The Broad Ax.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

Will promulgate and at all times uphold the true principles of Democracy, but farmers, Catholics, Protestants, Knights of Labor, Infidels, Mormons, Republicans, Priests, or any one else can have their say, so long as their language is proper and responsibility is fixed.

The Broad Ax is a newspaper whose platform is broad enough for all, ever claiming the editorial right to speak its own mind.

Local communications will have attention; write only on one side of the paper.

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One Year	$2.00
Six Months	1.00
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Advertising rates made known on application.

Address all communications to

THE BROAD AX,
710 Main Street,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

JULIUS F. TAYLOR..Publisher and Editor.

Entered at Postoffice as second-class matter.

Mr. Rauschenberger is a candidate for mayor of Milwaukee, but Congressman Sauerhering has decided to retire from public life.

It having been discovered that Congressman Cousins wrote his own speech a revival of the Shakespeare-Bacon controversy is due.

If Prince Henry of Orleans ever becomes president of France we look for an experiment in a hereditary republican form of government.

The rumor that Turkey will change its minister is not one-half so encouraging as would be a report that the ministry would change its Turkey.

Japan will this year spend $60,000,000 for warships and guns. The trouble with an ambitious people that owns a great navy is that they will be overanxious to use it.

The idea of electing a President without having plenty of "buttons" is not to be thought of. It is a pity that some of the fellows peddling them do not keep better buttoned up.

Mrs. Elizabeth Lewis of Waynesville, Mo., was divorced from Marion Lewis a couple of weeks ago, and this week was married to Marion's father. Nothing very slow about this, either.

The Bloomington man who stole a red-hot stove and sold it for whisky should not be confined in jail. Such talent should always be available during the campaign which is opening up.

Iowans will likely point with pride to the fact that Congressman Robert G. Cousins was born and reared in Iowa. If they do not, Ohio will be claiming him the first good opportunity.

A California wine-grower, who has been making a study of the subject, says Americans are not wine-drinking people. It is rumored he is trying to trade his vineyard for a Peoria distillery.

Susan Anthony, forgetting that this is leap year, goes to the State of California to engage in a suffrage campaign. How can the tender passion find place in a bosom heaving with political excitement?

A jury at Kalamazoo struck because its members thought they were not paid enough. Some people seem to have an idea that men sit on a jury just for the glory there is in it. But that don't go in Kalamazoo.

The young man in Iowa whose hand has reached an abnormal size must remember there are other qualifications needed to become a successful alderman. A spark of intelligence would be a hopeless barrier.

The hint of a Byron revival makes us realize how bad we are. It was once thought rather shocking to express an admiration for that poet, but he is milk for babes compared with some of his fin de siecle successors.

A gentleman in Spokane steps into the ranks of the inventors with a decidedly novel contrivance to his credit, the same being nothing more than an attachment for raising a man's hat when he meets a lady to whom he wishes to be polite. We have not heard the name of the thing, but it might well be called the lazy man's friend. This inventor certainly has a great future—greater no doubt than his machine.

Mr. Balfour closed the week's debate in parliament with one foot in a slipper and one arm in a sling. He was not exactly a handsome figure, but he is learning something about bicycles as he goes along. It seems that his mishap of a few days ago was not his first. One before he took a header over a baker's cart, that he still remembers vividly. On the whole, he is a better statesman than he is a cyclist, though he rides for a fall frequently in both spheres.

Between the positive announcement that hoop skirts are to return, and the dead certainty that the bicycle is an essential of woman's equipment, the feminine mind is liable to be sorely distraught this spring. For the hoop-skirt can not be bifurcated.

Bicycle tourists who enter Canada this summer will be required to deposit the full price of their wheels with the custom-house officials. The man who enters Canada under these conditions will have so many wheels it will be an expensive luxury.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

VOICE OF OUR PRESS ON ISSUES OF TODAY.

Reed Becomes a Real Czar Again—The Old Soldiers Are Being Left Out in the Cold by Their Republican Friends—Samples of Economy in Congress.

