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SILVER VOTE TUESDAY

Free Coinage Debate Keeps the House Nearly Empty.

A SILVER LEADER CONVERTED.

Hall, of Missouri, Makes a Speech Against the Mine-Owners.

He Condemns the Western Men Who Know Better, Yet Oppose Sound Money to Please Their Uninformed Constituents—The Officers of the Senate.

Washington City, Feb. 8.—There were exactly sixteen members on the floor and nineteen spectators in the gallery when the house opened this morning. The legislative day of yesterday still continued, as the house had been in recess over night. Corliss, Rep., Mich., and Boatner, Dem., La., spoke in favor of non-concurence in the silver bill, and Milnes, Rep., Mich., and Bartlett, Dem., Ga., in favor of concurrence. While Bartlett was speaking with reference to the defeat of Silver Dollar Bland, Gen. Hatch and other silver leaders, he made an indignant protest against the treacherous manner in which the gold Democrats stabbed in the back Democratic candidates who differed from them. "Witness," said he, contemptuously, "the scene daily being enacted in Kentucky. When did it become a Democratic doctrine to defeat Democratic candidates?"

"The situation in Kentucky," replied Boatner, "only illustrates the destroying effect of Democrats refusing to stand by the party platform. If the silver Democrats would abide by the declaration made in convention we would not today be threatened with the loss of a senator from that state."

"We are threatened with the loss of a senator in Kentucky," retorted Bartlett, "because men who are not in the majority seek to control. I want to say that, whether in the majority or the minority, wherever the Democratic flag floats there will be my stand."

"If the Democratic national convention adopts a gold platform and nominates a gold candidate," interposed Skinner, Rep., N. C., "will you support the ticket?"

"I will vote for any man," replied Bartlett, "whom a majority of the Democrats nominate in convention."

"Then you are willing to sacrifice the interests of the people on the altar of the party?"

"I am willing to forego temporarily a consummation which must eventually come and can only come through the Democratic party."

At noon the house went through the formality of adjourning and reconvening. The debate on the bond bill proceeding, Grosvenor, Rep., Ohio, said that the Republican party, in response to the cry of the free silver representatives to "do something for silver," proposed to do something for the American people by righting the wrong done them by Democratic tariff legislation in the last congress. The party would do something for a million wool growers, instead of a hundred mine owners.

"We have not a silver mine in California," interposed Johnson, Rep., Cal.

"You're right," declared Grosvenor, "and you might add that California is the most proscriptive gold state in the Union."

"That shows we are willing to do something for the rest of the country," said Johnson.

"At our expense," shouted Walker, Rep., Mass.

Grosvenor called attention to a circular to Eastern manufacturers signed by sixteen free silver senators, containing a covert threat against the protective system if the manufacturers did not favor free silver. Grosvenor ridiculed the silver senators, and adduced some figures to show that they were powerless to execute their threats. Those senators represented but sixteen votes in the electoral college out of 444. The predicted 266 Republican electoral votes for sound finance and protection. If the election should be thrown into the house, he said, the victory of the sound money Republican candidate was certain. Threats of splits and fusion would be futile and unavailing.

He was concluding an eloquent passage about loyalty to the grand old Republican party when Owens, Dem., Ky., asked if he was speaking of the same Republican party that had a few days ago auctioned off the Republican national convention.

"Great God," replied Grosvenor, looking about the house, "let us hear something about honest elections." (Laughter.) This was a cutting reference to the Owens-Breckinridge campaign.

"Is it the same party," asked Miles, Dem., Md., "which has just made a deal with the Populists in the senate to secure control of the machine over there?"

"It was compelled to take possession of the machine your party was smashing," replied Grosvenor.

"Is it the same party," asked Owens, returning to the assault, "which signalized its return to power in the senate by sending us the free coinage bill we are now considering?" (Laughter.)

"I have just been paying my respects to some of the Republican senators," replied Grosvenor. "If there is anything in the situation which can furnish comfort to the sound money Democrats, you are welcome to it." (Republican applause.)

Evans, Rep., Ky., McCreary, Dem., Ky., and Hepburn, Rep., Ia. followed in favor of non-concurrence. The latter said the Republican party was the only party that in deeds had shown its friendship for silver.

"Are you willing to restore free coinage of silver?" asked Livingston, Dem., Ga.

