

THE SILVER QUESTION

The English Bimetallists Interviewed.

Appreciation of Gold and Business Values.

British Bimetallists Are Agreed That Silver Must Be Used as Standard Money.

WHY?
Oh haunting word, which through all ages past
Has mocked and tempted all who dared to think!
Those who from Wisdom's fount
Wish to quench their thirst unslaked by learning vast
Must come unto that time, their questions
Cast
Back in their teeth, they pause
Upon the brink
Of Wisdom's deepest well, and
Sadly think
This baffling word must ever be the last!
But then Faith whispers, "In another
sphere
To questioning souls an answer
shall be given
When all the tangled threads of
Destiny
Untangled be; all things that vex us
here
Explained." Ah then indeed will
it be Heaven,
When eyes long blinded by earth
dust shall see!

Indiarubber Buttonhole.

HERE were really two John Stimpsons. One of them sliced off stalks and cut up chops all day long and every day he worried over the rise in Chicago beef and the unremitting growth of Mrs. Skipout's account. But when this John Stimpson had eaten his supper, put on his slippers and lighted his big bowler hat, in some way he disappeared somewhere. Then it was that the other John Stimpson came forth from some other somewhere, and watching the smoke through half-open eyes, began to think.

This latter faculty the first John Stimpson did not have, but his double was a perfect prodigy in that line. He meditated by the hour, and then, sensible man, told his wife of what he had been thinking. And she was as much interested as if it were a fairy story—yes, indeed, it often was. She herself was not a great thinker, but knitted industriously and counted stitches.

"Kath," said this second John Stimpson one evening, "what do you suppose I've been thinking about to take a minute and try it on. I want to see what I must do."

So John Stimpson laid down his pipe and put on his jumper, and stood holding up first one elbow and then the other.

"Hm-hm," said his wife; "that jumper won't last but a week or two, anyway; it's all worn through on the shoulders. And when the button is sewed on as it should be, you can't make it meet the buttonhole. Let-me-see."

She took from her work-basket a little narrow India-rubber band, put it through the buttonhole, slipped one end of the rubber band through the other, and buttoned the loop over the button.

"There," said she, "now you can give all you want to; the rubber will grow."

Next day at the shop a shrewd clothing manufacturer caught sight of John Stimpson's India-rubber buttonhole. To make a long story short, the butcher and the clothing manufacturer had the buttonhole patented, and thoughtful John Stimpson and his wife are worth this day a hundred thousand dollars.

evolving this, and his wife became so interested that she was impatient to have it finished. When he finally did get it done—that is, in his head—it was a rather complicated thing.

"I'm afraid, Kath, that I haven't got the spreading card-board in the type-writer so that it will work, but that is a mere matter of mechanism, after all. The principle of the thing is right. Make a typewriter copy of each piece that is to go into the paper. Have each one complete itself on a strip of card-board. Have the typewriter so constructed with a spreading clutch that it will print each line just even full every time. Hanging against the wall have a big fac-simile of each page of the paper, blank all but the column in which the heading, with the distance between the column rules just the width of the sheets of card-board. Slide these printed slips of card-board in between the column rules wherever you want them to go, until the page is full. Then with a big camera take a photograph of the whole page, make a zinc plate reproduction, stereotype it and there you are. You have seen these little baby fac-similes of newspapers; this last part of it is done just like that."

"But when the sun didn't shine we wouldn't get any paper," she said.

"They take pictures now by electric light, Kath."

"I suppose they do; they have to have electricity in everything now. And their wires are getting crossed. And every day or two, killing people and horses, till I'm almost afraid to go down street. I should think, John, you might fix them somehow!"

John said he would attend to it the very next thing. The following night, almost as soon as he began to think, it came to him.

"I have it, Kath; I have it the first thing. Spun glass! Cover the wires with spun glass. Weave it on the wire when you make the wire, and it will blend and won't break, it will wear out and it will keep electricity right on the wire. All the wires on a street could be twisted together into one cable, and not a bit of electricity could get from one wire to another."

"Hm," he pulled at his pipe with an air of triumph.

"John Stimpson," said his wife suddenly, holding up his butcher's jumper, "I do believe you are growing stout. The lower buttonhole in this jumper is torn clear to the binding. Stand up a minute and try it on. I want to see what I must do."

