

ISSUE IS TO BE SILVER.

Democratic Members of Congress Issue a Manifesto.

THE PARTY MUST GO ON RECORD.

Declare the Money Question Will Be the Issue in 1896—Urge Free and Unlimited Coinage at 16 to 1 as the Only Solution of the Financial Problem—Proceedings in Congress—Deficiency Bill Passed.

WASHINGTON, March 2.—The Democratic silver manifesto, which has been the chief topic of talk on that side of the house for a few days, was made public Friday. While it has been generally circulated for the consideration of members, there was no attempt to secure signatures until a late hour, because the prime movers in the matter were undecided whether to call a caucus for discussion of the matter or to secure signatures or issue directly to the public. In consideration of the short time left and the pressure of business, it was determined not to have a conference. Representative members from 15 states signed the declaration at the instance of Mr. Bryan of Nebraska, but the canvass is so far very incomplete and the list of signers will not be made public until it is complete. The paper is as follows: To the Democrats of the United States:

We, the undersigned Democrats, present for your consideration the following statement:

We believe that the establishment of gold as the only monetary standard, and the elimination of silver as a full legal tender money will increase the purchasing power of each dollar, add to the burden of all debts, decrease the market value of all other forms of property, continue and intensify business depression and finally reduce the majority of the people to financial bondage.

We believe no party can hope for enduring success in the United States so long as it advocates a single gold standard, and that the advocacy of such a financial policy would be especially so to a party which, like the Democratic party, derives its voting strength from those who may without reproach be called the common people, and we point to the overwhelming defeat of the party in 1894, to the opposition aroused by the veto of the seigniorage bill and to the still more unanimous protest against the issue of gold bonds, as proof that the Democratic party cannot be brought to the support of the gold standard policy.

Paramount Issue in 1896.

We believe that the money question will be the paramount issue in 1896, and will so remain until it is settled by the intelligence and patriotism of the American voters.

We believe a large majority of the Democrats of the United States favor bimetallism and realize it can only be secured by the restoration of the free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver at the present ratio, and we assert that the majority has and should exert the right to control the policy of the party and retain the party name.

We believe it is the duty of the majority and within their power to take charge of the party organization and make the Democratic party an effective instrument in the accomplishment of needed reforms. It is not necessary that Democrats should surrender their convictions on other questions in order to take an active part in the settlement of the question which at this time surpasses all others in importance.

We believe that the rank and file of the party should at once assert themselves in the Democratic party and place it on record in favor of the immediate restoration of the free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1, as such coinage existed prior to 1873, without waiting for the aid or consent of any other nation, such gold and silver coin to be a full legal tender for all debts, public and private.

We urge all Democrats who favor the financial policy above set forth to associate themselves together and impress their views upon the party organization; we urge all newspapers in harmony with the above financial policy to place it at the head of the editorial column and assist in the immediate restoration of bimetallism.

ANIMATED DEBATE IN THE SENATE.

Caused by the Bering Sea Differences Being Brought Up Again.

WASHINGTON, March 2.—The Bering sea differences provoked an animated debate in the senate Friday. Mr. Cockrell had offered an amendment to the pending deficiency bill, appropriating \$50,000 for the expenses of another committee of arbitration to adjust the claims of Canadian sealers seized by the United States. It was in line with the suggestions of a letter just received from Secretary Gresham. Mr. Sherman opposed this second arbitration, saying it was dishonorable and unwise; that the United States had not paid these claims through the compromise of \$425,000 heretofore urged. Mr. Sherman predicted much trouble as a result of reopening this controversy.

Mr. Morgan, who was one of the United States commissioners of arbitration, declared the payment of \$425,000 would be a disgrace to the United States and to the administration. The contest was so effective that Mr. Cockrell withdrew his proposition. The deficiency bill was kept steadily before the senate throughout the day and passed after a struggle of three hours. The claims of California, Oregon and Nevada against the government aggregating \$7,000,000 was passed without the formality of a ye and nay vote. The appropriation of \$1,800,000 to the Southern Pacific railroad and another of about

\$1,000,000 for French spoliation claims and war claims were also passed. Eulogies were pronounced on the late Representative Lisle (Ky.).

Inspection of Soldiers' Homes.

