

NATCHITOCHESES POPULIST.

Subscription \$1.00 Per Year.

There is No Free Country, Unless the People Rule

Price 5 Cents.

VOL. V.

NATCHITOCHESES, LA., NOVEMBER 4, 1898.

NO. 9.

THE GREATEST SPEECH

OF THE GREAT STATESMAN HENRY CLAY.

The Evils of Currency Contraction—Republicans Are Fond of Quoting Clay on the Tariff—Let Them Quote Him on the Money Question.

In 1840, during the subtreasury debates, Henry Clay clearly stated the ethics and economics of currency contraction and expansion, as follows:

"The proposed substitution of an exclusive metallic currency to the mixed medium to which we have been so long familiar is forbidden by the principles of eternal justice. Assuming the currency of the country to consist of two-thirds paper and one-third metal, and assuming also that the money of a country, whatever may be its component parts, regulates all values and expresses the true amount which the debtor has to pay his creditor, the effect of the change upon that relation and upon the property of the country would be most ruinous. All property would be reduced in value to one-third of its present normal amount, and every debtor would in effect have to pay three times as much as he had contracted for. The pressure of our foreign debt would be three times as great as it is, while about \$600,000,000, which is about the sum now probably due to the banks from the people, would be multiplied into \$1,800,000,000.

"Have gentlemen reflected upon the consequences of their system of depletion? I have already stated that the country is borne down by weight of debt. If the currency be greatly diminished, as beyond all example it has been, how is this debt to be extinguished? Property, the resource on which the debtor relied for his payment, will decline in value, and it may happen that a man who honestly contracted a debt on the faith of property which had a value at the time fully adequate to warrant the debt will find himself stripped of all his property and his debt remains unextinguished. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Buchanan) has put the case of two nations, in one of which the amount of its currency shall be double what it is in the other, and, as he contends, the prices of all property will be double in the former nation of what they are in the latter. If this be true of two nations, it must be equally true of one whose circulating medium is at one period double what it is at another. Now, as the friends of the bill agree, we have been, and yet are, in this inflated state; our currency has been double, or in something like that proportion, of what was necessary, and we must come down to the lowest standard. Do they not perceive that inevitable ruin to thousands must be the inevitable consequence? A man, for example, owning property to the value of \$5,000 contracts a debt of \$5,000. By the reduction of one-half of the currency of the country his property in effect becomes reduced to the value of \$2,500. But his debt undergoes no corresponding reduction. He gives up all his property, and remains still in debt \$2,500. Thus this measure will operate on the debtor class of the nation—always the weaker class, and that which for that reason most needs the protection of the government.

"But if the effect of this hard money policy upon the debtor class be injurious, it is still more disastrous, if possible, to the laboring classes. Enterprise will be checked or stopped, employment will become more difficult, and the poorer classes will be subjected to the greatest privations and distress.

"And what is the remedy to be provided for this unhappy state of the country? I have conversed freely with the members of the Philadelphia committee. They are real political workmen—intelligent, well acquainted with the general condition and with the suffering of their particular community. No one who has not a heart of steel can listen to them without feeling the deepest sympathy for the privations and suffering unnecessarily brought upon the laboring classes. Both the committee and the memorial declare that their reliance is exclusively on the legislative branch of the government. Mr. President, it is with subdued feelings of the profoundest humility and mortification that I am compelled to say that, constituted as congress now is, no relief will be afforded by it unless its members shall be enlightened and instructed by the people themselves.

"(To the vice-president.) To you, then, sir, in no unfriendly spirit, but with feelings softened and subdued by the deep distress which pervades every class of our countrymen, I make the appeal. By your official and personal relations with the president you maintain with him an intercourse which I neither enjoy nor covet. Go to him and tell him without exaggeration, but in the language of truth and sincerity, the actual condition of his bleeding country. Tell him it is nearly ruined and undone by the measure he has been induced to put into operation. Tell him that his experiment is operating upon the nation like a physician's experiment upon a convulsed

animal in an exhausted receiver, and that it must expire in agony if he does not pause, give it free and sound circulation and suffer the energies of the people to be revived and restored. Tell him that in a single city more than bankruptcies, involving a loss of upward of \$15,000,000, have occurred. Tell him of the alarming decline in the value of all property, of the depreciation of all the products of industry, of the stagnation in every branch of business and of the close of numerous manufacturing establishments which, a few short months ago, were in active and flourishing operation. Depict to him, if you can find language to portray, the heart-rending wretchedness of thousands of the working classes cast out of employment. Tell him of the tears of helpless widows no longer able to earn their bread, and of unclad and unfed orphans who have been driven by his policy out of the busy pursuit in which but yesterday they were gaining an honest livelihood."