Speaker Thomas B. Reed has made a revolutionary ruling as to what constitutes a quorum in the house of representatives. A bill of small importance was before the house last Friday when the question of a quorum was raised. The full house consists of 356 members, of whom 179 are a majority. There is one vacancy caused by death and the speaker ruled that 178, "a majority of the living members," was a quorum.

This ruling cannot now nor in the future have a serious effect on legislation in congress. It was not designed for that object. It is intended to effect far-reaching partisan purposes, as a precedent in both houses of congress and especially in the state legislatures when United States senators are elected. It is a nefarious declaration and order to establish political minorities in power.

The constitution of the United States says in regard to congress: "Each house shall be the judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members, and a majority shall constitute a quorum to do business." From the beginning of the government it has been understood that the phrase, "a majority of each," meant a majority of all the members elected to form a full house, not a mere majority of those remaining after vacancies caused by death, resignation or absence. This is the ruling of every speaker before whom the question has been raised, including Reed himself during the quorum fight in the Fifty-first congress. It is the law established by hundreds of precedents that a majority of the full membership is necessary to form a constitutional quorum.

The legislature of Delaware, at its last session, voted without effect during many weeks for United States senator. At length Henry A. Dupont, republican, received fifteen votes—just one-half of the total membership on joint ballot. It was claimed that a vacancy existed in the senate, by which the quorum was reduced to twenty-nine, of which fifteen is a majority. That question is now pending in the senate and Dupont claims his seat.

A similar question was raised regarding the senatorial election in Kentucky. The death of a senator and the expulsion of other members reduced the number at roll call. Republicans in congress claimed that a majority of the reduced membership was a constitutional quorum and promised in effect to admit any republican senator elected on that basis. No election was held, even with this false instruction, but the new revolutionary Reed rule is ready for future use.

Periodic Economy.

From the Chicago Chronicle: A river and harbor bill has been wrought out in accordance with what are understood to be Speaker Reed's wishes, carrying the amount of about $9,600,000 only. This is a small amount even for an election year as things have been going, though it is not down to the zero minimum of certain years. But the speaker is a candidate, the committees are of his own selection and he has ordered them to make a fine show of economy for campaign purposes.

It has come to be the practice to "economize" on the river and harbor appropriations in the on years—the years when gentlemen are looking for re-election, and especially when, in addition to that, there is a presidential election. But this on-year economy makes no difference in the general result, for it has been discovered that congress can at least make up in prodigality in the off years for its excess of virtue in the others. The following statement of the amounts appropriated in the river and harbor bill for a series of years will show how the game is worked so plainly as to require no explanation:

1887	$14,464,900
1888	Nothing.
1889	22,397,616
1890	Nothing.
1891	25,136,295
1892	2,951,200
1893	22,068,218
1894	14,166,153
1895	20,043,180
1896	9,600,000

The trick of appropriating nothing at all in the on years was too transparent to deceive anybody for any length of time. Too much had to be appropriated in the off years. Accordingly after 1891 that practice was abandoned. There has been an appropriation every even year since, but it has been of the economical variety. It is more so this year than it was in 1894.

There has also been devised what is called the continuous contract system. By this system a congress commits itself for the following year and its successors for a number of years to expenditures without at the time making very large appropriations. In this way members who have jobs to put through for their respective constituencies are gratified and the country is committed to prodigal and unnecessary expenditures by a congress which is making for itself a reputation for economy. Thus in regard to the present congress the Washington correspondent of a Chicago contemporary says: "While the total appropriation is under $10,000,000 the work authorized under the continuous contract system runs up to something like $50,000,000."

This statement is made by a McKinley organ which is supposed to be friendly to the present house, however unfriendly it may be to its speaker as a presidential aspirant. It may fairly be accepted, therefore, as an admission by a friendly party paper that the present house, while making a pretty show of economy, has in reality surpassed all its predecessors in providing for prodigal river and harbor expenditures.

