

FOR FREE COINAGE

Silver Finds an Able and Earnest Defender Among the Eastern Bankers.

ST. JOHN OF NEW YORK CITY

Makes a Vigorous Plea For Free Coinage Before the House Committee.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Great interest was manifested today in the closing hearing of the question of currency revision before the committee on banks and currency of the house. President G. G. Williams of the Chemical National bank of New York represented the prevailing view among bankers, while W. P. St. John of the Mercantile bank of New York represented the eastern view favorable to silver.

“The first problem in our clumsy and conglomerate financial system is the disposition to be made of our legal tender notes,” said Williams. He urged that these notes should be funded \$30,000,000 at a time until eliminated from the financial system. Bonds at 3 per cent should be received as security for national bank notes on the basis of the par value, the government to have a first lien on the assets of the banks.

“Under official dictation,” said he, “tutored by one of the most aggressive of all the handful of goldites in the United States, congress fiddles with bank notes while the burning issue is our primary money coin. Intentionally tutored, our chief executive has required his secretary to abandon the option conferred by law upon the United States, and grant holders of notes the right to exact gold always, silver never as their redeeming coin.”

SMALL PROVOCATION

Which Resulted in the Death of One Man and the Wounding of Others.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 15.—At White Creek turnpike three unknown men rode through a tollgate, refusing to pay toll and intimidating the keeper who, after they left, swore out warrants before Squire H. M. Wilkerson for their arrest.

STILL FIGHTING.

The Japanese in Spite of Peace Talk Are Still on the Warpath.

HIROSHIMA, Dec. 15.—A dispatch from Antong, dated Dec. 15, says that General Tachimi troops were attacked at Lochino and were holding the Chinese in check. At Li Chang Tuon, Dec. 12, the Chinese were compelled by an inferior Japanese force to retire from Saibashu.

Victorious Strikers.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—A satisfactory settlement between the striking drivers and conductors and the officers of the

Metropolitan Street Railway company having been arranged last night, the men returned to work today. The settlement, though involving reduced pay, also provides for shorter hours, and the men regard it as a victory.

LABOR AND POLITICS.

Proceedings of the American Federation Were Lively Yesterday.

DENVER, Dec. 15.—The discussion of plank 10 in the political platform (the socialist plank) was resumed in the convention of the American Federation of Labor this forenoon. Delegate Lloyd of Boston moved to re-fer the plank to the subordinate unions. Patrick McBride, secretary of the Mine Workers, said he was willing to take such action. He was instructed to vote for the plank, but he hoped if it was voted upon it would be defeated, “because,” said he, “outside can accept defeat good naturedly and from the displays in this convention I doubt if the other side can.”

FOR HIS LIFE.

An Alleged Murderer and Train Robber on Trial at Helena.

HELENA, Dec. 15.—The case of Charles Jones, the alleged train robber, charged with the murder of Henry Schubert on the Blackfoot reservation in October of last year, was called for trial in the United States court again this morning. The first witness on the stand was Deputy United States Marshal Sam Jackson. Mr. Jackson told his story of his pursuit of the train robbers from the time he started with a posse of ten or twelve deputies and Sheriff Ramsey up to the time he attempted to make the arrest of the robbers on the Blackfoot reservation. Jackson's testimony took up nearly the whole day.

MORE ATROCITIES.

Armenian Villages Sacked and the Inhabitants Maltreated.

ATHENS, Dec. 15.—The Armenian refugees today received information to the effect that Bakri Pasha, the Kurd governor of Van, went, on Nov. 14, to the district of Eredjeli and laid the Armenian villages of Bahazkezn and Hazeray in ruins. His troops, it is also said, committed excesses, then seized and cruelly maltreated 124 peasants and imprisoned them on the ground that they were insurgents.

TOO MUCH MONEY.

An English Tourist Waylaid and Robbed by Mexican Bandits.

GUADALAJARA, Mex., Dec. 15.—Thomas Glazer, an English tourist, making an overland trip from this city to Tepeca on the Pacific coast, was attacked by brigands in the Sierra Madre mountains. His Mexican servant was killed and Glazer seriously wounded. He was robbed of \$2,000 and valuable jewelry.

Charged With Embezzlement.

Edwin Krog, a delivery man employed by Strain Bros. has been arrested at Butte and will be brought back here today to answer to a charge of embezzlement. He was discharged by Strain Bros. last Monday, and a few days afterwards the firm learned that he had collected certain monies from their customers and failed to turn it in. They swore out a warrant for him Friday last, but he got wind of the matter and skipped out Friday morning, taking the train for Butte. A dispatch from Marshal Pontet caused his arrest on the arrival of the train at Butte. The marshal started after him yesterday and he will be brought back today. Strain Bros. think that the gross amount of his peculations will amount to over \$50.