THE DEMOCRACY STAND FOR Home Rule in Finance.

The Democrats of Missouri, in state convention assembled, re-indorse the Democratic national platform adopted at Chicago in 1896, and especially do we renew our demand for the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1, without waiting for the consent of any other nation, and this demand we especially emphasize at this time by reasserting our belief that the money question is and will remain the most important of all political questions affecting the prosperity and happiness of our people until it is finally settled by the restoration of bimetallic coinage in accordance with our demand. And we hereby declare our confidence in the ability, integrity, statesmanship and patriotism of William J. Bryan, our great Democratic leader and choice of the Missouri Democracy for president in 1900.—Leading Plank of the Missouri Democratic Platform of 1898.

Democracy Against Plutocracy.

We call attention to the fact that the Republican party has failed to enforce the anti-trust laws. The 1,000 men said by statisticians to control over half the wealth of the country have taken complete control of the Republican organization and are using it as a political machine, regardless of the welfare or the rights of the people. Regarding trusts and combinations in restraint of trade as evils of the greatest magnitude, and as organizations of this nature not only continue to exist, but multiply in numbers in defiance of law and public sentiment, we demand that such laws, both state and national, be enacted as will certainly result in suppressing them.—From the Missouri Democratic Platform.

Theft Among the Causes.

From the New York Times: Ship captains and transportation agents are not fools, the sons of somebodies are of average intelligence as a rule, and the national guard officer is usually successful in business. It is absurd to think that what these men do not know they could learn in time, and in a short time, at that. Any thoughtful observer of current events is bound to conclude that plain, ordinary theft is playing no small part in the daily record of army horrors.

NOTES.

The \$200,000,000 in gold held cornered in the treasury would have paid all the expenses of the war without bonds or war taxes. But we have both bonds and war taxes to prevent this hoarded gold from circulating.

Hon. Champ Clark is talking as if he meant something. Let him keep that up and he will be great. The country is suffering for men who mean something and are not too cowardly to say what they mean.

The war is over, but President McKinley is still holding \$200,000,000 in gold in the treasury and the distribution of bonds goes on. Whatever puts up the price of gold puts down the price of wheat.

The Spanish war being over, the country will proceed to declare war on the Hanna campaign-distributing thieves who did our army more damage in the rear than the Spaniards did in the front.

The army contractors rob the treasury in a scandalous way, but the robbery of locking millions of gold in the treasury while selling bonds to get more gold is still more scandalous.

Let Farmer Hobson get on his heaviest pair of sixteen to one cowhide boots. There are a number of rascally, false pretenders in politics who will have to be kicked out shortly.

There ought to be a free coinage club in every school precinct in the country valley. Organize one in your precinct at once.

Democrats who wish to "pair" with Hanna in his war policies will have to get into Hanna's party to do it. This is reliable.

POPULIST POINTS

FIRST FATAL STEP. WHICH LEADS THE WORKERS TO POVERTY.

The Monopoly of Money Prevents the Redistribution of the Net Profits of Labor and as a Result Poverty Appears in Society.

Were it not for two or three trifling seeming errors, every state or society might live for ages under perfect equality. In the settlement of new countries I have often observed this. At first all are poor, busy and contented. The whole life of society proceeds under four heads. First, making; second, carrying or distributing; third, consuming; fourth, redistributing. In the new society all the net profits are redistributed as rapidly as possible and therefore all are employed.

Ere long a few families have no need to spend all their surplus on improvements and begin to hoard it up. Were they to lend it out, a competition in this business would put interest down to merely nominal. In time a bank is started and they all hoard in banks by depositing. This enables the bank to lend out a portion of the net profits and exact a large income by usury. There is no longer any redistribution of the net profits of labor. Money, one of the great factors of distribution, is monopolized. Interest begets interest and redistribution is throttled. It is on redistribution the first assault is made. Presently several families become poorer, are distressed and part with their land. Then landlordism begins and rent aids usury to still farther depress redistribution. The idleness and poverty among many begets crime and the community is put to great cost.

