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AN ABLE ADDRESS.

Issued by Shawnee County Old Soldiers' Bryan Free Silver Club, Comprising Over 300 Members.

To the Ex-Soldiers of Kansas and Comrades Everywhere:



HY was the outcome of slavery an oligarchy? It consisted of the gentleman and his slave. There was no bold peasantry, no great middle class, without which there can be no democracy. The white hewer of wood, the white drawer of water, was in this paradise of slavery a mudsill, and until the war accomplished the extinction of slavery there was not a school house in the whole territory dominated by the aristocracy in which the poor white could learn his letters.

If the government ever gets under the control of a few, it will repeat the story of this master and his man. If, by an unfortunate drift of events, the financial nabobs shall obtain a special favor standing in our legislatures and with our courts, an enlightened selfishness suggests that they would protect themselves and not others. If the wealth of the country is concentrated in the hands of a few, the cohesive power of united millions will not be exerted for the good of the great people. If the money power is exercised and possessed by few, that few can speak with the force of a projectile as to anything that may concern their own interests. It is for the soldier to ponder over what he fought for, what he obtained for others, and what he has secured for himself. It is for him to consider the trend of things, for better or for worse, and where it will land him and his children.

There is an aristocracy of wealth in this country that pales the ineffectual fire of Solomon and all his glory by its gaud. It fills the daily paper with sensuous luxury of the Occident that an Eastern Satrap with subject millions might dream of, might command, but could never realize. Aladdin is no fable, but the time and country were neither the centuries before the Christian era, nor Bagdad.

In a land of great riches, there must be great poverty. A happy, prosperous people, a great intelligent community of common people, is impossible between these two extremes, as it is only by the absolute destruction of this middle class that the multiplied millionaire and the multiplying mendicant are possible. The eye must close or intentionally be averted not to see this.

The soldier has his pension and his discharge. They are his patrimony; his share of the thousands of billions of which the wealth of this country consists. He rides in no specials. His feet dangle under no mahogany. His daughters have no lingerie from Worth, nor, when they marry, does the yacht and special train both wait to take them on their journey. Nor does he spend five hundred dollars as their fare over the ferry. He has no yachts, no palaces, no expectancy of becoming father-in-law to nobility. The soldier made this possible for them and is by the supreme irony of fate denied them himself. He fought for the integrity of a continent; he maintained the honor of a flag imperiled by a like aristocracy. He is too poor to see the country that he saved. It may be that envied by old age and disease he cannot help himself. He may, however, in the inventory of his effects, schedule his memory of battle, where he sought to ambush fame at the value of a steam yacht. He may fix the value of some valorous charge at the price of a Biltmore palace, with its hundred miles of pavements, its hundred thousand acres, its turrets, its conservatories of rare exotics, and a sea of velvet into which the guests

splash and plunge as its doors swing open and he is given welcome and entrance. Paradise will some day open its gates to him, but the Breakers great iron portals never had within the enclosure a soldier, unless he came on an errand or as a hired man. He may be helpless himself, but he ought to hope for something for his children. It is idler than a dream, it is the delirium of fancy, if he expects such seed to produce any other harvest than the same grinding conditions for them. He can hope for nothing for them, if he supinely lets them deprive him of his fangs, extract his claws and bind him captive to their chariot wheels.

The money drifts steadily in their direction and "ne'er feels retiring ebb." There has been a conspiracy to that end. When silver was at a premium over gold, when it was serving better than gold its function of money, it was debased. Who did it? Why was it done? There lives no human being who can answer, other than that it was the first step to contract the volume of money to be followed by other contractions, until gold should be absolute. It took the people years to get this infamy through their heads. It was the prologue to the play now on the boards.

