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SUNDAY, MAY 17, 1896

## LOCAL OPTION AS A STATE ISSUE

However much the people of California may be divided in opinion on national issues, such as the tariff, finance, and foreign policies, there is one question of grave importance on which all intelligent voters who really desire the good of the commonwealth can and should unite. We refer to the question of local option in taxation. A strong effort was made when our last legislature was in session to induce that august body to pass a local option law, but the effort failed, as many a worthy effort has failed in a legislative body afflicted with dull consciences and a paucity of brains. The more the subject of a state law permitting each county and municipality to select its own method of raising public revenue is investigated the more rational, reasonable and fair it will appear. If the people of one county or one city desire to adopt a taxation system different from that prevailing in some other county or city they should have that privilege.

This question is coming to the front more and more in various states besides California. The movement in New York city and state for the proposed change is stronger today by 100 per cent than it was two years ago. It is only a question of a few months more when the empire state will have laws allowing the people the leeway they desire in the matter of taxation. Many of the wealthy and influential business firms of New York city are using the influence and contributing money to the fund of the Tax Reform association—an organization established purposely to bring about this reform. It is believed that if the voters of the metropolis were permitted to decide the question for themselves, without state interference, they would, by a large majority, abolish taxation on personal property of every description. In Illinois there is a local option movement of some dimensions and strength. The Democracy of the state is virtually committed in favor of it. The eighth biennial report of the bureau of labor statistics, a document emanating from a Democratic administration and endorsed by sensible, honest men of all parties, strongly urges the adoption of local option and backs up the recommendation with an array of statistics which constitute an unanswerable argument. The state federation of labor is also committed to the reform, and its president is one of its ablest advocates. The issue will be made in the state convention soon to be held at Springfield. The Sangamon county Democratic convention, recently held at Springfield, declared emphatically in favor of local option. Advocates of the measure will go into the state arena determined to secure a local option plank in the platform if possible. Should they be defeated they will withdraw from the convention in a body and then announce to the world that the working classes and their best interests have been ignored by the Democratic party.

Such a result would most likely prove calamitous to the Democracy of the state, and set back the cause of tax reform several years. For if the Democratic party fails to recognize this plain, reasonable demand for the rights of the people, surely nothing can be expected from the old party of prejudice, restriction, discrimination and special privilege, which as a matter of custom is mis-

called the "Republican party." No state can legislate on that bone of contention, the money question, nor on that other national issue, the tariff. But each state can decide whether or not its existing system of taxation shall be exchanged for something better. In every state the present plan is more or less defective and unjust. In some of the states the taxation laws and methods are simply outrageous, and ought to be repealed or amended at the earliest possible day.

In the latter list is California. Now while Republicans, Democrats, Populists and Prohibitionists differ on national issues there is no reason why voters in all those parties should not be united in favor of local option in taxation. Such a change would be a blessing to the entire people of this commonwealth, regardless of political opinions, religious professions or secular occupations. Let the voters but say the word and it will be done. Tax reform is a live issue. It will no more down than would Banquo's ghost. Intelligent people almost everywhere are beginning to realize, partially at least, the incongruities, absurdities and injustice of existing fiscal policies. They want something better. They feel that they need something better. The way to get it is by ballot-wielders, when electing the next legislature, to choose only such representatives as are known to be fearless advocates of local option.

## THE COMMITTEE MEETING

The outcome of yesterday's sitting of the Democratic county central committee may be disappointing to some of the people who programmed, but it will be eminently pleasing to the body of the Democratic party of this county, which, in the language of one of the speakers of the occasion, asks only a "fair shake." The adjournment to next Saturday was, under the circumstances, the proper thing to do. A county committee meeting with so large a proxy representation and so many instances of absenteeism not even represented by proxies, is not the sort that should determine so important a question of primary procedure as that involved in the primary election issue, the chief issue of the meeting.

