

# JAMESTOWN WEEKLY ALERT.

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NO 9

## AT OMAHA.

Discussion of the Monetary Question by Leading Men.

Congressman McCleary of Minnesota Advocates the Canadian System.

Relation of Money to Prices Discussed by the Silver Representatives.

OMAHA, Sept. 17, 1898.—The Omaha monetary convention is giving the country an interesting discussion. All sides are represented, the bank "currency reform" men, the single gold standard men and the bi-metallicists—those who believe in the equal coinage of both the precious metals at a given ratio. Friday last Congressman McCleary, a republican member from Minnesota, spoke on the advantage of a bank currency established by banks and advocated such a system of providing money for the people's exchanges. He referred to the Indianapolis monetary convention of advocates of the single gold standard as a body of men who were favorable to an increase of the paper currency if controlled by banks, as showing that both the single standard and bi-metallicists were in favor of a "currency reform," which meant an increase of paper money.

He thought it possible for bankers to provide a safe currency if the government authorized them to do so at as low a rate as 2 per cent per annum. He referred to France as having nearly a uniform rate in all parts of the nation. Said it seemed unjust that 10 and 12 per cent should be charged to some residents of this country and 2½ and 3 per cent to others, for the use of money intended to serve all alike and issued by the government of the whole people, although varying conditions and circumstances was the cause of it. He referred to Canada as an example of a nation with plenty of currency in banks and in which interest rates are nearly uniform throughout all parts of the Dominion, while the natural conditions and the settlement of the country are similar to those of the United States; also to the few bank failures in Canada. He said:

"It will always remain true that certain communities will have more currency volume than other communities. It ought to remain true, because they have more exchanges to perform and therefore need more currency. But these differences will be only the normal ones."

He thought it entirely possible that a nearly uniform interest rate could be allowed by bankers in this country as well as elsewhere, and that the money intended for effecting exchanges of the people once put in such hands, would be safe and abundant.

In speaking of the Canadian bank and English systems as ideal currency methods, Mr. McCleary did not refer to the condition of the masses of the people of those countries as any better than in this, nor did he show that the prosperity of these nations was equal to what ours has been in the United States. This feature of the financial discussion was not gone into by McCleary at all; neither was the relation of money as now issued and coined by the government, to prices of commodities and labor and consequently to the prosperity and welfare of every person, discussed by him.

### MONEY'S EFFECT ON PRICES.

This function of money—its relation to prices—was dwelt on as the most important part that money plays in the affairs of the people, and the real cause of the nation's prosperous condition or the reverse, by Gen. Warner. He said the measure of effect paper money had on prices depended entirely on its quantity in circulation. That the principle is the same, whether applied to paper money or to gold and silver coin or to gold alone. No economist surely will dispute the proposition that if the stock of gold should be at once largely increased by new finds of gold, while the world's needs for money were unchanged, that the value of gold everywhere would be decreased and prices would rise. This would amount to a virtual alteration of the existing standard. The effect, no doubt, of the restoration of silver to unrestricted mintage would lower the value of all money, including gold, as would be evident by a general rise of prices. On the other hand, should the supply of gold for money be cut off by reduced production and increased demand for it for the arts or for other non-monetary purposes, while the world's needs for money continued the same, and no other money was substituted for the gold, the value of gold would be increased and prices would fall. This is exactly what has

taken place the last thirty years. By the demonetization of silver and the extension of the gold standard to countries theretofore using little or no gold for money, the demand for gold relatively to its supply has largely increased and its value correspondingly augmented.

The speaker opposed the government surrendering the right to issue and control the currency any more than abandoning the right of coinage of metals. Production of the metals is the only automatic regulation of the supply, the government alone is competent to substitute another, otherwise the power over coinage in the constitution would be nullified, for he who has the power to issue the paper to circulate as money has the power to drive out the metals entirely.

### N. P. Improvements.

General Manager Kendrick of the Northern Pacific, who was in the city yesterday, calls attention to some of the recent improvements made by the company.

For the last three years the road has been laying 90,000 tons of seventy-two pound steel rails, and the work is now nearly completed.

The Northern Pacific leads all the railroads of the country in replacing wooden trestles with steel bridges, no less than sixty-five miles of this work having been done.

Expenditures in improvements last year ran up to \$3,000,000, and it is the expectation this year to spend as much more.

