

# NATCHITOCHESES POPULIST.

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## STORY OF TWO YEARS.

### WHAT WILL FOLLOW ELECTION IN 1900.

The Wall Street Fellows Will Talk Secession—It Will Not Last More Than a Day However—Great Era of Prosperity That Will Quickly Set In.

We clip the following from the Patriots' Bulletin for April. That journal, which, by the way, is edited by W. H. Harvey, the pioneer champion of American bimetalism, is a great educational paper. Pity that it is not read in every American home. With becoming foresight its distinguished editor warns the people of events to follow Nov. 6, 1900.

It was Tuesday night, November 6, 1900. The long portentous struggle was over. The fiercest battle ever fought at the ballot box had culminated on that eventful day. The telegraph instruments were ticking the first returns, that would in a few hours, bring the news of victory or defeat to one or the other of the two contending forces. The first information placed on the bulletin boards was from New York City. It showed gains for the gold standard candidate over the vote of 1896. A cheer rent the air wherever the hosts of Mammon were assembled. A few minutes later a similar telegram from Boston was posted, to be followed immediately by one from Ohio, Columbus, the latter saying that the Twelfth ward of that city showed a gain of 240 for the candidate of the allied forces. The returns were being compared with the election of 1896. Then the news came faster. From every point west of the Allegheny mountains came gains for the fusion candidate—the candidate of the people. By 12 o'clock, midnight, it was known that the forces of humanity had won. Thirty-four states had certainly given their votes for financial independence, from Europe, and the vote of several other states was in doubt; but the majority was pronounced, beyond question, for financial freedom from the monarchies of the old world and against trusts and monopolies. Both houses of congress would be with the new president by a decided majority.

The following day, Wednesday, brought confirmation of the news and with it, in the morning papers, all kinds of forebodings of disaster to business and commerce. Impromptu meetings in Boston and New York talked secession. A panic loomed imminent. It was boldly asserted that the election would be contested, that President McKinley would stand by the money power and trusts, and that General Miles would place the army at the disposal of the money power. Governor Pingree of Michigan wired the chairman of the National Committee of the allied forces at 11 a. m., offering to place 200,000 men in the field at once, to enforce the verdict of the people. At 1 o'clock p. m., Governor Means of Ohio threatened to commence the mobilization of the state troops of Ohio if the threat to overthrow the popular will was repeated. From the middle, west and south came the same ominous sound that portended a hurricane. From the governor of Texas came the following significant message: "Let them but raise a hand and we will throw every mother's son of them into the Atlantic ocean." The stock exchange had opened feverish. They first took an average dip of ten points, stood and rose a couple of points, followed by a suspension of trading. The afternoon papers expressed the sentiment of the people—fearless and uncompromising with messages from fifteen warlike governors. At 3 p. m. there were hurried meetings of stock brokers and money changers in all big cities and all these separate meetings were in consultation by wire. By midnight they had reached a conclusion. It was, to take their medicine. They had decided to surrender. There was too much at stake, and a panic was sure, if something was not done by them through the morning papers; to quite the people. Their investments would be swept away in a day in a mad, unprecedented panic, if oil was not poured on the troubled waters. They poured it in copious doses. Self-invited interviews with prominent bankers and heads of trust syndicates expressed calm and conservative views, denied that any attempt of opposing the popular will had been thought of; deplored the result of the election; but assured the public that they would do all in their power to restore confidence. They called attention to the fact that all debts of ours held by foreigners, except government bonds, were payable in gold. That these gold contracts would be paid in gold, the money of the contract; and that these obligations were in no manner impaired and no reason existed why foreign creditors should unload these gold securities, that would be promptly paid on maturity in the money agreed upon. That the government bonds, payable in coin, gold or silver, were insignificant in amount as compared with the other indebtedness, and that less than \$400,000,000 of these

were in the hands of foreign creditors. They appealed to these creditors to withhold all action that would bring on a panic that would injure the securities in which they were so largely interested. Among other things they cited the fact that foreign creditors held over \$5,000,000,000 worth of our railroad bonds, and that they would in this one item alone lose enormously as the result of a panic. At 10 a. m. the 8th, the stock markets opened steady and firm. There was no unloading of securities. The people who would have been most injured by it had decided to not commit suicide.

