

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

The Plaindealer.

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IF YOU SEE IT IN The Plaindealer IT IS SO.

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To The Unfortunate. CATARRH LOCAL DISEASE. Dr. Gibbon. NOTICE. County claims and warrants bought by D. S. West.

IT'S BREAD AND BUTTER. Free Coinage Touches Those Necessaries of Life For Sixty Million People. This is a proposition which touches the bread and butter of the majority of all the American people, for the wage-earning class is by far the larger portion of our total population. Not less than four families out of every five in this country are supported by weekly salaries or daily wages, or by wages at fixed rates for piece work, so that 60,000,000 of our people, using round figures, stand today in the shadow of a tremendous loss, which will surely fall upon them if the threat of free silver coinage is carried out. The payments to the wage earners of the United States are reasonably estimated by experts to be fully \$4,000,000,000 a year. Four thousand millions a year are owing to labor on the gold standard. Wage earners are a "credit class" to that extent. The basis of this estimate is the fact that there are 20,000,000 wage workers in this country, and at an average of \$200 a year each the grand total of their annual earnings is \$4,000,000,000.

The last census shows that the total valuation of the country, including its property and wealth of all kinds, was \$21,000,000,000 in 1890. The mortgage debt of the country was at the same time in the neighborhood of \$2,500,000,000. The amount of mortgage debts annually paid off does not exceed \$500,000,000. Therefore it plainly appears that eight times as large an amount is paid every year for wages in the United States as is annually paid in the cancellation of mortgage indebtedness. Assume then, with Mr. Bryan, that free silver coinage would make it easier to pay debts, what will that do to the 20,000,000 wage earners of the country if the mortgage debtors can only be relieved at the expense of a loss to them of at least one-third and very likely a larger slice of their present wages? The wage roll of the country, aggregating \$4,000,000,000 a year, is to be scaled down 30 per cent, possibly 40 per cent, in order that people who are in debt may get a shave of the same extent on an annual mortgage payment of less than \$600,000,000. That is the Bryan party's avowed purpose. "The greatest good to the greatest number" has long been held to be a sound principle of popular government. Why, then, should 20,000,000 wage earners be asked to accept \$1,333,000,000 less per year for their labor, in order that not more than one-twentieth of their number of mortgage debtors shall be enabled to get a discount on their just debts of less than \$167,000,000 a year? If the wage earners can clearly see that this is what is proposed to be done by the Bryan party they will never consent to it.

But it is necessary not merely to assert but to prove to our working people that free silver coinage, if it comes, will reduce their wages by at least one-third. They have only to read the speeches of Mr. Bryan, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Jones, Mr. Teller, or Mr. Daniel to find for themselves that one thing is confidently predicted by every free silver advocate—that the prices of all crops and staple products, except gold, will be raised immediately upon the opening of our mints to the unlimited coinage of the white metal. Let us grant for the sake of discussion, that this prophesy would prove true—that food, clothing, fuel, house rentals and all "necessaries" of life would advance in cost from 30 to 40 per cent. Mr. Bryan says that they would advance 50 per cent. That is, he practically said so in Madison Square garden, when he declared his belief that free coinage would bring the market price of silver all over the world to double its present figure, and that all other prices would rise with it and in the same measure. Nowhere has he said, and no free silver champion has anywhere said, that wages, which is the price of labor, will advance in like degree. The mortgaged farmer would not see any profit in the proposed repudiation of 30 per cent of his honest debt if Mr. Bryan were to assure him that hand in hand with it, he would have to pay 30 per cent more for his farm machinery and 30 per cent more for his farm machinery and all his family supplies. But the fraudulent promise held out to the farmer is that he is to be able to collect 30 or 40 per cent more for all he sells, get 30 or 40 per cent taken off all that he owes, and yet pay all that he has to buy at the same prices, labor included, that he pays now. The greatest cheat that they are trying to put on all our laborers and wage earners is that they are somehow to be benefited by scaling down mortgage debts which they do not owe, and by raising the prices of crops and product which are not theirs to sell; and are to improve their condition by buying all the prime necessities of life at retail stores at an advance of 30 or 40 per cent on their present prices. It is not plain that if wage earners could be assured that their wages would rise 50 per cent along with the rise in the price of silver and of general products, they would still be no better off than they are today. But no one has promised them any such advance of their wages.—New York Price Current.

