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E. HOFER.

BRYAN IN IOWA.

[Continued from third page.]

American people. Why, in 1892, after an experience of nineteen years, three National parties—Republican, Democratic and Populist—all held out the hope of a return to bimetallicism. Nineteen years of experience under the gold standard and yet every great party declaring in favor of the restoration of a double standard.

The Republican party said that the American people from tradition and interest favor bimetallicism. Why?

If they had wanted the gold standard commended, they might have said that the American people from tradition might favor bimetallicism, but that from interest they favored the gold standard; but they made it as strong as they could, and they said that the American people favored bimetallicism, not only because of tradition, but because of their interest.

The Democratic party in its convention said, we hold to the use of both gold and silver as standard money of the country. No, to the gold standard, but to both gold and silver as the standard money of the country and to the coinage of both gold and silver without discrimination against either metal, or for mintage. They put in qualifying words in both the Republican and Democratic platforms, but those qualifying words did not destroy the force of the declaration in favor of double standard; against the single gold standard, and the Populist convention not only endorsed bimetallicism, but named the ratio of 16 to 1. There were the three parties after nineteen years' experience, all endorsing the double standard and condemning the single gold standard.

Now think of that! Well, we have had four years' more experience, making altogether twenty-three years. And then what? Have the American people expressed themselves on this subject again? Let me give you their expression. The Democratic party adopted a platform declaring in favor not only of the use of gold and silver as the standard money; not only in favor of their coinage without discrimination and charge for mintage, but the Democratic platform went on and declared in favor of the ratio at which gold and silver should be given free and unlimited coinage, and expressly declared that our Nation should not be compelled to wait for the aid or consent of other nations. The Populist party adopted substantially the same silver plank; and the National Silver party adopted substantially the same silver plank, and three parties joined in favoring that independent action, and they pulled 6,500,000 votes; more than ever were polled before by any ticket in the presidential field. (Applause.) But you say we did not have any authority; that the Republicans polled 7,000,000 and a little more. Well, what was their platform? Did it say that the gold standard was a good thing? No. It pledged the Republican party to promote international bimetallicism. If the gold standard is good, a blessing to our people, why do we want to get rid of it by international agreement? That platform declared for international bimetallicism, and only declared that we must maintain the gold standard because we were unable to establish bimetallicism all alone. That is all. That platform admitted the benefits of the double standard, pointed to the advantage of international bimetallicism over the gold standard; pledged the party to do what it could, and only said we will maintain the gold standard until the leading commercial nations of the world join in international bimetallicism. That was the Republican platform. The Republican candidate, in

his letter of acceptance, quoted what he had said on former occasions in favor of bimetallicism, and said if elected he would pledge himself, or it would be his duty to put forth every effort for the promotion of international bimetallicism. Why, my friends, the election last fall, according to the platforms, was between independent bimetallicism, and international bimetallicism. Six millions and a half voted for independent bimetallicism, and a little over seven millions voted for international bimetallicism, and 132,000 voted for the only ticket that ran upon the platform declaring that the gold standard was a good thing for the American people. (Now, I call your attention to the platforms adopted last fall. The voting Democratic party were the only people in United States who adopted a platform declaring that the gold standard was a good thing for the American people and ought to be preserved in this country because it is good, and if the votes cast is any test on the sentiment of the people of this country, then 13,500,000 are in favor of a double standard and 132,000 are in favor of the gold standard after an experience of twenty-three years (applause.) 99 per cent of the voters in favor of a double standard as against the gold standard. Now, isn't that a pretty strong endorsement for a financial policy? Because no man can defend international bimetallicism without conceding the principles that underlie bimetallicism. We can not defend international bimetallicism without condemning the gold standard. If the gold standard is good, we don't want any international bimetallicism. If international bimetallicism is desirable, it is only because it is better than the gold standard. Therefore, in the last election 99 per cent of the people voted for candidates standing on platforms pledging them for the double standard as against the gold standard, and when the election was over, and the president took his seat, he at once recommended a commission to go to Europe and labor with the European nations to secure an international conference, and congress by an almost unanimous vote appropriated \$100,000 to pay the expenses of the commission while it was abroad laboring to get rid of the gold standard. Who can say that the gold standard is justified by experience? I understand that in this state some of your papers say that the Republican platform means gold, gold, gold.