"Yes," replied Hepburn, "when you restore the condition that existed in the days of the 'dollar of the daddies.' Then 412 grains of silver were coined into a dollar, but silver was worth $1.29 an ounce."

In concluding, he ridiculed these "bewildered Democrats" who denounce the attitude of Mr. Cleveland. "No Democrat," said he, "has been more consistent, merely adhesive to his announcement, than he. In 1885, before his first inauguration, he declared against the silver heresy. In all his utterings since he has adhered to that position. In May, 1892, he reiterated his position for the fifth time. You know," said Hepburn, addressing the Democratic side, "that he could not carry out your platform except at the price of perjury and personal dishonor; yet you now pretend that you were deceived." (Laughter.)

Towne, Rep., Minn., illustrated his remarks with charts. Twice the house gave him an extension of time, and his remarks aroused great enthusiasm among the silver forces. His charts showed the appreciation of gold and the fall of prices. One chart, upon which he laid especial stress, demonstrated, he said, that the fall in the price of silver since 1873 was not due to the overproduction of silver. Towne closed with the declaration that the Republican party must define its programme and do something for the restoration of silver. The United States could unite with France and Germany, if England refused. Towne was given a tremendous ovation when he concluded. For several minutes the free silver members crowded about and tendered him their congratulations.

Hall, Dem., Mo., the author of the income tax bill in the last congress, was followed with close attention in a speech in which he announced his conversion to "sound money." "If I were called on today to define what I regarded as the greatest crime and curse threatening to sink American institutions," said he, "I should reply in one sentence, The cowardice of our politicians, of the men who have not the courage, the manhood, the grit to go before the people and tell them when they are wrong upon these great economic questions." I am credibly informed that there are eight senators at the other end of this capitol who voted for this bill, who say that they believe the free and unlimited coinage of silver at 16 to 1 would mean national bankruptcy and ruin. What does it mean? It means that our politicians have come to a pretty pass when, in order to feather their own nests, in order to hold themselves in office, national, state or county, they are willing to see a great number of men who have not the time to delve into these questions turn their backs upon their own welfare; when they are willing to close their hearts to all gratitude for past favors and tell those men that what really leads to their destruction leads but to prosperity and happiness. I know it is regarded as political death for a man in a rural district not to throw up his hat and applaud these delusions, but if my people want a man of that kind to represent them they can get rid of me, and I will willingly and gladly retire from political life."

Hall also declared that a high official of the administration had said that the silver agitation had already cost the government $262,000,000 in bond issues, and in the course of the next twelve months the bond issue would increase to $1,000,000,000.

Talbert—Did not the gentleman vote for the free coinage bill in 1893? I ask the question for information.

Hall—The gentleman asks if I did not vote for the free coinage bill in the extra session in 1893. I answer yes, but I will tell the gentleman that I have progressed since that time, while he is standing where I was three years ago. (Laughter.)

Layton—I wish to ask the gentleman a question. I understand him to make the extraordinary statement that he has been informed that eight senators who had voted for this bill had said they actually believed that the free coinage of silver would lead to the bankruptcy and destruction of this country. I ask the gentleman, do you believe any senator ever said that?

Hall—I told you that I was credibly informed that they had said it, and I believed it or I would not have stated it here. But I want to say a few words now on the question of consistency. I find upon investigation in the bureau of education that the Chinese, the inhabitants of the Indies and the tribes of Africa are the only human beings that are continually consistent. (Laughter.) The lower grades of animals are also always consistent. (Laughter.) I maintain that reasoning, thoughtful, clearheaded men, who pass through the world with their minds open to the investigation of truth, are ever liable to change. Where is the intelligent man in the United States who has not a high regard for the fame of William E. Gladstone, the great English statesman? Listen to that grand man express his regret that he should have made the blunder that he did in 1862. Observe the course of Bismarck, the greatest of German statesmen. When he was advocating the sale of the silver of Germany for whatever price could be obtained for it, and was approached by one of his friends, who said: "I am just where you were ten years ago," the reply was: "That was the political blunder of my life, and I have had intelligence enough to profit by it and move forward."

Talbert—According to this doctrine we can never tell where a man stands.

