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THE FUNNY SIDE OF IT.

Bill Nye Finds One to the Financial Question.

Sometime ago Bill Nye wrote an article on the humorous side of the silver question, which appeared in the New York World. In part it is as follows:

Col. Sylvester Foster of East Haddam writes to know what, if any, opinion I may have regarding matters of currency. That is a most difficult question to answer without offending good, honest men, who may differ with us on this question.

The first requisite of any currency, as in the character of an individual, is integrity. The promise of a good man may be written in snow, but no iron-clad agreement engraved on brass can avail against the intangible soul of a nimble liar.

There are two classes of people who favor a cheaper currency—those who honestly err in judgment and those who see an opportunity thus to escape the responsibility of obligations already incurred or who see a chance to traffic in the temporary aberration of the erring.

There are very few methods of legislation known among men whereby wealth may suddenly, by act of congress, be swiped from the coffers of the rich and gently introduced, without pain, into the inside pocket of the poor. Politicians promise to do this, but after election they claim to be overpowered by wicked men who are not in favor of doing so. The danger threatening the country is not so much that the people of the United States desire to do the wrong thing as that they may be forced to express an opinion before they have quite formed one.

Dear fellow citizens, under whose eye these few tremulous lines may pass, let me entreat you as one who has never asked for your suffrages, and who does not anticipate doing so, to calmly repudiate all prismatic pictures of a stuffed currency and general joy. Let me on bended knee assert in all humility that honesty is better than dishonesty; and I know you will appreciate this as coming from one who has tried both.

We hear much of the double standard, but the dangerous double standard is carried by the vicious and ignorant candidate with a face toward his constituency, reading:

"Give us a new way to pay off old debts."

And another facing Wall Street on which is inscribed:

"Gentlemen, we are not for sale. What will you give?"

Currency is a peculiar commodity. It must be more or less elastic in order to adjust itself to the needs of trade and the growth of the volume of the world's business. In this way, of course, the old world naturally became in a measure our banker. We must not get irritated over that. We need a fly wheel sometimes to regulate our velocity.

Suppose we liken the currency to the human circulation. Are we better off with a slender supply of good blood, which may be added to by natural methods, or should we inject into our systems a chemical fluid that is called blood by act of congress?

No one can blame the producers of silver for desiring a larger and better market for their crop, but that market must be created by the demand and not measured by resolutions. I know that silver is low. I have a phenomenal silver mine of my own, but have never dared to expose it to the public, for fear that the possession of a silver mine might hurt me at the butcher shop. I know it is hard to submit to such things, but we must be patient. Better far will it be to know that the body politic needs a little more blood than to know that an early rose cancer has been planted in its circulation.

To look at the matter seriously we are too prone to attribute all of our ills to "the government." Is the government to blame that for ten years we fell all over each other in our efforts to buy prairie suburbs and build double-track cable lines all over Kansas and everywhere else where two or three robbers and a court house were gathered together? Is the government entirely to blame because the ring-worm, the rider-pest and the green-goods man make a farmer's life a perfect hell on earth? Is Grover Cleveland to blame for the cut-worm which mowed down my tomato ketchup vineyard or the squash bug that cometh up as a chewer?

Let us look into our own hearts, dear reader, and then see if we find aught that is wrong, and if so root it out before

we take the job of national reform. The government can be no better than the individuals of which it is composed. And poverty is not by any means the saddest thing that can come upon a man. Sir George Pullman, the only man who knows for a dead moral certainty that he can always be sure of a lower berth whenever he goes anywhere, says that with all his millions he is not so happy as when he was juking a jack plane in his little old furniture store at Peoria and inventing the hingeless blankets which he now uses in his slumber crates.

He says, with tears in his eyes, that if he could once more be poor and at peace, he would be willing to see all his trade going over to the Wagner Sleeping Car Company.

Oh! let us learn then that the poor, miserable millionaire, who were it not for pride or the comfort of his family—who have acquired expensive and luxurious tastes—would almost gladly take a few canned goods and go away to the blue and buggy jungles of the unknown and ungoverned forest, there to be forever at peace. There he could use the whole broad universe for a cuspidor, and let his whiskers grow and ramble up a rustic trellis, where the gold bug giveth place to the 1,000-legged worm and the weary are at rest.

Allison and Davis.

There has been no opposition to Allison in Iowa and yet the delegation which is solid for him as a first choice is equally solid for McKinley as a second choice. Why should not the same state of things prevail in Minnesota? C. K. Davis has been now for more than a year before the people of Minnesota as a candidate for the presidential nomination at St. Louis. The suggestion of his name for that office, originally made, we believe, by the Pioneer Press, was received with universal acceptance by the people of the state. Whether they believe that he had any chance of being nominated or not it was universally conceded that the distinguished position he had won before the country and his general popularity at home entitled him to a formal expression at St. Louis of the high regard and admiration in which he was held in his own state.

