

ATHENA PRESS

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By J. W. SMITH.

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Athens, Oregon, June 9th, 1893.

THE DECLINE OF SILVER.

FOR over fourteen years, the United States has tried to keep up the price of silver by legislation, but has failed. On August the 12th last, the price fell to about 74 cents per ounce; and this was followed by another decline the latter part of December, to 73.5 cents per ounce; the lowest point ever reached before that time.

It was in 1878 that the American policy of silver purchase was begun by the enactment of the Bland Silver Act, compelling coinage of \$2,000,000 per month. At that time the price was over \$1.09 3/5 per ounce.

The United States produced less than 35,000,000 ounces. By the end of 1878, the average price had fallen to \$1.01 1/2 per ounce; and, although it rose to over \$1.05 1/2 in May, 1882, its tendency on the whole since that time has been downward. In 1883, the average was \$1.027; in 1885, \$0.988, in 1888, \$0.97; and in 1889, \$0.866. In the meantime, 291,272,019 ounces had been purchased at an average cost of about \$1.07 1/2 per ounce. In 1890, it was planned that if government purchases were increased, the metal would rise to the level of par with gold; and the Sherman Act, still in force, was passed, by which the purchases were increased to 4,500,000 ounces per month. A temporary rise in price followed, for 1890 was \$1.10 1/2, but it was

for silver has been generally downward and unsteady. The evil has been aggravated by several other causes—artificial inflation, already mentioned; the low cost of production, which, in some American mines is said to be only a little over one-third of the present reduced price, and more recently the sale in India of 7,000,000 ounces of silver a month for gold with which to pay the interest on the public debt. Should Europe return to her old policy, resuming the use of silver as legal tender upon a fixed ratio to gold, and at the same time open her mints with equal freedom to the coinage of both metals, no doubt much of the evil resulting from the present loss of the par of exchange would be removed. Experience shows that as long as that system was in force, the ratio of value varied but little, notwithstanding the variations in production and use of the metals. Although a return to the old order was not to be expected, it was hoped that some international compact might be made as a result of the conference at Brussels, whereby the powerful influence of Governments, which determine the monetary use of the metals, might be effectively enlisted in some broad scheme for the restoration of silver and the maintenance of its parity of ratio with gold.

It is admitted on all hands that something must be done, and that quickly. Silver cannot very long retain its present anomalous position. It must either be rehabilitated in some degree, or pass out of monetary use except in the Far East.

INCOME TAX.

Many reports are being sent out from Washington by correspondents that President Cleveland favors an income tax to fill the revenue gaps that he made by proposed reduction of the tariff, and that he will recommend such a course in his first message to congress.

In commenting upon such a course the New York Sun takes the position that the income tax is suggested to "curry favor with the Populist, the Farmer's Alliance and the Socialists." It opposes the tax on the ground that it robs persons with big incomes of the benefit of those with small incomes and claims that nothing would put the tax in the Democratic platform.

The New York Press denounces the income tax as confiscation, a punishment to the accumulation of capital.

Philadelphia Items says that the income tax is not only socialistic but it is so extremely democratic that it is doubtful if that strong and influential party can make it the issue of an election. It also claims that the tax will be heavily felt in the West.

Constitution and Democracy are saying: "The idea of an income tax is not to give the country a reform or remedy, but to give the Democratic party a pretext for discrediting a tax is considered with equal amounts to the socialistic, schools and positions. If it robs the benefit of another, it is needed to the benefit of a robber."

It is claimed that it is a poor class legisla-tion; but that it is an attempt to equitably distribute the burden of taxation, and that every man with his cot-age should be taxed more heavily than his neighbor with a big house. It is claimed that an income tax will be borne by those who are able to pay it, and that it does not bear their share of the public burden.

COMMON SCHOOL BUILDING.

The Board of Regents of the Common School at Wes on met on the 6th inst. to consider proposals and plans for the building. J. H. Stebbins, Nathan Pierce, W. M. Steen, A. Worthington, and R. M. Stebbins were present. W. M. Pierce and G. W. Webb did not attend. T. F. Howard, of Pendleton, presented two plans, A. and B. They were similar in design, but one

plan called for a structure somewhat larger than the other. On these bids were: plan A—Ed Money, \$9965; Cahoon & Fielding, \$9940; plan B—Ed Money, \$9635; Cahoon & Fielding, \$9540.

T. Steuben, of Pendleton, presented a plan, with an accompanying bid, which was \$10,950.

On the plan of George Williams, of Weston, the bids were: Cahoon & Fielding, \$10,450; McKay \$10,910; Mr. Sheiber, of Walla Walla, \$10,250; A. M. Gillis, \$9,836.