Hall—You can always tell, Mr. Chairman, how certain animals stand, and how the Chinese stand, because they adopt the doctrine of Confucius, that the greatest crime which a Chinaman can commit is to attempt to do a thing differently from the way his ancestors did it a thousand years ago. I did not intend to make an address, further than to put myself on record as a Democrat from a rural district west of the Mississippi, in a purely agricultural region, that dares stand up and say that sound money is the salvation of the agricultural and laboring classes of this government. I understand full well that the action of the National Bi-Metallic League has put my district on the blacklist. I understand, Mr. Chairman, situated as I am, both of my senators on the opposite side of the question and all my speaking colleagues on the Democratic side on the other side of the question, that it leaves me standing alone practically and with a hard row to hoe. And if I shall go down to defeat I will go with my own self-respect, and my friends will be able to appreciate that I was not too cowardly to tell my people what I believed to be right when their judgment was entirely the other way.

Cox—Now, in view of the fact that we have acted together and worked for free silver, I hope the gentleman from Missouri does not mean to say that any of his friends who happen to differ from him on this question, or who have not advanced so far as he has, are a set of cowards or have no respect for facts.

Hall—I do not believe the shoe fits him, and I do not want any man to wear it unless it does fit him.

At 5:10 p. m. the house took a recess until 8 o'clock.

The consideration of the silver substitute for the house bond bill was continued at the night session, and a number of representatives took part in the discussion.

The Officers of the Senate.

Washington City, Feb. 8.—The Populist senators held a caucus today and concluded to stand by their former decision to name candidates of their own for the offices of secretary and sergeant-at-arms of the senate when the election of these officers is undertaken in accordance with the Republican programme. The Populists will name Thomas Watson, of Georgia, for secretary and Mr. Taubeneck for sergeant-at-arms.

Why not register tomorrow?

PLATT VICTORIOUS IN NEW YORK.

He Sets the Convention for March 24 and Rebukes the Kickers.

New York, Feb. 8.—The Republican state central committee has decided upon March 24 as the date of the state convention and this city as the place. The committee recognized the right of the county committee to pass upon the question of the validity of the city organization and enrollment, and referred to that committee the protest of the committee of 500. The presidential candidacy of Gov. Morton was indorsed by resolution.

Decay of the A. P. A.

Kansas City, Feb. 8.—The local organization of the A. P. A. is disintegrating and bids fair to die an early death, says the Star in a leader. With a united front it was an invincible factor in the spring elections two years ago, but there have been several quarrels since then over candidates at the coming election, and two factions have arisen. The split has started a movement for an entirely new order, to be known as the Independent A. P. A. This new order, it is officially stated, is to be formed along broader lines than the old A. P. A. A meeting of members of the old order who are ready to secede and enter the new one has been held, and a committee is working on a constitution and by-laws.

The Kentucky Deadlock.

Frankfort, Ky., Feb. 8.—The anti-Blackburn Democrats united on Richard T. Tyler today, Weissinger, Carroll, Speight, Violetta, and Walker voting for him. The ballot resulted as follows: Hunter 56, Blackburn 52, Tyler 5, Bate 1. The joint caucus, with the white ensign of peace floating over it, adjourned until Monday noon.

New York World a Penny Paper.

New York, Feb. 8.—The World will announce tomorrow that the price of its week day morning edition will hereafter, in the greater New York district, be 1 cent, instead of 2 cents. The price throughout the country will remain the same as at present.

A young man in Lowell, Mass., troubled for years with a constant succession of boils on his neck was completely cured by taking only three bottles of Ayer's Sarsaparilla. Another result of the treatment was greatly improved digestion with increased avoirdupois.

THE ESCAPE OF RHODES

He Has Made Peace With the British Government.

WILL SOON RETURN TO AFRICA.

Certain Territories Taken From the Chartered South Africa Co.

Chamberlain's Letter to Gov. Robinson Considered to Be Politic—The Stories That John Hays Hammond Was Ill-Treated by Boers Disproved by His Wife and the American Consul.

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London, Feb. 8.—A dull and dreary week has been ended with a surprise for the political world, in the announcement in the Times that Hon. Cecil Rhodes, the former premier of Cape Colony, sometimes termed the "emperor of South Africa," whose collapse as a leader of men and manipulator of important events was looked upon in many quarters as assured, is to return almost immediately to Rhodesia to resume his work in behalf of the Chartered Company. This announcement, which is fully authenticated, with Mr. Chamberlain's message to Gov. Robinson, of Cape Colony, almost monopolizes the attention of the politicians.

