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UNION ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

While we do not feel disposed to vote a single demand made in the St. Louis platform, by the peoples party in national convention assembled, as being unworthy or untenable, we are willing to hold such demands as upon which reformers do not exactly agree, in abeyance, to be called up when demanded at a later date. For it is only by manifesting a conservative spirit on the part of all reformers, that unity and harmony can be reached; and, we believe that union, so far as the American producing classes are concerned, is of vital importance. To bring this union about all will agree that each of the three reform parties must be governed by a spirit of concession. They must select only such principles in making a platform, as have been and are advocated by all three parties which are numerous enough to furnish sufficient grounds upon which to fight a campaign. We therefore have but little sympathy with such populists as take pride in styling themselves "middle roaders." We believe that such men assuming that they are right and can under no possible condition be wrong, are very unsafe leaders. We also think men who are endeavoring to manipulate peoples party politics and control matters to serve their own interests, are also very unsafe leaders and will in the end bring the party into disrepute. The professional officers seeker is another party of whom we should beware. While we would oppose union, if it required the sacrifice of principle, we certainly shall favor it if but the retirement of some one two or three demands of the peoples party platform is all that is required. If there is anything whatever in the reform movement it is principle and opposition to trusts and combines, which are operated solely to unjustly absorb the earnings of the producers. When the democratic party was forced to take up the free coinage of silver, as was done in the Chicago platform, a great victory was won in the interest of the reform movement. One of the cardinel principles of the peoples party had been so popularized that one of the great political parties of the nation saw proper to take it up. By the time another national campaign rools around "Direct legislation" another of the cardinel principles of populism will be taken up as well. With these two planks of the peoples party platform encorporated in the democratic or union platform, shall we refuse to join hands with that party simply because a concession is requird from us?

What the peoples party as well as all other reformers desire above everything else is to have the reform measures which the people are gradually forced to see the need of, enacted into the laws of our country. And the quicker this is accomplished, the more of business life blood will be felt flowing in the veins of the common body politic. For this reason we should unite with any party whose cardinel principles harmonize with our own party. No matter whether such other party or parties advocate the government ownership and operation of banks, railroads telegraphs and telephones, at the present or not. If they earnestly favor the free coinage of silver and the principles of Direct legislation, it is our duty as patriots, as lovers of the interests of the producing classes and of our own homes and firesides, to aid in incorporating these principles into the laws of our country. The government ownership of these public monopolies that are the chief leeches upon our financial prosperity, will come later on.

The only impeding force within our own party ranks, are and will be, men who expected to be elected to office by the peoples party, and who might not have every thing so much under their on personel control, if democrats and silver republicans were to unite with us. Nor does the name under which the victory will be secured make any material difference. A rose would smell just as fragrant if called by any other name. It is the enactment of our principles into the laws of our country, that we desire, rather than to see the name "Peoples Party" aggrandized. It is not too early to commence the union movement. If possible the campaigns of next year should be fought under the union banner.

Democrats and silver republicans, make the conditions in your ranks as favorable as possible. Be ready to meet us, at least, half way. Populists the same advice applies to you. If we have men within our own ranks, who seem to be trying to prevent union, let us drop them from positions as leaders, for they are enemies to prosperity. They would, in order to futher their own interests, consign you to perpetual financial servitude. Yet if in order to form this union, the peoples party is compelled to support a principle or theory contrary to its heretofore taught doctrines, let an emphatic NO come up from every primary in the state against fusion. In fact we could support union with all the vim and energy within us, but we could not nor would not under any conditions support fusion. We believe this idea will harmonize with every populist that is a true patriot. It ought to harmonize with democrats and silver repulicans, if they mean business.

WHEAT AND SILVER.

The Morning Oregonian indulges in a little "Ghoulish glee" now and then, because the condition of the present year seems to belie the silver and wheat argument, frequently advanced by the advocates of the free coinage of silver. Why, Harvy, there is said to be exceptions to all rules; and there doubtless is in the comparison of the price of wheat and silver. When the wheat and silver argument is used, it is presupposed that a normal condition of the output of wheat and silver would prevail throughout the world. Both this and last year has witnessed a short wheat crop, of which fact files of the Oregonian furnishes abundant proof. We presume should there have been an extra bountious crop of wheat grown this year by the various wheat producing countries, and there should have been a short output from the silver mines, a condition just the reverse of the present one would have prevailed. That is to say the price of wheat would have ranged low, while silver would have been dearer. But, then, this would be worth nothing more for purposes of argument then is the present upward tendency of wheat and the small decline of silver bullion which occurred a few weeks ago. It simply shows that abnormal conditions of any production will effect normal results. The law of supply and demand has most to do with the setting of prices for all production, silver as well as wheat; gold as well as cotton, etc. What is meant by the silver and wheat argument is that the 16 ounces of silver bullion has come very much nearer remaining at a parity as compared with the value of other necessary commodities, then has the ounce of gold. By this we mean that the 16 ounces of silver bullion will purchase, today, very nearly the same amount wheat, corn or cotton, that it would in 1873, or prior thereto; while the ounce of gold will purchase, silver bullion included, just about double what it would before the white metal was denied mint privileges. The Oregonian knows full well that we, as a people, are paying a fearful price in the establishment of the gold standard. The simple fact that this great newspaper has reared a palatial structure, absorbing all of its surplus earnings in the venture, yet not a son of the earnings of the building goes into the Oregonians pocket, shows conclusively the fallacy of the argument it advances. The building is owned by the money loaners, who perhaps, secured it at one-half its nominal cost. Again the Oregonian receives its pay, for the newspaper principally in silver. If silver was worth $1.29 per ounce, could it not have paid for the pallatial structure with comparative ease as compared with its present condition? If the gold standard times has effected the Oregonian as it has other newspaper of lesser note, it knows that it can not sell its space for more then one-half what it could readily obtain ten years ago. As a matter of fact but very few people in this country are making money out of the change from bimetallism to the single gold standard, and it is an acknowledged fact that the Oregonian is not included in the list. Just why this newspaper can be made to support a system that has caused its own financial down fall, is a mystery; unless the plant is owned by the money sharks and Messrs Scott, Pittock, as well as the rest of the force, are but hired men, and must, in order to hold down there respective jobs, do the bidding of their master.

