

NATCHITOCHESES POPULIST.

Subscription \$1.00 Per Year.

There is No Free Country, Unless the People Rule

Price 5 Cents.

VOL. IV

NATCHITOCHESES, LA., MARCH 18, 1898.

NO. 28.

THE GREAT CUTDOWN

REDUCTIONS NOT DUE TO SOUTHERN COMPETITION.

As a Rule the Same Magnates Own the Southern and Northern Mills—The Workers Have to Do More for Less Money.

When it was announced a few weeks ago that 28,000 operatives in the city of Fall River would have their wages reduced 11 per cent there was great surprise. When this was followed by the news of a cut in every textile center in New England the people were dumfounded.

The excuse, and only excuse, offered is competition with Southern cotton mills. The writer has tolled six years for the greatest cotton corporation in the world. He has also been in some of the largest and best Southern mills. I mention this only that the reader may know that I know of some things in connection with the textile industry. If we take into consideration the kind of work done and the amount turned off per hand, there is no great difference between the Southern and Northern mills. That competition between the said manufacturers, both North and South, is partly the cause of this gigantic cut, is true. Let me add right here that the cotton millionaire lords who own our Northern mills are to a very large extent the very same lords who own the Southern mills. A sort of competition between themselves for revenue only. Well, they can't lay this cut to the tariff, for they have their own sweet tariff. Under our present system we are making more goods than we can sell; this is true of both Northern and Southern mills. In Fall River, a surplus of 75,000 pieces are piled up each week, and the total surplus in that city today is more than 1,800,000 pieces. Goods are being piled up in every textile center.

And even on the same work the worker has to do 30 to 50 per cent more than was required ten years ago. To illustrate: A loom-fixer who received \$2.25 per day to look after 40 looms ten years ago looks after 60 today for \$1.80; 90 men, women and children do as much in the dye houses as 800 could only fifteen years ago. The Northrup or Draper loom, which was invented some two years ago, promises to revolutionize weaving—at least on plain goods. Thousands of these looms are already in operation. They run 190 picks per minute. One operator can tend from twelve to twenty looms—an average of sixteen. The loom has two novel features, one is a stop motion by which the loom is stopped when ever the work happens to break, and the other is an arrangement whereby when the filling on a shuttle runs out another is substituted automatically. The loom will run for more than an hour with practically no attention. A good weaver by running sixteen looms can make about \$8 per week, the average being about \$7. One weaver will weave from 2,000 to 3,000 yards in a week. Compare this with the number of yards your grandmother could weave.

In 1892 gingham weavers received 46 cents per cut—43 yards for weaving. In 1897 they received 27 cents per cut, now they receive 24 cents. In 1890 there were 137,359 cotton operatives in New England, and the average wage rate was, according to Carroll D. Wright, \$356 per year. By 1896 the wage rate had been reduced to \$320 per year, while the productivity of the workers had increased more than 20 per cent. The average pay at present is \$288 per year. This is for New England. The great 10 per cent reduction which has just taken place affects more than 100,000 textile workers in the six New England states. In round figures these wealth producers will receive \$300,000 less wages per month in 1898 than they received in 1897. And they will consume \$300,000 less goods per month. This will intensify and make worse the already miserable conditions. During the past dozen years the stock of these New England cotton corporations has averaged six per cent above par.

A history of one of these corporations is a history of all. The great Amoskeag corporation—the greatest cotton manufacturing company in the world, commenced business seventy-five years ago with a capital of \$200,000. They bought several thousand acres of land at \$3 per acre. They have sold some of that land at \$3,000 per acre. The original investment was paid back several times during the first few years of their operation. This great corporation is worth from forty to fifty million dollars, all made by the toilers. The 8,500 wage slaves who create fabulous wealth for the cotton lords are unorganized. They vote the old party tickets, just about half exist, and think "protection to American labor" a great thing.