Having conferred with the directors of the Chartered Company, Rhodes will soon return to Buluwayo, where he will reside in the fine house he has caused to be erected in the neighborhood of poor King Lobengula's former capital, except during the session of the parliament of Cape Colony. Mr. Rhodes, however, will await the arrival in England of Dr. Jameson, as he is desirous of conferring with the leader of the raid into the Transvaal before returning to South Africa. The ex-premier may also make an address to the Chartered Company at a meeting of its shareholders, soon to occur, and he may take this occasion to explain in detail his position toward the company.

The friends of Mr. Rhodes naturally claim that the latter's return to South Africa indicates that the secretary of state for the colonies is satisfied with his explanation, and the idea, if it was ever really entertained, that the charter of the South Africa Company would be revoked, may be dismissed. However, it is generally believed that some show of severity must be made, and that the Chartered Company cannot be permitted to escape scathless. Therefore its charter may be considerably modified and its administrative powers may be withdrawn, though its commercial privileges are not likely to be touched.

The first step in disciplining the Chartered Company has been taken in withdrawing from its control the territories of Montsie and Ikanning, which have been placed under the direct administration of the British high commissioner. These districts were the starting points of Dr. Jameson's column and the effect of the change is to place the British territory adjoining the Transvaal under the imperial control. Thus, it is asserted by the opponents of the company, the dream of incorporating the rich gold fields of the Rand into the territory of the Chartered Company must be definitely abandoned, and consequently they expect Mr. Rhodes to settle down at Buluwayo and devote his energies to the work of exploiting the resources of Rhodesia. But there are people who know Mr. Rhodes intimately, and they smile at such anticipations, quietly remarking: "Wait and see. Rhodes will never rest until his dream is accomplished."

Mr. Chamberlain's message to Gov. Robinson, published in the official Gazette yesterday afternoon, has created an excellent impression on all sides. It is looked upon as being firm and unequivocal in its terms. It is said to clearly define Great Britain's position toward the Transvaal, and is warmly applauded by the press.

The most interesting features of the documents, however, are Mr. Chamberlain's suggestions for the treatment of the people of the Rand. He proposes that they be granted the franchise after five years' residence, and that the objectionable features of the oath of allegiance which would deprive the oather of his status as a British subject be removed; that the Rand be accorded local autonomy, including control of its own taxation, subject to the payment to the government of an annual sliding tribute, based on the fluctuations of the mining industry, and that such legislation be subject to the veto power of the president and executive.

Mr. Chamberlain further proposed that the Rand be given a superior law court, and that the Rand be not entitled to a voice in the volksraad legislature, or in the president's election, thus relieving the burghers of their fear that the Uitlanders would utilize the franchise to upset the form of government.

Mr. Chamberlain's suggestions are looked upon in some quarters here as being tantamount to suggesting that the Rand be granted home rule, and comparisons are drawn in his attitude facing the Uitlanders and his uncompromising unionism toward the granting of home rule to Ireland. The Westminster Gazette says: "The Liberals ought to be especially gratified at this reappearance of Mr. Chamberlain in his once favorite part of a home ruler. His action disarms Liberal opposition, while it will not fail to secure the support of every Irishman."

The newspapers today agree that if the views expressed on the subject of the Transvaal by the inspired newspapers of the South African republic, as wired to the Times from Pretoria, reflect the sincere intentions of the Boer government, a satisfactory explanation of the whole question will early be accomplished.

HAMMOND WELL TREATED.

His Wife Says So—Our Consul Praises the Boers.

Washington City, Feb. 8.—Secretary Olney has received the following cablegram from Mrs. Hammond, dated yesterday at Pretoria, relative to the treatment of her husband, John Hays Hammond: "Because of my husband's ill-health, due to prison confinement, the government allows me to remove him to a private house where I can personally attend him. The preliminary examinations are proceeding, and the treatment of the prisoners is good." A cablegram from United States Consul Manblegram from United States Consul Manblon, dated last night at Johannesburg, reads: "Hammond is out on bail. The government continues to show wisdom and magnanimity."