The gross earnings for the last year surpass those of the preceding year by a heavy per cent; this showing is to be attributed to the excellent physical condition of the road, largely, as economy in transportation was an important factor in the profits had.

## KILLED.

Bert Seaton Meets With a Horrible Fate in a Threshing Machine.

He Stepped Into the Cylinder And Was Mangled Fatally.

Bert Seaton, a teamster on the Buchanan farm north of the city met with a horrible fate Tuesday.

The threshing machine with which he was working had become choked up and the man attempted to get on the machine but missed his footing and slid into the cylinder of the separator. He was dragged for some distance into the machine and his lower limbs were dreadfully mangled. He lived but two minutes after the accident happened and his last words were:

"I am killed. Send news to my mother at Portland, Mich."

When Seaton went to step on the separator a teamster on the opposite side told him to "hold on" but he did not hear the warning.

Coroner Baldwin went out this afternoon and will decide whether an inquest is necessary or not. The authorities at Portland have been notified and will endeavor to locate the mother of the unfortunate young man.

The affair happened so quickly that the spectators could do nothing.

### Seaton Had Friends.

A telegram was received Tuesday from the Modern Woodmen lodge at Hawthorn, Wis., of which Bert Seaton, who was fatally injured in the threshing machine accident yesterday, was a member, saying the lodge would send a man to take charge of the body by first train for Jamestown. He did not arrive this morning but is expected tonight. A telegram was also received from Portland, Mich., where the unfortunate young man's mother lives, asking that the remains be sent to that place.

The separator with which the men were working had a self-feeder attachment and Seaton stepped on the machine just back of the feeder. His left leg was drawn into the machine and crushed into a jelly as far as the trunk. The belt was thrown off by the suddenness of the shock and the separator ceased to run. Seaton was pulled from the machine and died almost instantly in Mr. Buchanan's arms without any apparent sense of pain.

Mr. Buchanan had paid the young man's dues to the Woodmen lodge last week so that the insurance of \$2,000 will be received by his mother, Mrs. Seaton. The young man was intelligent, hard working and was a favorite with all who knew him. He worked in this vicinity a year ago.

## ASSESSORS TESTIFY.

Peter Fried Tells What He Knows of the Assessment Of N. P. Lands.

Grazing Lands Should be Valued at Two Dollars an Acre.

Assessor Peter Fried was called as a witness in the Northern Pacific land case following the taking of J. A. Atkinson's testimony. He testified that he had been engaged in farming in North Dakota for 19 years and that he now owned a section and a quarter of land. He held the office of assessor in 1894 for the district which includes townships 141, 142, 143, 144, ranges 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68 and 69 and a part of the city of Jamestown. He had looked over only a portion of the land included in the land district. He had three sub-assessors: George Kurtz, C. Conant and Frank Dodge. Each of these men was given a copy of the valuation of the lands as assessed in former years and instructed by the county commissioners to add five per cent to the valuation of the lands in previous years. The sub-assessors did not go according to the commissioners' directions. They did not raise the valuation of the land in the district five per cent with the exception of the land owned by the railroad company. The sub-assessors made their returns to the witness who copied the valuations as given by them into the regular assessors' book which later he filed with the auditor and county commissioners. He made few changes in their reports.

Cross-examined by Attorney Ellsworth Mr. Fried stated that it was neither possible nor practicable for him to make the entire personal or real estate assessment himself. He had himself assessed the land east of the river, leaving the district lying west to the sub-assessors, with the exception of some of the land in the hills. Mr. Fried was certain that there was no discrimination or difference of value made on account of the fact that certain lands there belong to the Northern Pacific railroad company.

The witness stated in answer to a question of Mr. Kerr's that he believed land which can only be used during the summer and which does not produce hay enough to carry stock through the winter, to be worth \$2 per acre. He considered some of the lands in the hills suitable for farming purposes and in making the assessment of these lands had taken this fact into consideration. He had left it to the auditor to allow for the decrease in valuation caused by the presence of lakes on the lands. The auditor based his conclusions from the county plat in his office.

The land west of the river, the witness stated, is generally rolling and in some places is quite level. Lakes, springs and good meadows are found there. The land was generally supplied with an abundance of water and plenty of hay could be found. One-half of the land would be good for grazing and the remainder for agricultural purposes. From his knowledge of farming and grazing lands obtained from many years spent in North Dakota the witness stated that \$2 per acre he would consider a fair and reasonable value of the grazing land he saw supplied as it was with water and hay.

