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Dealers in Cheap Money Notions, High Prices Arguments, Free Silver Nostrums and Dear Goods Theories.

—Weekly Hard Times Howler, Pefferville, Calamity County, N. G.

Some Sixteen to One Logic.

Mexico has free silver. The Mexican people are very poor. Therefore, we want free silver.

Wages in this country are too low. Wages are higher here and in all the gold standard countries than in China, India and other silver using nations. Therefore, we want free silver.

We believe in the double standard under which both metals will be used to measure values. Free coinage at 16 to 1 will drive out all our gold and put our currency on the silver basis. Therefore, we want free silver.

We favor an honest dollar which shall be just to all the people. The adoption of the silver standard will enable debtors to repudiate one-half of their obligations. Therefore, we want free silver.

Gold dollars are too scarce and dear to serve as money of the people. Under free coinage a silver dollar will always be worth just as much as a gold dollar. Therefore, we want free silver.

The government can make 50 cents worth of metal worth 100 cents in gold by stamping it "one dollar." Under free coinage such a dollar would buy only half as much goods as a gold dollar—that is, it would be worth only half as much. Therefore, we want free silver.

The prosperity of the American people depends on the amount of wealth produced and the fairness with which it is distributed among the producers. Measuring products in silver instead of gold would neither create any more wealth nor distribute it more justly. Therefore, we want free silver.

The country is suffering because there is not half enough money to do business with. As soon as a free coinage law is passed our $600,000,000 in gold will all be withdrawn, and we shall lose all that amount from circulation. Therefore, we want free silver.

There is something wrong with the country somehow, though we don't know what it is nor how to cure it. But everything will come all right if a lot of cheap money agitators are elected to congress, so now and everlastingly we want free silver.—Whidden Graham.

William Tell Up to Date.

Inflated Prices For Cur Dogs.

If this government should open its mints to coinage of the world's silver at 16 to 1, we would go at once to silver monometallism. This is the voice of all history emphasized by the present status of every free coinage country on the earth. We can no more have bimetallism in actual use and unlimited silver coinage than we can have a square, round object or dry, wet weather. Wherein would the people be benefited if they get double prices in half value money? If farmers' products brought double prices, so would the manufacturers'. The benefits and advantages would be equal, except that buyers would always deduct enough to safely cover the fluctuations of silver, and this amount would be a dead loss to producers and a premium to speculators. I knew a boy who sold a cur dog for $100, but he took pay in pups at $20 apiece, so he was not materially benefited by the inflated prices.—From Speech of Judge George N. Aldredge.

All Prices Would Advance.

Let those farmers who believe free silver will cause the prices of farm products to advance ask themselves this simple question, Will free silver cause wheat to advance to $1 a bushel, or corn to 50 cents a bushel, and not cause a $10 suit of clothes to advance to $20, or a $1 hat to $2? Can it be possible that any intelligent farmer believes free silver will advance the price of the products of his labor and not the price of the products of every other man's labor—Henderson (Ky.) Sun.

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STOP AND THINK.

And Ask Yourself the Following Business-like Questions.

If you have been led by the plausible fallacies of the free coinage advocates into favoring their scheme, stop for a moment your shouting for cheap silver dollars and ask yourself these questions:

1. If this country should enact a law providing for the free and unlimited coinage of silver at 16 to 1, would not our $600,000,000 of gold be driven out of circulation?

2. Would not the withdrawal of that great amount of money from business channels cause a financial panic, through the inability of debtors to meet their obligations and the natural desire of all creditors to protect themselves against being paid in depreciated currency?

3. In case of another currency panic like that of 1893, during which hundreds of banks failed, thousands of factories closed down and tens of thousands of business men were forced into insolvency, would not the farmers and workingmen suffer then as they did three years ago?

4. Would the slight advantage of being able to cheat creditors by paying them 50 cent dollars overbalance the great losses through idleness of workers and inability of farmers to sell their products?

5. If the purchasing power of the dollar were cut in two, as the silverites propose, how would that affect every man who has a little money in the bank or loaned out at interest, or who has been paying premiums on a fire or a life insurance policy?

6. Since the prosperity of the people of one section of the country depends on the conditions of industry and trade in all other parts, what effect would a policy which would alarm investors and cause the general withdrawal of capital have on the welfare of the whole people?

7. As the avowed purpose of free coinage is to double the price of every kind of products, and as any advance in prices must compel the people who buy things to pay more for their purchases, what advantage would that be to the 70,000,000 American consumers who buy just as much as they sell?