London, Feb. 8.—A cablegram from Cape Town reports Mr. Hammond's release on bail under strict surveillance. Arrangements have been made for medical and legal attendance for the American mining engineer, and for a house in which he may remain until the conclusion of the trial. The company and all the other authorities here of the Transvaal mines profess complete ignorance regarding the prospects of their accused employes. They have no definite information as yet of what may be the punishment under the laws of the Transvaal for the offenses charged, except that it may include the confiscation of all the property of the accused and banishment from the republic. This punishment, if inflicted, would be severe, since the pay roll of the expert Americans as engineers and foremen in the Transvaal mines has been figured as amounting to some $300,000 a year. These positions are held almost exclusively by Americans. It is the belief here among the South African magnates that the moral influence of the United States in favor of desired reforms in the Transvaal in the mining laws, as well as in behalf of the accused, would go much further than that of England. It is argued also that the United States has a direct interest in promoting the extreme production of gold there, which largely depends upon these reforms. The production amounts now to about $40,000,000, but experts insist that with the development of deep level mines this will be doubled. The increased production expected would, it is claimed, go far toward solving the silver question in the United States and inevitably increase the prices for American cotton, wheat and all other products.

Birdie Sutherland's Wounded Heart.

London, Feb. 8.—A breach of promise case which promises to be of great interest to the young men and women about town commences Monday next before Judge Russell and a special jury. It is the suit of Birdie Sutherland, a popular ballet girl, against Hon. Dudley Churchill Marjoribanks, eldest son of Baron Tweedmouth, and a lieutenant in the Fourth battalion of the Argyle and Southern Highlanders, for £20,000 damages. Sir Edward Clarke, Q. C., M. P., formerly solicitor general, has been engaged to represent Miss Sutherland, and Henry Asquith, formerly secretary of state for home affairs, will defend young Marjoribanks, whose offer of £3,000 to settle the case was refused. The case is likely to turn upon the point whether the lieutenant was of full age when the promise of marriage is alleged to have been made. Birdie's sister, Lillie Harold, is now appearing in the pantomime at Drury Lane. Birdie, nee Watkins, being an infant in the eyes of the law, sues through her father, who was formerly a clerk in the Bank of England.

British Naval Expenditures.

According to a statement widely published, the coming naval programme will involve the outlay of $47,000,000, and will provide for the building of four ironclads, four first-class cruisers, six third-class cruisers and sixty torpedo destroyers, the latter to have a speed of from thirty to thirty-three knots. The battleships are to be similar to the Renown type, but they are to have rather more beam and to be longer.

Sir John Millais to Succeed Leighton.

London, Feb. 8.—It was stated today that, contrary to previous reports, Sir John Millais has agreed to accept the presidency of the Royal Academy until the end of the year, and that Val Princep, who has been looked upon as the sucessor of Lord Leighton, may then succeed Sir John Millais.

Gold at a Premium in New York.

New York, Feb. 8.—The premium on gold is ¼@½ per cent. Business is light, but bullion dealers look for an active demand for gold next week, after the official allotment of government bonds has been made.

Gladstone in Perfect Health.

London, Feb. 8.—Advices from Biarritz say that Mr. Gladstone has been enjoying perfect health. He has been engaged daily in literary work.

Tomorrow will be a good day to register; do not forget it.

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD DEBT.

Arguments Before the Senate Committee in Favor of the Union Pacific.

Washington City, Feb. 8.—The hearing by the senate committee on Pacific railroads of persons interested in securing reorganization of the Pacific railroads was resumed today. Mr. Pierce, representing the Union Pacific reorganization committee, was put through sharp questioning by Senators Wolcott and Morgan. He stated that it had been the purpose of the committee on reorganization to leave considerable latitude to the government, but the plan proposed would give the government about 50 per cent. of its debt, principal and interest, which would not amount to quite as much as the principal itself. He said that while Depew and Hewitt were on the reorganization committee he could not say whether the Goulds and Vanderbilts were interested in the proposed reorganization, or that there was an ulterior purpose to attach any portion of the Union Pacific system to either the Missouri Pacific or the Northwestern.

Morgan pressed Pierce to know whether it was not possible, under the reorganization plan proposed, for an alien syndicate to get control of the road. He replied that in case the proposed plan of reorganization should be accepted it was contemplated that the reorganization committee should itself take the property. He was doubtful whether, if alien purchasers should secure the property, they would be able under the laws to hold it. He said his committee had made no definite proposition except that of 3 per cent. bonds for the principal and bonds to cover the accrued interest to run fifty years without interest.