This continuing arrangement is illustrated in the case of Chicago, which gets only $50,000 immediately available, for improving the Chicago river—a sum entirely inadequate—while the secretary of war is authorized to contract for further work, subject to future appropriations, up to a total of $700,000. This plan not only opens a way to extravagance unknown in former times, but gives an opportunity to postpone deserving work for the benefit of those in which there is more politics, while pacifying for the time being those who are more immediately interested in the deserving works. But the expenditures will soon run into big figures and then the plan will be no longer available.

President-Making and Pensions.

From the Chicago Chronicle: Major Connolly, from the Springfield district in this state, sized up his fellow republicans very carefully in a recent debate in the house on a minor pension bill. He declared that "bills for the benefit of bona-fide soldiers were being neglected while others were being passed for civilians, including teamsters, photographers, and camp followers of every grade."

This stirred up the animals somewhat when he added these words: "When the various candidates for the presidency are seeking the support of the old soldier they coddle him and embrace him, but here in this house, when the old soldier and his widow come, feeble and tottering with wounds or age, there is no time to give them a hearing." After this he got his wind again and said it was a shame that with more than 200 republican majority in the house it was seldom that 100 members, enough to constitute a quorum, were present at the Friday evening sessions which were devoted to pension bills.

Major Connolly is liable to become disliked for his plain speech in regard to the dishonest republican politicians. They are always appealing to the soldiers for aid at the elections and proclaiming themselves the exclusive friend of the soldiers. But they kick the interests of the soldiers around as a university club does a football whenever the business of politics, President-making and the spoils attract their attention. It is well that a rebuke like that of Major Connolly should come from one of their own number on the inside, who knows the facts and has the courage to make an exposure.

The People Left Out of Court.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch: According to his (Clarkson's) estimate, McKinley will enter the convention lacking about 100 of the number of votes necessary to a nomination. Thereupon the Platts, the Quays, the Clarksons, the Manleys, the Carters, and the Cuneys, working behind the cloak of the alleged "favorite sons," will combine the field against him until they can wear out or stampede his friends, and will then concentrate on some candidate who is willing to concede their terms. It will be observed that in this plan of campaign Mr. Clarkson and the other bosses utterly ignore the wishes of the people. In fact, nothing is plainer than that the bosses consider it little less than treason for any man to go behind the alleged leadership and appeal to the people.

More Protection Needed in New England.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch: It will take a great deal of protection to keep the New England cotton mills in competition with the southern cotton mills. Some of the New England mills are already going out of business. Possibly the government will be asked to pay a bounty to New England manufacturers in order to save them.

What the Real Trouble Is.

Springfield Register: McKinley may be using the fat fried from manufacturers in his canvass for the presidential nomination of the party, as Senator Chandler declares, and Senator Cullom alleges, but that fact is not bothering those distinguished republicans so much as that McKinley is getting the delegates.

The American Sailor Legislated Away.

Springfield Republican: Americans used to be the best sailors in the world. But under the long sway of the policy of alleged protection to shipbuilders, which has nearly succeeded in driving the flag entirely from the high seas, the hand seems to have lost something of its old cunning.

Chandler's Threat May Be Made Good

Peoria Herald: Mr. Chandler has promised to produce the evidence to sustain his charges of fat-frying on the part of the McKinley managers, and he will do it if some of the verdant republican newspaper men do not keep their mouths tightly closed.

Illegitimate Use of the Fat.

New York Journal: It was the understanding of certain republican statesmen that the money of the protected manufacturers was to be used in defeating democrats only. This is why they complain of the pocket-book campaigning of the McKinleyites.

The annual report of the Royal Edinburgh asylum for the insane concludes as follows: "It is not work, but worry that kills."

FREE SILVER COINAGE

WHY OLD PARTYITES SHOULD JOIN HANDS.

Even to the Extent of Going Into the Populist Party Through the Chance Offered at St. Louis—Goldites are Always Traitors.