So John Stimpson laid down his pipe and put on his jumper, and stood holding up first one elbow and then the other.

"Hm-hm," said his wife; "that jumper won't last but a week or two, anyway; it's all worn through on the shoulders. And when the button is sewed on as it should be, you can't make it meet the buttonhole. Let-me-see."

She took from her work-basket a little narrow India-rubber band, put it through the buttonhole, slipped one end of the rubber band through the other, and buttoned the loop over the button.

"There," said she, "now you can give all you want to; the rubber will grow."

Next day at the shop a shrewd clothing manufacturer caught sight of John Stimpson's India-rubber buttonhole. To make a long story short, the butcher and the clothing manufacturer had the buttonhole patented, and thoughtful John Stimpson and his wife are worth this day a hundred thousand dollars.

While that eminent statistic and tutelar guardian of British statistics, Dr. Robert Giffen, sits in Whitehall Gardens and declares bankers and financial men of England will not listen to bimetalism, the younger and more enterprising are taking the bit in their own mouths and listening with undivided attention to college professors and statesmen who have broken away from the obstinate, unimpaired inertia of the average London financial leader writer.

Today find—and in this Professor Foxwell, professor of political economy in St. John's college, Cambridge, Eng., entirely agrees—supporting bimetalism the leading living professors of political economy in England and Europe, Indian statesmen and finance ministers, the principal exchange bankers and merchants, who have a profound and a practical knowledge of these subjects. Members of parliament of all shades of politics, from A. J. Balfour, Sir W. Houldsworth, and Mr. Chaplin, to Jacob Bright, George Howard, Samuel Smith, Leonard Courtney, R. L. Everett, S. Montagu, and Vesey Knox, some 150 in all; three ex-governors and present directors of the Bank of England; the finance ministers of nearly all the leading nations in the world (Germany and Austria are only awaiting England's lead); the manufacturers of Lancashire and Yorkshire, of Dundee, Leith, and Glasgow; the most enlightened agriculturists, like Mr. Henslow, Clare Sewell Read, and Mr. B. L. Everett; and, at least, the leaders of the trades unions in Lancashire and elsewhere, Bristol included. The Manchester Guardian, the Manchester Courier, the Financial News, the editors of which understand the intricate details of these leading organs in the press on the side of silver.

The opponents are Lombard street bankers, the gold monopolists and money lenders, and some highly paid and highly placed officials in the board of trade offices; the city editors of the Times, Standard, Daily News, Economist, and Statist, whose purview of this subject is, as Professor Foxwell said to me, limited to the next settling day on the Stock Exchange, and in whose hands the industry is sheltered under the anonymous editorial "we," but who, if they signed their venomous articles, would be appraised at their true value against such authorities as Professor Henslow, Nicholas and Sidney, St. Louis Mallet, Sir D. Barbour, H. H. Gibbs, Mr. Grenfell, and Sir William Houldsworth.

THE SILVER QUESTION
D. B. Hill,
C. B. Bristle,
A. D. Gorman,
C. K. Davis,
J. M. Carey,
William H. Allison,
H. L. Loomis,
N. W. Aldrich,
E. Murphy,
O. H. Platt,
W. P. Frye,
S. M. Culloin,
United States senators.

"This was greeted," continued Professor Foxwell, "with deafening applause."

"Why are you a bimetalist, Professor Foxwell?" was the next question put by Carnegie professor of bimetalism," said Mr. Foxwell, "depends for its explanation upon what, beyond doubt, is one of the most fruitful results of modern economic theory—the monetary policy of the nation by the late Professor Jevons, that first attracted me to the study of the compound or bimetallic standard. He does not live in these theoretical considerations, but in the practical aspects of the subject."

ECONOMIC BEARINGS.
"It is the economic and social bearings of monetary questions that give them their real human significance. For myself, at all events, I was not interested in the proposals of the general conference for investigating the causes of irregularity of employment, I began to realize how intimately they concerned our industrial and commercial prosperity and the condition of labor. Unless I am mistaken, this question of the fall of monetary chaos has most injurious effects upon our foreign trade and our productive industries; and, in any case, it will not be denied that interests of national importance are involved both at present and in the near future. I doubt, indeed, I say this with some deliberation—whether there has been any economic controversy agitating this country during the last fifty years, except the controversy on the subject of whose practical issues were so grave and so wide reaching."