Bank Statement.

New York, Dec. 15.—The weekly bank statement shows: Reserve, increase, \$13,175; loans, decrease, \$9,220; specie, increase, \$5,375,993; legal tenders, decrease, \$6,211,000; deposits, decrease, \$1,245,330; circulation, decrease, \$23,990. The banks now hold \$33,345,825 in excess of requirements.

Spokane Wants a Post.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Representative Wilson of Washington has introduced a bill for the establishment of a military post at Spokane, in accordance with the recommendation of General Otis and the war department. It provides that \$1,000 acres must be provided by the city of Spokane.

Big Blaze.

MEMPHIS, Dec. 15.—Elevator B of the Empire Elevator mills and the warehouse of the company were totally destroyed by fire at 1 o'clock this morning. Loss, \$200,000; insurance, \$100,000.

BAD WORK ON THE HIGH SCHOOL

The Plans Have Not Been Followed and a Lot of Inferior Work Done.

The Trades Council Advises the Workmen Not to Vote Bonds Under the Present Board.

Inasmuch as the workmen of Great Falls were largely instrumental in electing a majority of the present school board, and inasmuch as there have been a great many rumors afloat regarding what has been done, and what has not been done in connection with construction upon the new high school building far as the same has progressed, it was considered advisable by the trades and labor council that some investigation be made. A committee was appointed for this purpose. Its report was submitted at the regular meeting of the council last Friday and was adopted. The report reads as follows:

GREAT FALLS, Dec. 14, 1894. To the Officers and Members of the Trades and Labor Council of Cascade County—Brothers: At the meeting of the council on Friday night, Nov. 16, the chairman of the school board committee was instructed to call to his aid such members of the council or any member of a labor organization who would be competent to inspect the work on the central high school building. The following gentlemen were selected:

A. De Long Bricklayers' union; W. F. Gay, Carpenters' union; W. D. McFarland, Plasterers' union, and Charles Carlson of the Stone Masons' union. After reading the specifications and inspecting the plans of the building the work on the school house was investigated. The following facts were discovered:

In the beginning the architect did not test the ground or drill to see how deep it was necessary to go to find bed rock or a suitable foundation, which is customary before giving an estimate on the cost of a building, thereby creating an extra expense to the school district for excavating and the construction of a foundation for the superstructure.

The specifications state that the footings shall be through stone, squared and hammer-dressed. This has not been done. On the contrary, it is found that the footings are composed of two rock side by side in place of through stone. This inferior workmanship and is a saving to the contractor of several hundred dollars and a loss to the taxpayers of this district. The cement mortar used was not, in a great many instances, according to that called for in the specifications.

The specifications call for “headers” every four feet in length and two feet in height, “headers” to be through stone. The specifications have not been lived up to in this particular. The lower footings have not been laid according to the lines on the plans, thereby causing a portion of the wall to set on one side or on the edge of the footings. In the lower circle the footing should be 6 feet 8 inches in width, the second course of footing 5 feet 2 inches and the third course 4 feet. Instead of the main wall resting upon the center of the third footing it rests upon the inside edge of the lower footing. In other words the footings are of no service to the wall on one side.

In places the partition walls were found to be out of plumb and out of line, in some instances 3 inches. Some of the cut stone used in the foundation is certainly unfit for a building of the proportions such as the high school building is to be. In the laying of the cut rock the specifications call for a one-quarter of an inch joint. On the contrary the joints in places are from a half to seven-eighths of an inch. The east wall is out line one and one-half inches, this defect being plainly perceptible to the naked eye. In some instances the cut stone and the backing-up are separating for the want of headers or anchors. Estimates have been given and the money paid over to the contractor for material that has not been used in the building.

The committee has carefully and candidly considered the present situation as it presents itself to the people and the taxpayers of this school district, and we are of the opinion that it is in the interest of the workmen and taxpayers that certain members of the present school board resign from their position forthwith and stand aside so that men who will perform the duties of the office to which they were elected be placed in their stead. At meetings of the school board attention was called to the fact that the construction of the high school building was not being done according to the plans and specifications, yet there was an effort on the part of certain members of the board to smother these matters to the detriment of the public.

