

HIGH ART SHOWN IN PYROTECHNICS

Beautiful and Costly Devices for Use on the Fourth.

PERTINENT TO OUR NATAL DAY

Some of the Expensive Fireworks of Fireworks That May Be Had by the Rich--Fortunes in Illuminated Displays.

Speaking of the explosives used on July 4, the sun says: One fireworks company manufactures a set piece, "Agriculture," at \$1,250. "Manufactures" cost \$675, and a triple column and stars with the G. A. R. badge \$600. Other fancy-priced special pieces are the train of cars; G. A. R. badge, \$335; firemen with engine and hose, \$350; George Washington on horseback, extra large, \$240, and the soldier figure and sailor figure, \$235 each. All these are of heroic size. Of the regulation set pieces, designed for any and all occasions, the highest price, \$420, is charged for a very elaborate piece called the Girandole. "Dazzling Diamonds," another very large piece, comes at \$265; the "Eclairs," extra large, at \$230; the extra large Gothic cross at \$180; and there are a score of other pieces which cost above \$100 each.

Of the shooting fireworks, rockets and bombs are the favorites, because of the beauty of design which they show and because they make the greatest show for the money and can be seen by the most people. The bombs are highest in the price list, some of them costing \$40 each, which seems a considerable sum to pay for a loud report in midair and a minute or two of beautiful fire display overhead, especially when one reflects that a very fair bicycle can be purchased for that price, and a bicycle goes a long way compared to a two-minute bomb. These bombs are fired from mortars or upright guns and burst when about a mile up in the air. They display in all colors showers of pearls, chrysantheums, stars, dragons, fans, the peacock plumes, stars and carrels of other devices. The price for first-class bombs goes as low as \$7 each.

A CONSTANT RIVALRY.

In rockets there is a constant rivalry among the fireworks manufacturers. The parachute rocket has long been familiar. It has been successfully used for signaling by night in war times. All the finest of the new rockets are of the parachute variety. Two of the finest of the new designs are the prism rocket, and the peacock plume rocket. The former ascends to a great height, leaving a heavy fire trail like the tail of a comet, and discharges a single star of great size and brilliancy. This star, with a parachute attachment, floats slowly down, changing from white to red, from red to green, and from green to blue; then suddenly becomes a wheel, revolving rapidly, and finally bursts into a shower of tinted meteors which dash and shoot, forming labyrinthine fire in the darkness. The peacock plume explodes when at the height of its flight, forming a veil of feathery plumes which intertwine in varying hues until the display terminates with a volley of salutes. These fireworks cost \$15 a dozen. The Japanese bombshell rocket, at \$7 a dozen is another very beautiful firework, but is somewhat less elaborate, the display terminating with the explosion of the rocket into streamers of fire, forming willow trees, chrysantheums, or showers of pearls. Then there are the cannon rockets, used mainly for political meetings and parades, which explode with a tremendous concussion high in the air; the cascade rockets, sending down cataracts of fire; the dragon rockets, that write fantastically across the sky, and the wonderful telescope rockets, each of which at the end of its upward course releases four more rockets, which burst into four clusters of colored stars. The "very latest," according to the catalogues, are the electric shower rockets thus described: "Bursting in mid-heaven, they form an aurora borealis-like shower of electric jewels of emerald and sapphire tints, falling slowly to the earth. The grandest discovery in the art." All these rockets ascend in a direct course, but there are those called gyrators, or umbrellas of fire, which do not. They revolve rapidly in their flight, throwing off sparks, and as they ascend in a spiral course they look like wheels of fire mounting into the air. The "prismatic whirlwind" is something of the same nature, but at the top of its flight it becomes a crown of five colored fire. The directions for setting this one are as follows: "Place on a smooth surface in the open air, light the fuse, and withdraw to a convenient distance."

OTHER GAY DEVICES.

What is meant by "a convenient distance" the directions fail to state, but it is to be supposed that it would be the distance to the nearest house, as the results might be disastrous should the "whirlwind" proceed across country instead of heavenward. A very gay performance is that of the dragon's nest or succession, a development of the old-time mine. This begins with a display in colors, followed by a stream of brilliant fire, then a fountain of electric stars, and finally shoots out a mass of writhing serpents which explode with loud reports. The flying pigeon is an

THE KIND OF A MAN RICHARD BLAND IS

His Beginning and Development as the Apostle of 16 to 1.

