

# THE WEST.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING.  
FLORENCE, LANE COUNTY, OREGON.

It is certain that Great Britain has refused to recognize the Nicaraguan government, and both British and American war ships are ordered to Bluefields. This warlike demonstration will probably end in an amicable settlement.

Two very important congresses have been in session at St. Louis recently, and both have declared in favor of free coinage of silver. It will lead many men to form the conviction that the desire in the west is very strong in favor of the white metal free coinage.

Some adverse criticism regarding the salary law is indulged in, but the reasons assigned can be swept away by amendment, rather than return to the fee system as advocated. It is the electors fault for the passage of the law, and considering all the advantages that have accrued to them from the saving of money for public good instead of going into individuals pockets, a retrograding step is not needed. Nothing can be more harmful to carrying out the provisions of law than stinginess, and reasonable salaries and sufficient help should be furnished.

Much has been said about the Oregonian "reading out" of the Republican party all those who favor free coinage of silver. If such is the case, it can place on its "out" list three-fourths of the Republican voters in Lincoln, Benton, Linn, Lane and Douglas counties. This position, however, is so contrary to every thing pertaining to independent opinion, that we cannot accuse the Oregonian of such presumption. Any number of Republicans in Oregon have a right to differ from that journal on any question, and as a majority of them do on the silver question, it would be folly to attempt to coerce them to accept that paper's *ipse dixit* in regard to free coinage of silver.

BERNARD, in 1881 said: "Gold has become too scanty a blanket, which every one struggles for and which makes people squabble." The West some time ago said "that there is not enough gold to meet the requirements of a world-wide standard of value; and that, consequently, this scarcity of the measuring metal positively increases its value and thus benefits the creditor class to the loss of the debtors. Trade is carried on by means of borrowed money. However much gold may increase in value, debts contracted in gold have to be paid in gold, with no allowance for the appreciation which has taken place since the contraction of the debt. The debt and the interest remain the same, and the unfortunate borrower, the man of enterprise and activity, is obliged to struggle against falling markets with a weight around his neck which is constantly increasing."

A SO CALLED philosophical anarchist, Hamlin Garland, delivered a lecture in Chicago recently and condemned state socialism, claiming that "the words anarchist and socialist have diametrically opposite meanings." He tries to define the difference in the following statement: "Anarchy is the minimum of government; socialism is the maximum of government. One is for the liberty of the individual; the other is for paternalism." We believe that he has summed up the whole belief of both socialism and anarchism in this sentence: "I am an individualist. I frankly admit that I have little faith in the thing called government. I come nearer believing what is called a nihilist in Russia. I believe in liberty and land." That class of men represented by Hamlin Garland believes in the liberty of men to the extent expressed in the word license. According to such a sentiment as told in the above quotation, individuals are not to be controlled by the wishes of a majority of the people as expressed in the word government. A man would be endowed with liberty to the extent of robbing another of his property if he were possessed of superior physical strength to do so. Such philosophical anarchistic doctrine as laid down by the reformer in his Chicago speech, leads to the selfishly organized power of might and the downfall of right.

NOTWITHSTANDING the predicted risks of political complications that will arise from the coming Legislature determining its attitude on free coinage of silver, that issue will be made, as he made it must. There is no conceivable way of avoiding the demands of a majority of the Republican party on this important question. They virtually brought this issue to the fore in selecting candidates for Governor, Secretary of State, and both members of Congress, who are and

have been pronounced free coinage men, and then electing them by a large vote as against the untried theory of Penneyer's fiat money system. All the members of the Legislature, in the Willamette valley and on the coast, were nominated and elected upon a pledge of favoring free coinage, and if such pledge were not given in so many words in all cases, it was by implication. Whatever some may think about the prudence of endeavoring to follow up the victory the Republican party has gained by fresh announcements in the Legislature, it must be done if she remains mistress of the situation in the future. The people of Oregon will look with marked interest to see whether her representatives in the Legislature know how to use the greatness she has known how to gain. Will Republican triumph be turned aside, or will the State's Statesmen have the sagacity to fix their eyes firmly on the abiding interests of free coinage of silver and the strength and courage to resist the gold standard influences which will inevitably strive to lead them astray? All such who do not meet this issue manfully and in consonance with the popular will of the people, will find themselves buried in the cobwebbed attic chambers of the forgotten political past.