We recommend that in the event of those members of the board who have not performed their duties to the interest of the people, refusing to resign the workmen of Great Falls will not vote the \$200,000 bonds called for by the board, the election for which is to be held on Dec. 27, 1894.

fund, district No. 1 will have about \$27,000 for all purposes this year, a sum entirely inadequate to the needs of the public schools as at present conditioned, and the chances are that school warrants will not be cashed before the year is nearly finished. The large increase in the number of school children at Belt, without a corresponding increase in assessed valuation of property there, had considerable to do with cutting down the per capita.

A RIGHT-TONED BEGGAR.

He Corresponds With Statesmen, But His Letters Wouldn't Pass Him at the Police Station.

Last Friday Sergt. Shea arrested a well-dressed man on a charge of vagrancy and took him to the police station. Arriving there the prisoner pleaded vigorously against being locked up and declared that he was an attorney and looking for a location in Great Falls. He pulled out a package of letters from his pocket repeatedly and asked the marshal to look them over and see what recommendations be carried, but that official was obdurate and ordered him locked up till morning. On being searched a lot of memoranda and letters and telegrams were found on him; also a bottle of whiskey, about empty, but no money.

The marshal explained to the reporter he had been watching the man ever since he came to town as a suspicious character. He had seen him put off the train on the 10th inst. while trying to beat his way here from Helena. Yesterday he called at the office of a well-known attorney in this city and asked him for a dollar. Not getting the coin he dropped to fifty cents and then to a quarter, and the police who were watching him then ran him in. He claimed to have been doing legal work in Helena for T. H. Carter and the papers in his pockets show that he had been systematically working the big men of the country. His name is L. T. Cowie, and a letter from a well-known citizen of Chicago certified that he had been private secretary to Hon. Caleb Cushing, formerly minister to Russia. A very kind letter from J. S. Clarkson, secretary of the Republican national committee, said that he knew the young man's father well and contained the information that he had wired him \$50 to relieve his immediate necessities, and told him to show the letter to another gentleman who he felt sure would give him employment. Another letter was from Senator Allison, evidently in answer to an appeal for help. Luther Laffin Mills of Chicago had also evidently given him a helping hand. Mayor Thornton of Anaconda had also answered his appeal by enclosing a sum of money and telling him where to get work. Gov. Foraker of Ohio was also another of Mr. Cowie's correspondents. A gentleman in Helena had evidently taken \$500 on him, for among his papers was a bill of goods from Ganz & K. for over \$500 worth of clothing delivered to him and charged to another name. The bill included a suit of clothes, \$25; an overcoat, \$18; and shirts, collars, cuffs, socks and underclothing, and was dated Dec. 6. Six days later he had evidently pawned the overcoat and suit, as he had a Helena pawn ticket for these articles dated the 10th inst. and calling for \$16. It was on this date that the marshal met him on the train a few miles from Helena trying to beat his way to Great Falls.

The whiskey bottle in his pocket probably explains the cause of the young man's downfall. He had a list of the names of prominent men and their addresses in his pocket, and the probability is that he has been preying on such people on the strength of the letters he carries for some time. He will be brought before Judge Hawkins this morning on a charge of vagrancy.

COLUMBUS HOSPITAL FAIR.

The Various Contests Are Getting Interesting.

The hospital fair Saturday night at the Realy block was well patronized. The Ladies' orchestra played to a large audience who appreciated their fine music. The Union band will furnish music Monday and Tuesday evenings. The Copper Dippers' union have presented the sisters with a most beautiful and substantial token of their appreciation of the good work they are engaged in. It is a costly lamp of solid silver and it will probably be raffled or voted for. The different contests are now getting interesting. The contest for the gold watch to be presented to the most popular young lady is getting exciting. The contest has now narrowed down till it seems to be between Miss Annie McCormick and Miss Mollie Shields. Both young ladies have a wide circle of friends who are determined to see their candidate win. The bridal doll contest is also exciting a good deal of interest. There are five little lady contestants. Mattie Densel leads by fifty-four votes, with Lu Kelpa coming next and Joyce Searns, Florence Gay, and Pauline Phoeney not very far behind.

A new contest was started yesterday for a gold headed cane for the most popular gentleman. The contest is between the master boys and the cadet men, the first being represented by C. L. Lott and the latter by Jerry Daly as contestants. Both parties are “hoop’d” when it comes to a contest, and there will be a lot of excitement and hard work done on each side. The ladies' dining tables still continue to prove a great attraction and are well patronized.

Quit After the Honey-moon.