John Maroney who was assessor of the lands in question in 1892 gave testimony as to the manner of getting the valuation of the lands. Mr. Maroney found it impossible to view personally all of the land and employed as sub-assessors C. Conant and Mr. Dennison. They were honest, capable men and he had confidence in their reports and information. The valuations of the land west of the river were fixed on the basis of the land being chiefly valuable for grazing purposes. He stated that the assessment was made somewhat less than the one-half value of the land although it probably would not have brought a greater price if put on the market at that time.

John Vennum testified that for five years he had held the office of county auditor. He was custodian of the records of the proceedings of the county commissioners and board of equalization of Stutsman county. He testified that he had in 1893 and 1894 talked over with the county commissioners the amount which would be needed for taxes for the ensuing year, but had not advised them as to the proper amount of levy to make. In 1894 the witness had prepared the record of the proceedings of the county commissioners and board of equalization. Mr. Nierling, his deputy, did the work the previous years.

Mr. Kerr offered in evidence a certified copy of the tax list for the year 1894 which referred to the lands upon which acres are claimed.

## HELD A BRIEF SESSION.

International Commissioners Meet After a Two Weeks' Recess.

QUEBEC, Sept. 22.—The international commissioners met in joint session for an hour during the afternoon and adjourned for two days. The American commissioners met as usual at 9 a. m. and again at 4 p. m. They listened to the arguments of Messrs. Babcock of New York and Fallon of Ohio, who represent the interests of the United States inland fisheries. As usual all the proceedings were behind closed doors.

The indications are that the Canadian commissioners are going to take a very decided stand on the lumber subject. Hon. A. S. Hardy, premier of Ontario, and George W. Ross, minister of education, arrived here during the day and represent the Ontario government in the lumber question. They declare, unreservedly, that

### No Concessions Will Be Made

on the part of the Canadian government in the way of permitting logs to go free into the United States unless the United States make some concession in the way of reducing or removing the present duty of \$3 per 1,000 on Canadian sawed lumber.

Clark Wallace, former minister of customs, now representing the Canadian Manufacturing association, also arrived here for the purpose of conferring with the Canadian commissioners. He counseled the Canadian commissioners to stand by the present protective tariff on certain manufactured goods sent into Canada from the United States. Textiles and manufactured iron implements are the principal articles upon which he urges that no reduction be made. He says the Canadian manufacturers are all the time growing and American free importations would paralyze them.

### No News From Kitchener.

LONDON, Sept. 22.—Inquiries made at the British foreign office show that news has been received there from Fashoda and that nothing has been received in the shape of news from General Sir Herbert Kitchener since he left Omdarman. News from the British commander is momentarily expected, however, and it will doubtless be in the nature of the guesses made, namely that the Egyptian flag is now flying over Fashoda.

### Duluth Charter Turned Down.

DULUTH, Sept. 22.—The charter election resulted in the charter being defeated by a vote of 1,214 for and 1,398 against, a majority of 185 against the charter. Over 700 of those who registered for the election did not vote and only about one-fifth of the total vote of the city was cast. The interest in the election was slight.

### Cattle Record Broken.

KANSAS CITY, Sept. 22.—All local cattle records were broken at the Kansas City stock yards Tuesday, when 18,035 head of cattle were received. Fully 11,000 head of those received were stockers and feeders from the Western ranges. The previous record was 17,477 head, received on Aug. 3, 1897.

### The Kaiser Wilhelm Damaged.

SOUTHAMPTON, Sept. 22.—The North German Lloyd steamer Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, which arrived here from New York, has gone into dry docks for repairs to her starboard propeller, one blade of which was lost on Sept. 1, on her outward passage. The company's steamer Saale has taken the Kaiser Wilhelm's passengers.

### President's Programme Changed.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22.—The president has decided to postpone his departure for the West until the second week in October, giving himself only time to reach Omaha by the 12th. He has received invitations to many other points, while on his tour, but so far has definitely decided only to go to Omaha on the 12th and to Chicago on the 17th. He has been invited to St. Paul and Minneapolis, but deferred an answer. The invitation in this case came from ex-Governor Merriam and official bodies of the Twin Cities.

