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ARE BIRDS GUIDED BY STARS?

An Attempt to Solve the Great Mystery of Bird Migration.
 In an article on "Birds of Passage" the Chautauquan says if one desires an explanation for the great mystery of bird migration, there being nothing else that will answer, he will have to accept the theory of hereditary knowledge, a knowledge of the unfailing stars. The Great Bear and Orion appeared at the same time in our region, even when the divisions of land and water were very different than they are today. That the stars are the guides of birds agrees with the fact that they fly at remarkable heights, often above the clouds, and that wanderers lose their way when they stray into clouds and mists. On starlight nights straggling birds are seldom noticed. When the sky is overcast, when the night is dark, but especially when a fine rain is falling, multitudes of traveling birds are heard. They will call out, doubtless for the purpose of keeping near each other; and often great numbers of them bound against the windows of lighthouses. Thus Gatzke has observed that on Oct. 23, 1882, from 10 o'clock at night till the next morning golden-crested wrens bumped like snowflakes against the lighthouse of Helligoland, and that on the following day golden-crested wrens sat on every square foot of Helligoland. Toward the end of the summer, along into the fall, it was not a rare occurrence on dark nights to see, through the light of street lamps, birds flying over inland cities. The experienced observer recognizes by its call the curlew and the strand-snipe, sea-swallow and seagull, occasionally hears even the flap of their wings. But no bird is visible in the darkness. On dark nights no stars appear; then it is that the straying bird loses his way. The stars are the most plausible guides to birds in their migrations. But only the future can tell us whether they really serve in that capacity.

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THE WAY IT WORKS.

IT WILL NOT WORK.

BANKERS' PLAUSIBLE AND SEDUCTIVE ARGUMENT WEAK.

How the Government Should Be Relieved of the Burden of Borrowing Gold to Support a Financial System That Benefits the Bankers Only.

The organization of national bankers is already at work upon its financial scheme, which it hopes to inflict upon an over-burdened, suffering people by undue influence with the incoming congress.

Their plausible and seductive argument runs in this way: The government is called upon to maintain a reserve of \$100,000,000 in gold, because the government has issued legal tenders to the extent of \$346,000,000, which are redeemable in gold, and when redeemed are again put out. The practical working of such a system forces the government to issue bonds to maintain the gold reserve; therefore, the \$346,000,000 legal tenders, or greenbacks, should be retired by issuing bonds for them. The government would then no longer be required to keep gold on hand for redemption purposes; the confidence in business circles would be restored and the cause of business depression would be removed, says the Brockton, Mass., Diamond.

This is the argument from the side of the banks. Incidentally, the banks are to be authorized to issue their notes, based on these new bonds, and these bank notes are to take the place of the greenbacks, but the bankers do not say so much about this.
 That the government should be relieved of the burden of borrowing gold to support a financial system that benefits only the bankers is a very meritorious proposition; but the method by which it is to be accomplished, as suggested by this bankers' association, is vicious in every sense of the word and will be opposed by populist congressmen and others, who will endeavor to protect the interests of the people.

The congressmen who oppose this scheme of the banks will be denounced as obstructionists; and upon them the bankers and their cuckoos will endeavor to place the responsibility of retaining the present system and forcing another bond issue.
 To expose the insincerity of this banking clique, and to place the question in such form that the people can understand the principles involved, calls for constructive statesmanship on the part of our congressmen who represent the people. They should agree with the bankers that it is worse than useless for the government to be forced to keep \$100,000,000 in gold of the people's money locked up and drawing interest out of the earnings of the wealth producers, and should point out a very simple, feasible, practical plan that would place the responsibility for such a condition just where it belongs.
 That one simple, feasible, practical plan is an amendment to the National Banking act, providing that the reserve dollars held by the national banks as the basis of their "wind" dollars, shall be constituted of these legal tender greenbacks.
 The last statement of the comptroller of the currency shows that the national banks have issued about two thousand million dollars of bankers' wind—called credit—and the reserve fund upon which this volume is based is about

four hundred million dollars of money. Sixteen hundred millions of their wind is utilized by the wealth producers as an exchange medium, because there isn't money enough issued by the government for that purpose.
 As an offset to the bankers' proposition that the government legal tenders should be retired, our populist congressmen should suggest that this reserve of the national banks should be made up of greenbacks. That will not only retire the greenbacks, but it will make them more valuable to the banks than gold, and will send the gold now held by the banks into circulation, because for each dollar in greenbacks held by a bank it could loan three dollars—in some banks four dollars of bankers' wind; and the loan of its wind would be restricted to the amount of greenbacks in issue, or the amount it could corral. No greenbacks could be spared to seek redemption in gold, because it would be the symbol of four wind dollars, each doing duty in the business of exchanging labor's products and each confidence wind dollar absorbing interest out of the wealth production.