THE ABLEST ADVOCATE OF SILVER

Talks About Coinage--Some Hard Questions and Plain Answers. Turned Down for the International Conference--Philosophical Bimetallism--A Senatorial Programme--Story of a Refused Testimonial.

W. B. Stevens, in Globe-Democrat.

Shortly before he went out of congress, Mr. Bland was a guest at a dinner given to several Missouri members by ex-Senator John B. Henderson. "Bland," said Gen. Henderson, "some Eastern people were discussing you in my presence the other evening. They were wondering whether you were honest in your professions, whether you really believe what you talked about free coinage. They wanted to know what I thought about it."

"What did you tell them?" asked Mr. Bland. "I told them," said Gen. Henderson, "that you believed all you said about free coinage." "I am much obliged to you," said Mr. Bland. "I told them," Gen. Henderson went on, after a moment's pause, "that you were honest in your professions, because you do not know a better."

"I don't know that I am so much obliged to you after all," said Mr. Bland, good naturedly. "Nobody who came in contact with Mr. Bland while he was in Washington ever questioned his sincerity on the coinage question. Opinions as to Mr. Bland's knowledge in that direction differ according to the standpoints of those who hold the opinions. And yet Mr. Bland's earnestness of conviction is matched by his readiness of speech on silver. He was never known to be without something to say upon any phase of coinage or in answer to any argument."

"Of course," his argument about him then seemed logical and conclusive to those who differed with him. Judge Culberson, of Texas, the Father of the House, was wont to say that Mr. Bland had ever listened to in congress. "He is always wound up," said the Judge. "He doesn't have to make steam. The moment he gets on his feet he starts right off at forty miles an hour. I don't know that I ever saw a talker just like him. He is a marvel to me."

The fact is, Mr. Bland has been a hard student on the money question. While he has great forcefulness of character, he is personally one of the most modest of men. He makes a show of his industry, and never utilizes his stock of information except to carry some point in furtherance of the cause. He is never on dress parade. For years the leading bimetallists of other countries have recognized Mr. Bland as the foremost representative of that money standard in this country. European internationalists have sought his acquaintance and maintained correspondence with him. In the eastern world, Mr. Bland is wrong, because he is narrow, prejudiced and ignorant. Mr. Bland may be all wrong on the money question, but it is not for want of thought or information. There is so little of sectional prejudice about him that it almost never shows in his speeches. He doesn't even lose his temper when he talks about Wall Street. He insists earnestly that the men who have money are mistaken in their views of what will follow the free coinage of silver. The fact that he bore no part in the war, though born in a slave state, helps to show the temper that he carries with him. If he could have seen that secession was right what a fighter he would have been! Mr. Bland is a philosophical bimetallist. He believes the double standard, with all of the gold and silver there is in the world for money, is the best thing for all of the people, and, therefore, he is for it.

THE MAN.

From the Washington Post (Ind.). The fact is that McKinley has attracted to himself a great number of warm friends. He is genial, kindly, unassuming, good natured and honest. We do not wonder that he is generally beloved. He is held in respect and confidence by men of every party, and nobody doubts that, if elected, he will make an honest, upright, and conservative chief magistrate. We congratulate the Republican party.

THE PLATFORM.

From the Cleveland World (Rep.). Whenever bimetallic currency can be made stable the Republican party will be a silver as well as a gold party, but not until then. Because it is the party of prosperity, and it knows the conditions as well as the blessings of prosperity. It believes, too, with Senator Hoar, now in Paris, that the double standard of the two metals in the presence of all the civilized powers is not far distant.

AN HONEST MAN.

