

SILVER WILL NOT GIVE UP

Supreme Court Must Pass on Demonetization Act.

COLORADO WILL BRING SUIT

United States Will Defend the Legality of the Act—United States Monetary League at the Head of Movement.

Denver, Dec. 18.—W. A. Rucker, president of the United States Monetary League, left here last night for St. Louis, where he will hold a conference with the governors of several states in relation to the free coinage of silver, and to a suit which is about to be brought by the state of Colorado for the purpose of securing a decision by the United States supreme court as to the legality of the demonetization of silver. The general assembly of the state has passed a joint resolution authorizing the governor to take steps to bring this question before the supreme court. After consultation with prominent public men of the state, Governor Thomas has decided upon a course of action. The first step was to authorize President Rucker, under the great seal of the state, to confer with other governors and raise funds necessary to bring a case before the supreme court of the United States.

The replies from governors of those states recognizing that silver should be on an equality with gold as a circulating medium of value have been most satisfactory, promising assistance, and, in all possible, active co-operation. Especially in Texas has the reception of the idea been cordial, and it is possible Mr. Rucker will go to that state and meet the governor and state officials before proceeding to Washington.

Suit against the government will be brought in Denver. The United States Monetary League will give the state of Colorado as a present, a solid silver brick of the purest metal of 100 ounces, and representing \$100 at par ratio. The treasurer of the state will then formally present the brick to the state. The state will send it to the United States mint at Washington, with the demand that it be coined into 100 silver dollars.

"This demand, of course," says Mr. Rucker, "will be refused. Upon the refusal, suit will be entered in the United States supreme court, for we have no right, under the constitution, to demand that bullion be coined. The question will be raised as to where the constitution lands us, and the suit brought in the name of the state of Colorado to secure more rapid action than otherwise would be given it."

Mr. Rucker will be assisted by counsel from this and other states.

IT IS NOT A PICNIC.

Batchelder Encountered Enemy in His March to Aparri.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The war department today received a cablegram giving the latest developments in the situation in the Philippines. The cablegram is as follows:

"Manila, Dec. 18.—Batchelder, Twenty-fourth infantry, reports that on the 14th he had an engagement at the junction of the Magat and the Rio Grande, Isabella province, the enemy leaving four dead and five mortally wounded in the trenches. Our loss was one drowned and four wounded. He says he is in need of clothing, provisions and money. He will reach Zamboanga, Cagayan province, shortly. Doubtless the navy relieved him yesterday.

"Four hundred and seventy-five Spanish prisoners arrived this morning, among them the sick at Vigan, numbering 120.

"Young, at Banqui, Northwestern Luzon, reports that his troops are still pursuing the remnant of the insurgents, who have 23 American prisoners in their possession. The country is exceedingly rough. Our men, without shoes, are still persistently pursuing.

"The number of Spanish prisoners now in the hands of the insurgents is probably 1,000, mostly in the south. I expect to effect their release in a few days.

"Negros reports that Sergeant Roeder, Sixth infantry, 20 soldiers and 18 native police, attacked 400 insurgents at Madrigal this morning. There were no casualties. The enemy's loss was 28 killed and many wounded. OTIS."

Hunting a New Coal Supply.

San Francisco, Dec. 18.—H. E. Huntington, of the Southern Pacific Company, has gone to Mexico with a corps of experts to make a final examination of a bed of coal in the state of Sonora, about 60 miles off the line of the Sonora railway, which runs from Benson, Ariz., to Guaymas, Mexico. The Southern Pacific recently purchased this road from the Santa Fe. The coal deposit will cost the Southern Pacific \$500,000. A branch from the Sonora railway to the property will cost \$1,500,000.

The railroad company has, during the past 14 months, employed 1,800 men in hauling coal from Utah and Wyoming to supply its locomotives in Nevada and California. Utah and Wyoming coal for the use of the company is delivered as far south as Bakerville.

ANOTHER DEFEAT.

Buller Repulsed by the Boers at the Tugela River.

London, Dec. 18.—The war office has received a dispatch announcing that General Buller has met with serious reverse, losing 11 guns. General Buller was attempting to cross the Tugela river. Finding it impossible to effect his object, he ordered a retirement in order to avoid greater losses. He left 11 guns behind.