WASHINGTON, March 2.—A report of the inspection of the several branches of the national home for disabled volunteer soldiers, made by General J. C. Brockinridge, inspector general of the army, has been sent to congress. The duty of inspecting the several branches of the home related to over 15,000 men, and disbursements amounting to \$4,758,173. There is probably nothing, the report says which more deserves consideration than the comfortable housing of soldiers. How to secure the speediest relief for these feeble and worthy men in time for them to profit by it deserves the most serious consideration. Everywhere, the report says, there was talk of the unprecedented pressure for admission to the home.

A Question Making Much Noise.

A discussion is raging in Erie over a question propounded by a schoolteacher to her class, "If a tree located in a forest should fall and no one should see it, would it make a noise?" The question has created much discussion among the pupils to whom it was presented, and it has spread into older and wider circles. The debate turns upon the theory that sound exists only in the ear, and that there can be no sound where there is no ear to receive and respond to the atmospheric waves.—Oil City Blizzard.

Each Had a Dog.

The elevator in the Victoria hotel lifted the following load the other day: Mrs. Kendal, Mrs. Kendal's dog and Mr. Kendal, Miss Sibyl Sanderson, Miss Sibyl Sanderson's dog and her fiancé, Antonio Terry, Mrs. Langtry and Mrs. Langtry's pup. No wonder the country's going to the demdition bowwows.—New York Letter.

Pistol Practice in Texas.

"We have 15,010 mutilated and worn silver dollars in our vault," said a sub-treasury official at St. Louis. "We also have over 500,000 half dollar, quarter and dime pieces which have become too thin for use. It is a curious thing that the mutilated dollars which we received from Texas are deeply indented. This is a result of the target practice in Texas. The crack shots down there think that a silver dollar is the best kind of a mark."

Hears With His Mouth.

A boy whose mouth is wonderful, in that it does the double service of tasting and hearing, was in San Antonio today. His name is John Mihand, and his home is at Sabinas. He was born ten years ago. Both ears were closed at birth, and they have never been of service to him. But by a remarkable freak of nature his mouth has done what his ears ought to have done, and he is not incommoded in the slightest. Several local doctors examined and tested the powers of the mouth and pronounced the case a phenomenon without a parallel.—San Antonio (Tex.) Dispatch.

Our Actors.

It is a remarkable fact that most of the so called Irish comedians in this country are Americans, and most of the English actors are Irish.—New Orleans Picayune.

A FLORIST'S FAKE.

The Story of the "Blanket of Flowers" on Mrs. Astor's Grave an Invention.

Many women have visited Trinity cemetery, One Hundred and Fifty-fifth street and Amsterdam avenue, in the past few days to see the marvelous "blanket of flowers" which was said to "cover the casket" of Mrs. William Waldorf Astor, and which was to be "renewed every morning for a year" by Mr. Astor's order. Mrs. Astor was buried on Jan. 9, not in a vault, but in a grave, in the northwestern corner of the Astor plot. On the day of the funeral the mound of earth was covered with pine boughs. The evergreens have not been removed, and except at one corner, which has been uncovered by inquisitive visitors, the grass is covered with snow. The laborers in the cemetery have swept a path through the burial plot, and about the grave a path has been trodden by men and women.

The cemetery employees have grown very tired of having their word doubted by women who inquire the way to the Astor vault and the blanket of flowers on the coffin. No flowers at all have been placed on the grave, and they can see for themselves that none can be put on the casket. So the women insist that the coffin is not in the grave, but in the vault of John Jacob Astor, and they ask to have the vault opened, so that they can see this wonderful covering. Although the man explains to them how impossible and useless it would be to comply with their requests, they depart unsatisfied and doubting his word.

The old gatekeeper, who has been employed about the cemetery 22 years, has to bear the brunt of their inquiries and disappointments. He said that the other evening, just as he was closing the gates, two women begged for admittance, saying that they had come all the way from East New York to see the flowers and would not go home unsatisfied. Some come from other states, and two came from what seemed to him the antipodes—Staten Island.

All this annoyance and disappointment is due to Joseph Fleischman, a

florist, of Broadway. On the morning of the funeral he told the reporters that he had the contract to supply fresh flowers every day for a year for the grave. For this he was to receive \$100 a day, he said, and in all he would receive \$40,000 from Mr. Astor. On the day after the funeral Mr. Fleischman sent to the newspaper offices a typewritten story of the alleged contract given to him by Mr. Astor. He was, he said, to furnish 4,000 fresh lilies of the valley and 4,000 violets each day. He repeated the statement yesterday to a reporter of The Sun, and then, being confronted with the facts, admitted that he had invented the whole story.

