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NO. 2.

THE CROSS OF GOLD.

AMERICAN PRODUCERS ARE BEING CRUCIFIED.

Porter of Virginia Exposes the Methods Resorted to by the Plutocratic Press to Hide the Cause of Falling Prices of Our Products.

J. W. Porter of Virginia in the Silver Knight-Watchman.)

In view of the long continued decline in agricultural prosperity, which has acted upon all other industries, and making commercial business hazardous, to say the least, we see men still groping in darkness as to the cause. We see others ignorantly or wilfully misstating the cause, and declaring that it is irremediable, while chronicling the damaging evidence of the destruction of values which is due to causes which are remediable. The cause and the remedy have been long pointed out by some of the wisest and ablest men of the time, and public opinion would long ago have expelled the application of that policy which consisted in a removal of the cause, but for the determined effort to prevent public opinion by false statements, and the closure of the columns of so many of our great newspapers and agricultural journals to any fair discussion of the subject. This is no light matter in a republic, whose enlightened public opinion is our every safeguard. The power of money to oppress is nowhere more aptly illustrated than in this attempted control of the vehicles of public intelligence. Every writer against the gold standard in this country and in Europe knows how difficult it is to get any presentation of fact or argument against the gold standard before the people. The late Prof. Laveleye, of Liege university, asserted in his last days, after long and able contending against the injustice of the gold standard, that he had to pay for the publication of his papers in the great continental journals. In a republic this is inexcusable. It is dangerous. It is the first step taken to liberty. Americans should be on the danger, ere it is too late. Justice have nothing to fear from an untrammelled public opinion deemed "the nation's voice."

"outlaws to reason" presume to teach and they find room in journals, professing agricultural, which will not permit an exposure of its infamy to appear in their columns. Why! the above is of a par with the wolf's logic to the lamb in Aesop's fable. We must note the admission made of the impairment of the purchasing power of the greatest consuming class in our country in 1896 of \$750,000,000—over \$10 per capita for every man, woman and child in it; for it must comfort the men who seek relief by more taxes—more revenue—and in the opening of more mills instead of mints. Comfort them, just as their promised prosperity comforts us, as it were. This tremendous impairment of the purchasing power of the farmers of our country is the cause of manifold evils which afflict our country and the world. Instead of being caused by "the shadow of a threatened crime," as this wanton writer calls the struggle for relief, it is the result of the most gigantic crime ever attempted—the attempt to change the standard of payment after getting the nations under bonded debts aggregating certainly one-third the total wealth of the world. We may more truly reverse Mr. Atkinson's assertion, and say that our present great losses are due to our having so long tolerated the fraudulent and unconstitutional attempt to change the standard of payment, not the standard of value, as Mr. Atkinson falsely calls it, by which the spoliation of the people is permitted under forms of law. There is no standard of value. There can be none for value in a market relation, determined by the supply and demand of this thing valued in men's minds by their desire to keep it or to exchange it. A standard is a fixed quantity, or measure, under the sanction of law, or of custom. Value is subject to many changes. It is "ideals," as our supreme court once declared.

The World's Lie.

I looked from out the grating
Of my spirit's dungeon cell—
And I saw the Life-tide rolling,
With a sullen, angry swell;
And the battle-ships were riding
Like leviathans in pride—
While their cannon roared the rain.

THE GUERNSEY PLAN.

TRUE FINANCIAL SYSTEM HAS BEEN TESTED.

The Guernsey Market Money Should Be Kept Before the People As An Object Lesson—Bonds Are Worse Than Needless.

"The best money in the world," says America's greatest political economist, Henry George, "is the money that costs the people the least, and is the most convenient. The best money in the world is the greenback."

Greenbacks may be defined as paper money, issued by the government in payment of public expenses, and receivable for all taxes. How this paper money can be used in making necessary public improvements without selling posterity into slavery by the issuance of interest-bearing bonds was shown in the island of Guernsey, and it cannot be too often retold. It is thus recounted by the Pittsburg Kansan:

"In view of what was said last week in the Kansan about the possible building of a city hall for the city of Pittsburg on the Guernsey market plan, quite an extensive interest has been created, and we have been urgently requested to restate what is meant by the Guernsey plan.

