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TWELVE PAGES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1900.

A BILL TO PAUPERIZE GOVERNNENT AND PEOPLE.

It is impossible to believe that the Republicans in Congress who are forcing the currency bill upon us do not understand that measure. They do understand it; but the reasons which cause Democratic opposition to it are the reasons that attract Republican favor. It is not a bill for the general welfare, but one designed specifically to make the rich richer and the poor poorer; it is legislation distinctly in behalf of the banks, the bondholders, the creditors and speculators, and as distinctly adverse to the public—the debtors, the producers, the masses of the people. This administration and its party are in power because in 1896 the special beneficiaries of this bill not only contributed a $20,000,000 campaign fund to Republican success, but their influence and control over hundreds of thousands of men in their employment whom they bulldozed by threats of lower wages, or a complete suspension of work, if the Democratic party came into power—the consideration for their cash contributions and other help being the promise of just such legislation as this currency bill carries; for the classes against the masses.

Yet, as objectionable as the bill is in all its features, it is these very features, from the politico-party standpoint of the Democrats, that make its passage an egregious blunder on the part of the Republicans, and a most fortunate and desirable event for the Democrats; for, more plainly and emphatically than ever before does it reveal the Republican party as a slave of consolidated, combined and corporate wealth, to entrench it in the monopoly of everything and the mastery of everybody by assigning to its control all the functions of government, as well as the liberties, privileges and interests of our citizens. This collusive attempt is so obvious and monstrous that it over-reaches itself in its blind and eager haste to grasp at once all golden eggs by killing the goose that lays them. Even the assinine stupidity attributed to the people by the Republicans and goldites cannot smother the instinct of self-preservation which must revolt at this destructive measure.

In 1896 the Republicans still professed bimetallism,—international bimetallism,—which they insisted was a better bimetallism than the national bimetallism professed by the Democrats. Now they have cast their mask aside, and boast of their single gold standard and their intention to force it on the people and the government at the exclusive demand of the banks and bondholders. Thus expanding every debt and liability, public and private, to the enhancing value of gold, they contract all money to gold and all currency to bank notes by making gold the sole standard of value and proceeding to withdraw and destroy all greenbacks and U. S. Treasury notes and all silver standard dollars, the banks and bondholders to have the gold, and the public to have nothing but bank note promises to pay, issued to these private corporations from our Treasury at one-tenth of one per cent. a year, yet which we are to use as our only currency at from 6 to 20 per cent. a year,—when we can obtain them at all!

The Secretary of the Treasury, in his annual report, says that at the end of September, 1899, our entire circulation, in all kinds of money, amounted to $1,948,703,186, of which $68,755,243 was in silver dollars; $400,153,881 in silver certificates; $314,954,600 in greenbacks; $89,957,175 in Treasury notes; $15,870,000 in currency certificates; total, $890,690,899, which, if withdrawn, or impounded in the redemption division, will reduce our currency to that amount and leave us a currency of gold, gold certificates and bank notes of only $1,058,012,293;—of which $646,561,185 in gold, which does not have any general circulation among the people; $239,731,781 in national bank notes; $76,523,333 in fractional currency.

The gold coin and bullion in the Treasury September 30, 1899, amounted to $254,328,821, and at least $636,362,078 in new gold bonds of the United States will have to be issued by the Secretary of the Treasury to withdraw, impound, or redeem, or secure the "parity" of the really demonetized silver and notes affected by this bill to enrich banks and bondholders and to pauperize the government and people.

GOLD FOR BANKS AND BONDHOLDERS ONLY!

It would be astonishing that any member of either branch of the Congress of the United States should advocate a contraction of the currency, or a diminution of the supply, or sources of the supply, of primary or real money, if it were not so well known that the Congressmen who do so neither represent the nation, nor their States and people, but only certain interests of a special character that have no country nor people, and that are greatly enriched by the very scarcity that is starvation and famine, or suffering and death, to the general public. The vilest act of legislation known to human history was perpetrated by the Congress of the United States of America, in February, 1873, by the secret demonetization of silver and contraction of the currency by an innocent-looking bill which purported to be no more than an act to regulate the ordinary operations of the U. S. Mint in coining our money.

That it actually revolutionized our money and currency was known only to the conspirators who smuggled it through Congress, and the President and government of the United States, as well as the people, knew nothing of its purpose and effect until they were revealed from England by the British accomplices in the crime who thought it useless to maintain a secret which was already an accomplished fact, and whose publicity was necessary to a full realization of the fruits of the crime. The vileness of the crime, injurious as was the demonetization and contraction effected by the bill, consisted chiefly in the fraudulent methods employed to pass it into law, and which should have made it, and should now make it, not only null and void, but its authors guilty of a high crime and misdemeanor tantamount to felony and treason.