The condition of the textile workers in America is steadily growing worse. Their average wages are not above \$250 per year. In his report for 1890, Carroll D. Wright instances hundreds of cases of wage hands working for 21 cents a day. His investigations were made in twenty states. Ninety-one per cent of the textile workers are homeless, only nine per cent owning homes of their own. The

rapid motion of the textile machinery, the constant application of brain and muscle, depletes the vital energy of the workers. A female weaver who constantly tends six of these rapid Butler looms or sixteen of the Draper looms is completely tired out in a few weeks, and in five or six months 90 per cent of them are either sick or compelled to take a vacation. The discouragement, the hopelessness, the loss of ambition, can only result in a lower standard of morals, an increase of crime, intemperance and prostitution. If the textile workers of America want better conditions, if they want short hours, an abolition of child labor—in a word, if they want justice for themselves and humanity, they must join and vote for the abolition of this miserable system.—F. G. R. Gordon.

CURRENT COMMENT.

The Republican platform declared in favor of the destruction of trusts; and at the present rate every line of business except that of the farmer will be monopolized by trusts before 1900. Farmers and workmen will continue to pay trust dividends.

As long as farmers and laborers elect to office the representatives of trusts and monopolies farm products will decline in value and mill operatives will have to submit to cuts like the present one in New England.

The American Federation of Labor continues to protest against the appointments and the legislative policy of the present administration. This is because they failed to file their protests in the only effective place—the ballot box.

The mission of the party is the abolition of all monopoly. Other political parties may occasionally aid us in destroying some monopolies, for which help we shall be duly grateful; but experience proves that we cannot trust parties to remain clear of corporation influence. The people must look out for their own political interests, and not rely upon any variety of politicians.

E. H. Fulton, editor of the Age of Thought, vouches for the correctness of the following table of American indebtedness:

Private mortgage deeds.....\$19,700,000,000.00

Western Union Telegraph.....121,750,806.98

New York Mutual Telegraph.....2,500,000.00

Postal Telegraph.....12,500,000.00

American Rapid Telegraph.....4,000,000.00

American Bell and Sub. Telephone Co.....80,000,000.00

Long Distance Telephone.....5,000,000.00

National Banks.....4,141,500,000.00

Savings Banks.....1,854,519,083.00

56 Municipalities.....4,547,000,000.00

23 States.....745,949,736.00

66 General Counties.....145,693,840.00

National (bonded and floating).....1,155,639,878.00

School Districts.....36,701,328.00

Railroads.....11,443,882,891.00

67 Fire Insurance Companies.....51,557,875.78

141 Miscellaneous Companies.....1,547,813,357.00

56 Commercial Trusts.....333,945,652.00

Total.....\$44,929,957,703.76

This debt means an annual interest charge of about \$200 for every family in the nation, but it means a much greater burden than this to the farmers and workmen upon whose shoulders the whole is shifted. This annual interest charge is payable in legal money only, hence, as prices of products of labor fall, as they must under the single gold standard, the burden becomes heavier each year. Something must be done unless the producers will consent to be crushed. The free coinage of silver, if it doubles prices, as even Wall street organs admit it will, will cut the annual interest debt in two. Suppose we try it.

Experiments Necessary.

To stop experiment is to stop action, for the modern world is a new world and in it there are no tried and beaten paths. The floods and glaciers of innovation have carried away the ancient landmarks, and by raising new barriers and structures largely shut off from all progressive peoples, even the kindly rays of the lamp of experience. No agitators, but science and invention, have pushed us away from the ancient world, with its well-worn roads and lighthouses, and where we walk now human feet never trod before. The light from our foreheads is our only lamp, and eternal truth our only guide, prefer to experiment, or to be experimented on; to be the surgeon, or the corpse.—Walter Vrooman, in New Democracy.

The Nervy Bankers.