Raymond E. Dodge, statistician for the republican national committee, has just completed a careful analysis of the probable silver strength in the next democratic national convention. He estimates that the free coinage wing will have at least 100 majority. This would enable the silver men to frame the platform, but they would lack the requisite strength to name the candidates. In the democratic convention it takes two-thirds to nominate, and if the estimates of Mr. Dodge are correct, and the gold men stand firm, they can absolutely block a nomination. That they will stand firm is almost certain. The influences behind goldite politicians are of such a character that they seldom weaken. The power which makes them, absolutely controls their actions. The gold power is one that is thoroughly organized, it knows no party fealty, and in the eastern states, particularly, very few public men care to defy it.

Should the silver men absolutely dominate the convention there is scarcely a doubt that the gold standard democrats would refuse to support the ticket.

The action of the cuckoo democrats in the Kentucky legislature is conclusive evidence that when the master speaks they obey.

Kentucky democracy has always been true to the silver cause. Until within the last year there has never been a shadow of a doubt that Kentucky was a free silver state. But the malign influence of Cleveland and Carlisle, backed by the money power of Wall street, has done its work. We now find a small contingent of that party in the legislature, masquerading as "sound money" men, and stubbornly refusing to suport the regular nominee, Senator Blackburn. That gentleman's democracy has never been questioned, and he has guarded the interests of his constituents with rare fidelity. Up to the very moment of Mr. Cleveland's election, Blackburn and Carlisle were apparently perfectly agreed on the silver question, and their votes were cast on the same side. Now we find a few democrats (?) in the legislature oposing his re-election, because, forsooth, he stands on the money question precisely where he has always stood, and where Mr. Carlisle seemed to stand, until certain occult influences caused him to change.

If goldite democrats in Kentucky will thus stultify themselves, it is safe to conclude that the same class of men in the national convention of that party will do likewise, and refuse to support a silver candidate on a silver platform.

But Mr. Dodge suggests a compromise, the silver men taking the platform, and the gold men the candidate. This would substantially be the case of 1892 right over. More aptly, the situation would be expressed by the old gag, "the law to the north and the nigger to the south."

A silver platform with a gold candidate would be the worst thing that could happen.

Hundreds of thousands of silver democrats would be deluded into supporting the ticket, and even if successful, no legislation in the interest of silver could possibly be had.

But such a combination could not win. Not a silver man outside the democratic party would suport it, large numbers of silver democrats would refuse to be duped, and the party would be buried out of sight.

Nothing would please republican leaders better than for the democrats to name a gold candidate on a silver platform.

Such a combination, though, is hardly probable.

The incongruity is too great. No gold standardist with any self respect could accept a nomination on a straight out silver platform. Some qualifying phrase would have to go in, and that would mean gold.

Silver Democrats will do well to view the situation with the closest care. It is as pain as light itself that they cannot carry the country for free trade or tariff reform in 1896, but they can make combinations by which they can win on the great question of monetary reform. Will they be wise?

INCONSISTENCIES.

Every Claim of the Gold Standardists Based on Nonsense.

Discussing the fall of the prices of agricultural products in the last two or three years the New York Herald attributes it to two influences, (1) the long three years' drouth which has prevailed so acutely over almost all sections of the country; (2) the fact that "the world's markets were glutted with cereals, cotton, and other agricultural produce." The fact that drouth creates scarcity rather than superabundance, does not fit in very well with the allegation that the world's markets have been glutted. That allegation, however, is of itself without foundation. The world's supply of useful products is now, and it has always been, insufficient for the needs of man. But men who have desired the things produced have been forbidden to obtain them, because this government has obstructed the movement from producer to consumer. There are multitudes of persons in this country who cannot find employment, and so cannot buy the food of the farmer or the goods of the manufacturer. Thus there seems to be a surplus production, but in truth there is nothing else than partial paralysis of the business of making exchanges. If the theory of over-production were sound we should be obliged, also, to accept the theory that the world becomes poorer the more wealth it produces. If this were true we should be able to reach a condition of outright pauperism by stimulating wealth-production just a trifle farther. No sane man doubts that if half the world's stock of gold should be suddenly exterminated prices of all commodities would fall at least 50 per cent. Why, then, should any one question the equally indisputable fact that prices have fallen because half the metallic money of the civilized world has been demonetized.—The Manufacturer.