Now to prove my theory, just glance at these few states where this first attack upon redistribution has never been permitted, but has been avoided. Take Appenzell, Switzerland, where there is not one poor person, where the people are more crowded than elsewhere, some 500 per square mile, and where every family occupies what we would call a palace.

Again, just suppose a case. Imagine a perfectly equal, prosperous, busy state, all the profits of labor are rapidly distributed, nothing carried out never to return in any shape. Now, suppose that the government takes all the net profits in taxes and spends every dollar abroad. In two years that state must be plunged into distress. The whole society would become pauperized in time without a single exception. Suppose the government spent the revenue on its officials and parasites at home. Then all would be impoverished save those so favored and their servants and on hangers. Now what is the difference whether this absorption of all the net profits is done directly by the government or indirectly by a custom of the people themselves, such as hoarding it in bank so as to enable a portion of it to be used to rake more off from labor? Only in this latter case it all goes to a few among themselves.

The point I make is that this whole disease, called poverty in modern society, is due entirely to the assault made in the fourth process of the social state—redistribution, and it grows from small beginnings like the cancer or the avalanche. All other evils grow out of the inequality it causes. Can we think of one but has come from the overgrown power or greed or crime, etc., that are the offsprings of this?

CLARKE IRVINE. CURRENT COMMENT. In every state now controlled by the Populists state issues alone should be sufficient to give us large majorities; in states controlled by corporation-owned Republican politicians, state issues present a still stronger Populistic argument; and in the country generally national issues should induce the people to support their own ticket—the People's Party ticket.

In every one of the Western states served by Populist, Silver Democratic and Silver Republican officials, some good has been gained by the change. Taxes are less, the public service is better, a beginning has been made in curbing the power of monopolistic corporations, and Republican robberies of the public treasuries exposed and the thieves jailed.

There is no apparent disposition in the Northwest to return to the old custom of electing to legislative, judicial and executive offices politicians chosen by railroad magnates to serve

the monopolists, who packed conventions, instead of the people who paid their salaries, and to loot the treasuries as a crowning proof of the stupidity of those who elected them term after term.

The voters of the Northwestern states have had a large experience with the railroad lawyer as a political dictator, and have deposed him for good and all.

The states further east that are still governed by railroad and trust lawyers and other hired men of corporate monopolies are not to be pitied. They frequently have the chance to vote for different men and different conditions, and they will soon grasp their opportunities.

Of national issues the money question is of the most actual importance, followed by direct legislation, the transportation and land question; but there is a disposition to make a leading issue of "Algerism" long enough to punish the corrupt and criminally careless officials who have done to death our volunteer soldiers in pest camps. This is an issue that will not go down, and unless the great and small Algerians are driven from public place the general wrath will center against McKinley. PERCY PEPOON.

A Fair Exchange.

Every citizen of every city depends on the farmer for the means of life—could not live a week without the results of his labor, says the Appeal to Reason. The farmer is not dependent on the cities—he lived before they were, but none existed before the farmer, in this or any other land. A farmer is therefore the most essential member of society, deserving the greatest reward for his labor, and would get it if he were not such a dupe and fool. A farmer will work late and early in sun and rain to produce a crop. Then putting twenty bushels of corn in his wagon he will drive ten miles to market and get \$5 for his load. This load represents several days' labor, the capital on his farm and tools and his experience of years. When a farmer goes to the city and wants a hack from the depot, an hour's ride will cost him \$5. In other words, he exchanges several days' labor for one hour's labor. It is not the hack driver who gets it. He is a very pauper. It goes into rent, taxes, insurance, license, transportation and a thousand other robbery channels. All this can be remedied by a social system that exchanges day's labor for day's labor. In other words, it is a political question, and the farmers and laborers will be skinned until they learn it.

Will Be Owned by the Public.

The time is coming in this country when every public necessity will be owned by the public, including water works, street railroads, telephones, electric lights, gas, etc., but it cannot all come at once, says the Farmers' Tribune. In this radical change we should go slowly and become accustomed to the responsibilities one at a time. Before we assume too many of these important functions, it would seem to us that a system of direct legislation should be inaugurated and through that system make the officials amenable to the people, and give the people a chance to accept or reflect on any action that the officials may take. This will do much to protect the public from the acts of a corrupt council and will act as a restraint upon those who otherwise might favor some corrupting measures for personal gain.

