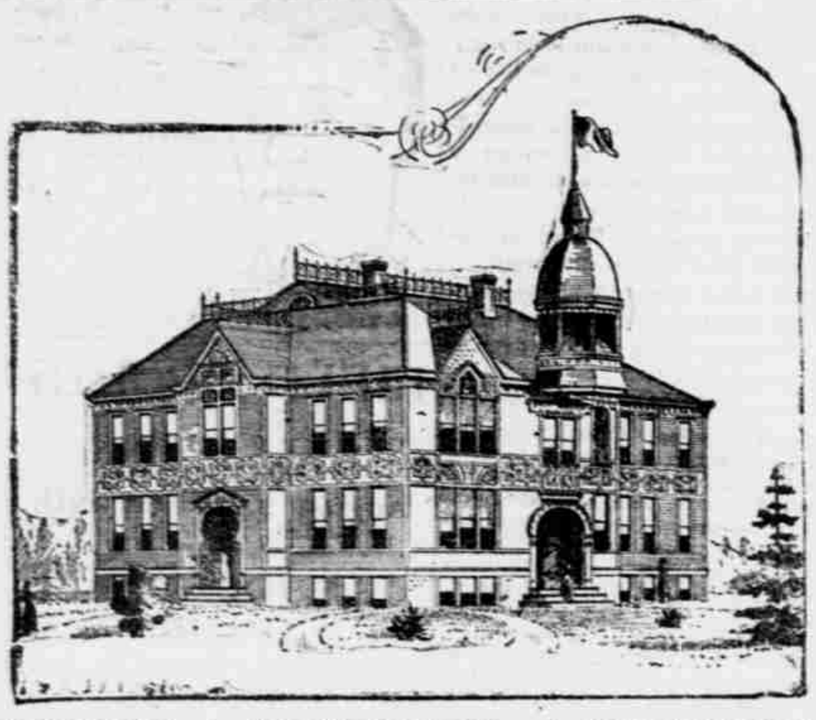
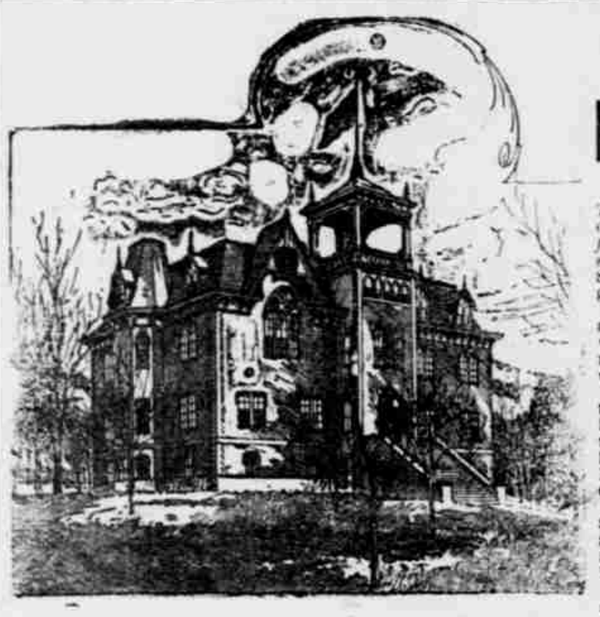
IF YOU DON'T READ The Plaindealer YOU DON'T GET THE NEWS.

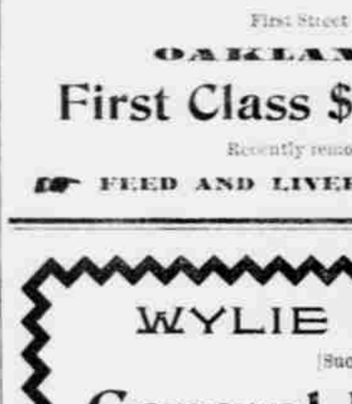
The Plaindealer.

IF YOU SEE IT IN The Plaindealer IT IS SO.

VOL. XXVII. ROSEBURG, OREGON, THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 1896. No. 45.







LET US CONSIDER IT.

It has been said by an able writer: "He who will not reason is a biggot, he who dare not reason is a coward and he who cannot reason is a fool."

As a foundation upon which to rear a logical structure, knowledge of facts, theories and relation of causes and effects must be obtained.

He who keeps aloof from investigating a theory, condition or a state of facts assumed to exist, because they are distasteful to his predelictions, ideas or notions of things, is illy fitted to correctly judge of the truth or falsity of a matter. In the domain of politics in the United States there is forced upon the people a question pregnant with mighty results—the question of money. Money, in its proper sense, is a medium of transferring one kind of property for another. Aside from this use of gold or silver, as money, they have but little intrinsic value, i. e., a value in and of themselves, such as food and drink to nourish the body, and fuel and clothing to protect the body from inclement weather. But the experience of men has shown them that two metals are better suited to be used as money than any other obtainable in sufficient quantities. These are gold and silver.