8. How would calling things by different names, for instance saying that a silver half dollar shall be a dollar, increase in any way the wealth of those who now are poor?

9. If the free silver leaders can only promise benefits to come through the adoption of the silver standard without showing how these promises can possibly be fulfilled, why should any sensible man take such a leap into the dark as to vote for a money system which has nothing to recommend it but that it is used in Mexico, India and China?

Free Coinage Fly Paper.

Bland's Honesty Not Disputed.

The Washington correspondent of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat sends this good story to his paper:

"Shortly before he went out of congress Mr. Bland was a guest at a dinner given to several Missouri members by ex-Senator John B. Henderson.

"'Bland,' said General Henderson, 'some eastern people were discussing you in my presence the other evening. They were wondering whether you were honest in your profession, whether you really believed what you talked about free coinage. They wanted to know what I thought about it.'

"'What did you tell them?' asked Mr. Bland.

"'I told them,' said General Henderson, 'that you believed all you said about free coinage.'

"'I am much obliged to you,' said Mr. Bland.

"'I told them,' General Henderson went on after a moment's pause, 'that you were honest in your silver professions because you didn't know any better.'

"'I don't know that I am so much obliged to you, after all,' said Mr. Bland good humoredly."

The Bald Silver Swindle.

Sixteen ounces of silver will coin $18.60 in silver dollars. These 16 ounces of silver can be bought in the markets of the world today for $9.94. There would therefore be a profit of $8.66 on an investment of $9.94, being about 87 per cent, if a holder of silver could take it to the mint and coin it without charge into silver dollars.

That is all there is to the silver question at its center—the active center, whence comes the energy in means to keep orators, editors and politicians at work bewailing the wrongs to silver and persuading the poor that their woes are due to the goldbugs of Wall street, in order thus to cover up the bald swindle of the great silver producing capitalists.—Boston Transcript.

Germans Much In Earnest.

The Indianapolis News says that the Indiana Germans may redeem that state to sound money. "Even admitting that Indiana is for free silver now," says The News, "it does not at all follow that it will be for free silver when election day rolls around. In that educational work the Germans will bear a large part. They are very much in earnest in their opposition to free silver, and they are mostly men of intelligence and influence."

M. W. FLOWERS,

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FACTS VERSUS DELUSIONS.

Cheap Money Assertions Contrasted With the Plain Truth—The Real Meaning of the Free Coinage Craze—Sample Silverite Errors Exposed.

The free coinage agitation is based on unfounded assertions and misleading theories. A brief comparison of the principal arguments for the silver standard with the actual facts will show on what a flimsy basis the silverite case rests:

SILVER THEORIES.	THE FACTS.
The country is suffering from a scarcity of currency, due to the demonetization of silver in 1873.	The treasury statement of June 1, 1896, shows that the total amount of money in circulation is $1,521,584,283, or $21.35 per capita. In 1873 the per capita circulation was $18.04.
The use of the single gold standard since 1873 has made money scarce and dearer.	Interest has steadily fallen during the past 23 years and more money is now offered for investment at lower rates than ever before.
Free silver would bring prosperity by giving us a much larger volume of currency, thus enabling the masses to get more than under the present system.	Under a law making 50 cents worth of silver a legal tender equal to a gold dollar over $600,000,000 of gold would be driven out of circulation, thus bringing about a real currency contraction.
Interest will be lower with cheap and depreciating silver than with dear and appreciating gold dollars.	On the contrary, with depreciating dollars, a sufficiently higher rate will be charged to cover the probable loss in value from depreciation. This is one of the reasons why interest today is higher in silver than in gold standard countries. Interest is really the hire of capital, not of money, and principal and interest returned should equal in value the capital loaned plus its hire.
Prices have fallen because of an increase in the value of gold.	The decline in value of farm products has been due to the tremendous increase in production, cheapened transportation by rail and water, and the opening up of new sources of supply for meat, grain, cotton, etc., in India, Australia, Egypt and South America.
The government can make 16 ounces of silver worth 1 ounce of gold by the free and unlimited coinage of both metals at that ratio.	The value of gold and silver, like that of iron or tin, is regulated by the cost of production and the demand for them for all purposes. Stamping 371¼ grains of silver "One Dollar" would not increase its commercial value.
Measuring the value of property of all kinds in dollars worth 50 cents would double prices and make everybody twice as rich as they are now.	An increase in prices due to the use of a cheaper metal as the standard of value would not add 1 cent's worth to the wealth of the country.
The debtors of the country are a large number of people who are poor and in debt, who would be benefited by a law which would allow them to pay their creditors in cheap money.	The creditor class includes every man and woman who has a dollar in a bank, a policy in an insurance company, a share in a building and loan association, or money loaned out to neighbors. The debtors include the great railway, banking, insurance and other corporations.
Free silver would double the price of all kinds of goods and thus encourage manufacturers to engage in productive industry in the hope of getting larger returns on their capital.	Making goods cost more would inevitably lead to a falling off in the demand for them as consumers are never willing to buy more things merely because they are dearer. As manufacturing enterprises depend on the sale of their products, higher prices which checked consumption would greatly injure industry.
The agitation for free coinage is a movement in behalf of the common people, and against the bankers and gold monopolists.	The real strength of the silver delusion is in the union of crafty politicians who want offices, with silver mine owners who want the government to give them higher prices for their products. The highest interest of the masses lies in the maintenance of a stable financial system. —Whidden Graham.