Superintendent Otto Meurer of the cemetery and his brother Albert, who is sexton of Trinity church chapel and had charge of the funeral, say that no such order for flowers was given by Mr. Astor to anybody.—New York Sun.

THE ANTITOXINE DISCUSSION.

Professor Drasche's Criticism Unfavorable to the New Diphtheria Remedy.

The physicians of two or three European capitals are beginning to find serious drawbacks to the use of the new remedy for diphtheria. The subject was carefully discussed at the Medical society in Vienna this week. Professor Drasche's criticism was unfavorable to the new method, owing to the effects which he had observed in 30 cases. He found that injections of Behring's antitoxine serum affected the kidneys seriously. This observation was corroborated by other doctors. They said that in the presence of this fact it could no longer be believed that the injection had no injurious effects. It could not be a matter of indifference that a patient who was recovering from a dangerous illness should be subjected, through this remedy, to a further serious malady.

Up to the present time, for observations have been much too short to permit a final decision as to the value of the treatment, it is clear that its application should be limited. With regard to the statistics which were supposed to prove its success Professor Drasche said that in diphtheria, bare figures were no evidence.—London Letter.

GEMS IN VERSE.

The "New Woman."

The brave "new woman" scorns to sigh
And count it such a grievous thing
That year on year should hurry by
And no gay suitor bring.
In labor's ranks she takes her place,
With skillful hands and cultured mind,
Not always foremost in the race,
But never far behind.
And not less lightly fall her feet
Because they tread the busy ways.
She is no whit less fair and sweet
Than maids of olden days
Who, gowned in samite or brocade,
Looked charming in their dainty guise,
But dwell like violets in the shade,
With shy, half opened eyes.
Of life she takes a clearer view
And through the press serenely moves
Unfettered, free, with judgment true,
Avoiding narrow grooves.
She reasons, and she understands,
And sometimes 'tis her joy and crown
To lift with strong yet tender hands
The burdens men lay down.
—E. Matheson.

A Sail on the Clouds.

There's a beautiful cloud fleet passing by,
With white sails all unfurled.
Let's take a sail o'er the blue expanse
And visit the mystery world.
We'll sail and sail o'er the spacious sea,
With the pilot breeze to steer,
And never come back to the earthland sweet
For a day and a month and a year.

We'll visit the place where the little dame
Flucks wool from the fleecy clouds
And weaves it into the snow white robes
That are sent for the winter shrouds.
We'll sail to the west when the day is done
And watch while the artist's hand
Is painting the glow in the sunset sky
With gorgeous colors and grand.

And we'll see how he fills his treasure jars
With pigments of brilliant dye,
Where red and yellow and crimson tints
With the royal colors vie.
For these he must use when the harvest moon
Looks down on the ripened sheaves
And the time has come to brighten the earth
By painting the forest leaves.

We'll watch the sun as his chariot rolls
Far down the horizon's rim,
And he carries the beautiful day along,
And earthland is growing dim.
Then we'll sail to the north, where the Major
Bear
Is holding his dipper of rain,
And we'll listen to hear how the flowers laugh
As he empties it over the plain.

We'll explore the place where the comet
sheds
And brushes her hair of gold,
Or plays coquette with the polar star,
Or dances with meteors bold.
Then we'll skim the cream from the Milky
Way
And make us a choice repast
And lay us to sleep upon downy beds
And dream while the night shall last.

Then waking we'll sail to the reddening east,
Where morning comes in at the gate,
And watch the sun with his prancing steeds
Ride up to the door in state.
Then again o'er the boundless blue we'll float,
Far off in the ether clear,
And never come back to the earthland sweet
For a day and a month and a year.
—Mary L. Wyatt.

Our Lady of Oblivion.

The weak, the weary and the desolate,
The poor, the mean, the outcast, the oppressed
All trodden down beneath the march of fate,
Thou gatherest, loving sister, to thy breast,
Soothing their pain and weariness asleep,
Then in thy hidden dreamland hushed and deep
Dost lay them, shrouded in eternal rest.
—James Thompson.

Justice, when equal scales she holds, is blind;
Not cruelly nor mercy change her mind.
When some escape for that which others die,
Mercy to those, to these is cruelty.
—Sir J. Denham.

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