Daily Capital Journal.

BY HOFER BROTHERS.

FRIDAY, JAN. 7, 1898.

MCKINLEY ON SILVER.

NO 4.

The Republican national convention of 1892 assembled at Minneapolis, Senator Teller was on the committee on resolutions, and wrote with his own hand the following resolution:

"The American pdople from tradition and interest, favor bimetallism, and the Republican party demands the use of both gold and silver as standard money."

The committee on resolutions agreed to this and it was reported to the convention and adopted unanimously by the body. William McKinley was president of that convention. He appointed the committee on resolutions, and he participated in renewing the pledge of four years before in favor of the use of silver equally with gold as standard money.

The question is, what was Major McKinley's real opinion when he voted for the Bland bill in December, 1877, and for the Bland-Allison act in February, 1878, and for the Sherman purchase act in 1890? What was his real opinion when he favorably reported Senator Stewart's silver coinage resolution in the convention of 1888, and when he presided over the convention of 1892, which adopted Senator Teller's free silver resolution? What was his real opinion when he made the rabid speech against Cleveland's gold standard policy in 1890, and made himself the champion of the silver cause? Was he earnest and sincere in what he said? We repeat that he was forty-seven years of age when he made that speech.

He was not in congress when the Sherman purchase act was repealed in 1893.

The Republican party of that year joined Mr. Cleveland's adminirtration in slaughtering the silver bill, which William McKinley had reported as chairman of the committee on ways and means in 1890, and which he had ardently supported. In doing this the Republican party violated its solemn pledges and proved the perfidy of its leaders. Having put Stewart and Teller forward respectfully in 1888 and 1892 to announce its purpose on the subject of silver coinage, it shamelessly abandoned all its professions and became the servile ally of Grover Clevelandism. From that time to this the sharks of Wall street have dictated its politics and its leadership. It was Wall street that compelled William McKinley, the Republican nominee, to swallow his vote for the Bland bill, and for the Bland-Allison act; that compelled him to swallow his vote for the Sherman purchase act, and to eat his fond and aggressive words spoken in behalf of the cause of silver coinage in 1890. More than this it compelled him to indorse the lawless and outrageous position assumed in 1896, for the first time, by John G. Carlisle, that silver dollars were not an element in the money of redemption, tut were themselves redeemable in gold coin whenever the cornerers of gold chose to put it at a premium. This he did with a full knowledge that gold has always gone to a premium whenever the United States has sold any bonds at less than their market value. This was done at every sale of bonds under the Cleveland administration. The premium on gold has been represented by the discount at which the bonds were sold, and this varied from ten to eighteen per cent.

The question now remains whether Major McKinley has been earnest and sincere in all things he has said, done and approved in others, since 1893, when he acquiesced in the repeal of the Sherman purchase act. If so, how could he have been sincere in his denunciation of President Cleveland in the Toledo speech of 1890? If he was earnest and sincere in 1890, in boasting of his vote for the restoration of silver coinage in 1878, how could he be in earnest about anything he said on the subject after his nomination for the Presidency in 1896?

He is impaled upon his own contradictory declarations. Nothing has occured since 1890 to change men's opinions on this subject. It is absolutely impossible that Major McKinley could, within the space of three years, have been sincerely on both sides of a question as well understood as the silver question. Those who agreed with him from 1877 to 1890 have had no such reasons as he for changing their position. They have not been nominated for the presidency, or furnished with millions of dollars for corrupting the elective franchise.

Those Republicans who honestly believe in the necessity of restoring silver to use as standard money cannot honestly support the Republican party as at present organized. The words in which Major McKinley denounced Grover Cleveland in 1890 are now strictly applicable to himself. Of him it can now be truly said, as he then said of Mr. Cleveland, that he is determined to "limit the volume of money among the people, making money scarce, and, therefore, dear." He would "increase the value of money and diminish the value of everything else, money the matter of everything, everything else the servant." He is not "thinking of the poor now." He has "left their side." He is not standing "forth in their defense." And, finally, it can be said of McKinley, as he said of Cleveland, in 1890, "cheap coats, cheap labor, and dear money—the sponsor and promoter of these professing to stand guard over the welfare of the poor and lowly. Was there ever a more glaring inconsistency or reckless assumption?"

To Republicans we commend the words of the indignant Major McKinley of 1890, and we warn them against following him through the devious paths which have since led him to private consultations with the enemies of the people whose dens are in Wall street

CASTORIA.

The fac-simile signature of Chas. H. Fletcher is on every wrapper.

Regular Republicans

Submit a Reply to the Mitchell Republicans.

NO COMPROMISE POSSIBLE.

The Issue in Oregon Is the Gold Standard.

PORTLAND, Or., Jan. 5, 1898.

"Hon. Sol. Hirsch, Chairman of the Mitchell Republican Committee.

DEAR SIR:—Your communication of December 27, last, addressed to Mr. Donald Mackay, was by him laid before the Republican city and county committee, it being deemed that matters were therein discussed by you which should properly be brought to the attention of the whole committee. The committee has carefully considered the matters to which you advert, and now submits its answer.

"The members of the committee are of one mind as to the necessity of harmonious action on the part of all Republicans. The importance of this, too, is emphasized from day to day as the efforts of all parties opposed to the sound financial policy of the Republican party makes it manifest that, discarding minor differences, they are to unite in one common assault upon that party which is the mainstay of sound finance and good government.

"The committee will at all times receiver with satisfaction suggestions which may be made to it from any source that will bring support to the principles of our party and cement its members in closer union. Yet it must be remembered that, while questions of opinion and party policy admit of compromise, principles do not.