It was quite apparent that a large number of the members absent were so because of failure to receive on time, or at all, notices of the time and place of meeting. The Herald does not place any blame on anybody in connection with the failure of these absent committeemen to receive notification of the meeting; it only adverts to it as a fact, a most important fact, justifying adjournment for a reasonable time. Some factional splits may be broken, but no party prospects are imperiled by the adjournment. Another month will elapse before the meeting of the state convention, and there is left plenty of time for the election of delegates to the county convention and the subsequent work of the latter.

The results of the meeting constitute an ample endorsement of The Herald's fight for precinct primaries. As far as the committeemen present in person were concerned the friends of precinct primaries were in an overwhelming majority. The advocates of the ward plan could have only carried the day with the votes represented by proxies sent by men who, in the majority of instances, were probably either in entire ignorance of the attempt that was to be made to substitute ward for precinct primaries, or had given the subject less thought than they will now.

When the committee meets again the forces for the precinct primary will be present in still greater strength than yesterday, and there is little doubt about this most essentially Democratic method of obtaining the will of the party membership holding its own.

## BOGUS SILVERITES

A body styling itself the "regular Democratic general committee of San Francisco" is widely circulating what purports to be a record of the California Democracy on the silver coinage question. This "committee" is not representative of the Democratic party of San Francisco, but it is representative of the political brigands that are endeavoring to restore Christopher A. Buckley to the proprietorship of the Democracy of the northern metropolis.

The circular it is sprinkling the state with has been gotten up for the purpose of catering to the sentiment of the Democracy in this state as may be inclined to favor the free, unlimited and independent coinage of silver at the 16-to-1 ratio. This circular contains a resolution adopted by the Buckley committee declaring in favor of the unrestricted coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, and also a pledge to be taken by the 161 delegates to be sent to the Democratic state convention under the auspices of that committee, which requires them to vote for the insertion in the convention's platform of a plank favoring the free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver at the ratio of 15 to 1, and upon terms of exact equality as they existed prior to 1873, independent of the action of any other power or nation whatsoever, and to "demand the insertion of this plank in the national Democratic platform at Chicago."

The Buckley organization by thus veiling and hooding for silver hopes to break into the state convention. It will send a delegation from San Francisco to contest for places in the convention that will be ostensibly silver, but really only silver plated, and the circularizing and resolving that it is indulging in is for the purpose of creating in the minds of the real silver men that will go to the convention a sentiment that will be favorable to the admission of its delegation.

As a matter of fact Buckley's San Francisco Democracy has no more interest in the free silver issue than a hog has in the latest style of neckwear. People of that class are not burdened with convictions, not bothered with principles on finance, taxation or any other public question, and their claim of friendship for silver is not worthy a moment's consideration by the men who conscientiously believe in the free use of that metal in the money of the country.

The real nature of the Buckley crowd's

identification with the money issue is well exploited in the following pungent editorial excerpt from the Visalia Times, the paper edited by that sterling Democrat, Ben Maddox. The Times says:

"The only financial question that interests Buckley and his grimy band of patriots is: 'What is there in it for us?' They are not interested in the opportunities for public plunder. They are Democrats for revenue only; they are for free coinage or anything else that will license them to loot of honest men. They have debauched the public service of San Francisco and sold out the Democratic party to the Republicans and the railroad monopoly, and they want another chance to repeat the infamy."

The silver question should cut no figure when it comes to passing on the important claims of this game of political brigands. They represent neither Democratic principles nor the Democratic voters of San Francisco. They simply represent an organized appetite for public plunder, indecency and dishonesty in office and shameless treachery in party management; in short, Buckleyism. The Democratic party has smashed Buckley once; it is a public duty to keep him smashed. Every good citizen should hit the head of his corrupt organization wherever it presents itself in the Democratic interior should understand that the issue presented by the Buckley rump is not a question of free coinage, but of honest honesty against dishonesty, of irregularity against regularity, of true Democracy against corruption and party treason. Buckley once again betrays his He should never be permitted to do so again. The Democrats of the interior will be false to themselves, false to the general welfare and recreant to their name and well being if they permit Buckley to again permit Buckley to boss the Democratic organization of San Francisco to again debauch it till it is in the nostrils of honest men and then sell it to the common enemy."