"It may not be amiss to say that Guernsey, one of the Channel Islands, in the bay of St. Michael, is 30 miles west of the coast of Normandy and 50 miles south of Portland on the English coast. It has an area of 16,000 acres, and a population of 30,000. The natives speak the old Norman French to this day. St. Peters is the only town of consequence on the island. About a hundred years ago, when the population on the island was about 20,000, and that of St. Peters about 5,000, the burghers did their marketing around the church square, in the open air, but concluded it would be much better to put up a building that would serve as a city hall and market house. That had been concluded by their fathers and their grandfathers before them, but there they were, still exposed to the weather in doing their marketing, and without any roomy place to hold public meetings. A bright young man who had studied architecture whiled away his spare time drawing the plan of a possible market house, city hall and auditorium for St. Peters and the parish councillors were greatly pleased with it. What a splendid addition such a building would be to St. Peters and Guernsey. The more they thought of it the more the need of such an institution grew upon them, but alas, the young architect figured out that it would cost not less than £4,000—\$20,000. There was no money on hand. Peter de l'Isle Brock was governor of Guernsey, and was a man of great resources and good judgment. He was a descendant of Norman Rollo, in whose heirs the governorship had been vested for a thousand years. If anybody could devise ways and means to put up a \$20,000 market house Peter was the man, thought the people. A deputation of the councillors, accompanied by several substantial burghers called on the governor, told him what they desired, showed him the plan of the proposed market house and asked him what he thought about it.

"I think this is a very good plan," said Pete, "why don't you build it?"

"We have no money, and in these troublous times we do not think we could borrow it"—it should be remembered times were hard at that time.

"Well, that is rather bad," responded Peter, "but perhaps we might contrive to get over the difficulty. Let me see," and he glanced again at the imposing looking from elevation, side elevations, plans, diagrams and specifications, prepared by the young architect.

"Tell me," he continued, "have we the necessary rock on the island to build it with?" "Yes, plenty of it."

"And brick?" "We can make them."

"Lumber, sand and lime?" "Enough to put up a hundred such buildings."

"Have we the mechanics, and teams and laborers?" "Certainly." "But no money?" "No money." Peter took a few minutes to think and then in a quiet but positive tone said: "I think we can manage it. After all, money is quarry rocks, nor burn bricks, nor saw it into lumber, nor build—it is men who do it, and you say we have the men."

"I think we can manage it," said Pete, "why don't you build it?"

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and you will have good paying property to turn over to your children. In the meantime, you can use these notes for trading purposes among yourselves, as every one of you know they represent actual value and will in time be redeemed."

"Bravo! we'll do it," and soon the glad word was sent over the island of Guernsey that a grand new \$20,000 market house was to be built at St. Peters. The proper committees were appointed by the council, the bright young architect was given general supervision of the work and soon the Guernsey islanders were as busy as bees on their new market house. Every Saturday at noon the accounts for labor and material were made up, laid before the council, the notes bearing good Governor Peter de l'Isle Brock's signature were issued and everything squared up. There was a noticeable increase in business all over the island—not an idle or unemployed man on it. Those who had been in debt got out of it, and by the time the \$20,000 in notes were out there was a feeling of general prosperity. The building in all its stately proportions was finally completed. The market was divided into 80 stalls. Each stall was leased at \$25 a year—making an annual income of \$2,000. The notes were accepted as payment, and in ten years the last one was taken up and cancelled. That market house stands there to this day, and is still bringing in revenue to the burghers of St. Peters and Guernsey. It never cost a single penny in what is known as money, and yet every claim that could possibly be satisfied by money was met. No bonds, no coupon, no interest, no taxes—and there you are. Does this example of what a few isolated islanders accomplished a century ago yield no lesson of value to the people of Pittsburg or the nation? Can we not build a market house and auditorium on the Guernsey plan? Can we not issue greenbacks on the same plan? If not, why not?