We need not enumerate the many favors enjoyed by the banks—all of them special privileges created by law. The scheme they now propose is merely another law in their interest. What we propose is a law in the interest of the people's rights.
 We hope that congressmen who are true to the people will not be content with mere opposition to what the bankers propose. Meet them with a counter proposition that will give additional value to the greenback by giving it a special privilege under the law and depriving gold of that privilege. The result would be an instructive object lesson to those that cannot now understand that money is created by law, and the bankers would soon be asking for more greenbacks.—*Progressive Farmer.*

A Warning to the United States.

Recently the United States consul at Cairo made a report to the State Department showing the deplorable condition of the Egyptian government. From that report, the Topeka Capital selects the following facts:
 Egypt's bonded debt reaches the enormous total of 609 million dollars. The population being only seven millions, this is a debt of about \$72 per capita, or the equivalent of a national debt in the United States of five billion dollars. At present the productive area of Egypt is only five and one-quarter million acres. From the product of this land must be gathered a revenue of eighteen million dollars a year to pay the interest on the public debt, which amounts to an average tax of \$4.56 per acre.
 The consul's report does not dilate upon the most important fact connected with this sad story, which is:
 Egypt depended on foreign capital to carry on her government and her public enterprises.
 English capitalists were always on hand ready and willing to advance gold and take bonds bearing high interest. The Egyptian statesmen were either too ignorant or too dishonest to issue their own money before it was too late. They were sound money statesmen. Now their people are reduced to such a state of degradation that the fiat of their government would be of little value. The Egyptians are slaves. The United States should take warning.—*Topeka Advocate.*

BONDS AT BOTH ENDS.

How Grover Has Fattened the Pocket-Books of the Bondholders.

During Grover Cleveland's first term as executive, there was a surplus of money in the treasury. How the government officers happened to let this money slip through their fingers is something that has never been fully explained, yet there was actually a surplus so big that it was a burden.

The question came before congress, and measures were urged to dispose of this money. Some suggested one scheme and some another, but our Roger Q. Mills finally presented a bill providing for the expenditure of this surplus in buying bonds of the government not yet due. In order to induce the holders of these bonds to surrender them, a premium was paid on the bonds, and in fifteen months seventy-two million dollars found lodgment in the pockets of the bondholders, in addition to the principal and interest due on the face of the bonds. Thus, the bondholders succeeded in getting in a bold robbery by the help of Senator Mills, to the tune of \$72,000,000. This was the initiatory term of Cleveland.

When Mr. Cleveland came in on his second term a deficiency in the treasury occurred very soon, and how to dispose of the deficiency was a matter of much moment. Of course, it must be disposed of in some way to the financial benefit of the bondholders and money thieves. So instead of buying bonds, Grover went to selling bonds, and did the same as he did in buying bonds, that is, paid the bondholders a premium. The bondholders must have a steal out of the bond deal no matter whether the bonds are "a conin" or a "gwine." The money game succeeded in fleecing the government out of from fifteen to thirty millions on the bond sale designed to procure money for the deficiency in the treasury.

Thus Grover has fattened the pocket-books of the bondholders at both ends of his executive service. When there was too much money, the bond holders were paid to take it out of the treasury, and when there was a shortage of money the bondholders were paid to put money into the treasury. It is down hill both ways for the bondholders and up hill both ways for the people.

There is not the least doubt but that some one received a bonus for this scheme of feeding the bondholders fore and aft. As Grover has developed from a poor man to a millionaire in a few years on a moderate salary, it is reasonable to conclude that some of the fat went his way. Senator Mills is, of course, an honest man, but honest men rarely father a bill in congress designed to rob the people for the benefit of the bankers and bondholders. If Senator Mills did not receive a share of this corruption fund, it is not because he was not in position to do so.—*Southern Mercury.*

Here Worship.

We give too much importance to the high officials of the United States. They are just common people like the officers of your county. Their minds are about of the same calibre, and their morals might suffer in comparison. The United States government is a big town or county government. Look on its officers as you do your town or county officers. Rub up against a president, cabinet officer, senator or congressman and you will find that he is about the size of the leading men in your school district.—*Missouri World.*

LABOR IN THE SOUTH.

A CORRESPONDENT TELLS OF THE PRINCELY WAGES.