The following is the text of General Buller's dispatch announcing the reverse:

"Buller to Lansdowne: Chevely Camp, Dec. 18.—I regret to report a serious reverse. I moved in full strength from our camp near Chevely at 4 o'clock this morning. There are two fordable places in the Tugela river, and it was my intention to force a passage through at one of them. They are about two miles apart. My intention was to force one or the other with one brigade, supported by a central brigade. General Hart was to attack the left drift, General Hildyard the right bank, and General Littleton was to take the center and to support either.

"Early in the day I saw that General Hart would not be able to force a passage, and I directed him to withdraw. He had, however, attacked with great gallantry, and his leading battalion, the Connaught rangers, I fear, suffered a great deal. Colonel I. G. Brooke was seriously wounded.

"We have abandoned 10 guns and lost by shell-fire one. The losses in General Hunt's brigade are, I fear, very heavy, although the proportion of severely wounded, I hope, is not large. The Fourteenth and Sixty-ninth field batteries also suffered severe losses.

"We have retired to our camp at Chevely."

SHOT WIFE AND SONS.

Jealous Man Then Sent Bullet Through His Own Head.

Tacoma, Dec. 18.—Adam Crist deliberately shot his wife fatally, killed his 8-year-old son, seriously wounded a second son, aged 5 years, and then ended the tragedy by putting a bullet through his own brain. Jealousy is the only motive assigned for the crime.

Crist is the proprietor of the Chicago house, and returned this morning from a six months' business trip to Spokane. He was at the hotel during the morning, and apparently in the best of health and spirits. About 2 o'clock in the afternoon he went to a Pacific-avenue pawnbroker and purchased two revolvers. He stopped a few doors away at a drug store and bought 25 cents' worth of vitriol. He must have proceeded directly home, for the shooting occurred only a few moments later.

Crist was in the hotel kitchen, on the second floor, when his wife was called to the head of the stairs to talk to a peddler. After the interval of a few moments he sent the younger child to ask her to come to the kitchen. Immediately afterward four shots were fired, all of which were found to have taken effect in her body. He then turned the revolver on the little boy and wounded him in the leg, but the child managed to crawl down the stairs and escape.

The woman staggered to the sidewalk and Crist went into the hall, where he caught the 8-year-old boy. There are no witnesses to this part of the tragedy, but from the position of the bodies Crist must have held the lad close to him while he put a bullet through his heart. A 41-caliber bullet through his own head followed, and both bodies fell to the floor, still clasped in each other's arms.

Navy Is Badly in Need of Men.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The navy is 4,000 short of the legal maximum, and this in spite of the best efforts of the recruiting officers. Secretary Long has called the attention of congress to this, and suggests that it might offer a decided incentive by extending to sailors enlisting the benefit of the act allotting of apprentices clothing not to exceed \$45 in value. Under the present system, the men are kept in debt for months after enlistment by the purchase of the necessary outfit.

Vallejo, Cal., Dec. 18.—Sixty recruits from the United States ship Hartford have refused to sign articles of enlistment because, as they claim, the government charges them for the cost of their uniform and clothes. The Hartford was Admiral Farragut's flagship at the battle of Mobile bay, in the civil war. During the past four years she has been fully restored, and is now being fitted out for a cruise to New York, where she will be used as a training-ship. The men are badly needed in the service.

Eastern Buyers Contract for Wool.

Seattle, Dec. 18.—For two weeks past representatives of Eastern wool firms, principally from Boston, have been canvassing the wool-growing sections of the state in an effort to buy up next year's clip. In the Rainier reserve district, advances have been offered, at a full price when delivered next summer of from 17 to 20 cents per pound. The cause assigned for offering to buy in advance is that heavy orders have been received by the house represented for delivery next fall, and to make sure of a supply, all the crops possible are now being secured.

THE FISH INDUSTRY.

Statistics of Columbia River Salmon Pack as Given in Annual Report of Commissioner Reed, of Oregon.

Fish Commissioner F. C. Reed, of Oregon, has filed his annual report in the office of the governor. The report covers the year ending October 31, 1899. It is a voluminous document and covers the year's work in detail.

On the subject of hatcheries the report reviews the progress in locating and constructing the buildings and the work accomplished in the state during the past year.

