

KANSAS AGITATOR

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All Reforms.

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MAY 14,

THE Champion of Freedom and Right, official organ of the Illinois Liquor Dealers' State Protective association, says that Carter Harrison, the new mayor of Chicago, has saved the saloon-keepers of that city upwards of \$9,000.

THE report comes from Chicago that the wave of prosperity has struck that city, and that the saloon men are active; that there are over 600 new applicants for license, and that, in all probability, there will soon be 1,000 new saloons in Chicago. "Prosperity," indeed!

GLASGOW has owned and managed her street car lines and other vast public plants for years. The revenues are so great that the city pays no taxes. The rates are but a fraction of those charged in America. The system is a perfect success. How long a time will it take us progressive Americans to get this idea into our heads?—New Occasions, Chicago.

FOURTEEN savings banks, with not less than 26,000 depositors, have failed since Mr. McKinley was inaugurated. Probably 98 per cent. of these poor people voted with J. Pierpont Morgan because they imagined they belonged to his set. We are sorry for them, but they now see the difference between owning a bank and supporting one. A banker is a banker. A depositor is "one who has confidence." Some day we may decide to establish United States postal savings banks. You never heard of Uncle Sam failing, did you?—New Occasions.

WE are gravely informed that railroad holdings have recently suffered a decline in value of more than \$40,000,000. This decline is due to the supreme court decision against railroad pooling. How did this decision affect the value of railroad property? Did it lessen the traction power of locomotives or take the paint and varnish from the cars? It did not. The property is just as valuable as ever. Stocks have declined, due to a fear that the decision would compel competition. The railroad owners have abandoned the theory that competition is the life of trade. They know there is no profit in competition and are fighting for co-operation. Some day the people may discover that they have been strangled by the competitive system.—New Occasions.

Why Not?

If the government can create money for the bankers, why not for itself and the people?

If the greenbacks are money, how can the power of the government to create money be denied?

If the greenbacks are not money, why did the bond-holders ever lend the government any money, having lent nothing but greenbacks?

If the greenbacks are not money, why have the soldiers ever been paid, having received nothing but greenbacks?

If greenbacks are not money, why have the millions of debts that have been settled with greenbacks ever been paid?

If bank notes are good money, are not the government notes much better?—The Pilot.

WHY don't you send the AGITATOR to some of your weak-kneed friends?

Elkins Says Wages Must Go Down.

"Wages must go down," says Senator Elkins in a recent interview published in the Enquirer of Tuesday. "Wage-earners," continued the Senator, "do not wish to see it or believe it, but it is so." And again he said: "Wages in America stand against any revival of business."

He was discussing the coal trade. He tells us that "We do not export coal to Europe, because we have wages against us, and that is the whole kernel of the coal trade." The Senator complained of the Supreme Court decision which makes railroad pooling impossible. That would seem to benefit the coal trade at the expense of the railroads; but so strong is the sympathy between capital invested in different directions, yet acting together, that the great combinations, like those between the railroads and coal mines, see no way to relieve their own diminishing revenues except the cutting of the wages of labor. No man has presented this fact with terrible bluntness of the Senator from West Virginia. He has not minced words. He appears to have sought the publication of his view. As prices decline and values shrink, those who battle with the flood of contraction each reach out for the plank which will not sustain all.

No limitation on the output of coal can counteract the influence of contraction, which is steadily reducing the price of all other commodities, including coal. And since the price must go down, and since somebody must lose, Senator Elkins unhesitatingly declares that the railroads cannot be expected to suffer, nor yet the coal mine owners. It is the laborer who must stand and deliver at the bidding of those who make money so scarce that coal is cheap and transportation cheaper.

Mr. Elkins has met the logic of the situation. What he says is the natural result flowing from the policy which the money power has forced upon his party. "Wages must go down." "Wages in America stand against any revival in business." Senator Elkins has a good business head on his shoulders, and he must know that the men who have bought and taken possession of the Republican organization and who have created the present national administration would, if they could, abolish wages altogether—but not abolish labor. They do not believe that men, horses, cattle or dogs have any natural right to compensation for their labor or any right to any more food and clothing and shelter for the night than will keep them in good working condition. We do not charge upon Senator Elkins that he is out of this class, but we credit him with a clear view of the facts as they exist, and with the courage to state them. If the present system of gold contraction which he favors is to continue—if the supply of money is to remain stationary, and the uses for it are to increase, then it is absolutely true that "wages in America stand against any revival of business." In the co-partnership between capital and labor there can be no dividends for the workmen under the present conditions.

But Senator Elkins overlooks one fact, and that is that our masters, who dictate the gold standard to all the governments of the world, have no bowels of compassion for the owners of other property than gold money, and no remorse about smiting down coal mine owners and railroad companies and enslaving them as they do their workmen. Mr. Elkins is not one of the royal family of usurers and money-lenders. He is only a capitalist, and Shylock laughs at him as grimly as he does at the spendthrift whom he is ruining, or the idle workman whom he drives from his door. If wages go down, capital must go down. When only a score of men can ride in their carriages, they, too, will be forced to walk by a force they cannot resist.

Senator Elkins, however, has a remedy to apply to his locality in West Virginia. His dependence is upon the negroes. Being asked whether West Virginia will stay Republican, he answered:

"That ought to be the natural gravitation. Pennsylvania and Ohio coming in with their whites from the North and West, and the negroes from old Virginia on the East. They

vote the Republican ticket, and leave the old mountaineers to be Democrats."

Being asked whether black labor was settled in the mines of West Virginia, the Senator replied that it was. He said:

"Firmly. It is as effective as white labor, and does not combine and conspire, and the negro spends all he makes, while the Italians and Poles send every cent out of the country."