### AN EDITORIAL ON SILVER.

Some have disputed Secretary of State H. R. Kincaid's position on the silver question, therefore we print an editorial that appeared in the *Oregon State Journal* on Jan. 16, 1886, long before the Populist party was born, as follows: "If they don't stop talking about silver in Congress, some of our Lane county friends will draw the records on these festive statesmen, who talk so much with their mouths in these days of toll and trouble, when monopolists, bondholders, landgrabbers and Mugwumps soar aloft, and hold high carnival right before the eyes of honest Democrats and Republicans too, who have served their parties faithfully for these many years, and now can't get to even smell an office. Already we have had several inquiries for the *Congressional Record* of 1878, containing the debate on the present silver coinage law, from gentlemen who wish to post themselves on the silver question, with a view, no doubt, of writing it up, or waltzing into the political ring at the coming election, cocked and primed for any emergency. The volumes of the *Record* containing that debate can't be found in our office. Can it be that Bennett, and Dick Williams, and Tom Brents, and all of our friends who were in Congress at that time, forgot us entirely, and failed to send a bound copy of the concentrated wisdom of the nation at the most critical period in American history—all periods are the most critical—or can it be that the boys in the office have worn the volumes of that year out by using them for stools to sit upon. Be that as it may, if this thing goes on much longer, we will have those *Records*, even if they have to be procured from a second hand book store or junkshop in Washington, where there are always plenty of them for sale cheap. We will then go for the bottom facts, and write this vexed question up in a way that will astonish the men who, in the elegant language of Bob Ingersoll, 'have broke into Congress,' and who, as the late lamented Nesmith put it, 'are astonished that they ever got there.' We will begin where Lish Applegate always begins his speeches—at the dawn of creation, and will then come down gradually to Moses and the prophets, dallying along down through the ages to the Christian Era—as Senator Jones of Nevada did in his great speech on silver, which took him nearly a week to read to the Senate—gently gliding through the dark ages, and dwelling on that terrible period when the coin of the world, both silver and gold, had almost disappeared, and a man in England would not sell for as much as a hog will sell for now in the United States, where silver is supposed to be abundant, although it is a little scarcer in and around our office and in this place than is convenient. To see that the dark ages do not get their grip on this country, like they did on Europe when coin got scarce and civilization went down—it takes a great deal of coin to keep up civilization, and to keep up with the procession while civilization marches along in its good clothes, as every man of experience knows—is what we have been running the *Journal* for, during the last 22 years. With a little coin occasionally from our patrons, to pay for paper and other necessary expenses, we propose to continue to resist any and all attempts of the dark ages to come again, or to interfere in any way with the coin or the rights and privileges of the free and independent people of Oregon, more particularly those residing in Lane county and Eugene City, as charity begins at home. As Blaine said in his speech on the silver question in the Senate, which we had the pleasure

of hearing, we are now grappling with the same problem that has engaged the attention of mankind in all ages, the same that absorbed the attention of the merchants of 2000 years ago, namely, how much silver to put into the dollar with which we propose to pay our debts, or words to that effect, for the principal study of the majority of mankind is how to pay debts or how to get rid of paying them—three-fourths of the people, in all the countries where so much coin is required to keep up civilization and dress in the latest fashion, are always in debt over head and ears, and always will be as long as they can get what they want on credit.

The silver question is a big thing, bigger than the national bank or internal improvements, over which the Whigs and Democrats struggled 50 years, and listened to the eloquence of Webster, and Clay, and Calhoun, and all the great statesmen of the first half of the present century.

It extends over all the world, and there are 'Millions in it,' yes, hundreds of millions. We don't intend that any Congressman from the monopoly-ridden East or British monopolist and gold-bug mania, or any other man, shall get away with the 'dollar of our daddies,' if we can prevent it. Messrs. Senators and Representatives, if you have any respect for the rights of the people, for goodness sake, don't take from them the 'dollars of their daddies,' for most of the young voters and hoards of the period depend on the 'dollars of their daddies' for a living, and you may say 'we told you so' if you want to. Aim high. Strike at bigger game, and let the poor, miserable 'buzard dollars' of our ancestors, which are so odious to the people of great wealth, rest in peace. We common people need buzard dollars, and are suffering because we cannot get more of them. These are our sentiments, and we believe that every man, woman and child in this community would vote to have the mint give us a double dose of dollars every month. They grab at them here even when they have holes in them. Let all the silver be coined into money as fast as it can be mined. The people will take it, and will wonder why the mines turn out so little. It will be like the offices—no source to go around.