Farm Laborers Getting Six Dollars a Month—Facts Regarding Reports of "a Revival of Prosperity"—Starvation Has to Compete with Cheap Living.

Atlanta, Oct. 10.—When I reached this city and the grounds of the Cotton States and International Exposition, about three weeks ago, I found everything in dire confusion. Two days before the opening there was only one building really ready, and that was the government's. Thousands of workmen, however, were rejoicing in hope that their present condition would continue and were free to talk of their wages, as workmen generally are when they are doing a little better than common. And verily I was astonished at some of their statements. Thousands of negroes have flocked in from the farming regions and were getting \$1 a day for common labor, where before the exposition boom the rate was but 90 cents. One year ago painters and carpenters in Atlanta got but \$1.50 per day. Now they get \$2.50 and call it princely pay. Country negroes tell me that on the farms they get \$10 a month and rations, but that is only in this middle section, while southward and eastward wages are lower.

Orthodox party papers over in Tom Watson's district have been making a great do over the improvement and revival of prosperity, and surely there is an improvement if Editor (late Senator) Pat Walsh tells the truth, for he says that not long ago able bodied negroes could be hired in the vicinity of Augusta for \$6 a month, while the latest comers from there tell me they can now get \$8. Of course these wages go with rations—that is, enough cornmeal, pork, coffee, peas, rice and black molasses to keep a laborer in working order. And even in this state I hear the familiar statement that one great cause of hard times is the extravagance of laborers. Last year the rate for picking cotton was forced down to 30 cents per 100 pounds. This year there was an attempt at a combine to force it up to 60 cents, the rate which prevailed in the "good old times," but I am told to-day that there is a compromise by which the pickers are to get 45 cents on "first" and "scant" and 40 cents on the late or full boll. It takes a lively ducky to pick 200 pounds a day, but women occasionally do better, and one was pointed out to me who could turn in 240 pounds a day for a week. In view of such and many similar facts I was not surprised at seeing a very large chain gang without a white man in it, and when a resident friend called my attention to the model jail in the exposition grounds I was moved to ask:

"Will you explain your model convict system?"

"Not this year," he replied, with a dry smile, and we changed the venue. Street car men have also had their wages raised and now get 12 cents an hour, a part of the contract being that they must "maintain a neat and respectable appearance." That's a blamed sight more than I could do during the long drought, when a cloud of red dust hung perpetually over the grounds. Editor Martin of the Dixie Magazine tells me that cotton mill operatives average 80 cents a day, and others put their wages at "from \$12 to \$18 per month," which does not seem to consist. I suppose the latter are only the poorest class of workers. In the section where they live board is phenomenally cheap and I suppose correspondingly plain. I had to laugh at one good old lady who told me she "rallily hadn't the heart to charge the poor girls more'n eight dollars a month, though rally it's wuth more in these hard times." In the nicer sections board is much higher, and rents are simply awful.

Gas and water rates are said to be higher than in New York or Chicago, while house service of some kinds is dog cheap. Even among men there is a great diversity, and much more so since the exposition company discharged so many common laborers, who are bidding against each other. The firm I am best acquainted with just now gets the services of a preacher of the gospel for \$3 per week, and he is there from 7 a. m. to 5 p. m., though his duties as messenger do not employ him all the time. He is 25 years old, a well educated mulatto and a licensed minister, but is on the pay roll as a "boy." Draymen and hackmen get \$6 per week.

All these facts and many more of the same sort I gathered in my first ten days here, for really there was not much to see yet in the exposition, and if it had not been for the thousands of veterans who came down from the Chickamauga dedication and the ten governors, including two candidates for the presidency, and the generals here on blue and gray day we certainly should have suffered "ongwee." I was particularly struck with the fact that the speakers laid great stress on the rising tide of prosperity and the advantages to farmer and laborer. And all these fellows profess to believe in a God and expect to be justified in his sight!—*J. H. Browning, in Chicago Express.*

All in One Parcel.

There is certainly no doubt that a mother of social ambitions does a comprehensive thing when she secures for a son-in-law, by a single ceremony, Charles Richard John Spencer Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, Marquis of Blandford, Earl of Sunderland, Earl of Marlborough, Brown Spencer of Wormleighton and Brown Churchill of Sandridge, all in England, Prince of the Holy Roman Empire, Prince of Mindelheim in Swabia, and Lieutenant in the Oxfordshire Hussars.—*Life.*

Chorus of free "silver-inside-the-party" Democrats: "I'd rather be a Democrat than be right!"