A PEN PICTURE OF LINCOLN AND DOUGLAS. "The men are entirely dissimilar," says the writer, "Mr. Douglas is a thick-set, finely-built, courageous man, and has an air of self-confidence that does not a little to inspire his supporters with hope. Mr. Lincoln is a tall, lank man, awkward, apparently diffident, and when not speaking has neither firmness in his countenance nor fire in his eye." Of Douglas the writer says further: "Though not a pleasant speaker, his sentences are all compact and strong, his points are all clear, and every word he utters bears upon the doctrine he wishes to establish. He has no flights of fancy, no splendid passages, no prophetic appeals, no playful turns; he deals only in arguments and addresses only the intellect. Mr. Lincoln has a rich, silvery voice, enunciates with great distinctness, and has a fine command of language. For about 40 minutes (the last 40 minutes of his speech) he spoke with a power that we have seldom heard equaled. There was a grandeur in his thoughts, a comprehensiveness in his arguments, and a binding force in his conclusions which were perfectly irresistible. The vast wrong were silent as death; every eye was fixed upon the speaker; and all gave him serious attention. He was the tall man eloquent, his countenance glowed with animation and his eye glistened with an intelligence that made it lustrous. He was no longer awkward and ungainly; but graceful, bold, commanding. Mr. Douglas had been quietly smoking up to this time; but here he forgot his cigar and listened with anxious attention. When he arose to reply he appeared excited, disturbed, and his second effort seemed to us vastly inferior to his first. Mr. Lincoln had given him a great task and Mr. Douglas had no time to answer him, even if he had the ability."

The debate at Galesburg was for those who heard it an event of a lifetime, and reminiscences of it have always been carefully preserved through out the country. One of the historic treasures of Monmouth, a town near Galesburg, which sent a goodly delegation there on October 7, is a daguerreotype of Lincoln, made in the town four days after the debate. Knox college considers the days of the debate one of the proudest in her history, and recalls with enthusiasm that the banner across her walls was Knox college for Lincoln. Holding the occasion in such honor it is fitting that town and college commemorate it in some permanent way, and this is to be done on October 7, of this year. A tablet is to be placed in the wall of the building by which the speeches were made. Its unveiling will furnish the occasion for the celebration of this particular anniversary day by the college. The building stands as it stood then, and on the very spot from which Lincoln and Douglas spoke. Dr. Chauncey M. Depew, of New York, will pronounce the oration of the day. Among the other speakers whose presence is expected are ex-Minister Robert T. Lincoln, ex-Governor Boies, of Iowa, and Congressman Hill, who was present at the debate in 1858 and made a stenographic report of it.

Facts of Coinage Laws. In 1792, the government in its first act upon the recommendation of Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson, two as pure patriots as ever the United States ever produced, and of opposite opinions in politics, fixed the ratio of silver and gold at 15 of silver to one of gold. These patriots had labored for months to ascertain the true ratio of these two metals as fixed in the world's market. But in establishing this ratio they erred by over-valuing the silver. The result proved that the silver dollar was worth more as bullion than the silver dollar, the ratio of France, being 15 1/2 to one, and hence silver coin disappeared from circulation. That is, the ounce of gold would buy up 15 1/2 ounces of silver as bullion. The purchaser would ship it to France and get one-half ounce more silver (in France) for his ounce of gold than in the United States. In other words the gold dollar would purchase nearly 50 cents worth more of silver bullion than it was worth as coin, because it was worth more as bullion than as United States coin. And as a consequence, United States silver coins went out of circulation, and to try and stop silver from leaving the country, President Jefferson in 1806 stopped the free coinage of the silver dollars by his own executive mandate, and for 30 years there was not a dollar of silver coined except subsidiary silver, viz: halves, quarters and dimes. In 1819 the banks of the United States imported \$7,000,000 of specie from Europe "to relieve the strained situation," at that time. In 1834 the ratio was changed to 16.002 of silver to one of gold. That ratio was again changed in 1837 to 15.988 to 1, its present ratio, actually termed 16 to 1. Note that the act of 1792 with ratio of 15 to 1, so overvalued silver coins that they soon ceased to circulate equally with gold—the silver left the country. In 1834 change was made 16.002 to 1 and in 1837 the ratio was again changed from 16.002 to 15.988 to 1, the present ratio, by acts of congress. And during all those years gold and silver did not circulate, under those free coinage laws, on an equality. It was practically on a gold basis. The per capita of money in this country is about \$24. In all other gold standard countries the per capita is more than double the per capita of any unlimited silver coinage country.

The "Poor Man's Dinner Pail." We have not heard so much lately about the "poor man's dinner pail" as we used to hear in 1892 for our free-trade friends. Our reason for this is that the "poor man" has found out that his dinner pail as well as other tinware was just as cheap under the McKinley law as it was before or has been since. Facts and actual experience have served to nail one more free-trade lie. But there is another reason why the "poor man's dinner pail" has been dropped from discussion. Ever since the election of 1892 gave the government into the hands of the free-trade party the "poor man's dinner pail" has been a ticklish subject. Any mention of it serves to remind the laboring man of his prosperous times under the McKinley law when he needed a dinner pail to carry his dinner with him to his work. Under Free-Trade Tariff Reform, with no work to go to, the poor man has not had so much need of a dinner pail. He has been more troubled about how to get a dinner than about the price of his dinner pail. But "there's a good time coming" again. Dinner pails will be plentiful enough under President McKinley and a protective tariff and they will be of good American tin, too, made by American workmen.