### THE SUN ON FREE SILVER.

Regarding the question of the free coinage of silver, the *Portland Sun* says: "We sell our wheat and cotton to Europe and we are brought into competition with the European market for the sale of those products with nations that are virtually upon a silver monetary basis, while we of the United States are upon a gold basis.

Hence, we of the United States produce upon a gold basis but sell upon a silver basis, for the reason that the prices we receive for our products (upon the same law that the prices of the surplus fix the prices of our home market) are fixed by the prices that our competitors receive for their products. As long as our competitors remain on a silver basis and can pay for their land and labor in silver—the amount of land and labor which they may receive being measured by the weight, and not by the bullion value of that metal, as is today the fact in all the silver-standard nations, and as long as we remain upon a gold basis—just so long will our assertion remain true, that we produce upon a gold basis but sell upon a silver basis.

Our competitors receive gold for their cotton, wheat and other cereals as do we of the United States, but our competitors can, with their gold thus received, purchase more than double the amount of silver bullion at its present price of 63 cents per ounce than they could prior to its demonetization. The same number of grains of fine silver will buy the same amount of land and labor today, when 480 grains are worth in the world's market, in our money, only 63 cents, that they would in 1873, when the same number of grains were worth in the world's market over \$1.29 cents in our money. Consequently, the lower the bullion value of silver goes the cheaper can our competitors produce their products, as all agricultural products are primarily based upon land and labor values; therefore, the greater the fall in silver the greater the bonus for all our competitors having a silver monetary standard.

Now, to reply to what the *Oregonian* seems to deem its knock-down question, "Is England to be compelled to pay us more for our wheat than for the like wheat from all other parts of the world?" We will say that while the United States has not the power by legislation to make England pay more for the wheat of the United States than she does for like wheat of other countries—for certainly a purchaser will always seek the cheapest market, the same as a producer will always seek the dearest, still the United States has power to force England and the other European nations that have to depend upon other countries for their

supply of breadstuffs and raw materials, to pay more for same by increasing the bullion value of silver the world over; for by doing this, our competitors on a silver monetary standard cannot purchase as much labor with the gold received from the European market in exchange for their products, and, therefore, have to pay more as measured in gold for their land and labor and consequently cannot produce so cheaply.

It certainly must be apparent to the most superficial observer that with silver bullion worth one-half of our coinage value, or its gold basis, then upon the same land and labor values, based upon the respective money standards, our competitors—India and Egypt—can produce their cotton, and India, Russia and the Argentine Republic can produce their other cereals for just one-half that it costs the planter and farmer of the United States to produce theirs, as far as first cost of land and labor are concerned. It is not necessary in the discussion of this question to go into the details of climatic conditions, fertility of soil or cost of transportation, but the point to be made is that if these last named conditions were equal in all these countries, then whatever fall there was in the bullion price of silver below our coinage value (\$1.29 2/100 per ounce) would represent the difference in cost of production to the planter and farmer in India, Egypt, Russia and the Argentine Republic and the planter and farmer in the United States; that is to say, with silver bullion at 61 1/2 cents per ounce, upon the assumption that the above-named conditions were equal, India and Egypt could produce their cotton for just one-half of what our planter in the United States could produce his, and India, Russia and the Argentine their wheat for one-half of what our farmer in the United States could produce his.

We trust that we have made it plain to those who are open to conviction that the bullion value of silver is, and will remain as long as our competitors are on a silver monetary basis and the United States upon a gold basis, a tremendous factor in the price of our cotton and agricultural products in the world's market. Therefore, the question for investigation by the people of the United States is to see if any action or legislation of theirs they can raise the bullion value of silver throughout the world. To our mind it is self-evident, provided one grants the soundness of the law of supply and demand, that the United States by free-coinage legislation, say at the ratio of 16 to 1, would immediately, by supply legislation, create what every one must concede would be an increased demand for silver and thereby raise its price.

We assert that such legislation would practically provide an unlimited demand (considering the very limited supply that there is of silver in the world, as compared with its monetary use) for silver bullion at \$1.29 2/100 per ounce and thereby fix for the world that minimum bullion price of silver less passible by the cost of insurance and transportation.