If the owners of gold can dwindle the money into their hands, they have the earth, its fullness, its fatness in their grip. They can dictate, not only prices, but terms of existence. They can destroy commerce, prostrate business and imperil the very flag for which you fought. The republican party had been by tradition, the intimate and familiar of silver. It was a great American product, to be protected as much as any other American industry. Suddenly, at St. Louis, these traditions were forgotten. The polar star no longer navigated the ship. It was there declared for the first time that silver must wait on an "international agreement," a legerdemain of rhetoric, which means, never. England must be first consulted, and give in her adhesion to it. That country breeds only papers and princes. Blaine has characterized the population of that country as dominating lords or peasants without shillings. Her blue-blooded peerage needs a dumping ground for her marriageable progeny of delatante nobles, profligate scions and illustrious idlers. There is a common purpose there and a common purpose here. In that purpose there is neither philanthropy, mercy or humanity. It will be pursued as the court executes its sentence. Silver is not to be restored. The silver coin now in circulation is to be debased. The paper money is to be withdrawn, and if successful, the scene closes as has been predicted by every prominent republican, in shackles and gyves on the limbs of the great millions of our country. Think of it! The very silver that they seek to prevent being made money, was once too valuable to pay to a soldier for his valor in fight, or his suffering in hospital, or his agony in death. The past is a precursor. The future is luminous by the experiences of the past. The chapters will follow until the book closes on a scene that never entered into the brain of a soldier as a possible destiny of the Republic. Its culmination, gold the only money, in the hands of a few, resident in a metropolis on our farthest verge, of questionable citizenship, and then watch for the exercise of a power, greater than wizard or necromancer, which has restored slavery and calls the roll of its slaves beneath the very shadow of Bunker Hill. It is not passion; it is not party politics. It is existence and a battle for the very prime conditions of life. Party ties are ropes of sand in this supreme hour, and we appeal to old soldiers everywhere, after battling for others, to come at last to the rescue of themselves.

COMRADES: Our patriotism has been challenged, our honesty questioned, and we have been classed as conspirators, repudiators, and are charged with being in league with men for the purpose of tarnishing the good name of this republic. And why is this charge made? Answer, because we, in the exercise of our rights as American citizens, rights for which we fought, see fit to think for ourselves on the over-shadowing issue of this political campaign, and for the further reason that our conclusions do not agree with their judgements, do not suit the "Generals" who have arrogated to themselves the right and duty to think for us, and to Generals Horace Porter, O. O. Howard, Daniel Sickles, Franz Segil, Anson G. McCook, William B. Franklin, Powell Clayton and others, we make answer: We denounce the charge as false as God is just, unworthy to have been made by comrades against comrades, notwithstanding the fact that the parties making the charges once were "Generals" and had the right to direct the physical action of many of us as private soldiers

in the ranks, that right no longer exists and you never had the right to dictate our political actions, and we say to you now that the mere fact of your having once been "Generals" in the army gives no force to your innuendo or weight to your bulldozing methods.

We are free American citizens who know something of the trials and hardships that are being borne by the industrial masses of this Republic. We contributed our full share to save (as a heritage for the private soldier and the common people, as well as for the "Generals" and the aristocrats) this Republic, under the protection of which each citizen is guaranteed by the Constitution equal privileges and rights with every other citizen.

And we further say that we have not, during the last thirty years, lived in a city where the glitter of gold has distorted our vision, nor jingoism become a "fad." But rather we have lived in that part of the United States where the Bible command, "Out of the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread," has a significance that you know not of. We are Americans in the fullest sense of the word, believing that seventy millions of people, imbued with the same stalwart Americanism that impelled you and us to stand before the cannon's mouth, ready, if need be, to die that the Republic might live, backed with the immense wealth and commercial importance we possess, are able to adopt a financial system of her own, independent of any other nation on earth and without their consent.

JOSEPH G. WATERS, Co. C, 84 Ill. Vol. Inf.

J. J. MILLER, Co. G, 121 O. Vol. Inf.

FRED J. CLOSE, Co. A, 55 O. Vol. Inf.

DR. P. J. M. BURKET, Co. E, 138 Ind. Vol. Inf.

DR. A. M. EDISON, Co. K, 2d Ind. Cav.

Pawnee Rock's Big Meeting.

Monday night of this week was the night of the campaign at Pawnee Rock. Everybody was full of enthusiasm, and the evening was an elegant one for an outdoor torch light parade. Near 200 voters were in line in the parade, and when the train from the East bearing the speaker, Mr. M. Watson, of Hutchinson, the crowd lined up to receive him at the depot was grand.

The speaker was escorted up the street by the torch-bearers, and to the commodious hall, which latter was soon filled to its utmost capacity. It is estimated by the Pawnee Rock people that at least one-third more voters were present than were at the Chester I. Long meeting a week or so ago; and Monday's crowd was made up of voters from the vicinity of Pawnee Rock, and not from Larned, Rice or Reno counties—as was the case at Ellinwood.