The Dingley tariff became a law last Saturday when President McKinley affixed his signature to the bill. Congress has now adjourned, and we presume the senators and representatives can go to their homes and repair their political fenses, or do whatever they may deem necessary. The last barrier to prosperity has now been removed. If republican campaign orators could be believed, every mill and manufacturing establishment should at one commence running on full time and at an advanced wage to the employes. In fact there should be no idle labor any where in the U. S. This we have a right to expect, unless these same campaign orators willfully misrepresented matters to us. Even Dame Nature seems disposed to assist in making their words good, in giving a short wheat crop to all other wheat growing countries save our own. If, what they told us is not true this year, it can never be true, for conditions are most favorable.

BIMETALLISM IN EUROPE.

Woolott's commission has had an interview with Lord Salisbury and and other members of the British Cabinet. The American commission did the talking, but it was understood that the British Cabinet would consult and do some talking hereafter. The situation in Europe appears to be about as follows:

The Bryan vote has convinced Europeans that there is a real determination in the United States to restore silver and that the present movement is unlike former proceedings where our conferees took to European conferences only a "pious opinon" in favor of silver. The United States invited conferences but suggested nothing. The only object of these conferences appears to have been to make the American people believe that something was about to be done. The argument deduced from Bryan's vote places a new light upon the whole subject so far as Europe is concerned.

There is another circumstance which forces the subject upon the attention of the British cabinet. The confiscation of the silver of the Hindoos, variously estimated at from twelve to eighteen hundred millions of dollars by the suspension of coinage in India in 1893, has produced most lamentable results. It deprived the poor Hindoos of money with which to buy food during the great famine which is destroying the inhabitants by the millions (eight millions having already perished), and it has created such dissatisffaction in India that relief must be granted by opening the Indian mints, or there must be some terrible examples made in India to deter the inhabitants from resisting their oppressors. The shooting of Hindoos out of English cannons is supposed to have so terrified the down-trodden hordes of India that the English government has been able to maintain peace for a whole generation. The alternative is now again presented to Great Britain to do a large amount of killing, and thereby keep peace by adding slaughter to starvation, or to give relief to the suffering inhabitants by opening the mints and restoring to them the use of the treasures they have so dearly earned.

The situation in Europe is well described by Wharton Barker, who has made a flying trip to Europe to asertain the facts. He has just returned, and states the bimetallic situation as he found it, which will be found in another column. There is no doubt that Mr. Baker is right, and that the whole game is now in the hands of the adminisitration. If the administration is in favor of bimetallism and will accept it on the same terms that France will, it looks as if something might be done. But the administration is moving in an opposite direction. The Secretary of the Treasury, the treasurer, and the sub-treasurer at New York, are all veteran servants of the gold ring of Wall street, and are doing all they can to thwart the purposes of the Wolcott commission. It is nonsense to doubt that silver could be restored by France and the United States if the Indian mints were opened.

No one who has given the subject the least consideration doubts that the United States alone could restore bimetallism. There would be no danger that the United States would be allowed to stand alone. France and other European governments would follow her with such alacrity and rapidity that it would seem they had all started at the same time. Such able statesmen and financiers as Lord Aldenhan, Mr. Balfour, and Mr. Chaplin concur with the free silver forces of the United States, that the opening of the mints of this country would accomplish the restoration of bimetallism.

The United States inaugrated monometallism with the aid of England. She joined England in the conference at Paris in 1867, advocating gold monometallism. She passed the mint act and smuggled silver out of existence in 1873, and has been the leader of the monometallic conspiracy ever since. It is true she has pretended to be for silver if Europe would be, but the influence of the United States has been against any action on the part of Europe favorable to silver, and is so today as far as the treasury officials are concerned.

We believe that President McKinley, from his past record and from his sense of justice, would be in favor of the restoration of silver if he was not bound hand and foot by the inner ring of manipulators and speculators with head-center in Lombard street and principal branch in Wall street. The appointments of Gage, Roberts and Jordan were a pledge on the part of the President to thwart any action which Europe might take looking to the restoration of silver, and to center the influence of Wolcott,s commission.