E. Ellery Anderson said that as a government director he was an advocate of no particular plan of reorganization. He favored a reorganization which should embrace the Union Pacific and Central Pacific, and was confident they were not able to meet both the principal and interest due to the government. He estimated that the property was worth $75,000,000 to $80,000,000. In 1884 the net earnings were about $4,300,000, which, he stated, were the lowest in years. To arrive at the value of the government lien it is necessary to deduct about $50,000,000 due on first mortgage bonds and other accounts. He would, he said, recommend that the government accept a cash offer of $35,000,000, and it would be better to do this than to enter into the other schemes suggested. This suggestion was based upon the Union Pacific alone, but he thought both the Union Pacific and Central Pacific should be disposed of as one line, because they would bring more that way. Mr. Anderson expressed the opinion that the Oregon Short Line would be foreclosed within six months and taken out of the system. He also expressed the opinion that foreclosure on the first mortgage bonds would not only close the government out, but cut off the equity of redemption.

Senator Morgan made an effort to secure Mr. Anderson's opinion as to the increase of the value of the Union Pacific property in the next 100 years, in view of the resources of the country penetrated, and asked him if he did not think the investment of $35,000,000 would in that time prove profitable. Mr. Anderson replied that he thought that it would be a good investment, but "not enormously good." He said that the experience of investors in the Western roads in the past had been the opposite of profitable.

Senator Brice asked Mr. Anderson to explain how it was that with the net earnings equal to twice the amount necessary to operate the road, the management had allowed the road to approach the point of foreclosure. To this Mr. Anderson replied that the road was to be foreclosed because the bonds had reached maturity. He thought that the interest could have been taken care of, however. In the net earnings was included about $1,200,000 for business done for the United States, which had been withheld, leaving only about $3,000,000 of actual earnings. It was also a fact that Judge Sanborn, in whose jurisdiction the road lies, was opposed to applying much of the money earned to the interest account.

Mr. Huntington asked to be allowed to make his promised statement concerning the Central Pacific at a later date, and the permission was granted. He took occasion, however, to repeat his statement made at the last meeting, that the Central Pacific meant to pay 100 cents on the dollar. He also repeated his statement that the Central Pacific was in good condition, and added some facts concerning the cost of the construction of his road. He said that less than 200 miles of the Central Pacific across the mountains had cost more to build than had 1,000 miles of the Union Pacific from Omaha to Ogden. He said the road had been built with gold, and that many of the bonds had been sold for 40 cents on the dollar. Senator Morgan asked why silver instead of gold had not been used, and Senator Stewart replied, for Mr. Huntington, that at the time the road was built silver had been worth 3 per cent. more than gold.

David Littler furnished the committee with some additional details concerning the Sioux City & Pacific road.

SILVER IN GERMANY.

Chancellor Hohenlohe Sympathizes With Bi-Metallists.

BUT WILL NOT TAKE ACTION.

If a Monetary Conference Is Called It Won't Be by Germany.

Great Labor Strikes at Hand—The Government Encouraging Emigration to the Colonies—Attack by the Agrarians on American Pork—Royal Deaths Stop the Court Fetes.

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Berlin, Feb. 8.—The pressure brought to bear upon the government by the German bi-metallists has resulted in squeezing from the ministers a statement on the subject. The imperial chancellor, Prince Hohenlohe, in the reichstag today, made the following declaration of policy in this connection: "We have gone exhaustively into the question of raising and strengthening the value of silver with the federal governments, being guided by the conviction that the fluctuation and heavy fall in the price of silver has entailed economic prejudice to Germany, in spite of the fact that her monetary system rested securely on the gold standard. As the secretary of the treasury stated on February 14, 1895, the first point to be considered is the serious injury to German silver mining. The production of German silver amounts to about 9 per cent. of the total output of the world. The fall in prices is not of much moment in the immensely larger production of foreign ores, but to Germany it implies such a decrease in value as to endanger home silver mining.