"I understood you to say that professors and teachers of political economy in England are generally favorable to bimetalism. Is there any reason for that statement?"

"Fully a year ago I said they were generally favorable to bimetalism, and at any rate accepted the theory upon which the practical working of that monetary system depends. I can speak now with more confidence in support of bimetalism, and that is partly owing to the natural development of opinion, partly to the vivid light thrown on the situation by the striking monetary events of last year; but, whatever the cause, there can be no doubt that economic opinion has advanced in a most important direction of the views which we advocate, and there is a greater disposition to aid in giving practical effect to those views. Our ranks have received a notable and weighty accession in the person of Mr. Balfour, whose recent speech in Cornwall may have seen."

"British economists are practically unanimous upon what is really the fundamental point, viz: that the monetary difficulty will never be settled upon a permanent and satisfactory basis until silver is again brought into use as standard money upon the basis of an international agreement. There are differences of opinion among them, naturally, as to the precise rate of exchange, and as to the best means of attaining it, but I do not think these differences will prove to be serious when we come to the practical settlement of the question."

"You have recently observed that the appreciation of gold had more than neutralized all your efforts to pay off the national debt since 1875, even including the relief afforded by Mr. Goshen's conversion of 1887, and your former member this?"

"I certainly do," replied Mr. Foxwell, "and more than that, the same thing happens in the case of every private debt, every advance and mortgage. It is for this reason that the American nation, and especially the United States, are in favor of bimetalism. They are an active, industrial, enterprising community, and therefore a community of borrowers. Here your census statistics in detail show a permanent and increasing indebtedness to individual mortgagees, and a fixed charge of \$400,000,000 annually on the productive powers of the nation. It takes nearly double the amount of grain and farm produce formerly did to meet this fixed charge. There is a constant drain of money on his little property finds that the weight of the loan becomes increasingly oppressive as prices fall, and he naturally objects to be made the victim of an artificial contraction of the currency. He is, therefore, in the same position, and I need not point out that anything which increases the burden of the fixed charge payable to capital cannot be for the advantage of labor."

GOLD AND BUSINESS.
"In fact, if gold continues to appreciate, and the price of silver falls, and hoarding profitable, the parable of the talents will have to be reversed. The really wise man will be the man who buries his talent in the earth."

"But you are a creditor country, so urged Mr. Giffen, and, therefore, interested in everything which increases the value of the gold due your capitalists?"

"I might reply such falsification of contracts is base and immoral. It would be unworthy of a great country to make any such a policy. Even Shylock only pressed for his pound of flesh. But, as generally happens, the immoral is also the inexpedient. It has been urged that it is not to the interest of a creditor to crush his debtor. This is undoubtedly true, and so are the generous view, England's greatest interests rest on the solvency of her debtors, both of them sapped and endangered by the insidious process of the appreciation of gold."

"And now, come to one of the most important and pertinent answers given by Professor Foxwell, because upon it to a very large extent I regard hangs the strongest argument both in favor of bimetalism and a judicious protective tariff."

"Of course," was the prompt reply, "progress has been made, for a bad monetary system cannot neutralize all the forces of civilization that are working for improvement. But the rate of advance has very greatly fallen off. I do not wish to be misunderstood. Prosperity cannot be brought about by monetary contraction. But if you play tricks with money you may seriously retard pro-

perity, for the simple reason that you discourage enterprise.

THE CAUSE OF PROSPERITY.
"The real reason why we prefer steady or rising to falling prices is that the former condition stimulates and the latter contracts production. The increased production is, of course, the real cause of the prosperity. All classes ultimately gain by it, and especially the working class, who form the great majority of consumers. Even the creditor class will profit in the long run. They will find compensation for the fall in the value of money in the greater demand for their capital caused by the general prosperity. In any case it would be absurd to sacrifice the interest of the producer to that of the investor. If England has become a great creditor country it is because she has been a great producing country. She must not stand like mighty giants among pigmies of modern architecture."

Robert P. Porter, in Chicago Inter-Ocean.

HOP INTELLIGENCE.
A Pacific Hop Growers' Convention to Organize for Mutual Interests.