Yet, now, on this foul base, the Republicans are busily bent on erecting their "gold standard," from which to float the skull and cross-bones flag of financial and commercial piracy! The buccaneering at Manila, the military imperialism in Idaho and the fraud of 1873 are to be capped and crowned with this Britannia-ware, this "Brummagem metal," the royalty and prerogative of Kings! Even if the common people were to receive this vaunted gold, they know there is not enough of it for all the nations and all the people, and that, like silk and satin, it must be used only by the rich, while the multitude must take to copper, nickel and bank-note paper. The government of the people must be the servant of the banks and bondholders, furnishing both with the gold and bonds the people cannot afford to use themselves, but must provide for the favored few. Not only so, but the bank-notes, or promises, upon which the masses are expected to be happy, in all the bliss of ignorance, the government is to give to the banks, at public expense, for nothing, and then these promises are to be distributed to the people at usurious rates, for their only currency.

PROPHECY OF THE DEVIL.

The so-called phophets of Baal, and, later, Simon the socerer, and the seven sons of Sceva, sought to deal in prophecy for the money there was in it. Ancient Rome had her soothsayers and diviners, the last century had its Cagliostro, and to-day we have fortune-tellers, spiritualists, and a large circulating medium of frauds and imposters "who know it all," that is to come, and can predict the future with the certainty that a chicken-thief can foretell your loss of fowls.

The chief of these wise men are Republican politicians, bondholders, bankers, goldites and promoters of New Jersey trusts, Franklin Syndicates and gold-brick industries. According to their story, they have frozen out Providence, suspended the moral code, and entered into an alliance with the Prince of Darkness. Of course, they tell it in another way; but as their actions (and especially their acts of Congress) speak louder than their mere words, the version we give is in accordance with them and the audacious assurance with which they ignore or defy all things counter to their purposes and desires. They proclaim an age of reason with reason left out.

To let them tell it, they have the Government and people of the United States in a sling; and as they assume to control not only the present, but the future, prophecy is their peculiar sphere and function. They dominate with a loud voice and an outstretched arm; and though some good and intelligent men are strangely misled by them, their following consists of a throng of knaves and fools—which is the distinctive feature of impostures and swindles, as the Miller Trust of New York recently illutrated, with its eager multitude of depositors on a promise of 520 per cent. a year! Our political Millers and Trusts also deal chiefly in money and its equivalents, or promises; and all their confident predictions, foreign and domestic, are either based on wealth, brute force, treachery and fraud, or on the most unscrupulous allurements of riches and power as the position of their prophecies. These things are avowed and vaunted, and if any higher and better reasons and motives are alleged, it is with an air of supererogation, as if they were of no consequence, and were merely mentioned to appease the lingering superstitions of feeble intellects.

What more posititve proof of the origin and aim of these prophecies could be rendered to identify them with the Devil and his designs? If men cannot or will not see and understand proof so demonstrative and conclusive, neither would they do so if men arose from the dead to testify to the same effect, nor if the Devil came in person to lead and inspire his forces by his presence. Anti-Christ, anti-Washington and the mark of the beast are seen branded on the brows of all these false prophets, and the guile of the serpent is heard in their voices. And these are they who are opposed to Democracy and Bryan, to silver, to competition, to human freedom, to popular rule, to all the principles and teachings of our earlier patriots and statesmen, and who join in jeering at the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, Washington's Farewell Address and even the living oracles of God! All these precious and sacred things, they say, are out of date, or soon will be , and that Bryan and all who cling to them will be destroyed with them! This is the gospel of inhumanity, of war and the Devil, and Mammon, with his banks, trusts, bondholders and his stock and bond exchanges, stalks visibly in our cities and at the Capital as the Director of our financial and other public affairs.

Shall this ungodly situation and condition endure? Shall these false prophets predict wrong on wrong and then fulfil their own predictions by further wrongs and frauds? Have we not had enough of this base, sordid and unprincipled dominion? Shall these evil men bear sway longer by a lying perversion of the goodness of God in thwarting their worst designs, by abundant crops and profuse discoveries of gold,—which they sacrilligiously represent as the results of their wise beneficence, as the Devil pretended of old to prophesy and bring "good things," and even had the impudence to try to impose on Christ as the owner of the earth and the dispenser of its power and glory.

The Devil and his prophets are prophesying, and Mammon and his minions are laboring against Bryan and the Democratic party; but all the powers of hell cannot prevail against them if the people will put their trust in the God of their fathers, who delivered them from British bondage and oppression and made them free and happy in their own land.

TRUTH IS TRUTH.