The number of chinook salmon eggs taken from the different hatcheries in Oregon tributary to the Columbia river for the year 1899, is as follows:

Upper Clackamas hatchery.....	2,200,000
Salmon river hatchery.....	500,000
Clackamas hatchery.....	1,000,000

Total for Oregon..... 3,700,000

Chinook salmon eggs taken on the Washington side of the Columbia:

Chinook hatchery.....	1,500,000
Kasam hatchery.....	4,000,000
Wind river hatchery.....	2,500,000
Little White Salmon hatchery.....	10,000,000
Chewaukum hatchery.....	1,900,000

Total for Washington..... 19,900,000

Total for Columbia river..... 23,600,000

From the salmon that were marked by Mr. Hubbard, hatched from eggs taken in 1895, there were caught during the season of 1898, 375 fish weighing from 10 to 50 pounds each. During the season of 1899 the packers and dealers have neglected to watch for the marked fish as well as they should, says the report, but between 40 and 50 have been reported, the average weight being nearly 10 pounds greater than those taken in 1895.

The report shows a falling off in the number of cases of salmon canned during the past season on the Columbia as compared with 1898. This is in part accounted for by the increased number of pounds of salmon handled by the cold-storage concerns.

The following statistics of the salmon pack are given:

Spring pack, Oregon side—		
Variety.....	Cases.....	Value.....
Chinook.....	191,108	\$1,051,954.96
Bluebacks.....	22,155	191,773.94
Steelheads.....	19,955	89,797.56

Total..... 233,218 \$1,333,526.46

Spring pack, Washington side—		
Variety.....	Cases.....	Value.....
Chinook.....	59,599	\$ 277,759.66
Bluebacks.....	7,659	49,915.00
Steelheads.....	3,349	15,939.00

Total..... 61,499 \$ 343,753.66

Spring pack, both sides—		
Total.....	294,718	\$1,596,280.56

Fall pack, Oregon side—		
Variety.....	Cases.....	Value.....
Chinook.....	12,562	\$ 58,659.00
Silver-sides.....	21,443	\$ 96,475.50
Steelheads.....	222	999.00

Total..... 34,567 \$ 155,551.50

Fall pack, Washington side—		
Variety.....	Cases.....	Value.....
Chinook.....	2,459	\$ 11,025.00
Silver-sides.....	7,759	\$ 34,875.00
Steelheads.....	459	2,925.00

Total..... 10,850 \$ 48,825.00

Fall pack, both sides—		
Total.....	45,417	\$ 294,376.50

Total on Columbia..... 340,135 \$1,890,775.95

Total on coast rivers..... 14,332 \$ 271,532.60

Total..... 415,457 \$2,072,307.55

Amount and value of each species of fish consumed locally and shipped East for the year 1899:

	Pounds.....	Value.....
Fresh salmon.....	3,199,229	\$175,229.00
Salt salmon.....	1,380,599	108,538.00
Sturgeon.....	19,910	3,591.00
Smelt.....	290,599	14,025.00
Shad.....	275,780	11,015.00
Crawfish.....	138,248	13,224.00
Catfish.....	52,380	2,095.00
Tom cod.....	9,669	249.00
Halibut.....	318,499	22,472.00
Flounders.....	11,500	820.00
Cod.....	11,175	235.00
Herring.....	5,800	222.00
Perch.....	4,525	787.00
Oysters.....	293,800	14,770.00
Clams.....	110,500	2,213.00
Total.....	5,448,617	\$70,848.00

Northwest Notes.

Republic is soon to vote on the question of incorporation.

A Portland man has bought 25,000 pounds of wool at Ashland at 15 to 18 cents.

Washington has a stringent law for the protection of hotelmen from board-bill jumpers.

The Fairhaven coal mines, at Cokedale, have been sold to the Great Northern railroad.

Demand has outstripped the supply of lockboxes at the Spokane postoffice, where 762 are now in use.

A gravity water supply, to be piped nine miles, is under consideration of Baker City's common council.

Baker City is talking of a "modern pavement" for its leading business street, to relieve the present "disgraceful unpaved condition."