The advisability of a convention of Pacific hop growers is being forth in the American Agriculturist by James Hart, of King county. The Agriculturist suggests Sacramento as the place and January 8th as the date for the proposed convention. Mr. Hart says:

"We must find the cause of present low prices and apply the remedy, or in a short time growers will not own their farms. It seems to me certain that there is, first, an overproduction; second, the funds of the farmers were very limited and they were (as a body) compelled to sell to repay the amount borrowed for harvesting; third, harvesters have reduced the quantity of hops per barrel, so as to keep the demand within the limit of the average production of former years, and I doubt not but substitutes are used for any deficiency."

Acres are so largely increased on the Pacific coast that instead of raising about 24,000 bales, the United States next year is likely to produce not less than 300,000 bales. What will be done with them? The demand does not require more than 225,000 bales, and if we have 75,000 bales extra, the price must be low. Each bushel (the quantity in stock) it seems to me that the hop industry is fast pursuing the wild idea of our grain raisers; that is, to grow all you can, market or no market, and the result will certainly be the same as that of the harvest of representative hop growers, held early in January, at some central point where the Pacific coast growers could meet and discuss this matter in a business-like manner might save them thousands of dollars next year. Let every district in every county call a meeting, discuss the subject and, if they do not agree, let them be prepared with all the data of his district, number of growers, area in cultivation, number of bales for each past three years, number of bales raised last year, cost of production, etc. Great good would result in a practical way, and it would lead to a free exchange of information in the growing season and at harvest time."

The local hop market rarely ever sees a week of more extensive buying than the one just past. The one important sale, which materially swells the sum total, is the James F. Clark growth of 1115 bales bought by Hunter & Lamy for 10 cents. But in addition to this lot, from 250 to 300 bales have been picked up by local dealers. The exact number cannot be given, for one of the most extensive operators this week, is the one dealer in town who does not report when buying. His purchases are, however, variously estimated at from 700 to 1000 bales.

The sale of the Mortimer-Wedderpoon growth of 120 bales, is attracting even more attention than the sale of the Clark growth. It is generally estimated to be 12 or 12½ cents, with the preponderance of opinion in favor of the latter figure. The lot was an extremely fine sample, hard to match anywhere in the country. Samples being brought in freely, and desirable lots are being rapidly picked up.—Oscego Republican.

NEW TO THE CITY MAN.
A gentleman who went into the woods region on a hunting excursion and "put up" at a farmhouse in a remote clearing, was annoyed during the daytime with the abundance of flies that found access to the house. But when twilight of evening came he was treated to an exhibition of fly catching that more than repaid him for his vexation. The flies were flying about the house in swarms, and the hostess's tall dip only partially dispelled the gloom in the old-fashioned kitchen, when he suddenly became aware of old creature darting to and fro in the room, often coming almost into his face while a queer little noise of "snip, snip, snip," seemed to follow their velvety fluturing motions. For an instant he was startled, not knowing what to make of such intrusions.

"It's only house flies," said the landlady quietly, as she pursued her work. "They're catching flies. Don't you hear 'em sniff or fly wings on the floor?"

The gentleman arose early and looked for the flies, and sure enough the floor and tables were littered with them.—Lewiston Journal.

CONNECTING PACIFIC AND ARCTIC OCEANS.
The committee of the Siberian railroad, presided over by Czar Nicolas, has made an appropriation for a survey for a new railway from Perm to Kodiac, which is, however, located in European Russia, but will soon be connected with the Great Siberian railway system. The survey for this line is under the control of a commission of four members, two from the ministry of finance and two from the ministry of agriculture, presided over by a member from the ministry of way communications, Mr. Tolmachev, C. E. The new railway starting from Perm, the actual terminus of the Oural railway, which is to be connected with the Siberian railroad by a branch from Ekaterinbourg to Chehabinsk, now in course of construction, will run westward to Viatka, and thence northwesterly to Kodiac, near the junction of the Nichedwa with the North Dwina, the latter river being an old waterway to Archangel, the oldest Russian harbor on the White sea. The Perm-Kodiac line, in connecting the American line with the White sea, will put the Pacific in direct communication with the Arctic ocean.—Railway Gazette.

