# THE WEST.

—PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING—

—AT—

—FLORENCE, LANE COUNTY, OREGON.—


## BI-METALLISM IN ENGLAND.

England, though in practice the foremost of mono-metallic nations, is the home of many eminent men who in theory are believers in bi-metallism. It is boldly stated, for instance, that all the professors of political economy in the kingdom are agreed that the restoration of silver is desirable, and possible as well; and a manifesto to this effect may be issued. Mr. Arthur Balfour, while leader of the conservative opposition in the Commons, more than once appeared on the platform and discussed the merits of bi-metallism, to the horror of the Times. The forces of bi-metallism, as a political power, made their first appearance in the last election to the advantage of the Conservative party. The remarkable turn-over in Lancashire, where the Liberals lost fourteen seats, may be traced to this feeling, and to the animosity aroused by the Indian cotton duties, which the Rosebery government had allowed the Indian authorities to enforce. The two questions are kindred ones, for India and the east generally, under the operation of a silver system, have steadily become more dangerous competitors of the English manufacturers—due to the fact that owing to the low intelligence of the laboring classes of those nations, the value of labor has fallen fifty per cent. since the general demonetization of silver in 1873. The East Indian manufacturer sells his wares for gold; he changes that into silver, and he pays for the products which he uses and the labor he employs the same amount of silver coin that he did twenty-two years ago. The native, who got a rupee for his day's work then gets a rupee now, and is content; he does not know a rupee to his master means only half what it once did. Northampton has lost contracts for supplying the boots of the Indian army because it could not compete with the native factories. Cotton factories have everywhere been hard hit. Similar forces have tended to contract the output of tin at Cornwall and enlarge it at Penang, China. This is, too, the explanation of the difficulty which farmers of the northern half of this continent find in competing with the wheat output of countries where silver is king. It is for reasons such as this that the bi-metallists say that the yellow man with the white metal will strangle the white man with the yellow metal.

But, notwithstanding the strength of the movement, there seems little likelihood of it getting beyond the academic stage. Mr. Balfour, as member of the cabinet and leader of the Commons, has become chary of speech. He will not even promise that Great Britain will take part in an international conference for the fixing of a ratio between the two metals to be observed by all nations. Precedent to that there must be unity on this point in the cabinet; and this, he indicates, there is not and cannot be.

## CONVICT LABOR.

The problems which have arisen in connection with the question of employing the convicts in our penitentiaries are many; and some of them are very abstruse. But while the wiseacres and those who call themselves penologists have been wrangling over the question, the convicts have apparently been solving the problem in their own quiet, unostentatious way.

In the Kentucky penitentiary, for instance, the warden discovered only a few days since that the convicts had found an idle life so distasteful that without any consultation with him they had inaugurated a system of labor for their spare moments. They are kept at work as far as possible during eight hours of the day, though the opposition of the labor unions makes it impracticable to keep them fully employed. Chafing under their enforced idleness the convicts have, after the exercise of a good deal of thought, patience and ingenuity, hit upon a method of keeping themselves busy during all hours not needed for refreshment and repose; and the result is—or was until a stony-hearted warden interfered with their methods and work—that physical well-being which is evinced by the flush of health on the cheek, the bright glance of the eye and the springy elastic step. During the period when the convicts were sweetening their hard lives with toil there were very few admissions to the hospital; and the doctor's position was almost a sinecure. There could not possibly be any better evidence of desirability, not to say the need, of keeping men in confinement busily employed if they are expected to be physically well.

The plan adopted by the Kentucky convicts may not be adaptable to the conditions in the penitentiaries of other states. It seems to have been decided, indeed, since they were discovered that they are not adaptable to the conditions of penitentiary life in that state. At all events the prison authorities have discouraged the further carrying on of the industries in which the convicts engaged and remitted them to the idleness which they found so irksome and from which their work furnished such welcome relief.

As to one of the industries it is comparatively easy to understand why the prison authorities have discouraged its further prosecution. The convicts themselves styled it "making money," which is regarded outside of the prison gates as a laudable thing to do. But the technical prison authorities called it counterfeiting; and as that is forbidden by the laws of the country, they felt that it was hardly right that a public institution should openly countenance it. As to the other industry, the manufacture of whisky, which was carried on very extensively, it is not quite easy to comprehend why the keepers of a Kentucky penitentiary should object to it. It is true that, like counterfeiting, it is against the laws of the land, but only when prosecuted with intent to avoid the payment of the tax. By paying the internal revenue tax the prison authorities could have legalized the industry and kept the convicts at work in the congenial employment they had hit upon.