For the reason that these metals are less destructible and less liable to corrosion from contact with the elements and other destroying substances, these metals are the best adapted for money uses. It has been found also that of the two gold is the most indestructible and less corrosive, and probably for that reason it is the more valued of the two. But whether that be so or not, it is a fact beyond controversy, that an ounce of gold at the time of the establishment of this government in 1792, was considered equal in value to 15 ounces of silver, and on that ratio, the congress fixed the relative value of the gold and silver coins.

This ratio continued in law till 1834, but the commercial ratios fluctuated—kept widening till by the decreasing value of silver bullion compared with the gold bullion was nearly 16 of silver to 1 of gold. Now it is nearly 32 of silver to 1 of gold, in their bullion state.

It is also a fact that as commodities, uncoined pure gold is worth as much as coined gold, while silver bullion is not worth but little more than half what it is coined.

This fact of coined silver being worth in the United States about double what it is in the bullion seems to lead our silites to claim it is the government stamp that gives it its value, i. e., fiat of law makes an ounce of silver now worth a dollar, while unstamped it is only worih 53 cents. If, then, the government stamp makes an ounce of silver bullion worth one dollar, why stop at one dollar an ounce? Why not stamp it twenty dollars instead of one? Then we would soon have 10 billion dollars of silver money instead of 500 millions. That would give us a big per capita of money—about $140 per head for man, woman and child. We could do business on that we think.

But such a proposition is too absurd for even silverites to entertain. Such a proposition would not be maintained for a minute by the wildest free silver coinageite.

WAGES AND PRICES.

The desire of the heart and the burden of the song of the popocrat is to better the condition of the "common people" or "the masses," but he does not make it quite clear whom he means by "common people" or by "the masses." Strictly speaking, we are a nation of "common people," if titles of nobility are evidence of superiority. Nobility of character and dignity of labor are the basis of our social and political life, but they are attribues of lofty manhood and cannot be conferred by edict. Moreover, we are a nation of capitalists, and every capitalist is a sovereign. It must be, then, that the popocrats mean to better the condition of all the people and not a particular class, but do they mean the people generally when they talk about the "common people?" Certainly not. They mean workingmen—a class of citizens or sovereigns whom a plutocratic class are said to be trying to enslave.

Assuming that we have a plutocratic class that is bent upon making industrial slaves of the common people, are they likely to succeed when there could not be more than one "plutocrat" to ninety-nine "common people?" But it is the wage-earners that the popocrats are so solicitous about, and it is for their great, glorious and eternal good that they would open the mints of the nation to the free and unlimited coinage of silver, without any safeguards whatever. Without stopping to inquire to what extent these popocrat orators are moved to champion the cause of labor by the hope of office, we would ask them how labor is to be benefitted by their monetary theories? It would not be benefitted at all, but it would be greatly damaged. The workingman's capital is his mechanical skill, brain and muscle. He employs his capital and his wages are his interest, and his interest money remunerates his capital exactly in ratio to its purchase power in the market where he buys his supplies.

Now, the workingman buys everything he uses. He produces nothing whatever for himself but his wages. And not only so, but he is a creditor man. The moment he begins to employ his skill or muscle on Monday morning, he becomes his employer's creditor, and the debt increases every hour until pay-day comes when the account is settled. But the populist tell him that if the mints were open to the free coinage of silver, independent of the labor that produces very many of his supplies, and which buys much of his employer's product, his wages would be higher. Let that be granted, but would not his supplies advance in price too? Would not everything he buys cost more? And does the industrial or commercial world give any account of wages ever rising higher than commodity price? On the contrary, there is not a line of history that does not prove that advances in wages are never in proportion to the advance in labor's supplies.

The history of labor and prices is that prices move up quickly and often violently, whereas wages are the last to advance and the first to decline.

What the "common people" and "the masses" require is a circulating money medium that is free from value fluctuation. When the workingman goes to work on Monday morning and credits his employer until pay-day he wants to know that he will be paid in dollars, whose stability is as firm as the everlasting hills. The monetary system of this country makes all forms of money interchangeable on their own merit, but their merit is obtained from their ability to exchange themselves for a standard of money which is recognized everywhere as possessing full redemption power whether in the form of money or as a merchantable commodity.—S. F. Call.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY.

In 1892 Mr McKinley said: "The tariff is now eighteen months old and doing its own talking." The democratic tariff is now two years old, and has been talking long enough to talk a great many flourishing industries to death.—Kansas City, Mo., Journal.

The popular demand for McKinley for president is evidence that the country will be satisfied with nothing less than that the question of protection must be pushed to the front and kept there. It is bound to be the issue once again, and under the circumstances it will be the leading issue.—Wheeling, W. Va., Intelligence.