III. On Thursday, Nov. 8th, silver had advanced to \$1.05 an ounce. "Why this enormous advance?" was asked. "Because in six months, as soon as the new congress can convene," was the answer, "371 1/4 grains of pure silver can be coined, at the pleasure of the holder, into a dollar; and, an ounce of it, at that rate, will be worth \$1.29. The next day it jumped to \$1.20 an ounce, within nine cents of its free coinage value. On Friday a run on the treasury at Washington for gold was announced. By Saturday the next day at 2 p. m. there was not a dollar of gold in the United States treasury. On Monday, the 12th, gold payments were suspended, and no gold could be had without paying a premium that fluctuated for several days between 20 and 30 per cent. Business proceeded as usual with the same kind of money passing from hand to hand as formerly. There was no gold left with which to redeem any more of it; and, it was rapidly coming out of hiding and seeking investment. Prices of property began to advance. In thirty days the situation was better understood. A new money crop was coming, that was going to go into competition with gold to supply the demand for hard money. Under the law of true bimetalism, to get on the statute books as soon as the new congress could get at it, no contract would be legal made payable in one of the two metals. It would be optional with all to pay in either metal. Thus the two metals would be in competition with each other. In the face of this threatened competition, gold began to decline. On January 3d, the premium was 17 cents.

IV. All over the Union, suits had begun against debtors for the foreclosure of mortgages and debts. This was quickly checkmated by the same spirit that had faced the awful hailstorm of ostracism in November. Meetings were held in every county, and legislatures were petitioned to pass stay laws to protect the people from the collection of debts for two years after the inauguration of the new president. Governors were petitioned to call special sessions of legislatures in many instances. Everywhere these meetings were held, beginning in the west and spreading east and south. In many cases lawyers volunteered their services without fee to take up the cause of the people. Members of the legislatures elect were brought into these county meetings, and pledged to thus protect the people till at least two new crops had been harvested under the new order of things. This was soon followed very generally, where payments were not convenient, by voluntary liens being given payable in two years, thus securing creditors, giving them negotiable paper and deferring the payments of the debts. Thus the confiscation of the property of debtors was stopped. The tremendous force that had entered in the November revolution was equal to the emergency, and the money power was at their mercy—but that mercy was tempered with justice.

V. By January 1st a strong movement had set in toward the Rocky mountains. By Feb. 1st it became a rush. Gradually the country had awakened to a realization of the wealth in the silver deposits of our western mountains. The Alaska gold fields were to have competition in the silver mining region of our own mountains. A hundred Klondikes had suddenly sprung up into existence—not in the frozen zones of the north, but in our own glorious climate. The railways were taxed to their full capacity; within four months after the election five states of the Union were all hope and animation, feeling the throbb of prosperity; to say nothing of the orders of provisions and machinery that followed an army of three million of people into the rocky fastnesses and beautiful valleys of our west. The words of Lincoln were recalled, uttered on the day of his death, recorded in Barret's history of him, issued in 1865, in which he said to Mr. Colfax, who left Washington that morning for the west: "Tell them, the miners, that the more gold and silver they mine makes the payments of our national debt so much the easier." The whole nation was beginning to feel the pulsation of new life. And with hope revived, they could already feel, in anticipation of the new future, the passing of the terrible times that had suffocated and almost destroyed the life of the nation.

VI. The new president, the choice of three conventions in one, was inaugurated Monday, March 4, 1901. His first official action was to issue a call con-

vening congress in extra session, Monday, March 11, one week from the day of the inauguration. On Tuesday, March 19th, a law re-establishing bimetalism passed the senate, and was concurred in by the lower house the following day. The rules had been suspended, and a bill prepared in advance of the session was rushed through; the speaker in the house sententiously remarking, "This bill has been debated for 25 years, we will now proceed to vote." On the same day the president signed the bill, and on Thursday morning, March 21st, 1901, the mints of the United States were open to the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1—sixteen silver dollars to weigh as much as one gold dollar—as it was prior to Feb. 12, 1873. Gold was still in hiding; but its holders were rapidly learning that the people could do without it and another metal had taken its place, and would continue to do so just as long as gold saw fit to absent itself or demand extortionate prices in the way of property in exchange for it. In the meantime it had fallen 5 per cent premium. The fact that stay laws were being put in operation everywhere, and that these laws were intended to operate especially against gold debts, had no little effect in bringing gold quickly to par with silver. What it meant was that there would be no demand for gold in the United States for two years except as people might voluntarily desire it. And thus, two influences were operating to take the demand from gold and thereby lower its commercial value. The greatest of these two influences was silver in competition with gold to supply the demand for money. The Rocky and Sierra Nevada mountains continued to fill with miners and all attending people that are attracted by a great industry. The population of Colorado, Utah, Montana, Idaho, Arizona and New Mexico doubled in the year 1901. The wholesale houses of Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, Omaha and San Francisco felt the impetus of the new business made by the active and prosperous people of the mountain states. A stream of white metal, the money of Washington, Jefferson, Jackson and Lincoln, was flowing through the mints and percolating among all the people, everywhere. A government of the people had been for twenty-eight years without a primary money that would stay with the people—but the past was gone and a government of the people and returned.