The banks demand that the government furnish them money with which to carry on their business without charge, says the Silver Knight-Watcher. The boldness of the demand makes our head swim. All the tailors in the United States should now demand that the government furnish them cloth to carry on their business, the shoemakers should demand leather, the carpenters wood, the bricklayers bricks, and so on an infinitum.

A Word with Stall-Fed Statesmen.

There is more hunger in Washington City than in Dawson City. Let our stall-fed statesmen who are worrying about the sufferings of the miners put that in their pipes and smoke it.—Bige Eddy.

THE CONSPIRATORS.

WHO ARE CALLED MONETARY COMMISSIONERS.

They Are Like the Fourteen Men Who Swore to Kill Paul—All Their Claims Have Been Refuted and Exploded Long Ago.

There is an account given in the New Testament of fourteen men who bound themselves together by an oath that they would neither eat nor sleep till they had killed Paul. They did not succeed in killing the apostle and were necessarily compelled to break their wicked oath. The reason why these fourteen conspirators desired the death of Paul was that he was preaching against idolatry and other deceptions that were practiced against the people by a corrupt money class who misled the people with false doctrines.

This band of ancient conspirators have something like a prototype in the eleven conspirators who banded themselves together at the instance of the bankers' Indianapolis convention of "sound money" deceivers, and spent weeks in Washington in secret council, devising a plan to destroy the liberties of the American people. Vermont's discarded ex-Senator at the head of this band of conspirators. Their work has been laid before the public, and is probably the most ingenious piece of sophistry, false assumption and cunning, innocent appearing assertion, ever produced. The false theories of money invented and practiced by bankers and hoary usurers, and that have been exposed and refuted by undeniable facts a thousand times, are all mustered with inimitable skill. This class base their hopes on the old adage that a lie well stuck to is as good as the truth.

It would be as tedious as unprofitable to follow their long meandering trail through their dissertation on money, and particularly the government money of the United States, which is pronounced as "bad" except its gold coins. The whole contention of the band of conspirators is for "standard" money, and that standard money must be gold, and the continuation of the present gold standard. They attempt to give no reason why gold is a "standard" money or should be a standard, and the only standard money and not silver, except that it is more handy than silver. Silver was as much of a standard money for thousands of years before 1873 as gold, simply because the mints of all countries were open to its coinage, and there was always a demand for the metal beyond the supply. Open them again and the same conditions will produce the same results. There would be the same demand for silver as for gold. Close the same mints against gold and it will fall in price in the bullion market the same as silver has fallen, only a great deal more.

The monetary scheme concocted by the eleven conspirators of the Indianapolis bankers' convention, in principle and object, is the same as the concoction of Secretary Gage and President McKinley's greenback retirement plan, only the former is more ingeniously presented and worked out in detail. The fundamental falsehood on which they are all built, is "a standard of value." There is no standard of value, never has been, and never can be. Value is the relative difference between articles of merchandise or things controlled by the fluctuations of trade. The value of the same articles changes almost daily, influenced by demand and supply, whether that demand be natural or artificial. Money is a medium of exchange and recorder of prices, and it is nothing else unless its legitimate function is abused by cornerers, usurers and speculators. The whole object of the class for whom the eleven conspirators speak, is to make money scarce so they can corner it with facility. Any commodity that can be cornered can be given an artificial price.

The conspirators tell us there are two kinds of money, or rather there are two distinct functions for money. One is the "standard of value," the other a "medium of exchange," that gold is the only standard-of-value money, and they imply that no other commodity—they acknowledge that gold is a commodity—is endowed by the intrinsic power of constituting standard money. The exchange function they claim inheres in all other kinds of money composed of silver, paper, etc. Gold, while possessing the sovereign power of "standard" money, has also the function of exchange in common with its subject money, as of course the sovereign should have.

It will be noticed that the "divine right" is at the bottom of the gold-bug theory of money. Gold is, king, and money created of any other substance must owe its power to exist to the will of the sovereign. All other moneys formed of baser clay must have the consent of the sovereign to exist. The imperial gold must stand ready to "redeem" this half-way or purgatory money from perdition.