Approximately a sum of \$200,000 in delinquent taxes was paid into the county treasury this year on Whatcom city property. Of this sum, about \$50,000 was the interest penalty of 6 per cent. Treasurer Roeder has placed this to the credit of the county, and the city of Whatcom has entered a demand for it. The matter will be taken into the courts.

Arthur Huey, who went from his home, near Walla Walla, to work in Umatilla county harvest fields, early in the fall, and who was sought by his parents for weeks after it had come time for him to return home, has turned up alive and well. He went to Redland, Cal., and a newspaper paragraph telling of his parents' search induced him to write home, and soon follow his letter.

MUST REMAIN OPEN.

Government Has no Right to Lease Beach Diggings.

A very important question has just been decided by Commissioner Hermann, of the general land office, governing placer mining upon the beach of Behring sea on the coast of Alaska, at and near Cape Nome, the new gold field. The decision affects mining and localities embracing tidelands below the line of ordinary high tide. Numerous applications are pending before the interior department as to locations upon such lands, which have been demonstrated to contain gold in marvelous quantities. Individuals or associations of persons and incorporated mining companies are seeking concessions from the government by which they may acquire exclusive mining rights and privileges pertaining to such tidelands.

The commissioner decides that tidelands in the district of Alaska are not public lands, subject to disposal to individuals, under any of the existing land laws of the United States, and that the department has no statutory authority to make concessions to individuals of any mining rights pertaining to such tidelands.

A citation is made by the commissioner of the case of Shively vs. Boalby, decided by the United States supreme court, in which it was held that the United States, upon acquiring a territory, whether by cession from one of the states or by treaty with a foreign country or by discovery and settlement, takes the title and the dominion of lands below high-water mark of tides, waters for the benefit of the whole people in trust for future states, to be created out of the territory, and it will be further held that congress has not undertaken, by general laws, to dispose of lands below high-water mark of tides waters in a territory, but, unless in case of some international duty or public exigency, has left the administration and disposition of the sovereign rights in such waters and lands to the control of the states respectively when admitted into the union.

A NEW COPPER DISTRICT.

Development on Trout Creek, in Crook County.

Little has been said regarding the Trout creek mining district, in Crook county, Oregon, and the outside world is consequently unaware of the fact that a great mine is here being developed. The visitor to the camp sees this at once, and naturally wonders that no news reaches the public regarding such propositions. The property, consisting of 12 claims in a group, has been provided with substantial and commodious buildings, all fully furnished and equipped. On the hill at the shaft is a 60 horse-power economy boiler, 8 by 10 hoist; pipe line, for water supply from the pump in the ravine, blacksmith shop and the framework for raising the gallow's frame, 34 feet in height, for operating the hoist; also cars and ample trackage.

The shaft descends on the dip of the vein, the present angle being about 30 degrees from perpendicular, and hoisting will be accomplished by self-dumping skip. A depth of 180 feet has been gained, with about 120 feet of drifts and cross-cutting at the 100-foot level. Ores of all grades are about the dumps, and the ore is about the ore bins.

The vein is a replacement, and west face across a round as space fillings mainly replacing on the foot side, usually lost a fracture.

G. N. to Begin Work.

The Great Northern has close a contract with Grant, Smith & Co., of Chicago, for the construction of a portion of the road's new line on its recently secured right of way near Spokane. The amount of the contract is not announced. Work is to begin immediately. The contract awarded to the Chicago firm covers that portion of the new right of way extending from where it leaves the present main line west of the army post to the Spokane river at Bridge street.

The construction by the Great Northern railway of the new line through the Index country from Index to Galena, and from the latter point to the Troublesome district, will be about 17 miles in length, and will cover the richest part of the Index mineral territory.

Transferring His Affections.

Blade—I'm surprised to hear you have broken off your engagement with that Boston girl. What was the matter?

Pigotte—I found that it was cheaper to join a library.—Puck.

TRADE QUIETING DOWN.

Undisturbed, However, by an Unfavorable Money Situation.

Bradstreet's says: General trade in wholesale and manufacturing lines is quieting down, but it is worth noting. It is undisturbed by the money situation, the influence of which has been confined to speculative circles. Holiday trade, on the other hand, has been given a decided impetus, and comparisons with the same period of preceding years are uniformly favorable, little doubt remaining that although retail trade in seasonable lines has been affected in some localities by unfavorable weather, holiday specialties have enjoyed exceptional activity. As regards prices, it is a notable fact that as many staples have advanced this week as there have declined, while by far the larger number of quotations have remained steady or firm. The strength of textiles is still a most notable feature of the general situation.