The address by Mr. Watson, who is a free silver republican, was a masterly effort and was given the closest attention by all except a few McKinley hoodlums in the back part of the hall, who tried to keep up a disturbance.

The Bryan Gle Club a double quartette, of Great Bend, aided wonderfully in warming up enthusiasm to the highest pitch.

The voters in the vicinity of Pawnee Rock are going to cast their ballots this year for a PRINCIPLE and not for the perpetuation of the present state of affairs just because the money syndicate of the east has issued its plutocratic ukase.

Hon. John Martin, Oct. 22, at Great Bend.

While the friends of silver are handicapped by a lack of funds to make a thorough campaign, they make up for this unfortunate shortage by spontaneous enthusiasm and a willingness to get into the harness at any and all times.

Editor Hobart, of the Hoisington Dispatch, has at last come to a realization of what is "the power behind the throne" in this republican campaign. Charlie thinks that man, Hannar, is a corker; and he confidently expects to get in on the divy.

What a lot of Hanna's boodle was wasted in hiring bands, special train, etc., for the McKinley meeting at Ellinwood last Saturday. The silver men have no money to throw away for a spectacular show, but they have GOT THE VOTES to cast in November—and that is what will count.

One thing was noticeable at the McKinley procession on the night of the 5th. There was not a gang of ill-mannered, obstreperous kids running alongside the torchbearers and interfering with the parade, as has been the case when the Bryan men have turned out. This is accounted for in two ways: First, the sons of Bryan men are taught that it is good breeding and good citizenship not to interfere with the other fellows' meetings; and second the McKinley kids were all given torches and put into line to help swell the numbers, on the night of the 5th.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

Pumpkin pies are ripe.

Coursing meeting next week.

A nice little rain Friday night.

The bills ought to be out for the coursing meeting.

Did you hear that story about what a bad fix Buck is in?

Saturday was a raw day, and few people were in town.

Nick Sprinker was up from Ellinwood on business, Friday.

Are you going to the "Kaiser-Kermis," at Odin, on the 19th?

The ladies of the M. E. church will serve lunch on election night.

The Tribune claims that "New York will go for McKinley." How strange.

It is liable to rain the balance of this week. The state irrigation meeting is being held.

We want a thousand free silver torches in line, on the evening of the 22nd—next Thursday.

Every voter in the county should hear Ex-Senator John Martin, in Great Bend, next Thursday.

Ira Brougner has had over 400 acres of wheat put in this fall—and will put in more if the rain keeps up.

We are arranging an elegant poultry exhibit, to be opened to the public about the 5th of November.

Everybody should hear Ex-Senator John Martin, who speaks at Great Bend one week from to-day—the 22nd.

Are you writing to your friends about the coursing meeting here next week? If not, do so right away.

The Missouri A. P. A's. are all ready to swear by Bishop Ireland because he is out in a letter supporting McKinley.

Ask for a copy of the New York Journal, at the Exchange store. It has some awful good silver reading matter in it.

A marriage license was issued Tuesday to H. S. Heitzmeier and Miss Martha Hildebrand, both of near Ellinwood.

Who paid for the bands, the special train and the "fireworks" at Ellinwood last Saturday night? Not the citizens of Barton county.

Poker in politics: Three of a kind—Bryan, Sewall and Watson—will beat two pair—McKinley and Hobart, Palmer and Buckner.

Beginning with this date—October 15—all mail from Redwing should be addressed to Hoisington, Redwing having been discontinued.

A. H. Schaeffer and L. B. Wilcox represented Great Bend Odd Fellow's lodge at the grand lodge meeting in Leavenworth, this week.

The students of the high school, under the direction of Prof. Barber, did the decorating of the opera house for the irrigation convention.

Messrs. Waddell and Campbell came up from the Strip country last week to look after matters in Barton. They report their families doing well.

The Kansas State Irrigation Association meets in Great Bend to day, the 15th, and will continue in session three days. All who can should attend these meetings.

On Tuesday the board of commissioners settled up with Fred Miller, retiring county treasurer, and the office was turned over to Dick Bosse, the incoming treasurer.

There were less than 50 Lakin township voters in line in the gold-bug parade at Ellinwood last Saturday; the balance were from Great Bend, Larned, Rice and Reno counties.

That German "World's Fair bartender" has been working the Hanna racket in Barton county the past week. Wonder if his wisdom (?) is worth all it costs the Hanna syndicate.