The gold-bug idea of government is

monarchical, and the gold-bug idea of the people is that they should be the wage slaves of labor for the class who own the gold and the "obligations payable in gold." The political power of this class is embodied in the Republican party. There is no longer any question or doubt on this subject, since McKinley and all of his Cabinet have proclaimed it, and endorse the work of the eleven Indianapolis convention monetary commission conspirators.

The method to enslave the people under the old feudal and knightly regime was to claim a divine right to tax and enslave the masses for the aggrandizement of their masters. The monetary system of these modern barons of mammon is for the same object.

"There is a clear distinction between the functions of money as a standard of value and a medium of exchange," say the conspirators, but they fail to point out the necessity for such difference, except that bank issued money can never be anything but a "promise to pay" money. From these premises they argue, or assume, that government cannot make a "standard" money out of anything but gold. The term "standard money" is only an ingenious juggle for the term legal tender. They assume to deny the sovereign power of government to "coin money and regulate the value thereof," by claiming in this enlightened age that money is only a commodity having a certain fixed value, and that gold has a fixed value, hence it is the divinely appointed money metal! Prior to 1873 silver possessed this fixed value in France. In the United States it was three per cent above the gold value, and was royal "standard" money everywhere in the world. A change in the minting laws of three or four great nations altered the value of silver at once. These stubborn facts upset the flimsy theory of the goldites.

The function to transfer values is the only legitimate function money possesses, and that is given it by law. Money is a creation of law as Aristotle proclaimed three thousand years ago, a fact that had never been questioned till Satan raised up the modern gold-bug plutocracy. An to transfer value and record price is all the work money ever did or ever can do.

Gold as a commodity is used to balance accounts between traders of different nations, and so is every other commodity.

It is not used to transfer values between citizens of the same country, but must first be stamped into money by the government. Pound a gold coin into a shapeless mass, and no trader will accept it in satisfaction of his bill. No bank will credit it on a depositor's account. And yet the Shylocks have the brass to gravely tell the people that all money must have a commodity value equal to its money value! Whenever their claims for money are put to the test of analysis every one fails, and proves their claims to be sophistries and a tissue of falsehoods.

"Redemption" is another fake, like the chained lions in Pilgrim's Progress, utterly harmless. Money must be redeemed, declare the conspirators one and all. And it must be redeemed in gold. One simple fact refutes this theory. There is not one dollar of gold to redeem with, to twenty, or probably a hundred of the kind to be redeemed, if redemption were a legitimate factor in the money problem. Redemption is a banker's fake. His bills are not money at all, and have to lean on something for support, hence the senseless claim of redeeming true money.

Money is a medium of exchange. A exchanges merchandise with B for money. B has the merchandise and A has received the recorded value in the shape of money, and the same, or similar transactions is repeated a million times. It is going on every hour in the day from year's end to year's end, and the identical same money is doing the work. Where does the "redemption" come in, and what object can there be in redeeming money? Exactly the same object that two men have who are playing poker. One "calls" the other when he believes he has the advantage of him. This redemption poker-money game was played by Pierpont Morgan and Cleveland. Morgan came down with a flush hand of greenbacks, and Cleveland pretended he couldn't see Morgan, and went out and borrowed two hundred and sixty-two millions, giving Morgan notes payable in ten to thirty years on the government. Cleveland, unlike most players, was richer after losing than before. This is the nature and true inwardness of redemption money. The object is to cheat the people.

There is another class of redemptionists. They are not gamblers or rogues, and it would not be just or kind to call them fools. They probably are not well informed. They say money is redeemed every time it is paid in taxes or exchanged for other things. But is it? A carter is hauling sand from the river bank to the masons. When he delivers a load of sand does he redeem his cart? He has made a transfer or exchange of sand from place to place. That is all. His cart is still intact, ready for another load. When the hod-carrier receives his pay from the build-

er does he go through the process of anything like redeeming? He has exchanged his labor for the money. He will soon exchange the money for groceries. Has gold any other function as money? Can it have any other that is honest, whether used as a commodity or as money?

