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THE AUSTRALIAN BALLOT.

Ben. Butler of Massachusetts, the distinguished general, statesman, lawyer and politician, has been a little too much inclined to favor reforms, so-called, and cranky isms; but when he lets them alone and comes down to legal matters and common sense, he hits the nail on the head every time with sledge-hammer force. Here is his opinion of the latest "reform" out, and biggest humbug of the age, "the Australian ballot system:"

"The adoption of that system of balloting wounds my self-pride. We of Massachusetts, at least, are free men, coming from the Puritans who voted with a kernel of corn for us, and a bean for no. We have been trying to improve our system of balloting for more than twenty-five years by methods devised with all our culture, aided especially by Harvard college in getting the best system by which a free, enlightened people will express their decision upon the measures and the men which govern them. Throwing away all we had learned, we went to the south seas, to an island settled by British felons, and took their system, which was devised by such a community to make them vote honestly, and imported it for our use, thus acknowledging that it was necessary that a people should be convicted and punished for at least one felony in order to so quicken the inventive power of a people as to frame the best system of balloting for the people of the United States of America. That ballot was framed to make a convict, if he voted at all, keep it a secret from his keeper how he voted. The vote should be cast independently, not sneakily.

"This cross between British aristocracy and ignorant savagery, this product of the fog end of creation, framed by English snobs to hold down the ignorant sheep herders, gold hunters, varnish diggers, rovers and professional robbers of Australia, who are very little better than the kangaroos and laughing jackasses of the deserts, and who can make a cross opposite a name but cannot erase a name and write another in place of it, was taken up by all the cranks in the United States, as something really smart, and has been adopted by a number of the states, including Oregon, without anybody knowing what it was good for or what necessity there was for putting intelligent, free Americans, who can read and write and prepare their own ballots, on a level with the ignorant, half-savage herders of Australia, penning them up in stalls, one at a time, like cattle at branding time."

One who appears to look upon the Brussels conference with an eye of the pessimist, who never sees anything but ruin ahead, speaking of Rothschild's plan says: "Rothschild's grandfather made more than Croesus out of the wrecked nobility during the Peninsular and Napoleonic wars. Then princes came to his three balls. Now he scorns any customer less than a king, an emperor or a nation. In other words he is the money power of the world. If the conference adopts his plan, the American people will obey the money dictation of Europe. This nation will never obey the money dictation of Europe. That has been thrice tried.

The proposition for this conference had its origin with the United States government. It may be set down as the result of party necessity rather than as a disinterested public movement. The silver advocates were at the doors of congress and upon the steps of the white house. The president was unable to yield what they demanded. Very ably suggested, an international conference. Many obstacles lie in the path of the delegates from the various nations represented at Brussels. Numerous plans are suggested whereby there may be a remonetization of silver, but they are for the most part too fine-spun and embody too many conditions to be successful. But if it does not reach a successful issue the conference will not be useless. It will disclose the temper of the world toward the minor money metal. It is possible that enough will be disclosed to teach the silver men that their dreams are hopeless of realization; or it may open the way for a broad international movement that will eventually re-establish silver in its former high position. The proceedings of the conference are watched with deep interest, for its results may be far-reaching.

Speaking editorially of the monetary conference, The London Times says: "It is not going too far to say the monetary conference has already resulted in a failure. Probably there will be a sharp fall in silver when it is recognized the conference will have no result."

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