The silver question is an issue to be decided on its merits, by sincere convictions. The Buckley gang is without honesty, sincerity or conviction. An ordinary piece of club haterias much more than party standing. They are not Democrats. They are not honest. Their pretended solicitude for free coinage is only their fraudulent and mercenary character. Why should genuine silver men regard them as any other than what they are—a gang of political highlanders out for the stuff.

## ROTTEN MONEY PLANKS

Probably no Republican state platform has received more hearty and general condemnation, both inside and outside of the Republican party, than the one adopted by the late California state Republican convention. The Chicago Times-Herald, Independent Republican, pays its respects to the money plank of the platform in a most spirited way. Its utterances are worthy the perusal, not only of Republicans, but of Democrats also, especially those Democrats who are trying to persuade their party to go chasing after the silver phantom. The Times-Herald says:

In contrast to the currency plank adopted by the Republicans of Indiana the California and Michigan money planks are rotten to the core. There isn't a sound timber in their construction. The California platform is particularly flimsy in rhetoric and shoddy in principle. It has a leg to stand on. It lies flat on the shifting sands of flatness and repudiation. The men who framed it are clinging to the old delusion that a nation with \$100,000,000 of foreign commerce can be a law unto itself in commercial matters and that it is easy for congress to create financial conditions that will cut us off from the rest of the world.

They believe that our government can stamp 50 cents on the backs of worn-out bills, independent of all the great commercial nations of the world, and that the lowering of the real value of our money will protect its purchasing or debt-paying power. They are hugging the absurd fallacy that an increase of the circulating medium by this fraudulent device will make the country more prosperous and more contented, and yet not one adherent of the free silver party has ever been able to prove that in man, woman or child. Wages under the present standard would receive more than 100 fifty-cent dollars under free coinage at the ratio of 16 to 1. The abandonment of sound money principles by the Republicans of Michigan and California was without shadow of reasonable excuse. The Minneapolis plank, adopted by the Michigan Republicans as a compromise after a rejection of an honest money resolution reported by the committee on platform, is a trimmer, a dodger and a straddler. It satisfied the politicians in 1892, but the business interests of the country demand a more explicit expression of their money question in 1896. Unless we are to have continued industrial depression and financial confusion the winning party in the coming election must stand for sound money and the maintenance of the present standard.

In the case of California the repudiation of an honest money standard is even more pronounced and more unjustifiable than that of Michigan, for California has always been a gold state. What California is to do in by this flirtation with the populist 50-cent silver flatists is not easy to understand. If any state is more interested than all other states in the preservation of the integrity and stability of our medium of exchange that state is California.

Fortunately, however, neither Michigan nor California will be able to prevent the St. Louis convention from making a firm and emphatic demand for honest money, as good as the money of the enlightened nations of the earth—money in which every dollar is equal in value to every other dollar.

Elsewhere in this issue of The Herald will be found a contribution by Hon. Abbot Kinney under the caption of "Money and Taxation" that will amply repay careful reading. Mr. Kinney treats in his usually interesting and instructive way of some elementary propositions that are unfortunately too little understood by people in general. When the average voter grasps the most elemental principles in finance and taxation, the problems that present themselves under the heads of those subjects will become easier of popular solution and the occupation of the demagogue in politics and the charlatan in reform will disappear.

## The People's Victory

Senators White and Perkins have succeeded in getting the question of a harbor on the southern coast referred to a commission. It will consist of a naval officer, a coast survey officer, and three special engineers to be appointed by the president. This board will decide which of the two harbors—San Pedro or Santa Monica—offers the best opportunities for development, and the decision is to be final. Therefore the government will import but one harbor on that coast, and it is safe to say that will be San Pedro. The Santa Monica raid has failed.—Oakland Enquirer.