With the full appreciation that advice, though sound, is not always acceptable, we would point out what evidently has been overlooked by the local advocates of the gold standard in this state, that the only possible ground they have to fight on in attacking the position taken by the advocates of unconditional free-coinage legislation at no greater ratio than 16 to 1, is whether the United States can furnish the practically unlimited demand necessary to fix the world's minimum price of that metal. It is useless and false to deny that if the United States can do this that such a result would not prove extremely beneficial to all classes of our people, except those who hold gold but have no other property and those who have fixed and permanent salaries payable in gold. The advocates of the single gold standard say that this cannot be done. The advocates of unconditional free coinage say that it can. The question is, who are right? We would be pleased to hear the reasons upon which the advocates of the single gold standard base their assertion. The advocates of unconditional free coinage have driven the enemy from every stand they have taken, and by quotations of natural and economic laws from the best known authorities and by statements of facts, not theories, have exploded the fallacious theories advanced by the single-standard advocates, like the shop-worn arguments "stability of gold," "30-cent dollar," "intrinsic value," "demonetization of silver on account of its overproduction," "depression of values in general due to overproduction, inventions and increased transportation facilities," and such other childish and senile maudlinisms as our citizens have been paying \$12 per year to read about. There was a time when the statement of these fallacies did great harm because some people had confidence in their source and did not take the time to investigate for themselves. Now, however, what little promulgation they may have can do no harm, as people have had their confidence betrayed and are doing their own thinking.

## Literary.

(ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.)

In moral improvement it is often expected that resolves can be instantly and thoroughly put into practice, that virtues can be developed, and long habit eradicated, and temptation resisted, and obstacles overcome suddenly and without one backward step. Those who make such enthusiastic resolves simply expect impossibilities; they suppose that they are able at once and completely to accomplish what really takes much time, much patience and much persistent effort. They imagine that they have only to make up their minds in order to subdue an evil passion, to put down a hasty temper, to change a cruel disposition into a kind one, to control nervous irritability, to cultivate industry, or thrift, or justice, or mercy, to strengthen a weak will or direct a strong one. But any of these or similar undertakings are at least as difficult and complicated as any manual or mental requirement. They demand much time and effort and patience, they are as slow and gradual in their growth, they are as certain to involve as many mistakes and failures, and to require as constant and untiring an energy to retrieve and avoid them. Those who suppose that such things can be done at once overrate their powers and anticipate what is utterly impracticable.

Much human suffering is dark, gloomy and painful. When communicated and diffused, it spreads abroad a useless sadness; but when silently and courageously borne, it is capable of evolving strength of character, patience, fortitude, tenderness. A man meets with a bereavement, or a loss of fortune, or some cherished plan is defeated, or some bright hope is extinguished. His present sorrow is inevitable; but he can deal with it in two ways. He can loudly mourn and lament, detailing his grievance to friends and neighbor, claiming their utmost sympathy, painting his woes in vivid colors, thereby producing much needless and useless sadness, while at the same time only intensify his trouble by thus dilating upon it. On the other hand, he can school himself to bear the inevitable and to learn whatever lessons it has in store; he can abstain from marring the happiness of others by intruding his personal woes; he can cultivate a brave spirit and a cheerful aspect; in a word, he can "consume his own smoke," and in time he will have in its place the ruddy glow and warmth of a nobler character and a firmer grasp of the future.

Life is a fountain that overflows only at dawn and early morning. As it gets older, it still has pleasures, but they are sober and staid, tinged with a darker green or autumn brown. Spring leaves have a tint we miss in July or October; their freshness and soft transparency pass. The brook sings as it runs; the river glides quickly; the sea moans. Poets always paint the gods young, and half our heaven is in the thought of youth returning. Every thing young is happy. There is an universal morning gladness before the heat of the day. We spend boyhood and youth in an enchanted world, with fountains of joy scattering rainbow; it is a delight simply to live in these years. As we get older, happiness gets daintier and needs more catering; but in our spring-time it laughs and thrives on the poorest fare.



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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Being first duly sworn I depose and say: That I have been a resident of Florence, Lane County, Oregon, for the past twelve years; that I am familiar and well acquainted with the property known as "Frasier and Berry's part of Florence," that the same is admirably suited for residence property, being perfectly level and free from drifting sand. That fruit trees and shrubbery grow well in the soil and that pure well water is found on the same at a depth of from ten to fifteen feet. JOSEPH A. MORRIS, Merchant.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of March, 1892. JOSEPH A. MORRIS, Notary Public.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Being first duly sworn I depose and say: That I have been a resident of Florence, Lane County, Oregon, for the past twelve years; that I am familiar and well acquainted with the property known as "Frasier and Berry's part of Florence," that the same is admirably suited for residence property, being perfectly level and free from drifting sand. That fruit trees and shrubbery grow well in the soil and that pure well water is found on the same at a depth of from ten to fifteen feet. JOSEPH A. MORRIS, Merchant.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of March, 1892. L. BLYEY, Notary Public.