Such little inconsistencies as the one mentioned above should not surprise the Manufacturer. Almost every argument on the gold side is pervaded with contradictions even worse.

In one breath free coinage is going to "flood the country with 50 cent dollars," in the next it is going to "drive all of the gold out of the country and it will take a very long time to get silver to fill its place. As a result free coinage will contract the currency. Again under free coinage the silver dollar is going right down to 50 cents, but the dishonest silver miner is to get 100 cents for each 371¼ grains. Just how the same dollar can be worth 100 cents to the silver miner and only 50 cents to other people they never try to explain. So we have a flood of silver and contracted currency at the same time, and the same identical dollar worth 100 cents to the silver miner and only 50 cents to the "poor laborer" at the same time, hard times caused by crop failures and over-production at the same time, and so indefinitely.

Truly sound money argument (?) is a most peculiar thing.

FIXITY OF GOLD.

A Gold Standard Paper "Puts Its Neck in the Intrinsic Value Halter."

A London financial circular says that "1896 has thus far improved greatly on 1895, and will doubtless continue to do so for a month to come and more, at the least." For the various statistical records for which the world has to thank Mr. Sauerbeck, the Economist and others, show that January and February, 1895, had, on an average of all the wholesale prices of the chief articles of commerce of the world, the lowest prices on record. And this includes silver, which moved, as usual, along with all other commodities; only the price of gold remained unaltered, as it always does, because it was fixed fifty years since by act of Parliament.—Bradstreet's.

The foregoing appears in Bradstreet's issue of the 22d, and it is reproduced for the purpose of calling attention to the clause: "The price of gold remains unchanged because it was fixed fifty years ago by act of Parliament."

What have our goldite friends to say of that? What becomes of their "intrinsic value" theory when viewed in the light of that statement?

And it is one monetary truth that has appeared in a gold paper. The value of gold, that is, its value per ounce, expressed in pounds, shillings and pence, was fixed by the English Parliament in 1644. In "money" it is worth just what the law says it shall be worth.

Now, if law fixed the value of gold, which the goldite assumes to be of a superior nature and above all law, why can it not fix the money value of silver?

The reader will understand that we are referring to the constantly reiterated parrot-like cry that a gold dollar is always worth a dollar, and the gold in it is just as good as the dollar itself. So it is, and simply because the law makes that piece of gold a dollar, and it can be worth no less.

But it is the "money" value of gold alone that is unchanged. Gold is always equal to gold, but how is it when compared with anything else? Upon an average it will exchange for twice as much of other things as it would twenty-two years ago, and if that does not make it "worth twice as much," then there is no meaning in words.

The simple little statement thus clipped from Bradstreet's (a strong gold organ) absolutely destroys every argument that has been made in favor of the gold standard during the last twenty years.

THE PRICE OF GOLD REMAINED UNALTERED, AS IT ALWAYS DOES, BECAUSE IT WAS FIXED FIFTY YEARS AGO BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT.

Convention Dates.

Populist National Convention, St. Louis, July 22.

Republican National Convention, St. Louis, June 16.

Democratic National Convention, Chicago, July 7.

Silver National Convention, St. Louis, July 22.

Headquarters have been opened by the Provisional National committee, selected at the Silver Conference at Washington, D. C., January 22 and 23.

All correspondence relative to the work of organization preparatory for the National Convention to be held at St. Louis, July 22, 1896, should be addressed to J. J. Mott, Chairman, Room 83, Corcoran Building, Washington, D. C.

Sunlight for Sick Folks.

Sunlight is a capital sanitary agent and promotes health and comfort. Therefore, light should be admitted in large quantities into sick rooms, except in extraordinary cases. The light, however, should be softened and subdued, not glaring.—Exchange.

Monster Plate of Glass.

A sheet of plate glass 142 by 100 inches has been turned out of the glass factory at Elwood, Ind. It is without blemish of any sort.

Four words that have the power to make sunshine anywhere: "Believe also in me."