PEN POINTS.

It will get so, after awhile, that the taxpayer will insist on being put in prison, and compel the convicts to go out and go to work to support them.—Representative.

What an awful fix the country would have been in but for the present extra session of congress.—Farm, Stock and Home.

In his "creeping paralysis of business and bitter want of the unemployed" Mr. Wanamaker is rather besting Mr. McKinley, who is not a business man, but just an ambitious politician.—Toledo News.

It is said that a dragon fly can fly backward as rapidly and easily as forward; so can some politicians.—Commonwealth.

The American people need to make an uprising against the autocratic power of the speaker of the house of representatives. It is useless to talk of a house of representatives where there is no such thing as honest, untrammelled representation.—Manitou Enterprise.

One fundamental cause of hard times is that there are too many men who don't get what they earn.—Farm, Stock and Home.

Before election the Republican party knew all about the money question and knew just what to do to restore prosperity. It's different now, and the President wants a commission authorized to go in search of that wave of prosperity we've heard so much about and seen so little of.—Aspen Tribune.

The armies of the world number about 5,000,000 men. These soldiers, if engaged in the production of wealth instead of the destruction of wealth—property and life—could, with modern machinery, produce enough wealth—homes, food, clothing and other necessities—to make comfortable and happy 75,000,000 people.—Rights of Man.

Dun & Co., the commercial agency humbuggers, declare that the people are doing a larger volume of business than they realize. That's it! Just as clear as averaging the bank accounts of ten men, for example. One man may have \$1,000 and the other nine nothing, but in the average each man has \$100, and therefore...

M'KINLEY OF YORE.

HIS RECORD AS AN ADVOCATE OF SILVER.

Senator Stewart of Nevada Shows Up the Good Side of the Chief Executive's Life—Admirers Don't Like It—Goldocrats Badly Chagrined.

During the debate on the tariff bill in the senate a number of senators were criticised by Senator Hoar, of Massachusetts, for supporting Mr. Bryan at the late election who had once voted for free wool. Mr. Stewart, among others, defended the position of Mr. Bryan, and said: "Mr. President: I think that the criticism which has been made on Mr. Bryan is very unjust. I can give an illustration of its injustice. When the Bland act was under consideration, in 1878, in the house of representatives in its original form, it was a free-coinage act pure and simple, and it passed the house by an overwhelming majority, without any qualification, before the Allison amendment was attached to it. Mr. McKinley voted for free coinage pure and simple by the United States alone, independent of other nations, without any qualification whatever. After the Bland act came to the senate and was amended, he voted for it as amended. Then it was vetoed, and he voted to pass the Bland-Allison act over the veto of the President. He voted for it on every vote. During that contest he voted with the most radical silver men. Further, since 1890 he made a speech at Toledo, Ohio, which I have now before me, in which he denounced President Cleveland for discriminating between the two metals. He denounced President Cleveland's policy. In the Republican convention of 1888, the last Republican convention I ever attended, I was upon the committee on resolutions. Mr. McKinley was chairman of that committee. After a whole night's discussion we adopted unanimously an amendment which I drew and proposed, Mr. McKinley voting for it, the amendment declaring that the Republican party is in favor of the use of both gold and silver as money, and condemns the action of the Cleveland administration for its efforts to demonetize silver. He stood on that plank. Then when the St. Louis convention met and he became a candidate he accepted the nomination on a very different platform, one declaring that the Republican party will adhere to the present gold standard until we can get an international agreement. Upon the theory of the senator from Massachusetts, if Mr. McKinley follows the logic of his former position, he would sign a free-coinage bill, and he would aid in its passage so far as giving it his general approval. He would be as good a free-coinage man as he was in 1878, and as good a free-coinage man as I am. He was as radical in his votes and actions then as I am to-day or my friend from Missouri or anybody else. If that is the principle, if free-coinage once it is free-coinage always, if it is impossible to be a backslider from that doctrine, then it may be impossible that there shall be backsliders from extreme free-trade doctrine. There are many men of extreme free-trade notions, and they may believe it yet, but they have been forced to modify their opinions, because we are obliged to have a tariff to put the products of our labor in a condition to compete with foreign articles."