The circumstances under which the movement in his favor was started and grew into general favor took it entirely out of the category of those transparent maneuvers which were very neatly sprung in Illinois and Nebraska in the pretended candidacy of Cullom and Manderson, the sole object of which was to steal those states from McKinley. The Davis movement long antedated any visible or pronounced development of a McKinley sentiment in the state. It was an honest boom like that of Allison in Iowa, and now that it has been freed from the suspicion that certain politicians had undertaken to use it as a mask for a Reed delegation—now that it has become known that the friends of Davis are in no sense parties to any such scheme, but desire that a delegation shall be chosen which will give the fullest expression to the popular sentiment in the matter of a second choice, it is entitled to the same cordial treatment as the Allison boom in Iowa. Senator Davis is entitled on the same grounds as Allison to a united delegation from this state, who will stand by him as long as in their judgment he has a reasonable chance, but free to go to McKinley or any one else whenever they choose.—Pioneer Press.

Declared for Silver.

Plank second of the Republican State Platform, adopted at State convention, July 11, 1895: "The Republican party believes in the use of both gold and silver as money, maintaining the substantial parity of value of every dollar in circulation with that of every other dollar. It believes in bimetalism and that the restoration of silver as ultimate money to the currency of the world is absolutely necessary for business prosperity, proper rates of wages and the welfare of the people. Holding these views, we believe it should be the policy of the United States to do everything in its power to promote the restoration of silver to the world's currency."

This was the currency plank on which the Republicans of Minnesota were returned to power in 1894. The same platform which endorsed the statesmanship and the administration of Nelson as governor, of Davis and Washburn in the senate, and of Fletcher, Kiefer, Tawney and McCleary in the house, declared for "bimetalism and the restoration of silver." The platform on which Tawney, McCleary, Heatwole, Kiefer, Fletcher, Towne and Eddy ran for congress, the platform on which every State official went before the people, declared that the Republican party "believes in bimetalism and that the restoration of silver as ultimate money to the currency of the world is absolutely necessary for business prosperity, proper rates of wages and the welfare of the people."

Considering the pledge of doctrine, is it not exceedingly wise and proper, indeed, if not binding upon the Republicans of this State, to send to St. Louis at the coming convention delegates who represent these views? Is it not a breach of faith to send gold-bug delegates? And yet what silver supporter is pushed for a position? The eminent politicians whose names are being heralded over the State are for the most part gold standard men. Where are the silver men? What are they doing? Why are none of them mentioned? Surely the Republicans of Minnesota are not going to send to St. Louis a gold-bug delegation, in the face of the last State platform. Receiving 60,000 plurality on that platform, we are not now going back on it. It cannot be.

The silver forces of the party must be up and at work. No backing out can be permitted now. We cannot afford to stultify ourselves. Silver must be represented, and silver delegates must be put forward. Gold standard organs have repudiated the platform, but the Republican party has not, and Republican voters must see to it that silver men go to St. Louis.—Princeton Union.

Cuba's Future.

Murat Halstead has returned from a trip to Cuba, and announces that he is in favor of annexing that island to the United States. Senator Sherman some time ago stated that he was in favor of having it annexed to Mexico, a republic of similar nationality. Of the two views that of the Ohio statesman seems immeasurably more reasonable. If Cuba were annexed to the United States the island would naturally be placed under a territorial administration, but inevitably it would be admitted to an equality with the other states, with whom it would have little sympathy. To keep it simply as a dependency would be inconsistent with republican principles, and the Cubans themselves would eventually rebel against such a course. Separated from this country physically, its people descended from the Latin races, by nature unlike the citizens of this country, kept from gradual amalgamation and assimilation by their position, the island might be a source of continual irritation to this government. Its representatives in congress, animated less by zeal for the welfare of the entire country than by a desire to obtain something for their insular advantage, might be veritable shuttles between the two parties. In case of the equal strength of the latter the delegates from the island, alien in blood and training, might easily block or dictate legislation for the entire country, of which they were an insignificant caudal appendage. In case of war with a foreign country, the island would be the vulnerable point of attack, the heel of Achilles of an otherwise practically invulnerable republic. Were it necessary to follow either view, it would seem far preferable that the queer of the Antilles should be placed under the Mexican republic, which, also of Spanish origin, would better comprehend the heterogeneous people of Cuba.

There appears to be no reason why the Cubans should not maintain, as an independent power, the republic already provisionally established, if they secure their freedom. The new republic would naturally be under the moral protection of the United States from its proximity and its form of government. It would undoubtedly enter into a commercial union with this country, to which it would look as a protector. The United States would gain nearly everything involved in annexation, and the Cubans would have the even greater satisfaction of being independent and of working out their destiny alone.—Pioneer Press.