Did You Ever Think?

Did you ever think that the only difference between bonds and greenbacks (practically) is that one draws interest and the other does not? Is it, then, strange that one of these should be chosen by those who would live without working as a medium by which to accumulate to themselves the wealth others have created? Is it necessary for me to tell you which medium it is that the money sharks choose as their weapon? Don't you think it wise, then, for the common people to insist on the other? Or do you think Abe was a fool? You must take one position or the other. And just now you are holding on to the other.—Industrial Freedom.

Where the Wealth Goes.

The average consumption of sugar per person in the United States last year was 64½ pounds, or a total for the nation of 4,836,000,000 pounds. This is controlled by two firms. If they make but one cent per pound profit, it means that these two companies amassed \$48,000,000 out of the people—a sum greater than the assessed valuation of some of the states! This is the way the wealth of the nation is going into a few hands.—Appeal to Reason.

LIVERY STABLE

Church Street, near Iron Bridge, Natchitoches, La.

New Buildings, New Buggies, Fresh Horses, Experienced Managers

Drummer's Outfitted on Short Notice. 'Bus Meet all Trains.

Horses cared for by the day, week or month. Put up with us when you come to town. Best line of Feed to be had.

Mc. K. HOLSTON.

NATCHITOCHESES DIRECTORY.

CHURCH SERVICES.

Services at the Methodist church every First and Third Sundays at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m., by the pastor, Rev. H. Armstrong. Prayer meeting every Wednesday night at 7:30 o'clock. BAPTIST—M. E. Weaver, pastor. Regular services, Second and Fourth Sundays at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m.; Sunday school, 10 a. m.; prayer meeting, Wednesday, 8 p. m. All invited.

LODGES.

Phoenix Lodge No. 38, A. F. & A. M.—Simcoe Walmsley, W. M.; J. C. Trichel Jr., Sec. Meets First and Third Wednesdays at 7 p. m. Castle Hall No. 89, Knights of Pythias.—U. P. Breazeale, C. C.; Adolph L'Herisson, K. of R. & S. Meets Second and Fourth Thursdays at 8 p. m.

COURTS.

DISTRICT COURT. Criminal Term—First Mondays in June and December. CIVIL TERM. First Mondays in March and October. CIRCUIT COURT. First Mondays in April and November.

A. E. LEMER. J. B. TUCKER.

LEMEE & TUCKER,

General Insurance, Land Agents, Notaries Public

ABSTRACTS OF TITLES A SPECIALTY.

Represent FIDELITY COMPANIES. Accepted as Sureties on all Bonds of any kind.

Office, Opposite Court House.

Established in 1880

General Insurance Agency.

U. P. BREAZEALE,

[Successor to Alexander, Hill & Breazeale.]

Represents First-Class Companies in Life and Fire Insurance

Representing also the United States Fidelity & Guaranty Company, of Baltimore, for Bonds and Securities.

Prompt Attention to Business. :: Country Business a Specialty

Office on St. Dennis Street, NATCHITOCHESES, LA.

Call on me before placing your Insurance Elsewhere.

U. P. Breazeale,

LOUISIANA STATE NORMAL SCHOOL

Natchitoches, La.

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR TEACHERS, maintained by the State of Louisiana, offers a four years' course of instruction, English, French, Latin, Mathematics, Drawing, Bookkeeping, History, Literature, Music, Natural Sciences, Psychology and Pedagogy; three terms of professional study, one year of daily practice in model schools. Diploma entitles graduates to teach in any public school of Louisiana without examination.

Four well equipped buildings, a fifth now under construction; good laboratories, library and reading room. Grounds of 100 acres, beautifully located and improved; excellent health conditions and opportunities for physical training and recreation. Dormitories accommodate 200 young ladies; gentlemen board in private families. Faculty of sixteen trained teachers; 441 students last session. Tuition free to those who intend to teach; total necessary expense \$106 for session of eight months. Fall term begins OCTOBER 3, 1898.

For catalogue write to

B. C. CALDWELL, President.

JOHN M. TUCKER, President. D. C. SCARBOROUGH, Secretary.

JOHN A. BARLOW, Treasurer and General Manager.

GIVANOVICH OIL CO., LIMITED

Manufacturers and Dealers in all kinds of...

COTTON : SEED : PRODUCTS,

NATCHITOCHESES, LA.