It is a frank admission for the Senator to make, that West Virginia is to be saved to the Republican party by the negroes, and that these negroes are to be firmly established as the chief labor in the coal mines of the state. They certainly have the great qualification which the money-lenders delight in, and that is, as the Senator said, they spend all they make." We know of no higher qualification for the class of labor required in the presence of the gold standard. The laborer who spends all he makes is already a slave, and it is slave labor to which capital must turn to save itself even temporarily from being absorbed by the dealers in gold.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

From The Star and Kansan:

Municipal ownership of public utilities seems to be making headway in Pingree's state. Of sixty-nine electric light plants in chartered cities, twenty-two are owned by the cities; while of sixty-nine water plants in the cities fifty-two are owned by the public. About the same proportion holds good in the villages, where of seventy-nine electric light plants twenty-four are owned by the villages; and of ninety-three water works plants eighty-one are public property. Private ownership of public utilities has got to go—and it is going.

If Thomas Jefferson were alive now and preaching the same doctrines he held a century and more ago, he would be denounced as a revolutionary socialist or a dangerous anarchist. The very thought of real human liberty and fraternity frightens the people who are profiting by unjust conditions; and Jefferson was about as advanced a thinker in his time as Debs and Lloyd are to-day.

Gold has been going to Europe at the rate of a million dollars a day lately, and McKinley is already trembling in his boots for fear he will have to issue bonds as Cleveland did to replenish the reserve. If somebody could only get into that place who had nerve enough to pay out silver to the gold gamblers! A single dose would cure them effectually.

Does the world exist for the pleasure of the favored few, or for the good of all? That is the question socialism has an answer for.

What a change of heart the Republicans have experienced since they passed the McKinley bill, with its free raw sugar, tea and coffee! Now they want to tax the breakfast table like thunder to get enough money to run the government.

Jerry Simpson seems to have broken the Democratic party in the house of representatives squarely in two in the middle. Thirty-two of them voted with him in favor of the resolution instructing Speaker Reed to appoint the committees, and thirty-three with the Republicans against the resolution.

Speaking of the overwhelmingly Republican legislature in New York the Commercial Advertiser, of New York City, says: "It has made war upon property, war upon industry and war upon thrift." Certainly nothing much worse than this has ever emanated from the eastern plutocratic press in condemnation of Populist legislation in Kansas.

Wheat is going down again, as the little blaze of war in Greece bids fair to die out without becoming a general conflagration. Did you ever notice, though, that wheat is always highest when the crop has passed out of the farmers' hands? The people who eat bread pay the big prices for flour all right, but the fellows on the boards of trade who cultivate their brains reap the profits. What a crazy sort of civilization it is, anyhow. Starves the honest toiler and surfeits the wily schemer.

McKinley is Worried.

WASHINGTON, May 10.—An important conference took place at the White House this morning by the president, Secretary Gage and Mr. Conard Jordan, assistant treasurer in charge of the sub-treasury in New York city.

The consultation was relative to the slow but steady growth of the gold shipments abroad during the last few weeks.

Senators, representatives and office-seekers generally were held in check while the president discussed the financial problem. The participants in the conference were extremely reticent when interviewed on the subject, but enough is known to justify the statement that the president is seriously disturbed by what he fears is a systematic assault upon the gold reserve similar to that which so harassed Mr. Cleveland. Just what policy the McKinley administration will adopt to meet the raid upon the gold reserve is still under consideration, and Mr. Jordan was summoned to the White House to advise with the president as to the best plan to be adopted.

Under existing laws there is no protection for the government against an assault on the reserve. It is the opinion of the treasury officials that the present raid is being made by speculators who find the United States the cheapest and most profitable market in which to obtain gold.

France, England, Russia and other financial centers of Europe protect their gold by putting up the price to such a point that it ceases to be profitable for speculative purposes. European and American bankers are not ignorant of this peculiar condition of affairs and many of them do not hesitate to take advantage of the opportunities to speculate in American gold.

It is believed that the present administration will be severely taxed in its efforts to combat the bankers and brokers who are about to repeat the tactics they resorted to during the last administration, when the gold reserve was seriously depleted. The subject was under consideration at the cabinet meeting to-day, and it is understood that the administration will urge the Republican in the senate to all diligence in securing the prompt passage of the tariff bill with a view to making way for such financial legislation as may hereafter be advisable to meet the emergency. A member of the administration remarked today:

"We do not propose to make the mistake made by Cleveland. He came into power on the tariff issue, but instead of making his fight on that issue, he took up the money question, upon which his party was hopelessly divided. The Republican party is today divided on the money question, but we are united in favor of the passage of a tariff bill."—Press Dispatch.

A Touching Pome.

Father, dear father, come home with me now, for ma has some carpets to beat; she's got all the furniture out in the yard, from the front door clean out to the street. The stove must come down and be put in the shed, and the yard must be cleaned for some grass, for its time to clean house and the devil's to pay—and the front windows need some new glass. Father, dear father, come home with me now, and bring some bologna and cheese; it's most 12 o'clock and there's nothing to eat—I'm so hungry I'm weak in the knees. All the dinner we'll have will be cold scraps and such, and we'll have to eat standing up, too; for the table and all are in the back yard; oh, I wish that house cleaning was through. Father, dear father, come with me now, for ma is as mad as a Turk; she says that you're only a lazy old thing, and that she is going to put you to work. There's painting to do and paper to hang, and the windows and casing to scrub, for its house-cleaning time and you've got to come home and revel in suds and cold grub.—Ex.

Then How Can Banks.

If the government can't keep gold to redeem its paper, how do the banks expect to do so? The government is stronger than the banks and its credit is better than that of all the banks combined.—People's Paper.