Thomas H. Carter, in an able and fearless speech in the U. S. senate, justifies his position in voting against the so-called "emergency" tariff bill and lay down the doctrine of the republican party in its original purity. The utterances of Mr. Carter have increased weight by reason of the fact that he is chairman of the national republican central committee. He charges that the so-called Dingley tariff bill was a make-shift, a delusion and a snare, unrepresentative in principle and contrary in its provisions to the pledges made by the republican party. Furthermore he says it was never intended that the bill should become a law. He boldly asserts that bimetalism is one of the underlying principles of the republican party, enunciated in platform and press and proclaimed from the stump by all of its great apostles, and until that principle of the party is restored and silver given its rightful place in the monetary system of our country he would oppose any and all legislation affecting the tariff and finance that did not embody that idea.

Mr. Carter's speech has the right ring and will be endorsed by all who believe that political parties should be honest and carry out their pledges and who are opposed to the arrogant and destructive

domination of this country by a few selfish foreign nabobs. Mr. Carter in speaking of the money plank in the Minneapolis platform says:

The Republicans of Montana likewise, in common with a large number of Republicans the country over, believe in another article of Republican faith, promulgated over and over again by the Republican party and reaffirmed in the national platform of 1892 in the following words:

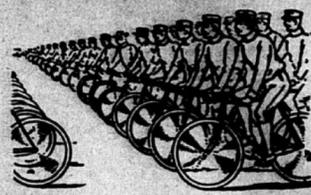
The American people, from tradition and interest, favor bimetalism, and the Republican party demands the use of both gold and silver as standard money, with such restrictions and under such provisions, to be determined by legislation, as will secure the maintenance of the parity of values of the two metals, so that the purchasing and debt-paying power of the dollar, whether of silver, gold, or paper, shall be at all times equal.

Every Republican in this country believed and had a right to believe that the portion of the platform quoted was adopted in good faith. It was not suspected nor can it be fairly suspected that the convention resorted to the Talleyrand scheme of using words to conceal rather than to express thoughts. If that plank in the platform was a mere cunning device, contrived to deceive people into parting with their suffrage under false pretenses, the party then and there forfeited its rights to the confidence, respect, and support of every honest citizen of the Republic. I do not believe the convention acted in bad faith. On the contrary, I am persuaded that the principle announced, favoring gold and silver as the standard money of the country, was the expression of the crystallized opinion of wellnigh a thousand representative citizens, fresh from their homes and town-meetings, assembled in national convention to give utterance to the views of a great party on great questions involving the present and future prosperity and wellbeing of this nation. It is my candid belief, often expressed, that fully 90 per cent of the American people favor bimetalism as opposed to either gold or silver monometallism. The almost inspired framers of our Constitution, of whom it is truly said, "They builded better than they knew," launched this ship of state with bimetalism as the sheet anchor of our monetary system. Their wisdom in that behalf has been sanctioned by the vast weight of authority of monetary science. Without public discussion silver was eliminated from the coinage of the country twenty odd years ago. From that time to this constant efforts have been made to reestablish free silver coinage. The Republican party has always professed itself favorable to the consummation of this desired purpose. Within the party differences of opinion have existed, not upon the principle involved, but upon the methods which should be employed to bring about the desired result. Certain Republicans of mature judgment, wide research, and unquestionable integrity of purpose have urged the party to undue by law the mischief brought about by law. This element in the party is known as the free-silver element. Recently certain self-constituted censors of party action have been pleased to denigrate such Republicans as conspirators against the public weal; others have gone so far as to invite them to relieve the party of their obnoxious presence. They have been advised that their States are not needed in Republican columns. Garrulous statesmen, possessed of more zeal than knowledge, have assumed to deal with party principles by the measure of party necessity.

The advocates of the free and unlimited coinage of silver in the Republican party insist upon the adoption of their views because they believe that the principle for which they contend is inherently and eternally right. Their zeal and enthusiasm in behalf of silver do not detract from their devotion to every elementary principle of the Republican party.—Fairmont Sentinel.

They seem to be having a good deal of trouble over the candidacy of George Somerville for congress down in the southwestern part of the state. It is well enough to refer to the section of the state rather than the Second district, for the reason that the Third district people in that vicinity seem to take fully as much interest in the matter as those of the Second district. Mr. Somerville is first declared to be a gold man, and then he is declared to be a silver man masking under the sound money blanket. In any event, those who don't want him to succeed McCleary do not seem to know what to do with Mr. Somerville, who seems to be decidedly popular in his section. The Hector Mirror proposes, as a solution of the problem, that he be elected to the district bench, and the suggestion may have some weight, as the Mirror is published in Mr. Somerville's judicial district, although it is not in his congressional district.—Mankato News.

Columbias Are chosen 10 Times out of 10



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