There will be some curiosity, probably, to learn how the convicts managed to carry on these industries for several months without attracting the attention of the prison authorities. That is a question we cannot answer for the reason that the prison authorities are themselves silent on the subject. It is of little importance, however, compared with the showing made that the average convict would rather work than be idle.

## UPHOLSTERING NEEDED.

Modern civilization needs cushioning. We are in such a hurry to get there that we ride in box cars, rather than wait for the Pullman to be brought in from the side track. We take too little pains to plant flowers along the path of life; and, in this respect, the new world is perceptibly worse off than the old. The European does generally set aside some time for pleasure; and, as a consequence—the conditions of life being at all equal—he outlives us. Sir John Macdonald dead at seventy-six, and Gladstone alive at eighty-five; Blaine and Salisbury, both born in the same year, and now Blaine dead three years, and Salisbury buoyantly beginning a possible seven years Premiership, are facts that mean something. Though they are a long way from perfection across the ocean. The best that they do there is to cushion life a part of the time for the active few.

We desire to turn a reference to one point in life's furnishings where precious little upholstering is ever done. This is in the making of noise. A recent writer in an American review contended that noise is the prime health destroying feature of city life; and that the quiet of the country-side was the chief ingredient in the city man's summer rest. Certain it is that noise is a great nerve-wearer; and the contention that it spurs the citizen to action is sheer nonsense. "Does noise keep men stirred up to do their best and utmost, or could they do more, if by some means the city could be hushed to stillness?" asks a writer; and then philosophizes after this manner:

"The majority of people think that for the most effective mental effort they need quiet. Is this correct, or do the great noises of a great city rouse men and women to their best efforts? Life with many is a sleepy, dreamy sort of thing, and they enjoy it more than if they were on the jump continually. Then the question arises, is stillness a disadvantage to those who live in the country? Some seem to think Methuselah and others lived to such great ages because they had no excitements to wear them out. Life is often painfully still in the country, and monotony of thought is considered by experts the main reason why so many farmers and their wives go insane. Hence less seclusion and more sociability are recommended to those who live in the rural districts."

It would be as sensible to attribute the speed of the trolley to the clanging of the bell. The big prizes of city life draw the strongest men into the vortex and then competition hurries them on. The noise does nothing but shake their nerves and hasten their breakdown. Nature produces but few unpleasant noises, but man has surrounded himself with a boiler factory.

The cause of this is plain enough. We are satisfied with a noisy machine if it only does its work. We take too little pains to make our inventions noiseless as well as effective—careful of health as well as productive of salable material. This is one of the corners of life that should be carefully cushioned.

## SPECULATION VS THRIFT.

A modern vice that comes in for a good deal of cursing in times of business distress, is speculation. When men gain by speculation, they are shrewd fellows; but when the less wary attempt to follow their footsteps and stumble into the quicksands, then this dazzled greed of sudden wealth is a blighting curse. The truth is that speculation is like crossing Niagara on a tight-rope—a risk that may be successfully taken by the very few who are blessed with steady heads, and are practised in the technique of the art, but a thing to be avoided by the average man. Yet the large prizes won by the lucky few tempt a great many to make the venture, so that to some minds the keys to the old door of competence—industry and thrift—are poor tools compared with this modern invention.

A worse error could not well fasten itself upon the mass of men who are not geniuses. The hod and mortar carriers might as well declare that the old way of climbing ladders is a stupid business, and resolve to risk their necks and their mortar in climbing up slack ropes because they had seen acrobats accomplish this feat. In the round game of speculation, seldom more than one man wins, and he is more apt to be the stronger than the luckier. But the plainer paths to success and thrift are open to most. In this country it is not necessary to preach very loudly the wisdom of industry. We are, as a rule, an industrious people. But the other partner in the firm is sadly neglected. No one would accuse us of being a thrifty people. Extravagance and impatience with small economies may not have gone so far here as across the Rocky mountains; but we know nothing of the high art of making a dollar buy a good dollar's worth in comparison of many of the peoples of the East and the old world. Ah! but they learned it of the hard school-masters, adversity and necessity, it will be said. Well, what if they did? It is a good lesson. We may not need it to keep the wolf from the door, but we do need it to get the lion's skin for a couch. It is not the whip of hunger that drives Oregon to thrift; and glad may we be that it is so. But ambition and love of comfort and hope of a competence ought to be strong incentives. Then the thrifty family is much more lightly equipped for the race of life. They can run when others must rest; and they may possibly "arrive" while the others can never leave the course. To men whose earnings are limited and who are not of the very few who may dare speculation, thrift opens the only door to a competence. To earn and spend is to remain in industrial slavery for life; to earn and save is to gain the glorious privilege of being independent.