### Lost Fortune Returned.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 22.—George Mulligan, a miner who recently returned from the Klondike, lost a purse containing \$61,000 on a street car a few days ago. It has been found and returned by John D. Mahue, the gripman of the car. With the exception of \$40 in currency, the money was in checks, one of which was a draft for \$57,000, issued at Dawson City on the Bank of British Columbia, in this city.

### Dedicated a Normal School.

RIVER FALLS, Wis., Sept. 22.—The board of normal school regents met here and accepted the new building from the architect. In the afternoon exercises were held. All the members of the board were present except Governor Scofield and Regents Pittelkow and Brown. The board accepted the resignation of President Parker and elected Professor W. J. Brier, formerly of the faculty, as his successor.

### General Wheeler in Command.

CAMP WICKOFF, Sept. 22.—General Shafter has left the camp for Michigan where he is to attend the reunion of the regiment in which he served during the civil war. During his absence General Wheeler will command the camp.

## SPANISH NEED

Senor Rios of the Peace Commission Speaks of the Situation.

Painful Spectacle to See Politicians Trying to Escape Blame

For the Disasters That Have Come—The Responsibility Rests on All.

MADRID, Sept. 22.—Senor Montero Rios, president of the senate and president of the Spanish peace commission, in an interview is quoted as saying:

"It is a painful spectacle to see politicians on all sides trying to throw on each other the blame for disasters, the responsibility for which rested on all parties. I, personally, have always favored autonomy for Cuba, Spain being unable to forcibly maintain her sovereignty at such a great distance."

Continuing, Senor Rios said: "It is useless to speak of our disasters. Has not the country accused all our governments of exhibiting too much weakness towards the United States? What Spain wanted was a man ready to sacrifice himself and who recognized the impossibility of war with a powerful nation, especially after years of useless conflicts with insurgents."

### VERY GLAD TO GO HOME.

Porto Rican Soldiers Much Pleased at the Prospect of Returning to Spain.

SAN JUAN, Porto Rico, Sept. 22.—(Delayed in transmission).—The repatriation of the Spanish soldiers has begun. Four hundred men, of whom 300 were sick, and 200 belonging to the engineer corps, sailed for Havre on board the French steamer Chateau La Fitte. Eight hundred infantry belonging to the Austrians battalion will sail tomorrow on board the steamer San Francisco.

The water front was crowded with thousands of people when the Spanish engineers marched to the music of the Spanish quickstep, down to the wharf where they were received by Captain General Macias and General Ortega. The captain general did not make a speech but he shook hands with the officers and men.

### Fear Infection.

The residents of Porto Rico and some of the Americans are alarmed because of the Spanish ships returning from Cuba stop at this port. They believe there is danger of the introduction of yellow fever into the island from the Spanish steamer City of Cadiz, as some of the men sick on board of her were too ill to proceed and were brought ashore. Our commissioners will protest if there is a repetition of this.

The volunteers have all been disbanded, and the Spanish soldiers are engaged in dismantling the armories and barracks and in boxing the guns and ammunition. They are rejoicing over the prospect of an early return to their homes.

Rear Admiral Schley has refused to purchase the coal stored here, and it may be purchased for the use of the United States army.

### ARRIVED AT SANTANDER.

Cervera and Other Naval Prisoners Now in Spain.

SANTANDER, Sept. 22.—The Anchor line steamer City of Rome, chartered by Admiral Cervera to transport to Spain the Spanish sailors captured at the battle of Santiago, who were recently released by the United States authorities, has arrived here from Portsmouth, N. H., whence she sailed on Sept. 12. Captain Eulate, the former commander of the Spanish cruiser Vizcaya, and the other Spanish naval officers landed and were mistaken for a party of which Admiral Cervera was a member. The latter, however, was still on board the City of Rome, but a crowd of people followed the officers and cheered for Admiral Cervera. Captain Eulate refused to make any statement for publication, declaring he reserved what he had to say for the court-martial.

### Still Held Seven Seaports.

MANILA, Sept. 22.—The report that the last Spanish garrison in the island of Luzon had surrendered is premature. The Spaniards still hold seven seaports in Albay province, the principal hemp district. The disturbances have already resulted in a diminution of the output of Albay hemp by 250,000 bales, compared with last year's figures. Further fighting seems imminent and, unless peace is concluded, the shortage will be doubled.

