

The Broad Ax.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.
Will promulgate and at all times uphold the true principles of Democracy, but farmers, Orthodox, Protestants, Knights of Labor, I. O. O. F., Masons, 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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JULIUS F. TAYLOR, Publisher and Editor.

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Cashier Taylor of Argentine, Kan., has dropped out of sight. So have the surplus funds of the bank.

Everybody seems to know just what David B. Hill is going to do—everybody but David B. himself.

There is a rumor that the powers will remonstrate with the sultan over the massacre in Constantinople, but it is not believed that they will go further than to think of remonstrating.

It is announced that in the national headquarters of one of the political parties no work will be done on Sundays during the campaign. This departure from previous custom will not cost that party a single vote, and it will increase the respect for a management which recognizes the fact that God's laws are not silent, even in the lightnings and tumults of a natural convulsion.

A Chicago Scotchman has been noticed by the police to either give up playing on his bag-pipes or move to the country. It is an awful thing to wear a loyal highland heart from the beloved "doodlessack," but the alternative is even more cruel. Who ever heard of a bag-piper playing to a lonely stretch of woodland and meadow? An audience seems to be an essential thing for the best notes of the gay instrument, judging by the pompous air of the performer as he strides up and down in all the glory of his chilly kilt, shattered rainbow plaids and bushy brushed sunny curls.

Iowa sets an example to Boston. After a discussion of three hours, the state committee has decided that the beautiful figure of "Iowa" is perfectly proper and therefore the state will accept it. The figure is nude from the waist up and the hands support the breasts, signifying Iowa's offering of sourishment to the whole world, surely a most poetic and beautiful idea. The faction against accepting the statue was led by Senator Harlan and Judge Trimble, but they have lost. Now let Boston accept the Bacchante statue, and let us in the name of all that is beautiful in art, and all that is nauseous in mock-modesty, put an end to this sort of thing for all future time.

It looks as if the Turkish empire were approaching a point where its further existence would be impossible. It is to be hoped that such is the case, provided a stable form of government can take its place. In Syria the Druses are waging a successful war against the national troops; in Crete the inhabitants are fighting the invaders, hilling back on their mountain fastnesses when defeated; in Macedonia the Greek inhabitants have raised the standard of revolt, while Armenia is anything but tranquil. There are other regions that will be found in open rebellion when revolts in other parts of the empire become more threatening. The Arabs of the Arabian peninsula have always been dissatisfied with the rule of the Turks, and have more than once in the past centuries flown to arms and made head against the family of Othman. They are held down now by force of arms, and by that force alone. They do not regard the present head of the empire as deserving to be the head priest of the whole Moslem world. The troubles with the Christians in Crete may lead to more widespread upheavals than at present indicated.

The United States consul-general at Singapore, in his last report, calls attention to the great increase that has taken place in the production of Sumatra tobacco and the high price it commands on account of its superiority, especially for wrapping purposes, and he gives some interesting particulars of the origin and growth of the industry. It was in the year 1862 that an Arab drew the attention of a commercial house in Batavia to the district of Dell, on the east coast of Sumatra, a country where pepper and tobacco were being produced, and where a good market could be found for European goods. This led to a commercial expedition to Dell in March, 1863, which expedition was joined by a tobacco planter from Java, with the special object of inspecting the soil in Dell and seeing whether it was suitable for tobacco cultivation. The result of this expedition was that the planter in question obtained a firm footing in Dell, and being provided with the necessary funds by a firm in Rotterdam, he sent his first fifty bales to Europe in 1865, and, in 1866, 100 bales. This tobacco attracted the attention of a group of financiers in the Netherlands to embark capital in the enterprise. This was done, and a company was established in November, 1869, with a capital of 300,000 guilders.

GRANT AND SILVER.

HIS SPECIAL MESSAGE FAVORING FREE COINAGE.

We Want All the Silver in Circulation That Can Be Coined—Ordered Additional Facilities for Mintage—Was Ignorant of Demonstration.

There are still some men who insist that the act demonstizing silver was not sneaked through Congress in 1873. Time and again the silver advocates have given substantial evidence to the contrary. The late James G. Blaine, who was speaker of the house of representatives in 1873, has been quoted times without number. Other illustrious statesmen of all parties have testified to the truth of Blaine's statement that "Not a member of congress knew at the time that the act of '73 demonstized silver." Neither did President Grant, who signed the bill. Here is his special message to the senate on the day he signed the resumption bill. No sane man, after reading it, will dare say that President Grant knew that the act of 1873 debarred silver from the mints. The message:—

To the Senate of the United States: Senate bill No. 1044, "to provide for the resumption of specie payments," is before me, and this day receives my signature of approval. I venture upon this unusual method of conveying the notice of approval to the house on which the measure originated because of its great importance to the country at large and in order to suggest further legislation, which seems to me essential to make the law effective.