An Effective Method of Work.

In an attempt to stem the silver tide in North Carolina several thousand copies of an address to farmers, signed by about 100 of the best known men of the state, have been circulated. It puts strongly the injury that would be done to the farmer through the industrial depression that would inevitably result from the triumph, or even the danger of triumph, of free silver. "Business men," it says, "would refuse to buy, because of the uncertainty of being able to sell again; factories would shut down and wages stop, because merchants would not dare order goods which might be worth less than they cost in a few months; laborers and mechanics, the chief consumers of food and clothes, without money to buy, would cause the demand for these articles, the raw materials for which the farmers supply, to dwindle almost to nothing. Surely, with business at a standstill, factories closed and operatives out of work, the prospect for the tiller of the soil would not be a happy one."

How Silver Has Been Treated.

When the "crime of 1873" was committed, there wasn't a dollar of silver in use; there was very little in the country, and on Jan. 1, 1895, we had of full tender silver $548,400,000 and of limited tender $77,200,000. How is that for a metal that had been "stricken down," rubbed out, expunged, wiped out? Don't the facts make it plain that the talk about "demonetization," "striking down" and all the rest of it is false, fraudulent? That is the way it would strike plain people.—Chattanooga Times.

Fraudulent Currency.

A currency worth less than it purports to be worth will in the end defraud not only creditors, but all who are engaged in legitimate business, and none more surely than those who are dependent upon toil for their daily bread.—Message of President Grant.

TONSORIAL ARTIST

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ODD FELLOWS.—Phœnix Lodge, No 58, I. O. O. F. meets every Tuesday night at 8 o'clock. All brethren are cordially invited to attend.

MOSES MAYER, N. G.
L. P. WHITTINGTON, Rec. Sec.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.—Alexandria Lodge, No. 33, meets the First and Third Thursdays at 8 p. m. Visiting brethren cordially invited.

E. G. HUNTER, C. C.
A. HILTON, K. of R. & S.

KNIGHTS OF HONOR.—Alexandria Lodge, No. 3110, meets on the Second and Fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8 p. m. Visiting brethren are invited to attend.

J. A. JOHNSTON, D.
J. T. KNIGHTEN, Rep.

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY given that the regular meetings of Oliver Lodge No. 84, F. & A. M. have been changed from the 1st and 3d Saturdays of each month, to the 1st and 3d Wednesdays of each month.

H. W. S. LUND, W. M.

WOODMEN OF THE WORLD.—Rapides Camp No. 17, meets the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 8 p. m. Visiting Sovereigns are cordially invited to attend.

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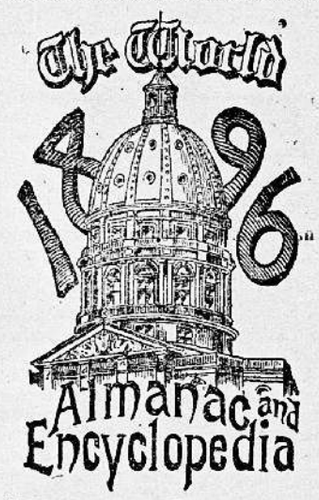

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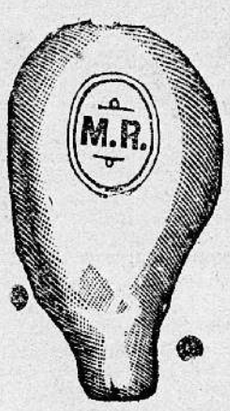

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