The entire scheme of these eleven conspirators is to juggle. The people don't want any gold standard money. They want enough of Uncle Sam's full legal-tender money to keep them at work and afford good prices for their products, and they mean to have it.

E. E. EWING.

POINTS FROM THE PRESS.

We want to move on. The problems of yesterday are not the problems of today. Party managers are relentless autocrats that we shun as we would a venomous serpent; we hate them (in that capacity), as we do the unlawful systems that they perpetuate with their favor.—Pueblo Courier.

J. Pierpont Morgan and a syndicate including the Standard Oil Company have organized a national bank trust, the purpose being to run the small national banks out of existence. The National City Bank of Greater New York with deposits amounting to over \$111,000,000, is the hub of this greatest of all concentration plans. The big millionaires have robbed the masses of about all they have and now they purpose to organize to rob each other.—Chicago Express.

Singerly, the Philadelphia banker who failed and swiped about four million of his dupes' money, is a rabid gold bug who supported McHanna for president, because any other course was dishonest and meant repudiation! Of course he is honest. All of them are. Everybody else are rogues. The people took the advice of such men, and behold the glorious results.—Appeal to Reason.

The express companies charge the large daily papers one-half cent a pound for carrying their papers. Our postmaster general wants the postage rates for newspapers raised to eight cents a pound. It would be cruel to suggest that this is a scheme to assist the strong in oppressing the weak. It does not seem to have occurred to the "servants of the people" than an act of congress requiring all common carriers to give the government as favorable rates as they do any private shippers would not only be just and reasonable, but would render an increase of postal rates entirely unnecessary.—Social Democrat.

VERSE FOR THE TIMES.

SHALL GREEDY LORDS THE LAND POSSESS?

What means this cry of dire despair That rises up on every hand, And fills the startled ambient air— Is red war lurking in the land?

No, not a war where swords and guns And cannon smite and heroes lead; But where our loved and helpless ones Are ground beneath the heel of greed.

The money-lender's selfish hand Is outstretched wide for farms and homes; Starvation stalks within the land, Despair throughout the nation roams.

The cry we raise for help, alas! Our haughty masters proudly spurn; What power ordained a pampered class To thankless spend what others earn?

Shall greedy lords and land possess, And revel in their sordid gains? Shall those we love, in sore distress, Toll hopeless on while life remains?

No, by the shade of Lincoln, no! A proud and fearless patriot band Shall rise and thwart the common foe, And rescue yet our native land!

A. O. GENUNG.

HENRY GEORGE. Hail, friend of man! Hail and farewell! Emerging prophet of the day to be, When men from landlord's serfdom shall be free.

We who yet tarry, send "God speed" with thee. Hail, friend of man! Hail and farewell! There may be other worlds in need of light.

Where men are born as here, without the right To use their planet as free agents might. Hail, friend of man! Hail and farewell! We soon shall follow who now wait behind.

To see thy message sink in every mind: "Earth is the heritage of all mankind." —Miles Merander Dawson.

A PERFECT SYSTEM. We thank thee, Lord, that thou hast sent affliction to the rich—

Dyspepsia, gout, insomnia and other troubles which Disturb their souls by day and night and cause as much or more Of real distress than do the ills that thou hast sent the poor.

We may not have enough to eat. They eat too much, and so It's just about an even thing which hath the most of woe. We have no time to rest by day. They cannot rest at night. So, all in all, it seemeth things are pretty nearly right.