That was a fank admission that Frye made, when White asked him where he got his figures on the San Pedro harbor improvement. "From Hood, chief engineer of the Southern Pacific," said Frye. So the government is to make the improvement on an estimated cost of \$2,000,000 on plans provided by the Southern Pacific? It appears to us that that should be all the information the state needs on that subject.—San Diego Sun.

It is said Grover C. studied the geography and topography of the south

California coast, and had about made his mind to veto the river and harbor bill if it came to him containing the Santa Monica appropriation.—Pasadena News.

## THE SOUND MONEY PLANK

"Could the Pennsylvania Democracy set the pace at Chicago," the Philadelphia Inquirer (Rep.) says, "we should have sound-money planks in the platforms of both parties, world-wide confidence in the United States would be restored, and an immediate impetus would be given to business."

The sound-money victory in the Democratic primaries in Michigan has more significance than the dispatches gave it. "The total vote was light," the Memphis Scimitar (Dem.) says, "owing to the confidence of the sound-money men in the result, which made many of them indifferent about going to the polls. Had they turned out in full force the silver men would have been buried out of sight. The latter displayed the most activity in the campaign, and undoubtedly polled a much larger proportion of their vote than their opponents did."

"The silver men in the south and the west are almost everywhere more active and aggressive than the gold-standard men, and it is largely to this that the feeling is due that the Chicago convention will be dominated by the silverites," the Baltimore News (Dem.) says. "In many states, a determined effort would secure a victory for sound money, and the effort is not made only because of a fatalistic belief that it has no chance of success. With the fine showing of Pennsylvania and Michigan, a more plucky spirit in the south and the west may be expected to show itself."

The Minneapolis Journal (Rep.) says of McKinley: "Standing before the country as the apostle of protection, the embodiment of the idea and the representative of the principle, he has been, by his supposed friends, or by his own cowardice, placed in a weak and compromising position on the only question which divides the party and the one issue upon which the people of America are today most seriously concerned—the question of silver coinage. McKinley is a man well calculated to throw suspicion upon the soundness of his principles, and the favorite son of a state which has previously been the champion of the sound money plank. McKinley is a man whom it may be expected to defend or apologize for in any particular."

"Until Mr. McKinley speaks out for himself, declaring his views on the currency question, he must be regarded as a shuffler," the Philadelphia Ledger (Ind. Rep.) says. "The silver vote, which is the vote, while Senator Sherman vouches for his financial orthodoxy, the money plank of the Ohio platform, which has been raised and again attributed to him without a denial or contradiction, is an attempt at evasion, and his declaration 'the money of the government must be as fair as its honor,' is of the same character. Both are shuffling and deceptive. Unless Mr. McKinley can be induced to make a clear, unmistakable declaration in favor of the inviolate maintenance of the gold standard, he will be a dangerous man for president, and consequently a candidate whom the Republicans should not nominate."

The California Republican Platform California has endorsed McKinley and the silver. This is one of the dividends of the Ohio man's straddle.—New York Journal.

The Democratic party may be divided on the money question, but none of its silver coinage delegates have yet elected delegates in favor of a presidential candidate who is claimed as a gold-standard man at the east. This is what the California Republicans did in adopting a free-silver resolution and instructing their delegates for McKinley. Who is to be cheated?—New York World.

The world is waiting to hear Editor Kohlsaat announce that McKinley will not accept the votes of the California delegation because it is also instructed to demand free coinage of silver at 16 to 1.—New York Journal.

McKinley's own state presents him as a financial straddle-bug candidate for president, many other states have impatient delegates for McKinley, and the gold standard, and now comes California with instructions for McKinley and his flat money. And every state that has not come into the net of the Buckley Napoleon.—Louisville Times.