The provisions of the third section of the act will prevent combinations being made to exhaust the treasury of coin. With such a law it is presumable that no gold could be called for not required for legitimate business purposes. When large amounts of coin should be drawn from the treasury, correspondingly large amounts of currency would be withdrawn from circulation, thus causing a sufficient stringency in currency to stop the outward flow of coin.

The advantages of a currency of a fixed, known value would also be reached. In my opinion, by the enactment of such law, business and industries would revive, and the beginning of prosperity on a firm basis would be reached.

Other means of increasing revenue than those suggested should probably be devised, and also other legislation, in fact, to carry out the first section of the act, another mint becomes necessary. With the present facilities for coining, it would take a period probably beyond that fixed by law for final specie resumption to coin the silver necessary to transact the business of the country.

There are now some smelting furnaces for extracting silver and gold from the ores brought from the mountainous territories, in Chicago, St. Louis and Omaha—three in the former city—and as much of the change required will be wanted in the Mississippi valley states, and as the metal to be coined comes from west of these states, and as I understand the charge of transportation of bullion from either of the cities named to the mint in Philadelphia or to New York city, amounts to \$4 for each \$1,000 worth, with an equal expense for transportation back, it would seem a fair argument in favor of adopting one or more of those cities as the place or places for the establishment of new coining facilities.

I have ventured upon this subject with great diffidence, because it is so unusual to approve a measure—as I most heartily do this, even if no further legislation is attainable at this time—and to announce the fact by message. But I do so because I feel that it is a subject of such vital importance to the whole country, that it should receive the attention of and be discussed by congress and the people, through the press and in every way, to the end that the best and most satisfactory course may be reached of executing what I deem most beneficial legislation on a most vital question to the interests and prosperity of the nation.

U. S. GRANT.
Executive Mansion, Jan. 14, 1875.
On motion of Mr. Sherman, the message was referred to the committee on finance and ordered to be printed.—(See Congressional Record, volume 3, part 1, Forty-third congress, second session, Dec. 7, 1875, page 453).

The above is not the only substantial evidence that General Grant was ignorant of the whole proceeding. Following is one he wrote two years previous to his Secretary of the Interior. Believing that silver might still be taken to the mints and coined free of charge, he wrote:

"I wonder that silver is not already coming into the market to supply the deficiency in the circulating medium. . . . Experience has proved that it takes about \$40,000,000 of fractional currency to make the small change necessary for the transaction of the business of the country. Silver will gradually take the place of this currency and, further, will become the standard of values, which will be hoarded in a small way. I estimate that this will consume from \$200,000,000 to \$300,000,000 in time of this species of our circulating medium. . . . I confess to a desire to see limited hoarding of money. But I want to see a limited hoarding of something that is a standard of value the world over. Silver is this. . . . Our mines are now producing almost unlimited amount of silver, and it is becoming a question, what

shall we do with it?" I here suggest a solution which will answer for years to put it in circulation, keep it there until it is fixed, and then sell it and other markets.—(Extract from a letter written by President Grant to Mr. Coudry, Oct. 13, 1873, eight months after he had signed the bill demonstizing silver, not knowing what that measure contained. See page 208, Congressional Record, Dec. 14, 1877).

Can any one doubt the sincerity of General Grant? If there is let him vote for McKinley and the gold standard.

Did Bimetallism Succeed?
New York Journal: A monometalist contemporary quotes the Journal's remark that bimetallic coinage is not an untried experiment, but was an approved success through the greater part of our national life, and exclaims: "How was it 'an approved success'?" Did it ever for one month maintain the parity of the metals? Did it ever during the forty years of its existence give us concurrent circulation of gold and silver? If so, when? Did this magical ratio ever do either of these things in any other country? If so, where?
On the very same page our contemporary prints a table that ought to enable it to answer its own questions. The figures show the relative production of silver and gold. For the present century the outputs as given were:

	Gold.	Silver.
	Ounces.	Ounces.
1801-10..	5,715,627	287,469,225 59 to 1
1811-20..	3,679,568	173,857,555 48 to 1
1821-30..	4,579,444	148,070,040 32 to 1
1831-40..	6,522,913	191,758,675 30 to 1
1841-50..	17,605,018	250,903,422 13 to 1
1851-60..	64,482,933	287,920,126 4 to 1
1860-70..	61,098,343	329,267,776 6 to 1
1870-95..	146,539,875	2,513,984,119 17 to 1