A good deal of malice enters into the motives which make some men advocates of free silver. The idea that the wealthy may be made to suffer to some extent is not altogether displeasing. Envy is a strong argument. Mr. Bland was never heavier of heart than when he had some thousands of dollars in money. He had got the farm now, but the money is gone. He is poorer than on the day he first went to Washington. The paternity of the silver dollar is his, but it has not multiplied dollars in his pocket. Not many people know that when Mr. Bland was serving his last three months in congress there was delivered to him one day by the express company the bills for a silver dollar. It was money could buy. It came as a tribute from the mountain states' admirers of silver's champion. Mr. Bland barely looked into the box, saw what it contained, directed it back to the senders and said nothing about it.

The supporters of Mr. Bland are flurrying upon the necessity of some revolutionary act to insure his nomination. They are misleading themselves: If their candidate ever gets to the convention, even though it be by a single vote, the requisite two-thirds will be given to him. There hasn't been an instance since 1860 when a Democrat candidate for the presidency received a majority and failed of the two-thirds. The following ballots when the majority point was passed. When Tilden went by the majority point at St. Louis in 1876, delegates instructed for Hendricks, notably those from Texas, changed their votes on the next ballot and nominated him.

Before Seymour and Blair were nominated in 1868, a caucus for the Pendleton men was held to consider the very proposition Bland men are now agitating--the abolition of the two-thirds rule. They counted a majority of the delegates with them, and a motion was carried to push the proposal to order at the next session of the convention. After this was done the New York delegation met and sent Judge Green to the Pendleton leaders to urge a reconsideration of the caucus action. "New York," said Judge Green, "urges you not to reverse party tradition, but to let the two-thirds rule stand. I am authorized by our delegates to confer with you on any plan that Mr. Pendleton shall receive a majority of the convention, even though it be by half of one vote. New York will cast her entire vote for your candidate."

FULL OF VIGOR.

Those who have heard Mr. Bland's "never forget it." That is not because the voice is rasping or melodious, high-pitched or low pitched. The forceful personality is imparted to the first words that issue when Mr. Bland gets on his feet. And, as Judge Culberson expressed it, from the opening sentence he is in the full vigor of delivery. His speeches are without introductions. They wind up as they begin, all earnestness for silver, with small regard for choice of words or point of phrase. Mr. Bland is always full of his subject, and yet he never stops over as some of these silver orators do. In the last session of the fifty-third congress, when the final efforts were made to get through the house silver legislation in the form of coinage of the seigniorage, William L. Bryan was dwelling on the enormity of the offending against silver. He pictured the evil consequences which were to follow, and became so impassioned that, with tears in his voice, he declared that, if he could there-by avert these evil consequences from future generations, he would "willingly lay down his life." The house burst out into a horse laugh. The climax was turned to burlesque, and "the boy orator of the Platte" finished in confusion. Mr. Bland, in the twenty-two years of his uphill work in congress for silver, never lost his head. His warnings sometimes bordered a little upon lamentations, but he never read himself out of his party or lost faith in the ultimate vindication of the cause of the white metal.

VOTERS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES

The United States at the Head of All Nations.

Twelve million voters participated in the presidential election of 1892, and 12,500,000 voters, it is computed, will take part in the presidential election of 1896. There will be one more state voting this year than four years ago, but during the intervening time restrictions upon the suffrage, greatly diminishing the electorate, have been established in various southern states, particularly South Carolina and Florida. The total number of male inhabitants of the United States of voting age, as returned by the Federal census of 1890, was 6,940,000; but this total is subject to a reduction of 1,300,000 aliens, and about as many more persons are deprived of suffrage by legal causes in various states and particularly by constitutional restrictions established by the voters.

A VERY RECENT COMPUTATION MADE OFFICIALLY

Of the electors of the United Kingdom gives as the total 4,416,000 out of a total population of 29,000,000. Of these voters 630,000 reside in Scotland and 830,000 in Ireland. The United States stands at the head of all nations in respect of the mere number of electors, though the changes of residence, which are frequent here, but comparatively rare in Europe, keep the actual number of voters far below the number of those who are eligible. France, with a total population very much below that of the United States--about one-half the population of this country--has 10,000,000 electors. Germany has 16,000,000 electors and the number is increasing steadily as the restrictions upon voting are decreased. In Austria there has been a radical reform in the electorate by its wholesale extension.