VII. Farming was again profitable. The price of farm products was advancing rapidly. As they had fallen with silver so had they advanced again with that metal. Corn was 50 cents per bushel and still advancing. Country merchants were ordering liberally of the wholesale houses—their customers had money with which to buy. It was now discovered that the overcrowding cities were having their population depleted from two causes: first, the immigration to the mountain states had made a tremendous draft on every trade, profession and occupation; secondly, the fact that farming was again profitable had caused a second movement to set in toward the country. During the year 1901, the streets of most of the cities looked more or less deserted. The people that once crowded them, looking for work, were gone, but it was an ominous silence. The millions of theretofore idle hands were making wealth that was to later reflect its influence in these marts of trade and centers of commerce. The orders for merchandise and manufacturers' articles, from mines and farms, were now pouring into the cities, with a scarcity of clerks and other employes and wage-earners to handle the business. High salaries and higher wages became necessary to hold old employes or to get new ones, so great was the desire of these to engage in the more profitable or tempting opportunities "in the mines" or to move their families to the better air and the broader influences to be found on farms and in country life. The advance in farm products had made farming desirable and profitable. Strikes had become a thing of the past. Gold and silver were at par. Gold, finding itself in idleness, with everything advancing except itself, had come out of hiding and invested itself in those things that were advancing. It was again in circulation, among the people, the first time, excepting in California, for forty years.

VIII. On Saturday, May 4th, congress passed a bill, that was signed by the president, making it unlawful for any person or corporation, except continuous lines of railways, to own or hold more than 320 acres of land for any purpose. The bill provided for commissioners to set a value upon all surplus lands, of each holder, to be paid for at once by the government, or referred to a jury, if demanded. This land thus forfeited by its owner, for value received, to be thrown open for sale by the government. This bill caused over 50,000,000 acres of land in the United States, belonging to citizens in England, to be thrown open to occupancy by Jan. 1, 1902, made it possible for thousands to find homes and useful occupations, and had forever put an end to landlords and tenantry in

America. By 1902, the miners who had made a stake were returning from the mountains and buying 320-acre homes for themselves and families. Nor were they the only ones who sought life among the trees and flowers. Merchants, professional men and others became gradually imbued with the desire to own a country home, until it became a fad, the fashion. Children were healthier, their minds became broader, the young men hand-somer and broader shouldered and more manly, and the women fairer, better color and more beautiful. It was life. It was man-making and woman-making. And they all knew it. In 1903, by reason of rising prices, the people had discharged all their indebtedness and the detestation of debt and fear that it might at some future time endanger the liberties of their children, had caused them to pass a constitutional provision that all debts of future contraction should be based upon honor only; and that there should be no law for the collection of debts thereafter made. It put an end to the class known as money lenders and money changers, and put the last nail in the coffin of the money powers. Thereafter all purchases were for cash, and all business transactions were put upon a cash basis, with a much higher sense of honor among the people than had before existed. The law of collection continued in force until all old debts, contracted prior to the law, were paid.

### GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP.

Government ownership of railways would do away with much evil and pay each employe in proportion to his work.

It would do away with the "free pass" evil, the "private palace car" deadheadism, the watered stock spoliation, and would forever destroy the occupation of the railroad wrecker, the lobbyist and the railroad politician.

