secretary Morton Down.

Hon. Charles Emory Smith's Paper.

President Cleveland once had occasion to disavow and repudiate a declaration of Secretary Carlisle for silver payments. He ought promptly to disavow and repudiate this declaration of Secretary Morton against silver rehabilitation. [This he has at last done, but without explaining his own position]. Mr. Morton's assumption that an international agreement cannot establish and maintain a fixed ratio between gold and silver is not justified by experience and is not sustained by the best opinion even in gold monometallic England. For three-quarters of a century such action even on the part of a few nations did maintain such a ratio through more violent fluctuations of production than any since seen. Mr. Morton's assertion that an international conference cannot fix a ratio between gold and silver any more than between rye and wheat shows a misconception of the very elements of the question.

Wants Honest Bimetallism.

Interview with Senator McMillan.

I have no doubt the coming congress, Republican in both branches, will deal with this question, and it will be on the lines of maintaining the coinage of both gold and silver. There is no fear of legislation for gold monometallism. It will be a recognition of the just rights of silver as a money metal. If there is any discrimination against it, that should be remedied. If by any trick it has been demonetized, which I do not believe, then it should be fully restored to its place alongside gold.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrolabe cast: 1.18 a. m. for Thursday, April 25, 1895.

Moon rises 4.50 a. m.

The child born on this day that expects little ought to be happy, as it will not be disappointed. With this disposition a child of this morning will never resort to rough on rats or drink whisky enough to float a canal boat in order to drown grief.

It is a pleasure to note that the executors of Judge Handley are not displaying a disposition to become wasteful with the estate.

Certain exchanges are hereby reminded that moralizing upon the Brockway case is out of date. Mr. Brockway has demonstrated his ability to "paddle his own canoe" and should be allowed to continue in the even tenor of his way unmolested.

Ajacchus' Advice.

Be not discouraged at the remarks of citizens who "do not see how bimetallism would benefit this country." Remember that there are many in existence today who doubt that the earth is round.

Do not expect business to suddenly revive without a tonic. The Tribune "ad" is an excellent bracer these days.