Great is thrift. It is the fairy godmother of the average man.

## MITCHELL EXPECTS LITTLE.

Senator Mitchell, of Oregon, expects little of the next congress.

The senator is stopping at the California hotel, says the San Francisco Post, having come down from Portland for a few days on legal business. He excused himself from being interviewed at any length, but did not mind expressing himself briefly on one or two points.

"There are a number of important questions which will be brought up before the next congress," said the senator, "but I don't anticipate that much will be done with any of them. The division of power will, I fear, prevent it. For one thing, no party has the senate—neither the republicans, the democrats nor the populists. The populists, however, hold the balance of power. The fact that the administration is democratic also helps to tie up things.

"Still, as I have suggested, important questions will, of course, be brought up—the Nicaragua canal project, for instance—also, silver, the tariff and the financial problem in all its phases. But nothing will be done, though certainly there is a crying need of some decided action on the financial problem, if on nothing else.

"It would assuredly seem that we can not go on as President Cleveland has begun—running deeper and deeper into debt and merely accumulating embarassment by issuing more bonds. Just think of it—$75,000,000 last year and $50,000,000 this! Where is this sort of thing going to bring us? It doesn't seem to require a great amount of intelligence to enable a man to see that it is only a matter of time, supposing this policy to be pursued, when something will be heard to drop.

"I am personally very curious," continued the senator, "to see what kind of a financial scheme the president will submit when congress meets, as a solution of the present difficulties. Whatever it may be I have little hope, and for the reason I have already given, that anything in particular will be done with it. The idea that congress, as now constituted, will agree on any tariff or financial proposition seems a little outside of the possibilities.

"It is a great pity, though. In my opinion a little modification of the tariff as it now exists is just what is needed—the short and simple way out of our present difficulties. I would like to see it so modified as at once to add to the protection of our producers, and to furnish the government with money enough to meet its expenses and pay its bills. The fact is, I don't see anything else to be done, but, of course, 'there are others,' you know, and I don't expect them to prefer my ideas to their own. But, as I have already said, I am curious to learn what the president's next suggestion will be."

Referring to the question of "the succession," Senator Mitchell stated that as yet it seemed to have excited but little interest in Oregon. At all events there was not talk worth mentioning going on, so far as he was aware, among either republicans or democrats as to who would be the party standard bearers in the next national campaign. "It's a little early yet, you see," said the senator, adding, with a meeting smile:

"Just wait a few months. Then—listen!"

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AMONG our exchanges may be seen *The Pacific Empire*, edited by Mrs. Abigail Scott Duniway, and published in Portland, Oregon. This journal is an indicator of what the policy of women should be in the interests of their freedom, and to the end of securing their suffrages Mrs. Duniway is desirous of helping, so far as possible, with a judicious application of the right kind of education. Under her guidance the women should know a period of activity and even prosperity to which they are not accustomed. Some men are apt to distort the true general impression regarding woman's rights, and teach absolute control of all public affairs by men, and that we may hope to retain it if only we do not meddle too much with an education which has thriven least when most let alone.

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WHEN the legislature gets ready to establish state medical and law schools, if it ever does get ready, probably it will not locate them at Portland. Nobody yet has had authority to establish such schools, though the state university at Eugene has done so, without authority.—Salem *Statesman*.

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SINCE the fishermen only caught a few fish in the lower river Wednesday night, and the leaders of the strike, who live along the upper river, caught their hundreds, it is curious to note the change of opinion as to who were benefited by the strike.

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IF THE law had been observed and no fishing done within one mile of the hatchery, there could have been taken a large number of ripe fish to use in the propagating troughs.