Mr. Allen—Will the senator permit me to ask him if it is a fact that the recent President of the United States advocated and voted for the passage of the Sherman act?

Mr. Stewart—He did; and he afterwards referred to and boasted of it in a speech.

Mr. Teller—He voted for the Sherman law.

Mr. Teller—The Sherman law of 1890?

Mr. Stewart—Yes; he voted for the Sherman law and the Bland-Allison act.

Mr. Allen—As I recollect from reading his speech, he advocated strongly the passage of that act in the other branch of congress.

Mr. Stewart—He advocated the passage of the act in congress, and he spoke of it and denounced Mr. Cleveland when he was President for the position he occupied on the money question, as late as 1891 or 1892. I read a great deal of his speech the other day.

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men who are perfect during all their career, from their infancy up, who do not grow by circumstances, we shall have to take very young men to be Presidents, younger than Mr. Bryan and younger than Mr. McKinley. After they perform one public act, they may find it necessary to diverge from it the next day. You cannot find men who are perfect, if you study their political history. It seems to me there is nothing in the question. It is not strange, however, that Mr. Bryan should be criticised, because it is very well known that he is going to be the next President of the United States (laughter), and, of course, the opposition have commenced to criticise him.

The gold standardites in the senate will not attack Mr. Bryan's consistency again, for a long while, at least.

WORDS OF THE WISE.

Man Supreme.

I would not have the laborer sacrificed to the result. I would not have the laborer sacrificed to my convenience and pride, nor that of a great class of such as I. Let there be worse cotton and better men. The weaver should not be bereaved of his superiority to his work.—Emerson.

Oppression.

Man never fastened one end of a chain around the neck of his brother, that God's own hand did not fasten the other end around the neck of the oppressor.—Lamartine.

Liberty Knows No Defeat.

Liberty knows nothing but victories. Soldiers call Bunker Hill a defeat; but liberty dates from it, though Warren lay dead on the field.—Wendell Phillips.

Where Adams Stood.

Bonds and banks I never approved. Our whole banking system I ever abhorred, I continue to abhor, and shall die abhorring.—John Adams.

Justice Must Not Be Delayed.

But above all if we be just men, we shall go forward in the name of truth and right, bearing this in mind that when the case is proved, and the hour is come, justice delayed is justice denied.—Gladstone.

The Worth of a State.

The worth of a state in the long run is the worth of the individuals composing it.—John Stuart Mill.

Speak Out.

Any human being, however humble or liable to error, may render an essential service to society by making, through a whole lifetime, a steady, uncompromising, dispassionate declaration of his convictions as they are matured.—Harriet Martineau.

Paper Money Real Money.

Henri Cernuschi, when before the United States monetary commission in 1877, made this statement: "With reference to paper money, another great error prevails. Many people believe that its value depends upon the promise of the government to repay them in metal one day or other. This promise does not add to the purchasing power of paper money. A promise to execute without date for executing is not a promise. The only reason why paper money has a value is that it is a legal tender; that nobody can refuse it, that the government accepts it for the payment of taxes. It is for this reason that it circulates in the same way that gold and silver circulate. Paper money is not a credit paper, but an enforced standard. Gold and silver money is also an enforced standard."—Page 95, Nomisma, or Legal Tender by Henri Cernuschi.

POLITICAL CHANGE.

Senator Butler of North Carolina has introduced a resolution directing the committee on privileges and elections to inquire into the practicability of applying the principle of initiative and referendum to federal legislation in this country. The committee has decided to make the investigation through a sub-committee.

Whether the People's party battles alone or in co-operation with the other free silver parties events daily make converts to the People's party platform.