"We cannot agree with you that our differences grew out of the primary election of 1896. The causes are long anterior to that election. They arose out of questions that had their beginning many years ago. It is the money question that has divided us. We could not approve the course of those who have contended for the free coinage of silver,

"What was the state of affairs at the opening of the campaign of 1896? One of our senators and our two representatives were, and long have been advocates of free coinage of silver For that reason we were unwilling that they should be returned. We could not consent then, nor can we consent now, to any action or course that would result in sending either to the senate or to the house, men not known to be opposed to the free coinage of silver. This is the position of the Republican party. On this position we stand. Upon this ground we opposed the return of Mr. Mitchell to the senate, and Mr. Ellis to the house. When the campaign of 1896 began these gentlemen were active candidates for re-election, and they had been flooding the state with free silver literature for years

"From the time when the question of the free and unlimited coinage of silver came before the senate of the United States down to the time when he left the senate, Hon. John H. Mitchell, senator from this state, constantly spoke and voted for it. His influence with the Republican party was such, that in 1890, at a time when the subject was little understood (he being a candidate for re-election to the senate), his friends, at his instance, caused a plank to be inserted in the Republican platform committing the Republican party of Oregon to the free and unlimited coinage of silver at 16 to 1. He and they followed this up by attempting again in 1892 to have a similar declaration incorporated in the platform of that year, intending to commit the Republican party of this state further to this course.

"On the 30th day of January, 1896, a few weeks before the opening of the campaign of that year, he delivered in the senate an elaborate speech which he scattered by thousands over Oregon, denouncing the gold standard as the source of the difficulties of the country, attributing to it the alleged poverty of the people, and urging free coinage of silver as a remedy. Mr. Mitchell, in his advocacy of free silver, had been able to carry the Oregon delegation with him, with one notable exception.

"With other Republicans of Oregon, the Republicans of Multnomah county determind to resist this effort to commit the Republican party further to these false principles They thought it high time that the direction of the party in Oregon should be taken out of the hands of Mr. Mitchell and his supporters, and committed to the advocacy and support of sound principles.

"For this reason we have opposed the return of Hon. John H. Mitchell to the senate. You have striven and will strive still, to re-elect him. Upon that issue we separated. You were unable to control the county convention, and named a ticket which you called 'Mitchell Republican.' It so stands on the official records of the county.

"What, then, is the difference between us? We are Republicans; you are 'Mitchell Republicans.' We oppose the election to the senate of Mr. Mitchell or any other man who is not declaredly opposed to free coinage of silver, and devoted therefore to the maintenance of the gold standard. You want to return Mr. Mitchell to the senate and that is the sole object for which your organization exists, regardless of the fact that he has always spoken in the senate and elsewhere for free coinage of silver, has always voted in the senate for it, and never yet, so far as we are aware, has made any statement public or private, that he would not continue to do so. We are unwilling to elect or to assist in the election of any man to the senate or house who occupies this position. We wish to send men to congress who are known to be opponents of free coinage of silver and who may be relied on to support the gold standard."

The reply then reviews extensively the campaign of 1896 and the Mitchell-Republican campaign and concludes thus:

"In conclusion, this committee begs to suggest that it is not impressed with the belief that the 'Mitchell Republican' committee in submitting its proposition for what in effect it calls 'an harmonious settlement of differences,' is actuated by a sincere or earnest desire to unite the Republican party. Nor is it convinced that your committee desires or in any way expects that its proposition could be accepted. The communication that you submitted to the chairman of this committee had hardly been received by him before it was published with great headliness and unusual prominence in a daily paper published in the city of Portland preceded and followed with statements of glaring inaccuracy and highly colored in the interests of the 'Mitchell Republicans.' Men who wish to compromise or settle matters of difference usually are able to accomplish it, when animated by a sincere desire for peace and harmony. They do not find it necessary to herald their opinions to the public in advance of the efforts to be made for such compromise. They seek in a quiet and unobtrusive way to meet the adverse parties, discuss the differences, and settle them on a basis mutually agreeable, and without loss of self-respect. The course adopted by your committee leads us to infer that your proposition is not supported by a sincere desire to settle honestly and amicably any differences that may exist. It appeaas to us to be more of an effort to obtain an undue advantage than to secure peace and promote the best interests of the Republican party.

"For these reasons this committee cannot accept the terms proposed in your communication.

"In due time this committee will issue its call, in the usual way, for Republican primaries. It will ask from the Republican party the co-operation and support of all persons willing to assist in maintaining the principles for which the Republican party stands. It will not solicit the assistance of the 'Pennoyer push' in the primaries, nor ask the help of Populists, nor Silver Democrats, nor expect the aid of persons of any political designation who may be unwilling to declare without equivocation against free coinage of silver, and to insist, moreover, that the gold standard, the actual stanard of our money during more than 60 years past shall be preserved. We shall take every precaution that the primary election shall be open and fair. Our purposes are the election to congress of men of sound monetary principles and close retrenchment and economy in state and local affairs. We shall invite the assistance and co-operation of all men who believe that these objects are the great needs of the present time. All persons who may be willing to join with us on this basis will receive a welcome. But we cannot abdicate on the one hand, nor permit the followers of a politician of uncertain principles to dictate to us on the other.

"Very respectfully,

"DONALD MACLEAY,

"Chairman Republican City and County Central Committee of the City of Portland and Multnomah Conuty.

"A. W. WITHERELL,

"Secretary pro tem."

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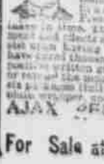

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