If this table had been supplemented by another exhibiting the market value of the metals, it would have shown that while in the first seventy years of the century the production fluctuated so enormously that in one decade only four ounces of silver were produced to one of gold, and in another the disparity was fifty to one, the average annual market ratios ranged for almost the whole time in the neighborhood of 15 1/2 to 1, and never varied more than from 15.04 to 1 to 16.25 to 1. It would also have shown that while the production from 1870 to 1895 approached more nearly to the mint proportions than ever before in the century, the value of silver fluctuated between 15.57 and 32.56 to 1.

"Concurrent circulation" is not the test of a successful monetary policy, although there was never a year in times of specie payments between 1803 and 1874 when silver five franc pieces and gold twenty franc pieces did not circulate together in France, and when both gold and silver were not coined at the French mints. The real test of stability of value. It makes little difference whether one metal or the other or both be in circulation if the fluctuations in value can be kept within narrow limits. Between 1837 and 1873 the gold value of 37 1/4 grains of pure silver never averaged more than \$1.052 or less than \$1.003. The range of fluctuation was less than five cents on the dollar in thirty-six years. Between 1873 and 1895 the gold value of the same amount of silver varied between 49.1 cents and \$1.004. There was a greater fluctuation in a week than there had been with open mints in seventy years. That ought to answer the question whether the policy of open mints proved a success or not, as compared with the one that has followed it.

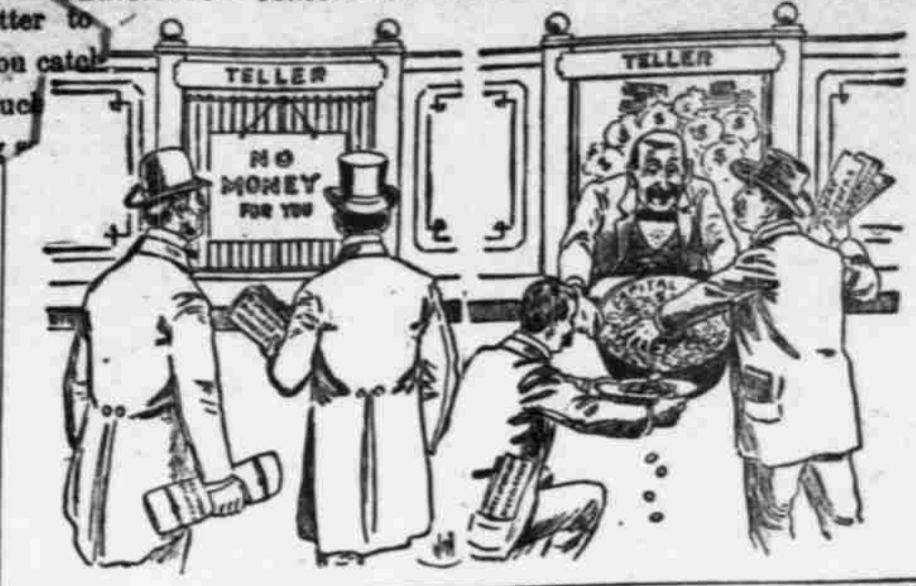
Is This "Sound Money"?
Springfield (Mass.) News: The paper and silver currency of the United States amounts to something over \$1,100,000,000. According to the "sound money" men this currency is redeemable in gold. The redemption bureau is supposed to be in the federal treasury. What are its gold assets to meet its self-imposed obligations? Less than \$100,000,000. Its assets are, if its estimate of liabilities is sound, about nine per cent of its liabilities. If this is "sound money" heaven deliver us from it.

As a matter of cold fact, the government is not bound to pay one penny more in gold than its present reserve provides for. It is only because the bankers of two worlds have been putting in their work to their own profit, that the fallacy of gold redemption has been given a moment's countenance. In order to maintain a pretense of solvency on this basis the government has run the country in debt by selling \$200,000,000 worth of bonds simply and only to maintain a vanishing gold reserve.

If the policy was to be kept up, as would be necessary under this same policy, the government debt would be increased at the rate of at least \$100,000,000 per year. It would not be long before our debt would be as great as it was at the close of the civil war, not much longer before the total cost of maintaining this blessed gold standard would be as great as the whole tremendous outlay required to put down secession and preserve the union. This is what "sound money" means. Do you want it?