Cotton goods are heavily sold ahead by agents, and a very large spring business has already been booked. Raw cotton is firm and unchanged on the week, partly owing to the light receipts and to reaffirmation of a short crop estimated by the department of agriculture. Manufactured goods, where not advanced, are firmly held.

Wheat, including flour, shipments for the week aggregate 3,250,649 bushels, against 5,133,331 bushels last week, 6,243,659 bushels in the corresponding week last year, 4,464,399 bushels in 1897, 3,524,826 bushels in 1898 and 2,058,043 bushels in 1895. Since July 1 this season, the exports of wheat aggregate 97,559,926 bushels against 109,720,853 bushels last year and 118,809,197 bushels in 1898-99.

Business failures in the United States for the week were only 210 as compared with 220 last week, 234 in this week a year ago, 283 in 1897, and 359 in 1896.

PACIFIC COAST TRADE.

Seattle Markets.

Onions, new, \$1.00@1.25 per sack.
Potatoes, new, \$16@20.
Beets, per sack, 75@85c.
Turnips, per sack, 60c.
Carrots, per sack, 50c.
Parsnips, per sack, 75@85c.
Cauliflower, 75c@\$1 per dozen.
Cabbage, native and California, 75@90c per 100 pounds.
Peaches, 65@80c.
Apples, \$1.25@1.50 per box.
Pears, \$1.00@1.25 per box.
Prunes, 60c per box.
Watermelons, \$1.50.
Nutmegs, 50@75c.
Butter—Creamery, 32c per pound; dairy, 17@22c; ranch, 22c per pound.
Eggs—Firm, 30@31c.
Cheese—Native, 16c.
Poultry—9@10c; dressed, 11@13c.
Hay—Puget Sound timothy, \$12.00; choice Eastern Washington timothy, \$17.00@18.00.
Corn—Whole, \$23.00; cracked, \$23; feed meal, \$23.
Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$21; whole, \$22.
Flour—Patent, per barrel, \$3.85; blended straights, \$3.10; California, \$3.25; buckwheat flour, \$6.00; Graham, per barrel, \$8.80; whole wheat flour, \$3.10; rye flour, \$3.80@4.00.
Millstuffs—Bran, per ton, \$16.00; shorts, per ton, \$17.00.
Feed—Chopped feed, \$20.50 per ton; milled, per ton, \$22; oil cake meal, \$24.00.

Portland Market.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 52c; Blue, 50c; Best, 50c; Oregon, 50c.

Hay—Timothy, \$9@11; clover, \$7@8; Oregon wild hay, \$6@7 per ton.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 50@55c; seconds, 42½@45c; dairy, 37½@40c; state, 25@35c.
Eggs—18@20c per dozen.
Cheese—Oregon full cream, 13c; Young America, 14c; new cheese 10c per pound.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$3.00@3.50 per dozen; hens, \$4.50; springs, \$2.00@3.50; geese, \$7.00@8.50 for old; \$4.50@6.50 for young; ducks, \$4.50 per dozen; turkeys, live, 14@15c per pound.
Potatoes—50@60c per sack; sweets, 2@2½c per pound.
Vegetables—Beets, \$1; turnips, 90c; per sack; garlic, 7c per pound; cauliflower, 75c per dozen; parsnips, \$1; beans, 5@6c per dozen; celery, 70@75c per dozen; cucumbers, 50c per box; peas, 8@4c per pound; tomatoes, 75c per box; green corn, 12½@15c per dozen.

Hops—8@11c; 1898 crop, 5@6c.
Wool—Valley, 12@13c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 8@14c; mohair, 27@30c per pound.
Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 3½c; dressed mutton, 6½@7c per pound; lambs, 7½c per pound.
Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$5.00; light and feeders, \$4.50; dressed, \$5.50@6.00 per 100 pounds.

Beef—Gross, top steers, \$3.50@4.00; cows, \$3@3.50; dressed beef, 6½@7½c per pound.
Veal—Large, 6½@7½c; small, 8@8½c per pound.