"Another point is its influence upon German exports to silver countries. There is no doubt that trade with them is made much more difficult by the fluctuations and the fall of silver, although lately the fluctuations have been comparatively small, and those interested have been able to find means of security against losses. But German export trade to silver countries has suffered from the conditions of exchange. I do not underestimate," he added, "the importance of the effects produced by this cause, but they must not be piled too high. Our exports to silver countries amount to only ¾ per cent. of our total exports, and in spite of the setback during the months when silver fell, they, on the whole, have made favorable progress. The official statistics show that the depreciated currency of silver countries contributes to facilitate competition with the exports of other countries, until the moment when a compensating influence arises and home prices and wages establish themselves, the final result being that the silver coins become degraded to the level of paper money. This depreciation, however, does not endanger our currency, because our trade is abundantly supported by gold and the imperial bank notes, adequately covered by the gold reserve, and the silver money does not exceed the demand, which, even in times of crisis, is not likely to diminish. On the other hand, the danger from counterfeit coinage has been increased by the fall of silver, although there was only one case in 1893. Yet, after all, the price of silver will always serve as an inducement to counterfeiting.

"Therefore, although a rise in the price of silver is highly desirable from an economic and mint standpoint, yet no doubt the goal can only be attained by an understanding with the countries interested in international commerce, of which there is no present prospect. The bi-metallists recognize in the reopening of the Indian mints a condition precedent to unlimited coinage, and I concur, as I believe that otherwise all efforts to raise the price will be vain. The opening of the Indian mints is not expected within a measurable time, as I have learned from preliminary negotiations with the British government."

Prince Hohenlohe concluded by saying: "A monetary conference would not bring the question nearer to a practical solution, and therefore it appears to be undesirable that Germany should take the lead in summoning a conference. The federal governments, acting upon their conviction, have decided not to take further steps in pursuance of the resolution of the reichstag of February 16, 1895. If, however, definite and acceptable proposals promising success were made on behalf of another state, I should duly consider the question of German representation at a conference."

During the agrarian discussion in the diet on Wednesday last, Count Hohensbroech declared that forty-nine of fifty cases of trichinosis in pork discovered in Germany were imported from America and called for a more stringent examination of American pork.

The colonial office is now considering the new emigration bill, which provides favors and inducements to be offered to German emigrants willing to go to the German colonies, where military service may be performed.

The court fetes were marred this year by the deaths of royalties. A brilliant programme had been arranged, but the demise of Prince Alexander of Prussia and the death of Prince Henry of Battenberg, as well as that of the Grand Duchess of Oldenburg, compelled their canceling. In addition the death of the Grand Duke of Mecklenberg-Strelitz is expected daily. Emperor William has been much grieved at the death of Theodore Runyon, ambassador of the United States to Germany, which, his majesty said, robbed the court for the time being of one of the most beautiful ladies in attendance, Mrs. Haskins, Mr. Runyon's daughter.

There have been many changes in the posts at court during the past week, with the view of getting rid of all of those who have been in any way involved with the Von Kotz scandal, which will lead to the retirement of Princess Frederick of Hohenzollern and Albert of Saxe-Altenberg to their estates.

The emperor is attending daily the fencing lessons which are being given to his two eldest sons by Col. Dresky, the former instructor of his majesty, and he frequently takes parts in fencing bouts himself. Indeed, the emperor has devised a fencing mask, which is now being used, and which, it is claimed, precludes accidents.

On Monday next a large number of strikes will begin in different parts of Germany, the most important being that of the home work seamstresses in Berlin, Hamburg, Stettin and Breslau, affecting altogether about 65,000 persons. The carpenters, bricklayers, etc., are also declaring a strike, and other trades, it is announced, will do likewise. The building trades strike, it is said, is in anticipation of the demand for labor which will be caused by work upon the Berlin exposition.

The bundesrath will give a grand banquet on February 20, in order to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the convening.

Herman Friedmann, director of the Rhenish-Westphalian bank, has been arrested on the charge of forgery.

The revision of the extradition treaty between Germany and the United States is again at a standstill, owing to the demands relating to political and military fugitives.

The Silver Question in Belgium.

Brussels, Feb. 8.—The Central Agricultural Association has presented a petition to parliament in favor of bi-metallism, begging the government to bring the matter to the notice of foreign governments.

The Ohio Republicans.

Columbus, O., Feb. 8.—The Republican state convention is to be held in Columbus on March 19 and 11.