Dupuis & Cahoon, of Pendleton, had a plan in, their bid being \$9000. After due deliberation the regents adopted the plans of Mr. Williams and let the contract to Mr. Gillis, the Athens contractor, with bonds fixed at \$20,000. The plan calls for a two-story building and a basement, there being several rooms. It will be a well arranged and handsome structure. The chief contest over plans seemed to rest between those of Williams and Steuben. That of the latter won much approval, the only objections being the higher cost.

What They Think of Us.

Irving McQuary has sold the Athens Press to J. W. Smith and F. B. Boyd. We wish the Press continued prosperity.—Union Republican.

Irving McQuary has disposed of the Athens Press to J. W. Smith, a teacher of that place, and Fred B. Boyd, an employee of the office. We wish it success under the new management. Among the improvements announced for the paper is a new cylinder press and a lot of new material.—Oregon Scout.

Irving McQuary, for several years the popular and successful quill-driver of the Athens Press, has disposed of his paper to Messrs. Smith & Boyd. Mr. Smith was principal of the Athens schools the past winter, and Mr. Boyd has been an employee in the mechanical department of the Press for some time past. We wish the new management success.—Marion County Record.

Irving McQuary has sold the Athens Press to Smith & Boyd. Prof. Smith is well and favorably known as an educator, and Fred Boyd has had a hand in running the Press for the past two years. Both gentlemen are well qualified to turn out a good newspaper, but they will have to "get on their muscles" if they expect to do better work than the genial and fearless McQuary. The Herald trusts that the late editor will meet with success in his new field and that the new managers will reap a substantial pecuniary reward from the Press.—Oregon Alliance Herald.

Irving McQuary, editor of the Athens Press since 1888, has sold his interest in the paper to J. W. Smith.—Portland Oregonian.

Irving McQuary, who for the past six years has successfully guided the fortunes of the Athens Press through the shoals and rapids that beset the course of a country weekly, has disposed of his interests in that journal to Messrs. J. W. Smith and Fred B. Boyd.—Walla Walla Statesman.

Advertised Letters.

List of letters remaining unclaimed in the Post Office at Athens, Umatilla County, state of Oregon, June 1st, 1893. Persons calling for the same say "Advertised."

Anderson, J. A. Pieroll, Bertie J. Colbert, James Remington, W. M. Fritts, Wm. L. Shaw, James Foot, Ella F. Stepp, L. S. King, Oscar Smith, F. A. Kimzey, Harry Vinecore, C. L. McIvey, T. H. Wilson, Martha Martin, Dave Walton, E. C. Paquette, John Waller Edgar

GEO. W. HANSELL, P. M.

THE WAY TO BUILD UP ATHENS IS TO PATRONIZE HER INSTITUTIONS AND INDUSTRIES.

TAFT TOLBERT & CO., GENERAL

Blacksmiths,

Fourth Street, Athens, Ore.

ALL KINDS OF MACHINE REPAIRING AT LOW RATES.

Horse shoeing Wagon Work

Stanton & Arkell,

Proprietors of the

"O K" MEAT MARKET,

Corner of Main & Fourth.

A Large variety of Meats always on hand. See us.

— THE — PO Store

— HAS — JUST RECEIVED

The largest stock of Fishing

Tackle,

ever brought to the city.

Please bear this in mind.

Do not pass us by.

Call and examine our

stock; you will purchase.

We also have a complete stock of

Base Ball Supplies,

Kites, marbles, croquets, Stationery, books, school supplies, musical instruments, notions, cigars tobacco, and confectionery.

REMEMBER!

WE ARE HEADQUARTERS

FOR

FISHING TACKLE

THE BEST STOCK AND

Lowest Price

HANSELL & HURONEY ATHENS.

THE GRANGE STORE

Ladies

Our new stock of Dress Goods has arrived from New York, and we will be pleased to show them. Among the dress goods will be the latest patterns in Pointelles, Grendines, Sateens, Chambrays, Cashmeres, Sublime, Summer Suitsings, etc. etc.

LATEST NOVELTIES IN TRIMMINGS TO MATCH.

Chiffon and Oriental laces, embroideries, Hamburg edgings, fancy Ties, Gloves mitts, Handkerchiefs, etc. Entirely new and complete line of Ribbons, unique in design and very pretty, Underwear and Hosiery in all grades, and remember that we

HAVE JUST RECEIVED THE LARGEST INVOICE

of Ladies, Gents, Misses, Boy's and Children's Shoes ever brought to the city. They comprise the latest styles and for neatness and elegance cannot be beat, and will be sold at hard times

Prices.

We would respectfully ask your inspection of these goods, knowing you will be pleased, and it will be a pleasure for us to show them to you.

BERGEVIN BROS.,

Athens

Oregon.



Bad Roads

Makes trade slow, but we offer such RARE INDUCEMENTS to Customers who venture forth, that they come to town in spite of

A Foot Pace

Whenever they are in town they find just what they want and are able to make

Deals That Pay.

Do not neglect the CHANCE, but take ADVANTAGE of our OFFER.

C. W. Hollis,

ATHENS,

OREGON.