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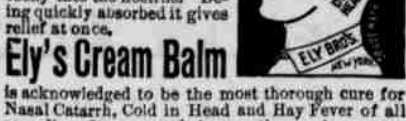
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ADOPTS THE GOLD STANDARD.

After Four Years of Investigation Japan Decides to Discard Silver.

On March 1 it was cabled from Yokohama that Japan had decided to adopt the gold standard at a ratio of 32 1/2 to 1, the new standard to go into operation in October.

This act, on top of many previous ones, moves Japan completely out of the ranks of the semi-civilized and into those of civilized and progressive nations. It was not taken hastily, but after two years' consideration of an exhaustive report made by the Japanese currency commission, appointed in 1893.

This commission found that, while certain capitalists, especially those employing many laborers, were benefited by the falling silver standard, the wage earners were injured from the fact that their wages did not rise as fast as did the prices of what they had to buy. The report pointed out what every rational trader ought to know—that a silver standard with gold trade and compete with gold standard countries only after paying the loss on exchange in foreign trade. However, as the greater part of Japan's trade was with China and India, the two countries of Asia still using the silver standard, the disadvantage on this account was not considered great.

The silverites have lost with Japan some of their best capital. Of course they will tell us how "British gold" was used to bribe the government into betraying the people's interests for the money power. They cannot, however, much longer tell us that we are ever, much longer to compete with Japan because she uses the silver standard.

The truth is that Japan got tired of being a second rate nation and of working with second rate tools, and, after careful investigation, concluded to get rid of free coinage at ordinary ratios, which drives gold out of the country as fast as it can be coined and which results in the single silver standard, and to adopt the gold standard at a ratio with silver which will permit the use of both metals in her trade. It is a wise step. Japan is only one of four or five nations which have adopted the gold standard during the last 18 months.

The Sound Money Propaganda.
The decision of the silver men to continue their fight for the 50 cent dollar, despite the emphatic verdict of the people in November, is appropriately followed by the organization in New York of a sound money league, which is to be national in its character and in the scope of its work. From this time on till the next presidential election the dissemination of money facts and correct views as to money is to be continued.

The most efficient agency of the last campaign was the sound currency committee of the New York Reform club, and its publications, each given to some one phase of the currency question, were invaluable to speakers and writers. A sound basis for currency reform was thus laid in the minds of thousands who were groping after the truth.

These publications, it is stated, are to continue. An effort is to be made to widen the field of operations by a class of writings of a more popular character. In the south and west particularly honest thinkers are to be supplied with material for progressive thought toward sound conclusions on the money question.

Much was done in six months of 1895 to uproot the erroneous ideas planted in five years of populist agitation. Errors had been corrected simply because they had not been confronted with fact. Now monetary truth is to be as systematically inculcated as fallacy was, and the result cannot but be most wholesome.—Baltimore Sun.

STORY OF A RING.

It proved an ill Omen to All Who Owned It.

It is stated upon what appears to be good authority that in one of the parks in the Spanish capital city of Madrid a magnificent ring hangs by a silken cord about the neck of the statue of the Maid of Almodna, the patron saint of Madrid. This ring, says Harper's Round Table, though set with diamonds and pearls, is nevertheless entirely unguarded. The police pay no attention to it, nor is there any provision made for watching it by special officers, because it is not believed that any thief, however daring, would venture to appropriate it to his own use; and when the history of the ring is considered, it is hardly to be wondered at that a suspicious people prefer to give it a wide berth according to the story that is told of it. The ring was made for King Alfonso XII., the father of the present king of Spain. Alfonso presented it to his cousin, Mercedes, on the day of their betrothal. How short her married life was all known; and on her death the king presented the ring to his grandmother, Queen Christina. Shortly afterwards Queen Christina died, and the Infanta del Pilar, who died within the month following. The ring was then given to the youngest daughter of the Due de Montpensier. In less than three months she died, and Alfonso, by this time fearing that there was some unlucky omen connected with the bauble, put it away in his own treasure box. In less than a year the king himself died, and it was deemed best to put the ring away from all the living. Hence it was hung about the neck of the bronze effigy of the Maid of Almodna, where it appears to be as safe as though surrounded by a cordon of police.