Mr. C. W. Davis has estimated these savings as follows:

Savings from consolidation of depots and staffs.....	\$20,000,000
Savings from exclusive use of shortest routes.....	25,000,000
Savings in attorney's salaries and legal expense..	12,000,000
Savings from the abrogation of the commission system	12,000,000
Saving by dispensing with high priced managers and staffs .....	4,000,000
Saving by disbanding traffic associations .....	4,000,000
Saving by dispensing with presidents, etc .....	25,000,000
Saving by abolishing all but local offices, solicitors, etc.	15,000,000
Saving by five-sevenths of the advertising account..	5,000,000

Total savings by reason of better administration ... \$180,000,000

Bear in mind this enormous saving, one hundred and sixty millions of dollars per year, does not contemplate any reduction whatever in freight and passenger rates. Assuming that the government would charge as much for the service as the corporations are now charging, the saving above mentioned would pay off our entire national debt and thus knock the foundation from under our national banking system in less than ten years.

After getting the railroads paid for they could be run at cost; thus the people would save three hundred and fifty millions of dollars per year in addition to the one hundred and sixty millions already mentioned. The total savings would thus be more than five hundred millions of dollars per year; a sum of money double the value of our corn crop.

The lamp of experience is the best light for any discussion. The lesson of actual experiment is worth more than argument and conjecture. The postoffice system was considered a ridiculous scheme by the Duke of Wellington and his aristocratic associates. It required all the pluck and patience of the humble preacher, Rowland Hill, to demonstrate that the Duke of Wellington was a pig-headed old mossaik. He did it though.

### Modern Business Methods.

During the year 1897 there were twenty railroads went into the hands of receivers, says the Chicago Express. The mileage was 1,475, stocked at \$90,954,200 and with an indebtedness of \$71,553,000. When the government gets all these roads into paying order again and the debts are straightened out, the receivers will be discharged and the roads again turned over to private parties to once more go through the process of being bled to death by speculators and wrecked for private gain. Such are modern business methods.

### Dangerous to Republics.

"Neither will I remind you that debt is the fatal disease of republics, the first thing and the mightiest to undermine governments and corrupt the people."—Wendell Phillips.

### POINTS FROM THE PRESS.

"Satan finds some mischief still for idle hands to do," says Watts. This is about the only standing offer of a job that there is left these days.—Industrial Advocate.

There is nothing in the report that General Lee was assassinated in Havana. Had the rumor been true, the administration would now probably be taking steps to hold a post mortem examination on the remains in order to ascertain if the fatality could not be attributed to an accident.—Kern County Californian.

"Jubilant Deo!" Loud's villainous bill to suppress progressive literature has been killed by 162 to 119. "The announcement was greeted by bursts of applause."—San Francisco Star.

When a deserving person dies of starvation in this land of plenty, the crime lies at the door of somebody. It were better to be a "dog and bay the moon" than be the one upon whose shoulders rests the responsibility of such a crime.—Pacific Union Printer.

Senator Hanna says the sinking of the Maine was an accident. Most Americans independent of politics consider Hanna's election a calamity. So misfortune after misfortune strikes us.—San Rafael Sun.

Have we become a nation of Shylocks, that national honor can be maintained and the righteous wrath of the people appeased with Spanish gold? What a spectacle! the president in case Spain is found guilty of blowing up the Maine will demand only millions. Can murder be atoned with filthy lucre? Honor is worth but little when it is measured in gold.—Phoenix Gazette.

Now that McKinley is president and a disgraceful war is being carried on at our front door, innocent people are being butchered and commerce prostrated, McKinley refuses to take any action to put a stop to the war for fear that it may make securities in which his moneyed saviors are interested, fluctuate. Finally, when the subject is thrust upon him in such a way that he can no longer escape it, he suggests that Cuba be purchased. It is money, money all the time. The United States under this man who has achieved his high position with money, feels no patriotism, is willing to endure insults, and is not disturbed by having a war vessel blown up and 253 brave sailors destroyed. He simply suggests that Cuba buy Cuba, and the United States guarantee the payment. If this is not the culmination of mendacity and pusillanimity, then we should wait for the next communication from the white house to get it.—Cleveland Recorder.

The bondholders and the breadwinners are two separate and distinct classes of people. The bondholder is a citizen and a patriot. The breadwinner is also a citizen and a patriot. Our dear, good government, which jails its producing classes when it finds them out of employment and money, has a very tender regard for the foreign holder of bonds, who is not a citizen and presumably not an American patriot. For the war it takes the lives of the toiling poor, but not the lives of the rich; neither does it take one cent of their cash. On the contrary, it borrows from them at an exorbitant rate of interest. By what strange process of civilized reasoning does it arrive at the conclusion that the dollar is greater than the life? Why is it that one class of patriots is drafted for a service extremely dangerous to life and limb, while another class of patriots may rest in luxury at home, drawing a revenue from an investment of cold, inert metal?—Coming Nation.