If there is a lion loose in the street, or a mad-dog, or a band of robbers, why not shout the fact, and try to gather the good people together to resist the enemy and make a joint attack? Is he the brave man who runs and hides himself? Or he the good man who keeps still and warns nobody? Or he the wise man who says there is no danger, and that lion, mad-dog and robbers are friends of the community, and sure to promote the general welfare? Is not this last liar an accomplice of the lion, mad-dog and robbers, although he laughs at, abuses and seeks to silence him who shouts the alarm, as a calamity-howler, a pessimist, or as a trafficker in panics?

Even a false alarm is better than a false security, when the danger is known to be lurking near, ready to seize the first opportunity to rend, rob and devour us. The boy who cried wolf, wolf, wolf! when there was no wolf and laughed at those who came at his cry until nobody would believe him when the wolf came and ate him, at least knew the danger, if he was a fool, and fell a victim to his own folly, was not half so vile and injurious as the knave who cries peace, peace, peace and plenty! when there is neither, as he baits the trap for his deluded hearers. The touter for a "confidence game" is not a high specimen of manhood, in virtue or intellect. He may not do the actual robbing, but he shares in the spoils, and is worse than the thief.

Isaiah tells us that of old there were many who besought the prophets: "Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceit." And so to-day there are many that love lies better than the truth; but truth is!

The small man always looks large to the world when he stands upon a pile of money.

A LAST RESOURCE FOR SIDEWALKS.

The present condition of the sidewalks of Norfolk emphasizes what the Virginian-Pilot said and urged about them long ago. It seems to be high time indeed for looking to the bettering of our ways.

Considering the extra cost of shoeleather and the greater labor of walking, aside from the danger, our so-called sidewalks are a heavier charge on us than they would be if they deserved the name and were really well-paved. As they are, being neither ornamental nor useful, but a sore nuisance to eyes and feet, we would be wise to abolish them, if we could; but as we cannot do that, we should mend the walks without further parley or delay.

The British in South Africa, besieged in their three strongholds—Ladysmith, Mafeking and Kimberley—have had their three columns of relief badly defeated by the Boers; and Gatacre, Methuen and Buller have each, in turn, experienced terrible reverses from the valor and skill of the Dutch Republicans. SIC SEMPER, say we. Virginia's motto even goes further: SIC SEMPER TYRANNIS; but the present administration and its party is playing the part of tyrant, and our patriotism must applaud it, or be dumb. But to be dumb in such a case, true Virginians and Americans must also be blind and deaf. But the battle is not always to the strong.

Kentucky furnishes an object lesson for the whole country. The question is whether "Goebelism," with Democracy, white supremacy, free silver and free speech, is to be preferred, or military intimidation, with Republican imperialism and the single gold standard? The danger of a large standing army has been strikingly illustrated.

The people who consider greenbacks and silver good enough for them, and as good as gold, will force gold to recognize the equality of all U. S. money-issues, and will down McKinley bankers and bondholders who would degrade everything beneath gold with their "parity."

An exchange announces that the editor of a contemporary is afflicted with writer's cramp. The paucity of news and editorial matter in the aforesaid contemporary would seem to indicate that the disease is not in his wrist.

Until you pass a man through the furnace it is impossible to correctly estimate the amount of dross in his composition.

Readers of newspapers sometimes fail to remember that the written words which constitute an editorial are the pictures of thought.

New York is trying to solve the problem why the Republican National Convention should go to the unconventional town of Philadelphia.

Our popular Police Justice has no doubt found that the proper size of some of the individuals brought before him as vagrants is exercise.

Remember that a good resolution is always stronger at its birth than at any other period of its existence.

That all that glitters is not gold is especially true of the statements sent out by some of the mining syndicates.

Cheap notoriety is often a very expensive luxury.

NOTES AND OPINIONS.

(The Washington Star.)

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain is perfectly willing to admit that the Boers are a very courageous people. This will make the English victory the more creditable when it occurs.

(The Roanoke Times.)

The things many people would like to know right now are the true situation in the Philippines, how Buller is getting along in South Africa, and who the Governor of Kentucky is.

(Petersburg Progress.)

The imperialistic policy of the Republican administration received some severe knocks in Congress yesterday. The republic, in time, will be shaken if the policy now being followed is maintained.

(The Danville Register.)

Governor Taylor is a man who would rather be Governor than right, but there is such a thing as being neither as Mr Taylor will soon ascertain.

(The New Bern Journal.)

The fellow who hates to get up in the morning will never get up in the world.

(The Goldsboro Argus.)

Polygamist Roberts' courage has not been questioned. He has three mothers-in-law.

(The Wilson News.)

We are glad to note that Taylor and his followers in Kentucky are level-headed enough to avert further trouble by retiring from the arena.

(The Staunton News.)

Why, of course Gen. Wolseley was not responsible for the drubbing the English have gotten in South Africa, Gen. Joubert was responsible for it.

(The Danville Daily Bee.)

The machine is keeping quiet since Montague announced himself. It is almost a sure thing that he will give the machine the liveliest chase it ever dreamed of.