Letter, Salt-Rheum and Ecema.

The intense itching and smarting, incident to these eruptions, is best allayed by applying Chamberlain's Eye and Skin Ointment. Many very bad cases have been permanently cured by it. It is equally efficient for itching piles, a favorite remedy for sore nipples, chapped hands, chills, blisters, frost bites and chronic sore eyes. 25 cts. per box.

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AN PANTOMIME.

Clever Clowns Are Hard to Secure—Some Well-Known Performers.

A comparison between English and American pantomime will result favorably in many particulars for the American, because novelty is sadly lacking in the former, says an exchange. The English clown makes his appearance on the stage with a "Here we are again" with a certainty that only equals the coming of death and rent day. Humphry-Dumpty, Columbine, the policeman and all other funny people are as stereotyped as three meals a day, and our cousins across the water look upon them with open-eyed astonishment year after year, with a stolidism that borders on the ridiculous. If the same tactics were followed by purveyors of that class of entertainment here, how long would it last? With the American insatiable thirst for novelty we should say but a very short time.

Pantomimists like the famous Grimaldi and Ravel families do not flourish now, and the pantomime must combine great spectacular features and ingenious jests, as well as comedy elements. Pantomime has never been so successfully grafted on American soil; otherwise it would be an institution in every large city in the land. But whenever it was well done it always paid well. Years ago the Ravel family from New York and became the craze of the town. Francois, the father of the family, could set the house in a roar by walking across the stage, and poor George Fox, who was the best pantomimist the United States ever produced, was a good successor to Francois Ravel.—Chicago News.

GARE OF MATTRESSES.

How to Wash Blankets Before Putting Them Away.

The feather bed is, of course, a thing of the past. It probably not lamented in many quarters, as it is certainly unhealthful, difficult to care for, and not pleasant to sleep on. Mattresses, blankets, pillows, and other articles of bedding, however, require much care, to be kept odorless and clean.

The main enemies to mattresses are dust, damp and moth, and frequent brushing must be given them, for in an incredibly short time they will harbor dust all along the edges and where the buttons are fixed. A loose cotton cover over the mattress made to button neatly at one end, also goes a long way toward keeping it clean. This can be washed and changed as often as need be without much trouble or expense. It is very important to air all the bedding thoroughly. Every article should be daily taken off and laid separately over a chair and a strong current of air should be allowed to circulate through the room before the clothes are replaced. The mattress should be turned daily and from end to end, as this insures it being worn more evenly, and not sinking in the middle.

Blankets are a difficulty to many people, mostly because they cannot make up their minds as to how often they should be washed, nor how they should be treated. In many houses they are washed only once a year; but somehow that does seem rather too rare a proceeding. On the other hand, it is really not necessary to have them washed more than twice a year; but they must have proper care in the interval in the shape of airing, shaking, etc. A washing machine is very good for the purpose, especially as they should never be rubbed by the hand. The water should be only lukewarm, and a little soap well lathered in the water is all that will be required. Wring the blankets very dry through a wringer, shake them out and wash again in the same way, wringing each time, until they are quite clean. Do not rinse them, but pull them into shape and hang them out in the sun, which is a great help to preserving a good color.—Boston Globe.

PETITION FOR LICENSE.

TO THE HONORABLE COUNTY COURT OF the county of Morrow, State of Oregon: We, the undersigned legal voters and residents of one precinct, Morrow County, Oregon, respectfully petition your honorable body to grant a license to Charles Robinson to sell spirits, malt and vinous liquors in less quantities than one gallon, in the town of Ione and your petitioners will ever pray.

Woolery, Louis Male, Gus Glock, Oscar Mitchell, E. Rietman, Ed Cluff, F. Halsey, T. J. Wilhelm, W. A. Morgan, H. C. Sperry, J. Colestock, G. C. Wilson, L. M. Hill, G. Lewis, J. W. Dirich, W. S. Smith, Chas Sperry, Paul Bergmann, Mat Halvorsen, Dick Lahn, W. H. Hornum, J. H. Lindstrom, M. J. Williams, J. J. McKillgott, J. W. King, N. Peterson, H. P. Daberg, L. W. Hanson, L. W. Hagedorn, H. M. Thornton, J. H. Robinson, Receiver.