A suit for divorce was filed yesterday in the district court by Charles D. Rinker against his wife, Nellie J. Rinker. The complaint recites that they were married in Sioux City on July 31, 1893. Two weeks later they moved to Helena. A couple of weeks' life in that city had proved too much for the bride, for the complaint alleges that on Sept. 3, 1893, she abandoned her husband and has never lived with him since. There are no children from the marriage and plaintiff asks for a divorce.

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder

World's Fair Highest Award

ARCHITECT WHITE REPLIES

To the Strictures of the Trades Council Anent the New High School Building.

A Committee of Citizens Asked to Investigate—The Kellison Matter Again.

The school board met last Saturday in regular session, a full board, with the exception of Will Hanks, being present. Trustee Gockstetter called the attention of the board to complaints made by Dr. E. Crutcher, on the work of Mr. Graham, who teaches the West side school. It appeared to simmer itself down to the charge that some child had been marked 100, when several mistakes in spelling occurred in the exercise. As the doctor was indiscreet enough to take part in a spelling bee a few days ago and tumbled down (like many a man before him) on “banana,” the board thought it hardly fair for him to kick on spelling, and took no action.

It was decided to dismiss the schools next Friday and give the children two weeks vacation. The Kellison matter came up again for final action. An affidavit was read from a certain girl stating that she knew nothing about the matter and the other side produced a written statement from the same girl testifying directly contrary to the affidavit. Attorney George Stanton appeared for A. T. Kellison and Attorney Cooper for the prosecution. A final vote was taken by ballot to dispose of the case, each trustee marking his ballot “Guilty” or “Not Guilty” to get an expression of the sentiment of the board on the question. The result was four ballots guilty and two not guilty. It is probable that the case will go into the courts, and it is only fair to state that the evidence of his guilt so far as it has been permitted to become public at least is of rather a doubtful character.

The following reply to the strictures of the Trades Council on the character of the work done on the high school was read by the clerk:

GREAT FALLS, Dec. 15, 1894. The Hon. Board of Education, Great Falls, Mont.

GENTLEMEN—Being unable to attend your meeting this evening, I would ask that the following be read as my answer to the report of the committee of the Trades and Labor council in regard to the construction of the Central high school building as published in today's TRIBUNE:

It seems to me this report is made by a very one-sided committee, consisting, as it did, of men who had, with the exception of Mr. Carlson, all been unsuccessful candidates for the position of inspector over the very work which they now report upon. And I also feel that their report is not in accordance with the facts in the case. In the first place, they ensure me for not having made a “test” of the ground upon which the building was to rest before I made working drawings. This is unjust for the reason that I wished to make such a test, but was deterred from doing so by the assurance that the ground was rock three feet below the surface, which certain members of the board who adopted my plans and who claimed to be familiar with the formation gave. I think the same assurance was given all competing architects. Anyway, it would have been necessary to pace extra foundations under any of the other buildings had their plans of these were instead of mine, for none of them want any deeper than mine did. Besides, this “testing” comes under the duties of the superintendent or supervising architect, neither of which I was at that time, but as soon as I was appointed to that office I did examine the ground, and had your honorable board seen fit to have acted under the advice of my report in this matter this same extra foundation would have been placed at a saving to the district of about \$5,000.

This committee states “that footings are not placed where indicated on plans,” and that “there are only two courses of footings under the circle where there should be three.” How it is possible for any one to tell whether footings are in line or not when they are covered by 12 feet of earth, as are the ones in question I cannot see. These footings are where they should be, and, as any one can readily see by referring to the specifications for this foundation, there are only two courses required, one 5 feet 4 inches wide, the other 4 feet wide, under the circle. Nor is there anywhere a footing 6 feet 8 inches required by these specifications or plans. And yet the work is condemned because it is not placed under the walls of the circle.

As regards some partition walls being out of plumb, the facts are as the report represents. This was caused by the earth being newly graded around the outside of these walls, while inside the plumb was some 8 feet below, and this ground freezing pushed the walls in. These walls will have to be partly, at least, rebuilt, but it was caused by the forest abandonment of the work and so is the fault of no one.

The change to a joint of an inch instead of the 1/2 inch one specified was made under my orders, for the reason that when set with a 1/2 inch joint the heavy stone courses in the basement made a very poor appearance. While examining the building today I failed to find where the cut stone and backing had yet separated. But I have no doubt that such will be the case before spring, as frost would have that effect on unprotected stone work. The remedy is simple; reset the top course.