We hope the President can break the chains with which the enemy have bound him, and act for the people in this crisis of human affairs, but we fear he has no power to do so. The appointment of Wolcott, Paine and Stevenson to go to Europe to work for bimetallism, and the appointment of Gage, Roberts and Jordan to stay in the United States and use the power of the Treasury Department to work against bimetallism, were acts diametrically in opposition to each other. Time will tell whether the President is more interested in the success of the treasury officials and the gold standard than he is in the success of his bimetallic commissioners in Europe. Upon his final decision between these two contending forces his reputation will depend.—Silver Knight.

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION.

What is the most importent question before the voters of Oregon at this time? By far the most important question in State politics is whether the voters themselves, by their own votes at the baltot box, shall be able to govern the legislation?

In county government it does not matter so much who holds the offices, if the voters can fix the salaries and control the county expences. Giving the voters power to veto or amend any appropriation of of county money by the county court will give us lower taxes than any party ever will.

Our new party officers have made a grand record in Baker, Linn and Jackson counties as well as in Clackamas, but their action has been purely voluntary in fulfillment of promises. The people have no direct power to compel the continuance of that record by new men. Suppose next year the people elect the same class of men to the state offices and in most of the counties.—They will get more economical government for a time, but it will be only a change of men and not of system. The actual power of the voters over their officials will not be increased simply by a change of parties.

To continue the good work the people must get supreme power at the ballot box, not only over the election of officers, but over all the acts of the officers after they are elected. This can only be done in one way—give the people direct power to veto or amend every act and appropriation of the legislature, of the county courts and of the city councils. The Initiative and Referendum in some reasonable, practical form, is our only hope,—republicans as well as populists or Democrats should support it.

Representative law making, representative appropriations, and representative fixing of salaries is a complete failure, so far as the interests of the voter and the taxpayer are concerned.

Then let us all unite to compel our party candidates to give us a peoples government through the Initiative and Referendum.

We shall not all agree on the money question. We shall never all agree on any candidate for an important office, but we can surely all agree to extend our own power, so that every voter, under reasonable conditions, can vote directly for or against any measure or decrease of any salary, and for or against any law or appropriation of public money. We do not expect the government will be perfect, even then, but if a mistake is made, it will be the fault of the majority of the voters, and it will never be a steal, because the vast majority is honest—and besides, the majority will have no temptation to steal from itself.

Representative government is a failure.—Oregon City Herald.

SILVER WILL WIN.

Judge Caldwell Emphatically Expresses a Positive Opinion.

No man in the United States deserves or enjoys the confidence of the American people more than Judge Caldwell, of the United States Circuit Court. It is refreshing and instructing to listen to his wise and patriotic remarks just at this time, and we call special attention to an interview with the judge which appeared in the Denvers News, and will be found below:

"I have never for a moment doubted the result of the silver fight," remarked Judge Henry C. Caldwell, of the United States Circuit Court. "The cause will win. I do not say that it may win—but it will win," added the distinguished juror, with an emphasis on the "will" that resounded down the corridor. The judge was sitting in the private room of Judge Hallett, where he was engaged in friendly conversation with callers.

"The silver cause," said he, is a righteous cause, and I have an abiding faith in the final judgment of the American people. I am not a politician. I have been on the bench too long to think of ever taking an active part in politics, but my sympathy is with Bryan and the cause he so nobly represents. In my opinion Bryan is one of the most remarkable men of the times, and so is Towne. If there is a more eloquent and convincing orator in America then that man Towne, I have certainly failed to hear him. Towne leaves nothing further to be desired as an orator."

"Some people think you ought to go into politics," remarked a listener to the judge.

"That would require an entire change in my methods of life," replied the judge, with an expression on his face that indicated perhaps that the suggestion might have been followed if the person to whom it was addressed were twenty five years younger.

"I have been very much interested in watching the course of Bryan, and I do not believe he has made any mistakes since he was nominated last fall. He seems to be growing stronger this year, and I am glad to hear that he is making money. He is a man who will make good use of money, and those are the kind of men who ought to have it. It requires a brave man to take the position Mr. Bryan has assumed, but he has never flinched. We need never fear that the right kind of timber will be found when the needs of our country call for the material with a genuine ring about it. No intelligent American citizen ought to doubt the destiny which awaits this wonderful country."

Is the gold combination a leglaized monopoly or a voluntary trust? A legalized monopoly, because governments have the monopoly of creating money and punish private interference with that monopoly as a felony. The power to increase or diminish the volume of money is a sovereign power. To diminish the volume is a special privilege granted to those who have money or bonds payable in money, which are money futures, because it enchances the value of their property and diminishes the value of all other property. To increase the volume of money faster than the increase of population and business so as to inflate prices is a special privilege granted to the producing classes at large because it enchances property generally faster than the value of money advances. To increase the volume of money to correspond with the increase of population and business so as to maintain stability of prices is equal justice to all, and the government which fails to do this does not answer the legitimate purposes for which government is formed.

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Baseball game — two select clubs, prize, $15.

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