An examination for Teacher's certificates will be held at Great Bend, Oct. 31st, 1896.

F. G. MCKINLEY,
Co. Superintendent.

The Ellinwood Leader man should attend the political meetings which he writes up. Then he would not make the blunder he did last week when he said Sam Jones spoke with Senator Landis.

The Rev. Mr. Henry C. Parkman, of Kinsley, will hold Episcopal services in this city on Sunday, Oct. 18th, both morning and evening at the usual hours—Presbyterian church. The morning sermon is addressed to the "Daughters of the King" the text "Do the work of an Evangelist." The evening discourse, "Faith." Come out and hear an able speaker.

PERSONAL POINTS.

* Wilford Burson is able to be around on the streets.

* Operator E. H. Shirk returned home last week.

* Will O'Blenness was over from Cladin Sunday.

* Prof. J. A. Brady was up from St. John, Saturday.

* Leon L. Roberts was down from Heizer Saturday.

* O. R. Kackley was over from Hoisington, Saturday.

* Ed Allison returned from his visit to Chicago, last Friday.

* Rev. Stewart, of Hoisington, was a Great Bend, visitor Tuesday.

* Dave Gray, of Hoisington, is an enthusiastic advocate of irrigation.

* Miss Agnes Wildgen, of Hoisington, was shopping in town Monday.

* Miss Marie Bosse is deput for her father, County Treasurer Bosse.

* J. M. Donley and wife returned from their eastern trip Friday night.

* Rev. Woodburn, wife and daughter Mamie, were over from Hoisington Tuesday.

* Joe Degen, our north side neighbor, was doing business in Great Bend Tuesday.

* A. L. Peugh, Hoisington's tonsorial artist, was in Great Bend on business Tuesday.

* Mrs. Geo. Orr, of Hoisington, was visiting with Mrs. Frank Wilson the first of the week.

* Mrs. E. C. Cole is enjoying a visit from her mother, Mrs. W. W. Webb, and Miss Minnie Sheldon, of LaCrosse, Wis.

* Mrs. Jas. W. Clarke returned home from a visit of several months in the south, last Friday, being much improved in health.

* Prof. Stryker was home over Sunday. He reports wonderful enthusiasm throughout the state wherever the Bryan men hold meetings.

Remember the social entertainment at Odin, Monday the 19th.

The Australian ballot this year will be fearfully and wonderfully made. If the next legislature does not simplify it considerably we miss our guess. There is no use in a ballot being as large as an average newspaper.

A runaway horse threw Mrs. Nancy Wilson, an old lady well known here, and her brother who is here from Sedgwick, out upon the street near Ed. Tyler's Monday evening, bruising them up considerably, but not fatally.

On Saturday last the drug store of Simpson & Co., in this city, was closed, under chattel mortgage to a wholesale house. It is understood the assets are largely in excess of the liabilities, and that the difficulty will soon be adjusted.

Mrs. Sarah G. Hopkins, who has been ill for a long time at the home of C. L. Worman, west of town, died on Monday evening last, at the age of 85 years and four months. Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon, the 13th.

If the Ellinwood Leader is to be a non-partizan paper it ought not copy from the Topeka Mail & Breeze such a contemptible fling at democratic candidates as the item it reproduced last week concerning Judge Frank Doster and tramps.

Charley Allen has returned to the city, and taken an interest in the Allen Drug Co. Great Bend is exceedingly glad to welcome Mr. Allen back; he will prove himself one of the solid men to aid in the upbuilding of our town in the future.

How much did the single, lone middle-of-the-road populist of Barton county contribute towards paying the expenses of Tom Watson's "special car" for his proposed trip through Kansas? Will the railroad officials please answer?

It will not require eight telephones, at the expense of several thousand dollars, to enable McKinley to hear the free silver yells from Barton county when the election news comes in. He can hear them clear back in Canton, with one eye closed.

A young McKinleyite remarked on the streets of Great Bend Sunday: "We had a h-1 of a time at Ellinwood last night—drank the little dutch town dry." And from the looks of some of the goody-goody boys next morning we suspect he was right.

The republican campaign managers rung in old Dick Blue for a speech in the park this afternoon, notwithstanding there had been a general understanding among the citizens that no political meetings should be held in this city during the irrigation convention. The gold bug managers doubtless thought they could get a larger audience than that at some other time. If the managers of the irrigation meeting do justice to the citizens they will take Blue off the irrigation program.