### German Author and poet Dead.

BERLIN, Sept. 22.—Herr Theodore Fontane, the German writer and poet, is dead. He was born in 1819 and was a war correspondent during the Franco-Prussian war of 1870. He was captured but soon released. He was the author, among other works, of "The War Against France," "The War Against Austria," and "Prisoners of War."

### One Dead, Two Badly Scalded.

FARGO, N. D., Sept. 22.—A disastrous boiler explosion occurred on the

farm of John Pollock, six miles north of Enderlin. Engineer Eugene Shields was killed and Fireman Charlie Everson and Tankman Bert Dingman badly scalded.

### YELLOW FEVER SPREADING.

Disease Slowly Making Headway in the Southern States.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Sept. 21.—Reports from the far South indicate that the yellow fever is slowly gaining headway. The following synopsis was gleaned from reports emanating in that section:

The Louisiana board of health made the official announcement that up to date four cases of yellow fever have been reported in New Orleans and five cases at Harvey's canal, above New Orleans on the opposite side of the river. No deaths have been recorded in either place.

A recapitulation of the epidemic throughout Mississippi shows that out of a total of 109 cases 7 deaths have occurred, the death rate being 12 per cent heavier than that of last year. Two new cases have appeared at Taylors but Orwood reports no increase. No new cases have appeared in Jackson. Alabama has a strict quarantine against any one from New Orleans and other infected places entering the state.

### Blanco Not in Accord.

MADRID, Sept. 21.—Captain General Blanco cables from Havana that he is not in accord with the Cuban colonial ministry, to which the government here replied that while Spanish sovereignty existed in Cuba he must apply autonomy, and that therefore he could not turn out the colonial government now in office and appoint a new one.

### Wrecks on the Baltic.

MENK, Prussia, Sept. 21.—A number of fishing boats were wrecked in the Baltic sea during stormy weather Monday, and 20 fishermen were drowned.

### British Protest Effective.

LONDON, Sept. 21.—The Peking correspondent of The Times says that as a result of the British protest the Trans-Li-Yamen has authorized the conclusion of the Nien Chwang railway loan with a British syndicate.

### Two Hundred Disappointed Miners.

SEATTLE, Wash., Sept. 21.—The steam schooner Excelsior arrived during the afternoon from Copper river, Alaska, with 300 prospectors who failed to find gold. They report that the grubstake Wheeling will bring down 150 destitute men from Copper river.

### VISITED CAMP MEYER.

The President Personally Inspects the Hospital There.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22.—President McKinley made a personal inspection of the hospital at Fort Meyer, Va., during the afternoon. Accompanied by Adjutant General Corbin, the president left the White House at 1:30 p. m. and drove unannounced to the fort. He passed an hour and a half in the various wards and departments of the institution, going from cot to cot and extending a personal greeting to each one of nearly 400 patients. Major Davis presented him to each one of the assistant surgeons and nurses and subsequently the president talked informally to the convalescent patients.

### MISSING IN ACTION.

VERMILION, Ky., Sept. 22.—Miss Russell, the greatest trotting brood mare, aged 33 years, is dead here. She was the property of A. J. Alexander, owner of Woodcut stock farm. Miss Russell was dam of Maid S, once queen of the trotting turf.

### Exposition Building Destroyed.

TACOMA, Wash., Sept. 22.—The exposition building, the largest structure of its kind in the Northwest, was completely destroyed by fire during the afternoon. The building was owned by the Tacoma Land company.

### CHANGED FLAGS.

Several Spanish Vessels Now Sailing Under the Stars and Stripes.

MANILA, Sept. 21.—Twenty Spanish vessels, including 12 steamers, have completed their transfer to the American flag, and a majority of them have now proceeded on coasting voyages. There is some uncertainty regarding the native crews. It is reported that they have been committing questionable acts and the Boston, Raleigh and Manila have sailed under orders to protect commerce.

The British gunboat Rattler has gone to Cebu. There are rumors that the insurgents are attacking Cebu and Iloilo.

### BLACK HILLS RESERVE.

Order by the President Changing Its Boundaries.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21.—The president has signed a petition relating to the Black Hills forest reservation in South Dakota. By it about 7,000 acres of land are taken from the southeastern corner of the reservation and 159,000 acres from the southwestern corner. Additions are made, however, on the east, north and west of the reservation, to the extent of 443,000 acres, making the total area of the reservation 1,211,000 acres. This extends the western boundary of the reservation into the state of Wyoming and adds large tracts of densely wooded land to the reserve in that section.