In answer to the assertion that money has been paid for material not used in the building, I would state that under the present contract payments equal to 70 per cent of work and material furnished are due every two weeks. The estimates were made accordingly. In view of these facts I would respectfully ask that a representative committee be appointed by you to inspect the work now done on the high school and report on the same. If it be true that any part of the work is not up to the requirements no one is as anxious to know

the same as I am. Of one thing I am sure—they were carried out while I was present at the building; and while it was impossible for me to be always present I feel convinced that good work was being done during my absence, for Mr. Carlson, whom I always considered as one of the best masons and a very trustworthy mechanic, always assured me that nothing but first-class work was being done.

During the last two weeks J. C. Jocelyn was at the building as my deputy, and he feels the same as regards the construction as I do. Again asking that a committee be appointed as hereinbefore mentioned, I am, respectfully,
WM. WHITE, Architect High School.

Contractor McKay said that the work was the best ever done in this city by him, and that two of the committee were discharged employees of his who had a grudge against him. On motion of O. M. Holmes the following committee were requested to investigate the charges against the work and report to the school board: Matt Dunn, chairman, Chas. Carlson, M. S. Parker, Thos. Dewey, Wm. White, John Mainland, Jas. Erickson, J. E. Fox, Paris Gibson, H. P. Rolfe, T. W. Brosnan, A. J. Sullivan, S. J. Jensen, Jas. Donlin, Chas. Wegner, Mayor Gielthorpe, Robt. Vaughn, Phil Julian and Owen Roberts. Mr. Holmes said the committee represented all sorts of people, and that he wished it understood that unless the full committee should act he did not desire them to act at all, as a few men unfavorable to the contractor might be picked out.

It was decided to close the Goon school as there were just four scholars living in the district, and the teacher, Miss Burgess, was transferred to the Elm School to take the place of Miss Craig, who was discharged. The board then adjourned.

SEALSKINS.

Should the Seals Be Protected or Allowed to Go After the Buffalo.

It is very evident that the editor of the St. Paul Globe is not anxious to own a sealskin coat, for this is the way in which he disposes of the seal fishery question under the caption of “The Passing of the Seals.” In some one of the reports of the departments submitted to congress, some officer gives vent to a wall over the disappearance of the seal, which, long before the treaty with England can be put into practical operation, will, he says, have been destroyed by the poachers, who are making a slaughter of them. The president, in his message to congress, submits the question of providing for the payment of nearly a half million of dollars of damages incurred by the owners of seal vessels unlawfully seized by our revenue vessels stationed in Behring sea, guarding the fisheries. Then we have the claim of the North American seal company, or by whatever name is called the corporation with which a contract was made giving it the monopoly of seal fisheries seven years ago. This contract has not been carried out on the part of the government; in fact, its operation was suspended during the Harrison administration, and that company now presents a claim for several hundred thousand dollars for damages for breaking the contract.

There has been derived from the fisheries some revenue for the government, but when these claims are paid and the expense attending the surveillance of the fishing ground—the cost of maintaining the cruisers in the field—is computed they will have cost us more than we derive from them. Even if the convention with England is enforced it will involve a large annual expense in maintaining a naval force there to guard the islands and waters against the vigilant and industrious poachers. The price of seal-skins is so high, the extent of the territory to be guarded is so vast, and the opportunities for successful poaching so great that the preservation of the seals in any great number becomes a matter of grave doubt.

The question then comes, What is the use of making further attempts to perpetuate the seal? Why not let them go as the whales of our plains has gone, and as the whales of the ocean have gone? What great need is there of an effort to preserve them? What public utility is there in it? Who is benefited by it that governments should exert themselves at the public expense to preserve them?

They are not now, have not been, and will not be a source of revenue to the treasury. They are of value only for their skins, and these when dressed and made into garments command such prices that but a very small proportion of the country can afford them. Climatic conditions preclude the use of such garments in fully the southern half of the nation, and economic conditions preclude their use by more than one out of probably ten thousand of the population of the northern section.

The whole effort, then, for the preservation of the seals is to provide wealthy people, men and women, with a winter garment whose main merit is that it is expensive and fashionable; for in the matter of clothing as well as of dress, there are fabrics more suitable for protection from cold weather. We have in our so-called republican form of government many flagrant instances of the use of the power of that government to promote comfort and increase the wealth of the already wealthy; but no use of it more completely illustrates the paternalistic features of our government than does this legislation in regard to and treatment of the seals. The government undertakes the task of guarding and preserving seal life in order that the desire for expensive display of the wealthy can be gratified, and, secondly, that the desire of a few for profit may be met; and all this at the expense of the great common people of the nation, who receive from it no benefit whatever, and who can see in it only a provision for providing a badge for wealth. We confess that we look upon the passing of the seals with complacency and without regret.