NOTICE OF CONTEST.

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE, Grandditch, March 1, 1897. COMPLAINT HAVING BEEN MADE AT this office by the duly verified and corroborated affidavit of Paul W. Baisant, alleging that George W. Ione, who made homestead entry No. 6194, on Oct. 25, 1892, at the United States Land Office at La Grande, Oregon, for the NW 1/4, NE 1/4, SW 1/4, and SW 1/4, sec. 33, T. 4 S., R. 2 E., N. 10 W., has wholly abandoned said tract; that he has changed his residence therefrom for more than six months since making said entry; and that said tract is not settled upon nor cultivated by said party as required by law.

Therefore, with the view of the cancellation of said entry the said parties are hereby summoned and required to appear before E. L. Freeland, U. S. Circuit Court Commissioner, at his office at Heppner, Oregon, on the 6th day of May, 1897, at the hour of 10 o'clock A. M., in order that there may be produced such testimony as they may have concerning said allegations, the final hearing to be had before the Register and Receiver at La Grande, Oregon, on the 22nd day of May, 1897, at 10 o'clock A. M.

Dated this 25th day of February, 1897.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT LET-ters of administration on the estate of Helen M. Allyn, deceased, were granted to the undersigned on the 23rd day of February, 1897, by the County Court of Morrow County, Oregon. All persons having claims against said estate are required to exhibit them to me for allowance at the office of Ellis & Lyons, in Heppner, Oregon, within six months after the date of this notice or they shall be forever barred.

Dated this 25th day of February, 1897.

ELLIS & LYONS,
Administrator.

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KIPLING'S LITTLE JOKE.

How He Gave Out a Policy for the Australians.

Rudyard Kipling is usually represented as being very cold and distant to young newspaper men, and proof against his efforts to interview him. There is evidently a kind side to his nature, however, as is shown by a story that is told by the Literary Digest. It regards the statement in an Australian paper that he landed on that island at 12 o'clock and 16 minutes later "had formulated an Australian policy." Mr. Kipling, according to the Digest, makes the following explanation: "A young reporter cornered me just after I landed. I treated him kindly, but said firmly that I was not to be interviewed. 'I have not thought of interviewing you,' replied the reporter, with a sadness in his voice. 'I ask a much greater favor than that.' It turned out that the reporter had an Australian policy which he knew would be of the greatest benefit to the country. No paper would print it. His modest request was that Kipling would let him put forth his theory as the scheme of the novelist. 'They will print it,' he said, 'if I give it as coming from you.' 'All right,' agreed Kipling, 'fire ahead.' So the young reporter got in four mortal columns telling the people of Australia how to govern their country. 'I never read the article,' Mr. Kipling placidly says, 'but there must have been amazing theories in it from the storm it raised.'"

An Unexpected Answer.

On a recent Sunday night a minister was preaching in Belfast, when a young man in the congregation, getting weary of the sermon, looked repeatedly at his watch. Just as he was in the act of examining his timepiece for the fourth or fifth time, the pastor, with great earnestness, was urging the truth upon the conscience of his hearers. "Young man," said he, "how is it with you?" Whereupon the young man with the gold repeater bawled out, in the hearing of nearly the whole congregation: "A quarter past eight." As may be supposed, the gravity of the assembly was very much disturbed by the occurrence.

Their Impudence.

Certain young Indian gentlemen who are pursuing the study of the law in London were invited by the master of the Temple to pass an evening at his house. The time fixed for the assembling of the interesting party arrived, but nobody came. When nearly an hour had passed in fruitless waiting the master's lady rang for the maid—a new one, as it happened, not yet quite accustomed to the ways of the house. She entered in a state of considerable excitement. "Have none of the gentlemen arrived?" asked her mistress. "No," answered the domestic, "but a lot of impudent nigger minstrels has been a-ringin' at the bell, and I have been a-drivin' 'em away, mum!"

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