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The Philadelphia Times (anti-Bryan Democrat) suspects that the Republicans in Nebraska voted the fusion ticket to make sure of the candidacy of Mr. Bryan next year.

Just demonstrate to Senator Tillman, of South Carolina, that the President's expansion policy will broaden the market for and enhance the price of cotton, and he is for it.

"I am persuaded that no constitution was ever before so well calculated as ours for extensive empire and self-government." So said President Madison, who was something of a Democrat in his day.

A New York paper, in advising its correspondents, tells them their communications will be printed if they are written "in temperate and not too much language." This shuts out those who would write of the wickedness of expansion.

The column of ponderous platitudes which a New York paper publishes as an interview with ex-President Cleveland hardly needs a label. There is no mistaking his assumption of superior wisdom and his utter complacency. There is but one Grover Cleveland, and his style is the man.

The New York World has come to the conclusion that, "taking the country through, the Democrats were beaten worse this year than in 1896." That seems incredible, but if Democratic papers and leaders continue to assail expansion they will be beaten worse in 1900 than they were in 1896.

Every modern war develops some new features. Those of the British-Transvaal war thus far are carrier-pigeon and heliographic dispatches. These methods of communication are not new, but they have never before been used as systematically as they are now being used by the British in Africa.

Those gentlemen who tell the grand jury that they have heard so-and-so about the street-railway franchise should be required to recall the names of those who made such statements, to the end that they be called to tell either what they know or who told them. If the things are so that have been told they can be run down to those who know.

The demoralization of the Democratic party is more complete than ever before since its collapse in the Grant-Greeley campaign of 1872, and the personal success of Mr. Bryan in his own home only deepens the gloom for the Democratic party at large. Such is the observation of the New York Evening Post, which backed Mr. Bryan in his anti-expansion campaign.

Considering the rarity of zinc mines, at least of zinc mines of worth working, Missouri is fortunate in possessing extensive deposits of great value. The annual report of the state mine inspector shows that the three principal zinc-producing counties of the State produced last year \$3,948,120 worth of the metal. It is not surprising to learn that a growing industry of this kind is attracting the attention of foreign capital.

It is quite possible that President McKinley has sent a friendly and warning message to Aguinaldo advising his prompt surrender to the United States forces, but there is no reason to believe that the insurgent leader will heed it. On the contrary, he will probably exploit it as evidence of the weakness and falling resources of the Americans. The only thing to do with Aguinaldo is to kill or capture him or drive him out of the Philippines.

The suit against the sheriff of Scott county, now on trial in the United States Court, in this city, is a peculiar one in its origin, nature and aim. It is brought by the father, living in Illinois, of a man who was lynched at Scottsburg, and demands \$5,000 damages of the sheriff for conniving at or permitting the lynching. It is the first suit of the kind ever brought in the State, and, aside from its sensational and dramatic features, it involves the important principle whether and to what extent a sheriff is liable in damages for his bond for the safe keeping of prisoners in his custody. Incidentally it involves the ethics of mob law.

John W. Gates, manager of the American Steel and Wire Company, testified before the Industrial Commission that he could have effected a combination of all the wire-producing countries, including those of Europe, but for the rapacious greed and extortionate demands of the German manufacturers. Their standard of prices and profits was so unreasonable as to defeat the proposed arrangement. No class of foreigners have been more severe in their criticisms of the alleged American worship of "the almighty dollar" than the Germans, but it seems they are somewhat "on the make" themselves.

The great silver organ in the East in 1896 was the New York Journal; indeed, it was the most conspicuous champion of Mr. Bryan and his hobby. Seeing that the silver issue is dead, it urges the Democracy to drop it and substitute currency reform.

The Memphis Commercial-Appeal noting the change, says that "the Journal espoused free silver in 1896 merely for the sake of the popularity it would win; being thoroughly

immoral and conscienceless it now drops free silver for the same reason that it took it up—because it believes to abandon the policy cause will prove the most popular policy to pursue." This may be true. If it is, it is one of the best arguments that is to be had in support of a matter of popular interest.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY AND CURRENCY REFORM.

It is to be regretted that more than half of President McKinley's administration has passed without any action or declaration by Congress in favor of the distinct recognition and permanent establishment of the gold standard. It is hardly necessary to recall the fact that free silver was the paramount issue in the campaign of 1896, and that the Republican position on the money question was an important factor in Republican success. Among business men and independent voters the position of the party on the money question attracted even more votes than its position on the tariff question, and it was felt that the protection of American industries was no more essential to the restoration of confidence and prosperity than was the firm establishment of the gold standard. Under the circumstances the election of Mr. McKinley was tantamount to a pledge by the Republican party to secure both of these results. One of them has already been secured by the enactment of the Dingley tariff law, while the other remains to be accomplished. There would be little disposition throughout the country, and ground for charging the Republican party with bad faith, if more than half of McKinley's administration had passed without any legislation on the tariff question, yet the party is equally bound in honor to take definite action on the money question. There is some excuse for the failure to do so thus far in the fact that the tariff question occupied almost the exclusive attention of Congress during the special session, while war legislation occupied a large part of the regular session. The Senate also was opposed to sound-money legislation. Yet there has been too much delay in acting. This is not the fault of the President, for there is reason to believe he was as anxious for prompt action on the money question as he was on the tariff question. On Feb. 23, 1897, the moment when the passage of the Dingley tariff bill was announced, the President sent a message to Congress to "urgently recommend that a special commission be appointed, nonpartisan in its character, to be composed of well-informed citizens of different parties, who will command the confidence of Congress and of the country because of their special fitness for the work, whose duty it shall be to make recommendations of whatever changes in our present banking and currency laws may be found necessary and expedient," and to report before the next ensuing session of Congress. A bill authorizing the President to appoint such a commission was passed by the House and killed in the Senate. In both of his annual messages since that time the President has urged legislation on the subject.

