

HOW FREE SILVER WORKS IN MEXICO

Testimony of an American Who Has Lived There and Knows.

HIGH PRICES IN LAND OF SILVER

Free Coinage Below the Rio Grande Makes the Cost of Living a Burden. Some Sample Quotations.

City of Mexico, Aug. 11.—To the editor of the Chicago Times-Herald:—The editor reading various papers published in the eastern, middle and western parts of the United States I am lost in amazement at the ignorance and false statements made in each and all of them in regard to Mexico and its so-called price level under the free silver standard.

In the first place, we will say, for the sake of comparison, that the salary received here for a given class of work is the same as in the United States, and we will suppose it \$75. Out of this a man with a wife and child, pay a possible physician or dentist's bill, pay for some other absolutely necessary expenses.

Then he must furnish his house—when he first arrives in Mexico with a silver dollar, he does not attempt to furnish. He has a bed, to be sure, a table and two chairs, and sometimes a wardrobe.

SHORT COMFORTS. The American does not consider this comfort, but still he buys the same, with the addition of extra sheets, and then feels that he has spent more than he can afford.

All of the better grade furniture is imported and prices sky-high. In every one of your Sunday editions is advertised very pretty three-piece oak bedroom suits at from \$15 to \$30.

FOOD PRICES HIGH. But carpets, and even wardrobes, are luxuries we can do without with smiling countenances, provided we have enough to eat and something to wear.

And now, the other side of the question. Does this depreciation of silver protect the market? No, it does not. It makes the market worse.

Wife of an Illinois Editor Lost in a Mysterious Manner. Aurora, Ill., Aug. 11.—Frank Marley, editor and proprietor of the Batavia, Ill., Herald, is completely prostrated by the mysterious disappearance of his wife, who left her home Thursday morning.

AN ART CONNOISSEUR. Madame goes with her maid to purchase a still-life picture of her dining-room. She selects at the picture-dealer's a painting representing a bouquet of flowers, with a pie cut into and a half-penny roll.

After the Battle. He—"Well, I know one girl that is willing to marry me." She—"Why, you'd make a good detective."—Litt.

buying coal oil. On passing the meashops we stop to inquire prices, and find rib beef and mutton worth 18 cents a pound; pork, 20 cents, and scrap meat for soup, 10 to 12 cents. We will certainly cultivate a soup diet.

TWO PRICES FOR CLOTHING.

With the conviction forced upon us that in time we would surely be compelled to buy clothes, we went shopping one day, to find how much a silver dollar would buy in that line.

On going to the "plaza," or market, where all the "beans" do their buying, and where the cheapest of all things are sold, the bottom price on cotton goods was 9 cents.

And again we wondered, how does the day laborer, on 27 cents a day, keep himself, wife and children covered with either muslin or calico at these prices?

THIEF SAYS HE WAS HYPNOTIZED.

Strange Defense Made by a Robber in Court at Kenosha, Wis.

Kenosha, Wis., Aug. 11.—Joseph Schinoha, who was before Justice J. C. Slater to-day on a charge of stealing the horse of Nick Thomas last Monday, says that he was hypnotized.

Schinoha describes his partner as a man not much over 20 years of age, with sandy hair and mustache. Schinoha waived preliminary examination and was bound over to the circuit court.

HAS FOURTEEN WIVES LIVING. New York Man Taken to the Tombs to Confine on His Condition.

New York, Aug. 11.—George Meyers, alias William Muller, alias Augustus Schwartz, was released from the penitentiary this morning and taken to the Tombs, where he will await trial on numerous charges of bigamy.

TRAMPS MAY HAVE KILLED HER. Wife of an Illinois Editor Lost in a Mysterious Manner.

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Why Free Coinage Would Prove Disastrous.

By E. S. Cranston, Editor of the Boston Transcript.

A gold dollar weighs 23.2 grains, of which nine-tenths or 22.2 grains are pure gold, the remainder alloy. A silver dollar weighs 412.5 grains, of which nine-tenths or 371.25 grains are pure silver, the remainder alloy.

On a basis of commodity price, measured in the terms of commercial value of the great civilized nations of the earth, 371.25 grains of silver bullion are worth today some 54 cents; 23.2 grains of gold have a bullion or commercial value of 100 cents, or \$1.

It is admitted, even by the most ardent of the silver advocates, that free coinage would send gold to a premium. Our gold would leave us, and in settlement of international balances the more precious metal would have to be purchased at whatever premium the times demanded.

The hundreds of millions of dollars in the savings banks of the country represent 100-cent dollars, deposited in good faith as such by the very bone and sinew of the country—those who labor.

As to the effect on wages, it is quite plain that the adoption of the flat value standard would bring inflation in prices of commodities. The farmer might get \$1 for his wheat, and other products, of course, would rise, as would prices of the necessities of life generally.

THE DAY OF SILVER HAS GONE FAR BY

So Says One of the Most Careful of American Economists.

Head of the Political Science Department in Columbia College Says That Gold Must Be the Standard of All Money.

New York, Aug. 11.—Prof. John W. Burgess, dean of the school of political science at Columbia college, now at his summer residence at Montpelier, Vt., has written an able and concise statement of the silver question to Solomon M. Strook, of 62 and 64 William street, in reply to a letter asking for light.

PERIL FOR THE NATION. "If the Democrats or Populists win the control of the government next November they can pass no law until a year later, unless summoned to extra session of congress, and that cannot be done for five months."

WORKING AN OLD DOG. "An old man that I used to know used to sell his shirt front constantly in the course of five or six weeks—(laughter)—and then he wore, in old-fashioned days, a dicky, and when the old man put his hand on you knew that the shirt below was not clean."

HE HAD ENOUGH OF FREE SILVER. The Sad Experience of a Boston Man in Guatemala. CAUGHT BY A BIG WAGES BAIT. Seeking Home in a Sick and Destitute Condition—Failed to Find a Land of Milk and Honey.

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Seeking Home in a Sick and Destitute Condition—Failed to Find a Land of Milk and Honey.

Washington, Aug. 11.—An emaciated, sallow-looking man, with straggling beard and wearing a ragged Spanish costume, including red leather boots, laced up in front, tottered into the office of the sanitary officer at police headquarters yesterday.

He told a story of terrible suffering while in Guatemala, and was trying to reach his Boston home, and received assistance from the sanitary officer. Russell was sick and destitute, and he attributed his sad plight to a life of one year in the free silver country of Guatemala.

ATTRACTED BY THE WAGES. Russell said he was a carpenter. On May 10, 1895, he was working at his trade in New Orleans. At that time the agents of the Panos railroad, then being constructed in Guatemala, were in New Orleans, engaging mechanics and laborers to work on the road.

PAPER AND SILVER MONEY. "Now," continued Russell, "I take three meals a day, at \$1.25 each, from our daily pay of seven Guatemalan dollars, and you can realize what the comminence was in that land of milk and honey."

AN HONORABLE TRADE. Borrowing and Lending Both All Right if Honestly Done. "Don't let us confuse this business of borrowing and lending by our little private prejudices. I like to have the grocer furnish me with my groceries for many years."

BIMETALLISM EXPLAINED. The Real Thing As Distinguished from the Bogus. "At the very outset, I want you to understand precisely what is proposed. You will hear a great deal of talk about bimetalism. The system which is proposed by the Chicago convention is not bimetalism."

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