OCEAN NEWSPAPERS.
They Were Common in the Days of Clippers, and One Is Still Published.
Years ago, before the big ocean liners made a trip from this country to Europe a matter of only a few days and the one way to get to Europe was by clipper ship, and the voyage occupied from four to six weeks, it was the custom to publish a weekly newspaper on board the larger ships for the edification of the passengers. The captain and officers would store up news items before leaving port, and these, enlarged and greatly embellished, would be made the leading matter on the paper. Information from the captain's cabin as to the weather prospects, and other interesting scraps of news of the ship, together with whatever contributions the passengers cared to make, would fill up the paper and make it an exceedingly attractive sheet for people a thousand miles from land. The mid-ocean newspaper was always a curious-looking affair, news copies that were a desperate eagerly sought by collectors whenever a ship touched port. But since the ocean grayhounds have made the trip so short the ocean newspaper has disappeared. A year or so ago, the publication of newspapers on board of the big steamers New York and Paris.

One paper is published each trip, and is usually run off of the press and rolled in the Roaring Forties. On the Paris the publication is called the Paris Gazette, while it is the New York Gazette on the sister ship. The limited printing facilities make it impossible to turn out a very large paper. The sheet is about six inches wide and nine inches long, and is a four-page affair printed on manilla paper. The first item of news that strikes the eye is a description of the trip, signed by the captain. This is a stock paragraph, and is printed in every issue. The daily runs of the steamer follow, and the distance still to go and the probabilities of doing it, are given in a few paragraphs. The second column of the first page generally contains some paragraphs headed "General Information," and here the passengers find many useful little hints and suggestions, such as the necessity of exercising by taking regular walks around the decks, and advice as to the handling of luggage. In fact, this column is a mine of valuable information for people making their first trip. The paper contains contributions of prose and verse, some of them decidedly clever, and there is also a column devoted to queries.

The price of the Gazette is sixpence in England, and is sold in American money, and it meets with a ready sale in the second cabin and steerage, as well as among the saloon passengers.

OCCIDENTAL JOTTINGS.
Just think of it, over \$1,000 per week is sent out of Baker City for flour.
The Phillistie is the name of a new paper just started at Weston, Okla.—Lewiston Journal.
Albany's city election will occur next Monday. There is no fight over local issues.
The Northwestern Railroad company is still planning the extension of its line to the coast.
In Washington Senator Shoup is a candidate for re-election, all reports to the contrary notwithstanding.
The main question for Washington and Oregon and Idaho legislators is to shorten the present session of the Oregon Scout is informed that W. R. Usher, of Eagle Valley, Union county, raised corn this year which yielded over 100 bushels per acre.
A. T. Willis planted 2½ pounds of potatoes on his ranch in Eagle valley last spring, and as a result dug from them 900 pounds besides twelve fine potatoes. He writes to a certain newspaper, which he did not weigh.
There will be an effort made during the next session of the Oregon legislature to have a new county carved out of the eastern part of Crook, the north end of Grant, a portion of Gilliam and the southern corner of Wasco counties, with the town of Mitchell as the county seat.
The Corvallis Times gives the following to show what can be done in apples when the right variety is grown and properly cared for in the orchard: "There is a big apple tree in D. L. Horning's yard in this city, the trunk of which is nearly twenty inches in diameter. In the apple-house there is a bin that holds thirty-eight bushels, and it is heaping full of apples all picked from the big tree. In addition ten bushels of apples from the same tree were ground into cider, making a total yield of forty-eight bushels, worth at the present market prices \$24. The tree has been bearing heavily for a century and thousands of cuttings have been taken from it by nurserymen from all parts of Oregon. The fruit is big and red, and is known as the 'Oregon Champion,' an excellent winter apple."
OFF THE BRIDGE.
New York, Nov. 27.—Henry Menier jumped from the center of Brooklyn bridge today. He carried a parachute, which opened in the descent, when Menier was about fifty feet above the river. He struck the water on his left side, but sustained no injuries, and escaped arrest.

PIONEER BAKERY AND COFFEE SALOON.
HODES & HALL, Proprietors.
Plain and Fancy Confections—Ice Cream.
CIGARS:—
"OUR SILVER CHAMPION," "BE LMONY," "GENERAL ARTHUR," and a full line of Smokers' Articles. Come in when hungry and get a lunch any hour of the day.