Well, now, my friends, the vote last fall means anything, then the people of Iowa, as well as the people of the Nation, instead of meaning gold, gold, gold, meant bimetallicism, with the emphasis growing louder every time they repeat the name. (Applause.) Now, that it is shown by the platforms and the votes, and the man who rises to defend the gold standard in Iowa or anywhere else in this Nation has the burden upon him to show that ninety-nine people were wrong and that the one person was right. Well now, my friends, speaking of this international commission, I want to call your attention to one important thing. I am going to assume that the Republicans who voted last year for a candidate pledged to international bimetallicism were actually in favor of it? Now, that is not a violent assumption, is it? I am going to assume those who voted for the Republican ticket running upon a platform pledging the party to international bimetallicism, were actually in earnest in their desire to get international bimetallicism, and I want to show you how you can get it. I found in the paper of July 25 a dispatch from London, dated July 24. This was not prepared by some silver advocate; it is a press dispatch that came across the ocean and appeared in newspapers of this country. It says:

"A definite answer is expected from the British government within the next few days to the proposal of the United States and France for a bimetallic conference. The United States bimetallic commissioners are confident that the invitation will be accepted; but the movement meets with the solid opposition of British capitalists, who argue that the British financial interests are satisfied, and that the government should not be called upon to assist other governments that may be in distress." Now, I want to call your attention to the fact that there it is stated that while our commissioners are hopeful of success, that the movement meets with the solid opposition of British capitalists. Now, they tell us we have been in the habit of arraying one class against another. I want you to understand that the British capitalists are solidly arrayed against any proposition that looks to international bimetallicism, and the people have as much right to array themselves solidly against British capitalists as the British capitalists have to array themselves against the rest of the people. (Applause.)

Then you will notice, my friends, that the reason they give is that the British government should not be called to assist other governments that may be in distress. Why don't they take pity on us? Can't we rely upon their sympathy? Upon what are we going to appeal? Let me give you the rest of the dispatch. The only argument which weighs with them in favor of a conference is what? Love for the American people, because the United States was once a colony of Great Britain? It does not say that. Is it because of interest in us because a great many of their children have come over here? No, that isn't it. The only argument which weighs with them in favor of a conference is what? Is it gratitude to the Republican party for declaring that the United States would maintain the gold standard forever if they would not join with us? No, that isn't it. It is the fear that unless international action is taken for the coinage of silver, the free silver parties will be successful in the United States and bring on financial panic, in which British investments would suffer.

That the only argument which has any influence with them is the fear of the triumph of the party of independent bimetallicism. Why, my friends, the Republican platform does not say that if they do not hurry up and act we will act alone. The Republican platform says we will never act alone; that we are going to wait on them forever, if necessary. But they do not seem to be fully satisfied over them that the Republican party will have something to say about it. They are afraid of free silver success in the United States. And then here is the last sentence; it is understood that one argument—that this argument has been advanced by one of the commissioners who has been most active in endeavoring to enlist the support of the Rothschilds and other big financiers. Now, what do you think of that? One of the commissioners. And it has reference to Mr. Wolcott; one of our commissioners is actually to secure the British capitalists by threatening that the Free Silver party will be successful if it do not do something. Now, I refer to this dispatch for several reasons. In the first place, I want you to remember who is opposed to bimetallicism in England. Do they show that the movement meets opposition from the farmers? No. It was not the farmers opposed to it. The solid opposition of the laborers had nothing to do about that. The manufacturers, the British capitalists, the very people in England opposing such bimetallicism, who in this country are fighting over such bimetallicism, however much they may hide this point, makes an international bimetallicism. (Applause.)

[To be continued.]

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