UP TO A DOZEN YEARS AGO

The present number of electors in Austria was 10,000,000. Of the members of the Reichsrath at Vienna a bill presented by the president of the council of ministers, Count Radoni, which adds two members to the existing 353 deputies in the Reichsrath. The present number of electors in Austria-Hungary is 5,300,000. Of the members of the Reichsrath the great landowners elect fifty-eight, the chambers of commerce twenty, the towns 116 and the counties 129. The total number of possible electors who, under the present system are excluded from the franchise in Austria is 210,000.

ITALY IS PECULIAR AMONG EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS

Having representative institutions in that while the actual number of qualified electors is large, the number participating is very small. In other words, a very large number of Italian citizens qualified by law to vote abstain from doing so, desiring by this method to record their opposition to the course of the Italian government in its relation to the papacy. In 1892, 2,066,000 Italians were on the register rolls, of whom 1,800,000 voted, about 5 per cent of the total population of Italy. Belgium is a country which up to ten years ago had less than 100,000 voters, but this number has vastly been increased by the introduction of universal suffrage, with, besides, a provision of cumulative voting whereby some citizens are enabled to cast two ballots. It is the confusion which has resulted the advocates of universal suffrage have been overtaken.

IN THE UNITED STATES THERE IS ONE VOTER TO EVERY 42 PERSONS

In Great Britain, one to every 63 persons; in France, one to every 32, and in Italy one to every ten persons.--New York Sun.

MR. BLAND LIVED IN MISSOURI

less than ten years when he was elected to congress. Here is another evidence of the man's forcefulness of character. Without any Confederate record, at a time when that counted in politics, and with only eight years' residence in the state, at the age of thirty-seven, he was elected to congress.

The speaker of the Forty-third congress was very willing to let Mr. Bland have the committee assignment which suited his inclinations. There are two committees of the house which deal with forms of money--the banking and currency and the coinage, weights and measures. At that time banking and currency was the dominating committee of the two. Permanent upon it had been Judge Aylett H. Buckner, one of the strong men of the Missouri delegation. The national banking and currency laws came from that committee. The coinage, weights and measures was one of those committees which existed for little more than the purpose of giving some member of the majority a chairmanship and a clerk. Furthermore, as the preceding congress had revised the coinage laws, there was no prospect for any serious work by that committee.

It was an interesting question to the front, had forced a transfer of the relative positions of these two committees and had begotten the Bland dollar. The sixteen years which followed steadily increased his prestige as the foremost advocate of free coinage of silver. The persistency with which he pressed the issue made him in the eyes of the East, "a silver crank," yet in each successive organization of the coinage committee the speaker recognized the position Mr. Bland had won by making him the chairman or the leader of the minority of the committee, according as the House was Democratic or Republican. These facts are interesting to recall, because they go to show how thoroughly logical is Mr. Bland's candidacy for the presidential nomination if 16 to 1 wins at Chicago.

TRYING TO DOWN HIM.

In view of the swelling list of free coinage delegates to the Chicago convention, it is interesting to recall that fourteen months ago a manifesto committing the Democratic party to a 16 to 1 ratio was circulated on the Democratic side of the house of representatives. There was 200 Democratic members in the house of that time, of whom 1,800,000 voted, about 5 per cent of the total population of Italy. Belgium is a country which up to ten years ago had less than 100,000 voters, but this number has vastly been increased by the introduction of universal suffrage, with, besides, a provision of cumulative voting whereby some citizens are enabled to cast two ballots. It is the confusion which has resulted the advocates of universal suffrage have been overtaken.

OF THE THIRTY-ONE WHO SIGNED THE DECLARATION

in favor of committing the Democratic party to such a platform twenty-one were congressmen who had been defeated by the Democrats. Not only did the big Democratic majority in the house a little more than a year ago repudiate Mr. Bland as a leader on the coinage issue, but it was guilty of one of the meanest acts of party ingratitude. The Wolcott proposition had gone through the senate providing for the election of delegates to an international monetary conference. Not only did the big Democratic majority in the house a little more than a year ago repudiate Mr. Bland as a leader on the coinage issue, but it was guilty of one of the meanest acts of party ingratitude. The Wolcott proposition had gone through the senate providing for the election of delegates to an international monetary conference. 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