### Five Demands.

We demand equality of opportunity. This means that all men, that all the human race, should have

1. The right to life.
2. That each should have the right to support his life by labor.
3. That each should receive the full product of his labor.
4. That each should have the liberty to develop himself in his own direction.
5. That each should have the same chance to enjoy all that there is, or can be, of happiness and pleasure in human life.

More there cannot be, less will never satisfy man.—Sevensoaks.

### The Stuffed Prophet Heard From.

The stuffed prophet of Buffalo and great lover of "sound money and safe currency" has again been heard from. This time he urges the goldites to beware the silver men do not win the next election. Evidently the great ex has been watching the strong flow of the silver tide.—Silver Knight-Watchman.

### The Tree Is in Danger.

If the roots do not eat and drink, the tree dies. The roots are the poor.—Zola.

## ENGLISH OWNERSHIP.

### THIS COUNTRY'S HIGHWAYS CONTROLLED BY FOREIGNERS.

The London Times Makes the Interesting Revelation that the Corporations Which Dictated Our Political Policy Are English.

Some months ago the English syndicate which has charge of the investments of the British in American railways sent a representative over here to investigate our railway problem and the conditions characterizing it. The report of this commissioner has begun to appear in instalments in the London Times and its contents are exceedingly interesting. We are favored, for the first time, with an open admission that the leading railways of this country, excepting the Pennsylvania, are practically English property. The Illinois Central is almost wholly owned in England. It is rather surprising to find that the old Vanderbilt road, the New York Central, has become one half English property. The huge mortgage recorded against it a year ago is held entirely in England, while the shares of its stock have been absorbed by three large English banking houses, acting in the interest of numerous small private purchasers in England.

These facts are interesting. They afford a clue to many of the mysteries of our railway system. It is unreasonable to hate the English because they have been permitted to acquire so large a share of the country and to be actually the owners of the highways of the republic. The persons to blame are the financiers who have mortgaged the land to the foreigner. The financiers and the stock jobbers are wholly to blame, but it is useless to censure them. Our treatment of the corporations has been exceptionally liberal in view of the way the foreigner has been allowed to possess them. The ethics of the case are easily understood. We should not tolerate the ownership of the foreigner in our highways. The highways of a country belong to the people who dwell within it. They do not belong to the man three thousand miles away, no matter what pretensions he may make.

We may now, perhaps, understand why the railways of the country have been so much inspired by a feeling of hostility to the interests of the people. These great corporations are in reality foreign concerns. They exist primarily for the purpose of extracting a profit out of the American people in order that some person in England may get a dividend. It naturally follows that anything which makes for the advantage of the people of this country, where the operation of the railways is concerned, is disadvantageous to the English. The result is that the corporations follow the British policy. The proof of this is to be found in the policy pursued by our corporations in matters political. We suppose it would be impossible to name any wealthy corporation in the land which does not to-day favor a British policy in preference to an American policy. If, as is likely, the other corporations of the country are owned in England as largely as the railroads are so owned, the secret of corporatism is revealed. The corporation is an instrument for the exploitation of this country in the interests of the foreigner.

### SOME FASHION NOTES.

It is not fashionable for men who own banks to wear overalls, but they often do lots of dirty work all the same.

It is very fashionable for a storekeeper to offer his customers "something just as good" out of which he can make more profit.

It is quite stylish for pretending Christian congegations to fire their pastors if they venture to preach true Christianity.

The very latest style of prosperity (the McKinley brand) is ushered in through the medium of free soup houses and charity wood yards.

It is still stylish to export our food products to Europe for the purpose of making profit while many of our own people are starving.

It is quite fashionable for the members of our legislatures to keep their mouths shut about the right of labor and to work them overtime for the benefit of trusts.

The style of prosperity enjoyed by the working class remains unchanged. There are no prospects of a change for the better this year.

The Telephone Monopoly. Detroit, with a population exceeding 300,000, now has an independent telephone company, whose central station is serving 4,800 customers, and which expects to accommodate 1,200 or 1,500 more within the next six months.

Not only do Detroit people use their telephones quite as frequently as other folks, but they appear to get quite as good a quality of service. And yet the rates which this independent organization demands are only from one-third to one-sixth as great as those which New Yorkers pay. For private houses the price in Detroit is \$25 a year, and for places of business only \$40.—New York Tribune.