We can't afford to ride, but there, again, their joy we balk For, oh, thou sendest them the gout, and so they cannot walk. Thou sendest them rich food and drink, weak stomachs, headaches, wealth. To us thou sendest poverty, plain living, toil and health. Oh, glad are we the rich must have, while living off the fat. Hay fever, likewise paresis and lots of things like that. And so we are thankful for our joys, the greater part of which Is thinking of the many woes thou sendest to the rich. —Nixon Waterman in L. A. W. Bulletin.

UNITED WE STAND.

ORGANIZATION IS ALL THAT IS REQUIRED.

The Other Fellows Are Doing It—Some Excellent Suggestions from Walter Vrooman's New Democracy—How to Free Ourselves.

We clip the following from Walter Vrooman's New Democracy:

The union of those who profit by tyranny necessitates the union of all who believe in liberty. The internationalism of millionaires is creating an internationalism of the common people. The situation is being so simplified that all may comprehend clearly two forces, whose conflict extends over the modern world. All minor and secondary divisions and issues are swallowed up. The international aspect of the problem does not, as one might at first suppose, confuse the mind, but, on the other hand, simplifies the issue, so that none can mistake concerning it. Old prejudice, reverence for party names, sectional hatreds, sores left by historic feuds, religious differences and affiliations with local political machines, in which self or friends are interested selfishly, all tend to cover up the real issues, when only the local end of the fight is studied.

When the nature of the present world conflict is understood, those who favor the people's cause will cease to receive any further instruction or advice whatever from their enemies or the allies or agents of their enemies.

If America declared open war upon Britain should we put the slightest confidence in any statement emanating from English sources as to the best line of attack? Is it not a rule of war always to fire in the direction opposite to that advised by your enemies? In all business and other practical affairs of life it is not universally recognized as the extreme of folly to accept as facts the statements of those who may profit by our discomfiture? Most assuredly! And it is time for the merchants and workmen of America to apply to their political struggle these simple maxims so well established elsewhere.

I would ask the workmen of the country who are rapidly leaving the churches not to judge the clergy harshly, because the majority are dumb in your behalf and because a few openly and blatantly champion the cause of the oppressors.

But I must also ask you to place no confidence in their testimony in this political trial, for their lips often utter words their hearts fain would withhold, and they often pray for success to the banner for which they can not fight.

Let us not condemn them because they are bound with chains of dependence, but let us rather include them among those whom we shall liberate when we establish a political system which shall set all men free.

Many clergymen have told me how their hearts have bled for the victims of social injustice; how in anguish they have wept over the piteous cries for help uttered by their dying brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ; how, bursting with indignation, they have longed to strike a blow against the brutality that crushes Christ's little ones in order to grind from their bones and blood colossal and unnatural fortunes. But they said, "We must conceal our tears and swallow our indignation, though it chokes us. We dare not speak out—we could neither destroy the tyrant nor save the victims. We would only succeed in dragging down our our wives and little ones into that that dark stream of poverty from which those who have fallen in can never hope to rise. First of all, we must live—and then do what little we can to temper the reign of injustice and oppression. The overthrow and destruction of this system of injustice rests upon the shoulders of God and the common people."

Three Dollars a Week.

As an aid to working girls Miss Elizabeth Banks began the experiment of living in New York on \$3 a week. She has been reporting progress daily in the evening edition of the World. Confidence was succeeded by doubt, doubt by conviction. Yesterday she gave up. With all her experience, all her intelligence, all her prudence and economy, with the spur of making her undertaking a success, she could not live on \$3 a week, and she is convinced that no girl can. "She can merely exist in sickness and hunger and discomfort." Yet, as Miss Banks discovered, there are hundreds, yes, thousands, of girls in this city who earn \$3 a week and must keep themselves from death or worse on just this sum and no more. By publishing Miss Banks' stories and typical letters she has received from despairing girls, the evening edition of the World has made the most potent appeal possible to the humanity of the comfortable sojourners in this world of sorrow.—New York World.

P. S.—Vote for the gold standard and maintain this sort of thing.

Prosperity has been heard from in Troy, N. Y., where the steel mills have closed down indefinitely.