The depressed conditions of trade and labor demand speedy return to a policy of high protection to American industries. It is scandalous that this country, which during thirty years of republican administration had been steadily reducing a national debt that was swollen to huge proportions of the war engendered by a long period of democratic ascendency, again has been forced to become a borrower from foreign nations. The increase of the national debt in a season of peace is the result of that deficiency of revenue that low tariff never fails to bring about. In the time of protection and prosperity the currency question was not troublesome. There is no reason to believe that it will be troublesome when protection and prosperity again prevail.—Chicago, Ill., Inter-Ocean.

So far as the workingmen, business men, farmers and manufacturers are concerned, silver is a little issue like the last paper on the tail of the kite. They all think that what this country needs is more work, more business, better markets and a solid home market for home manufactured goods—likewise more revenue, so that the government shall not run behind many millions of dollars a year.—Tribune, Tiffin, Ohio.

The thousands of wool growers who have suffered a loss of many millions of dollars during the past three years, the millions of artisans who were out of employment during the democratic panic and who have been employed since at reduced wages, the hundreds of thousands of manufacturers who have seen the fires die out of their furnaces because of the industrial depression, the other thousands of merchants who have seen their business dwindle during the past three or four years, and the millions of people who have felt in one way or another the effects of the depression—all these are satisfied with the present money standard of the country. All they want is to get more of the money we have, as much, for instance, as they got in the prosperous days of 1892, when the United States was on the high tide of prosperity under the operation of the McKinley law. These are the people who are demanding a restoration of republican protection, the enactment of a tariff law that will be fair to the people of all sections of the country, and which will not only afford protection to the capital and labor of the United States, but at the same time make good the democratic deficits in the treasury and provide money with which to pay the running expenses of the government.—Cleveland, Ohio, Leader.

GOLD, SILVER, MONEY.

A populist orator asserted in the Missouri state convention the other day that "The government fixes the value of gold by making 22.23 grains of fine metal equal a dollar. If the government can do that it can make a silver dollar by legislation." The trouble with our populist friend is that he is ignorant. The government of the United States does not fix the value of gold by asserting that a given number of grains are a dollar. The grains in a dollar are put there by international commerce and were our populist friend to melt a gold dollar and take the lump to the mint of any nation he would get the equivalent of an American gold dollar, less a small charge for coinage. The stamp of a nation upon gold coin is to certify to its fineness and not its quantity. If 371.25 grains of pure silver, that is, an American silver dollar, were melted the lump would be worth 54 cents at par with gold, or at the mint of this or any other nation.

Mr. Bryan and his popocrat following say that an act of congress would close the gap in value between 54 cents and 100 cents, which is the difference in the value of 371.25 grains of fine silver in bullion and in an American dollar, but they do not explain how they are going to make the people of other nations accept such dollars in payment for commodities purchased by us.

The reason why 371.25 grains of pure silver in the form of an American dollar is the equivalent of 22.23 grains of pure gold, either in coin or bullion, is because the faith, the integrity and the moral sense of the government are pledged to maintain silver dollars—not silver bullion—at par with gold, but were the issue of silver and paper dollars unlimited the government could not carry out its pledge.

The republican party's plan to close the gap between silver and gold is to bring the nations with whom we do business together and enter into an agreement—a mutual agreement—that silver dollars or bullion shall be held in like esteem with gold dollarr or bullion shall be held in like esteem with gold dollars or bullion, and that either one or both shall be accepted in the settlement of balances. The republican party does not believe that the American Congress has the right or the power to establish a monetary system as the basis of trade relations with other countries without consulting them, nor does it believe we could maintain trade relations with other countries without an international monetary system. We have a system now which makes 22.23 grains of fine gold the unit of value and the dollar of final redemption, but it is desirable that the value of redemption or balance settlement money be increased by an amount equal to the production of silver, and the republican party is pledged to accomplish it by a conference with the nations in interest.—S. F. Call.

The secretary of the treasury, John G. Carlisle, purchased and had on hand Dec. 19, 1893, $140,699,760 fine ounces silver bullion purchased under act of July 14, 1890, costing $126,758,218 worth at legal ratio 15,988 to 1 of gold and worth $181,914,899. The act provided that after July 1, 1891, the secretary should coin as much of the bullion purchased under the act as might be necessary to provide for the redemption of the notes and cannot be lawfully used for any other purpose. To coin this bullion, seniorage and all, it would require the mints, run to their full capacity, five years to coin, so said the secretary.

The conditions of 1891 can be brought back, as they surely will be, under a republican president and congress that an impatient but patriotic people will restore to power in the coming election. False economic policies, first threatened and then carried out in the Wilson law, had more to do in depressing the price of wheat and of all prices than the demonetization act of 1873.—Hon. Robert J. Gamble, M. C., of South Dakota.

In 1892, under McKinley tariff laws, a hundred pound sheep would buy 137.9 pounds of sugar in Chicago. In 1896, a similar sheep will only buy 67½ pounds of sugar. This fact farmers will do well to think over before they vote for Bryan, free silver and free trade.

Under a McKinley tariff in 1892 a good horse would sell for $162 in the city of Chicago. In 1896, under the Gorman-Wilson tariff, a horse equally as good sells for $60.