## HARVEY, YOU ARE ISOLATED.

The Oregonian seems to have been particularly rasped by ex-Congressman Bryan, and has assured him that it enjoys an advantage over him in the discussion of the silver question, as it can attack on bi-metallism every day, while Mr. Bryan is merely "an ephemeral speaker." The Oregonian has overlooked the fact that Mr. Bryan is an editor as well as a speaker, and that the Times-Herald, of Omaha, can talk as often and persistently in favor of bi-metallism as The Oregonian can against it. In the meantime, however, it may be in order for The Oregonian to state from whence it has derived its knowledge of the attitude of the people of Oregon on the subject of silver. It says they do not favor free coinage, but there is abundant evidence that they do. The Oregonian is talking for effect when it says that the people of the state in which it is printed share its views on the monetary subject. The editor is nearly isolated, as he would find if the question were submitted to a square vote of the people of Oregon.—San Francisco Chronicle.

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With one eye on the clock, and the other on your plate, you cannot enjoy a meal. When traveling east, you should take the Northern Pacific, the only dining car line from Portland; meals 75 cts. You don't have to get up in the morning at six o'clock, rush to breakfast and gulp it down in fifteen or twenty minutes, and then have to wait until two or three o'clock for lunch or dinner. To avoid this, take the Northern Pacific, the only line running Pullman Tourist Sleepers through to the East without from 12 to 16 hours delay. For information, time cards, tickets etc., call on or address R. McMurphey, General Agent, Eugene, Oregon.

## NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

Land Office at Roseburg, Oregon, Sept. 9, 1895

Notice is hereby given that the following-named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before C. H. Holden, U. S. C. C. Commissioner, at Florence, Oregon, on October 26, 1895, viz:

James W. Nelson,

on homestead entry No. 6632, for the s½ ne¼, and lots 4 and 5 of sec. 3, tp. 19 s., range 12 w.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of, said land, viz:

John L. Furnish, Florence, Lane Co., Oregon.
Frank B. Wilson, " " " "
James P. Flint, " " " "
George H. Colter, " " " "

813-018 R. M. VEATCH, Register.

# Literary.

(ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.)

The difficulty is to know how to adapt ourselves to the slow step of time, whose progress can never be forced on without danger.

How different is the view of past life in the man who is grown old in knowledge and wisdom, from that of him who is grown old in ignorance and folly.

A thoughtful and considerate sobriety of mind, so that one always knows what he is about and what he means to do and what he means not to do, as contrasted with a headlong, impetuous, and reckless mode of acting, is a cardinal quality in living a successful and a virtuous life. Men must think, and do so seasonably, if they would make the journey of life wisely. Every young man needs to learn this lesson.

Hasty judgments ought always to be avoided. They are likely to be erroneous, or at least defective. No sensible person will allow himself to reach a conclusion till he has made a careful canvass of all the available facts. But when the facts are in, and have been sifted and weighed no sensible man will delay to make up his mind. Inability to do so argues grave intellectual defects. To keep every question open is folly. There are some questions that we ought to shut up as we go forward in life, else we shall be 'ever learning and yet never coming to the knowledge of the truth.' An attitude of eternal indecision argues, not hospitality to the truth, but incapacity to form a judgment.

No one can detach himself from his connection. There is no sequestered spot in the universe, no dark nice along the disc of non-existence, to which he can retreat from his relations to others, where he can withdraw the influence of his existence upon the moral destiny of the world; everywhere his presence or absence will be felt. It is an old saying, and one of fearful and fathomless import, that we are forming characters for eternity. Forming characters! Whose? Our own or others? Both—and in that momentous fact lies the peril and responsibility of our existence.

There are things and there are faces which, when felt or seen for the first time, stamp themselves upon the mind like a sun image on a sensitized face and there remain unalterably fixed. To take the instance of a face—we may never see it again, or it may become the companion of our life, but there the picture is just as we first knew it, the same smile or frown, the same look, unvarying and unvairable reminding us in the midst of change of the indestructible nature of every experience, act, and aspect of our days. For that which has been is, since the past knows no corruption, but lives eternally in its frozen and completed self.

A sense of dullness always betrays something wrong with him who feels it. He may be ill and need a physician; he may be idle and need employment; he may be narrow-minded and need broadening; he may be selfish and need rousing to generous impulses and lofty purposes. Whatever be the matter, let him be sure that it is in himself, not in the place where he lives or the people with whom he is thrown. Every thing in life is interesting, only he has not found it out, not taken the trouble to observe or to sympathize. As soon as he does this, as soon as he goes out of himself and hastens to act and to give, instead of waiting to be acted upon and to receive, dullness flies away, and life is full of hope, earnestness and interest.


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