

is an abundant crop of cereals the price will be low, if a scarcity the price will be high?" Just so: and the same is true of money. If it is scarce its purchasing power is greater, and so much more produce must be given to secure it. What the gold combine wants is a dollar that is worth a dozen times more than it was ever intended to be. In that way their wealth is multiplied without accumulating any more dollars.

#### Railroads and Silver.

Judas Carlisle, in a recent address, says that employers of railroad corporations under free silver could not get a raise of wages because the companies cannot raise their tariffs. This is new, indeed. The impression generally prevails that raising rates was the one thing at which such corporations were most proficient.

The facts are that railway trains run half loaded three fourths of the time. Interest, taxes and salaries go along just the same whether their passenger cars are crowded or empty, whether their freight trains contain a half dozen cars or forty, whether each one is loaded with one ton or ten tons.

Give us free silver, restore the price of wheat, cotton and live stock, and the business of the railroads will be doubled by the increased traffic arising out of the prosperity of the farmers; and not only will they be able to pay better wages to their employers, but they will have to put on more men, and will need more new cars and more tracks. Then, too, they will be able to pay their debts, and when their debts are paid their interest charges will be cut off, and their business still further enlarged by the encouragement of traffic from still cheaper rates. And all without any reduction of legitimate profits.

#### Powderly's Bluff.

Mr. Powderly was for many years accused of being a traitor to the principles of the knights of labor, but those who had known his earnest, efficient, self-sacrificing labor in their behalf, refused to believe him guilty. But the idol fell. Those who had learned to admire him years ago, even when the knights finally deposed him, still believed in him. It remained, however, for Mr. Powderly to convict himself. The man who would undertake to occupy a Methodist pulpit Sundays and run a rum joint week days would be no more inconsistent than the knight of labor who advocates the gold standard.

And such a reason as he gave for his change of front! Not that he concluded the gold standard was the best for the people; not that free silver would bring trouble on the country; but that some fellow who had said in public utterances that the demonetization of silver was bribed through congress, was a disreputable cuss (so the gold men said) and couldn't be found at an address he had given two or three years before.

If Mr. Powderly were writing a history of the great Chicago fire, and in searching for its origin should be unable to find any proof to establish the popular story that the fire started from a lighted lantern being kicked over in the stable by an old Irishwoman's cow, he would at once from such evidence, or lack of evidence rather, declare that the whole thing was a hoax and that there had never been any such fire.

It makes no difference to us in this campaign how silver was demonetized. It's the fact of demonetization we are kicking about. Such demonetization has reduced the price of products and the earnings of labor one-half, and betrayed our markets into the hands of the silver countries. We don't care how it was done, but we propose that wrong shall be righted.

#### The Water Question.

We would like to see this water works question settled and it does not seem that it can be settled any other way than to purchase. Let the city own the plant and not put more and heavier burdens upon the people by carrying it along for years. To let the matter drag would mean expenses after expenses; and it seems to us that the heads of the different city departments have made about enough out of this water plant deal. What with \$4,000 for a specialist to hunt for microbes, fishes, etc., and other "incidentals" that showed up at every turn when the retrenchment committee was investigating the public works' department we think it is about time to call a halt. After the city owns the plant there will be less chance for the board of public works, and others to hoist "incidentals" upon an already overburdened city. Not that we approve of the course of the Water and Gas company, by any means; for to our way of thinking the whole property should be confiscated by the people; but as the citizens of Duluth are not "anarchists" as we are, we will advocate what seems the most honorable to the majority, and say: Get hold of the plant the cheapest and speediest way possible.

#### State Employment Agencies.

Don't forget that the silver candidates for legislature are in favor of the substitution of free state employment offices for the cut-throat agencies that now curse Minnesota.

Geo. C. Findley, one of the silver candidates for representative, two years ago, was one of the committee appointed by the Duluth Trades assembly that drafted a bill for such a reform.

Through the influence of the Minnesota Iron Company's hired men the bill was pigeon-holed. Are you going to send another batch of the same company's employes to kill such bills at the next session?