The time has now come for Congress to act. Any further delay will be injurious to the public interest, to the business of the country, and to the Republican party. As the party will have full control of both branches of the next Congress, it will be in a position to carry out its pledges on the money question, and will be held responsible if it does not. It is understood that a line of action has been agreed upon by special committees of the Senate and House appointed by the Republican members at the close of the last session. These committees were in session during the summer, and, it is said, have agreed on a measure containing the following provisions:

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That Milford boy who is proving such a prodigy in the line of addition and multiplication should be retained in the Goebel interest in the Kentucky election mathematics.

And, it is said, have agreed on a measure containing the following provisions:

First. The declaration of the gold dollar as the standard of value, and the cancellation of obligations of the United States shall be payable.

Second. Provision for the interchangeability of all forms of our money coined or issued by the government so as to maintain their value.

Third. Greenbacks and treasury notes once redeemed to be paid out again only in exchange for gold.

These provisions aim simply at establishing and maintaining the gold standard. They do not attempt to establish a scientific system of currency or bank-note circulation, leaving that for the future, but they commit the United States to the gold standard and to maintaining it. This is the least that Congress should do at present, and it should do it promptly. The foregoing propositions are based on recommendations by the President, and would doubtless have his hearty approval. They are also acceptable to the executive committee of the Indianapolis monetary convention, representing the business interests of the country. It is a simple and conservative plan, and yet a measure of real progress and reform. Congress could not do a wiser thing than to pass the measure during the first week of the session.

THE GOEBEL INFAMY.

That fair-minded readers may fully understand the Goebel conspiracy to count out the Republican who has been elected Governor in Kentucky it is necessary to recall the provisions of the Goebel election law, which Goebel himself carried through the last session of the Legislature. The law puts all the election machinery of the State into the hands of a State commission of three, not more than two of whom shall be of the same political party. This commission was chosen by the Legislature that passed the law. Two members of the commission are Goebel Democrats and the third is ostensibly a Republican, probably a Goebel Republican. Even if the third member of the commission were a recognized Republican he would be outvoted on every important proposition. This State commission has charge of the election machinery of the State. It makes all the regulations for the management of elections, appoints county election boards and has the final canvass of the votes. Its appointees on the county election boards are selected without consulting the wishes of the minority party. Very naturally the precinct officers who are selected are composed of a majority of Democrats in every instance and the minority of so-called Republicans. It needs no argument to prove that it is within the power of these election officers to refuse the vote of any person who may be challenged to throw out ballots on the slightest pretext and to make false returns when necessary to count in the candidate favored by the election machine. When the returns are made to the county board these commissioners, not selected by the people as the officers of the county, canvass the vote. These county boards have power to reject returns. Thus from the precinct to the final board of canvass all the rights of the people to have a voice in the selection of the officials who receive, count and canvass their votes are denied. At the very fountain head the right of local self-government has been overthrown by the Goebel Legislature. There are no intelligent people in Kentucky who do not tacitly admit that the purpose of the Goebel election law was to count in the Democratic candidates, to mat-

ter how large the pluralities of the candidates of the opposing party.

The Goebel system of suppressing free suffrage seems to commend itself to other Democratic legislatures. Missouri is Democratic, but St. Louis is a Republican city by from 10,000 to 15,000 votes. The Democratic politicians are determined to get control of that city. To that end the Democratic Legislature has provided an election board for St. Louis similar to that in Louisiana. Practically every election officer will be a Democrat; all the registration officers will be Democrats. The registration feature of the law makes it possible for any voter to object to the registration of any other voter upon a day's notice. Upon such challenge the local board of registration may erase the name. To have his name replaced the voter must appeal to the election commissioners, who have full power in the matter. This provision gives the ward heeler the power to object to the registration of any citizen, however well known, and to prevent him from getting his name on the voting list.

Except the Louisville Courier-Journal, which is not recognized by the controlling element as Democratic, no leading paper of that party has protested against the Goebel or the St. Louis infamy, but what a howl of indignation would have gone up from Democratic press associations if legislatures in two Republican States north of the river, Indiana and Ohio, had passed a Goebel election law. South of the Ohio, in Kentucky, to rob Republicans of their votes, the Democratic press of Indiana very generally approves the Goebel law.