Blackmail as a Fine Art The New York Evening Post, which often asserts that there is no such thing as a science of taxation, explains in a recent editorial article that though there is no science of taxation, there is an art of taxation, which is an extremely interesting art, which consists mainly in finding out what a person the taxpayer is and how he lives.

That description of the art of taxation is a description of the art of blackmail. But is it possible that there is no essential between taxation and blackmail? Is government taxation right after all, when they say that government is a device of tyrants, having no justification in moral law? Or is it the other who are right when they tell us that this universe is a child of chaos? For our government is an arbitrary device, or there is no God of justice and wisdom, there must be a science of taxation.

If taxation is like blackmail, a tribute levied upon persons according to their wealth, the way in which they live, regardless of the value of the service that government performs for them, then government is like the blackmail, or, in that case the sooner it is put an end to the better. But we believe that taxation has a better basis. We believe that there is a science of taxation, the foundation of which is justice. It is the art of trading—something for something and nothing for nothing. The practical application of this principle is simple. It is to let the people in full operation everywhere, but with one defect, that of allowing the tax-payers to choose the people in proportion to what the government does for them, and most of the taxes.—Cleveland Recorder.

Presidential Possibilities So far in the progress of the Democratic campaign the party has presented to it three names, each identified with the cause of the silver standard. McKinley, Russell and Patterson. So far Democratic state conventions east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio have all declared for the gold standard of the gold standard as established by the constitution. The only Democratic state convention that has declared for the silver standard was the one held at St. Paul, Globe.

A thing that is essential is that the platform and the candidate must be in accord. We of Kentucky know what it means to have a free-silver platform on a sound money platform. Let the platform declare against the free-silver heresy and nominate John G. Carlisle and we will make a fight that will astonish the natives.—Winchester (Ky.) Democrat.

## SETTLING THE QUESTION

I've long since knowned the war is over  
An' that the world is rollin' right;  
No more does furrow the brow of the boy,  
An' every lily's spotless white.

But what I didn't know for certain  
Was this: If England crest the sea  
An' foreign flags was round us flirrin',  
Where would the boys of Dixie be?

But yesterday—the sunshine streamin'  
Upon their curls so soft and sweet  
(Me settin' in my doorway dreamin')  
The children played around my feet.

"An' come!" says Jim, "my gun is ready!"  
"An' here!" says little Ed, "sees little Ed's  
"Now march away there—steady—steady!"  
"We're goin' to beat the British back!"

"Oh, wait!" says little blue-eyed Sally.  
"An' hand!" says a buttering rag.  
"Here's somethin'" makes the soldiers rally—  
How can you fight without a flag?"

An' then I got to rumblin' day!  
An' all was plain as day to me,  
An' if it's war I'm clean in startin',  
I know just where the south would be!

—Atlanta Constitution.  
Elizabeth Cady Stanton says the only drawback to her happiness as a child was her fear of the devil. Happily that the goblin has been abolished in the homes of enlightened people.

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## Bathing Suits

There was a time when it could be truthfully said: "If you want to take all the romance out of a girl put a bathing suit on her," but now it is just the reverse, for there is real style as well as grace in the new designs and materials. Mohair, Flannel and Serge Suits for Ladies, Misses and Children.

Prices, \$2.50, \$3.25, \$3.75, \$4.50, \$5 and up

## Household Linens, Etc.

Sale continues one week more. Notice these prices:

20-inch Glass Linen, per yard 10c

Yard-wide Bleached Muslin, per yard 5c

Hemstitched Sheets, each 85c

Hemstitched Pillow Cases, each 35c

White Turkish Towels, size 22x40, each 20c

18x36 inch Hemstitched Huck Towels, each 20c

Eight Quarter Bordered Satin Damask Table Cloths, each \$2.50

Four Quarter Cream Silk and Wool Flannel, each \$1.00

Seven Eighth Cream Silk and Wool Flannel, per yard 85c

72-inch Plain Double Satin Damask, per yard \$1.00

Six Quarter Plain Double Satin Damask, per yard \$1.50

Eight Quarter Plain Double Satin Damask, per yard \$2.00

36 inch White Flannel, embroidered in colors, per yard \$1.35

32-inch Scotch Tennis Flannel, per yard 25c

40-inch Scotch Tennis Flannel, per yard 35c

30-inch Silk and Wool Scotch Tennis Flannel, per yard 45c

We are showing a very complete line of fine Embroidered Linens, all widths; prices, a yard, from 25c to \$1.25

Brown Linen Drill for Boys' Suits, at a yard, from 25c to 40c

## Infants' Wear

It is a conceded fact that the children of this country are the best dressed of any in the world, and why not? When their entire wardrobe can be selected from among the choicest fabrics and styles at the most reasonable prices and made in the best possible manner. We are now prepared to supply the every want of our little friends.

Unusual values in White and Colored Dresses of Lawns and Dimities, elegantly trimmed with embroidery, at \$1.00 and upward.

Beautiful assortment of Children's Dresses in all the latest designs in Madras, Lawns and Linen Batiste.

Children's Aprons, in White India Lawn, Endless varieties, at 50c each to \$1.25

Misses' Sun Bonnets and Caps, in White and Colored Wash Materials, at from 25c to \$3.00

Boys' Fauntleroy Waists, at each 50c

## Advance Notice

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 21st, 22d and 23d, we will hold our first Summer Millinery Opening. On this occasion we will show all the very latest styles for summer wear, and make prices that will be the very lowest ever quoted on first-class Millinery.

## Black Dress Goods

The prices now offered in our Black Dress Goods Department are as attractive as the goods shown; never in the history of the Dress Goods business have equal prices been made, and those who come in "just to look" are almost sure to own a suit or skirt length before leaving. Below we note some of the special values for the coming week:

23 pieces of Figured Sicilians and Brilliantines, worth from 60c to 75c, per yard 50c

300 yards Mohair Diagonal Cheviots, worth 75c, per yard 55c

150 Skirt Lengths, 1 lot at per length \$1.10

1 lot at per length \$1.95

18 pieces Wool Mohair, worth 60c, per yard 42½c

## Special

Fine Muslin Gowns, elegantly trimmed, sleeves, neck and yoke, deep lace embroidery; regular \$2.00 garment; now selling at \$1.00

Ladies' full-size White Lawn Aprons, hemmed and five tucks; each at 12½c

## Wash Goods

It's everybody's duty to keep cool if possible. We make it possible at the smallest expenditure.

## Warm Weather Weaves

Tissue de Luxe, yard wide, exquisite flowered designs, a yard 30c

Mulhouse Pique, plain and figured, the latest, a yard 12½c

Punjab Percales, especially pretty for Shirt waists, a yard 12½c

Fine Zephyr Gingham, regular 12½c quality, a yard 7½c

Figured Dimities, a yard 8½c

Finer qualities Figured Dimities, a yard 15c

## Draperies

45-inch Bordered Swiss, numerous new styles, a yard 25c

Tamboured Curtain Muslin, good quality at 20c, better at, a yard 25c

32-inch Drapery Silk, endless variety, some 50c, best at, a yard 65c

36-inch New Pattern Cretonne, 15c a yard for some, better grade, a yard 20c

English Dimities, for window curtains and hangings, a yard 12½c

New Effects in Bagdad Piece Goods, for Portieres and pillow covers, a yard 75c

50-inch heavy Fringed and Bordered Derby Portieres, in variety of colorings and patterns, pair \$4.00

Just received a thousand pairs of an entirely new weave of Curtains, imitating the Cheney's Irish Point and Brussels, with both plain and figured Centers, and narrow and double borders ranging in price pair from \$3.50 to \$5.50

Large line of genuine orderless down filled Pillows, (uncovered,) at popular prices.

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