Nutsells Without Kernels.
St. Louis Chronicle: A considerable number of people are getting up "nutsells" which he who runs may read, intended to prove that the free coinage of silver would ruin the country, and about an equal number are getting up similar "nutsells" to prove that the single gold standard is a device of the gold barons of Lombard street. These two kinds of nutsells resemble each other in the fact that not even he who stands still, sits down and thinks for half an hour or so, can read them.

WHY WE OPPOSE THEM.



ALL AGAINST SILVER.

COAL BARONS FORCE WAGES DOWN AND PRICES UP.

Yet They Pretend that They Are Afraid That the Working Man Will Be Paid in Cheap Dollars—The Chicago Tribune "Ordered Up."

The following letter was recently addressed to the Chicago Tribune. That paper boasts that it answers all letters received. It evidently made an exception of this one for the very good reason that its publication would have opened the eyes of a large number of the Tribune's readers. We publish it that its influences may not be lost:
Editor, Sound Money column, Chicago Tribune—Sir: Its not a fact that J. Pierpont Morgan, who is at the head of the gold movement in this country, and who recently made a profit of \$3,000,000 on a bond transaction (which transaction was only made necessary because we are on a gold basis, and insist on paying our obligations in gold), is also at the head of the anthracite coal trust; which trust has recently raised the price of that article for no known reason whatever except its own voraciousness? Is it not also a fact that Senator J. M. Thurston, one of the leading supporters of the gold party, is the paid attorney of the Union Pacific railroad, a corporation which has robbed the United States government of millions of dollars?
Did not the Union Pacific make every

occasion, should now have the interest of a long-suffering public at heart?

It looks to me that, having always robbed the workingman in the past, they wish to continue to do so in the future.
Maybe I am wrong. I sincerely hope so. It is with that hope in my mind and a wish to be further enlightened, that I pen this lengthy epistle to you; relying on your well-known fairness to answer through the columns of your paper.
RICE WASBROUGH.

Republican Official for Silver.

Buffalo (N. Y.) Times: United States Commissioner Henry D. Fitzgerald, a life-long republican, who has taken the stump for the republican party in western New York every presidential election since the campaign of Greeley and Grant, has come out flat-footed for Bryan and free silver. Not only does he intend to vote for the ticket, but he says, if necessary, he will take the stump for it. Commissioner Fitzgerald spoke at scores of republican meetings throughout western New York during the campaign of '88. He has been United States commissioner for the past 27 years, during which time he has been of great service to the party.

Bourke as a Bird.

Oil City Derrick: For a professional jaw-worker like Cockran to refer to the agriculturists as "farmers who labor with their jaws" is an excellent illustration of the pot calling the kettle black. Bourke is a bird. It would be interesting to know the exact price he was paid for his speech.

SHERMAN'S TWO SPEECHES.

Sherman's plea for labor in the senate of the United States in 1876: We are producing in this country this year, as estimated by Dr. Linderman, some \$40,000,000 in silver bullion. He estimates the total production at \$80,000,000, of which \$40,000,000 will be silver. Why not utilize this silver as legal tender? I admit that if it is made a legal tender, equal to gold, it being a metal not so valuable, it would drive the gold from the country, and the silver alone would remain. By limiting it to a thousand dollars in one payment, ninety-nine transactions out of every one hundred will be transacted with it. And all business between individuals not bankers, between the mechanic and employer, between farmers and their merchants, and all wages, and indeed thousands of transactions which underlie society broad and deep, would be in this coin. The large transactions between the bankers and those between this and foreign nations would continue to be in gold, but the silver would remain here as the coin of the people, and the laboring man as well as the small dealer, and indeed of all those persons who do not deal in millions at a clip.

John Sherman's plea for labor at Columbus in 1896: But by far the greatest injury resulting from the free coinage of silver will fall upon workingmen. Their wages are now based upon money of the highest value, upon gold coin of standard value. Under free coinage of silver the value of the silver dollar will fall to 53 cents in gold, or, as I have already said, the hundred cents of the gold dollar will be worth 190 cents of the silver dollar. With free coinage of silver every workingman can and ought to demand enough silver for his daily wages to be equal to the purchasing power of his present wages in gold. The struggle between workingman and employer will then commence and no one knows better than the workingman how difficult it is to get an advance of pay.

I therefore, Mr. President, look upon this as one of the great steps toward resumption. It is by utilizing the silver which we produce in large amounts in this country and making it a legal tender as it was heretofore. It remains a legal tender in France, and it is there successful as the coin of the people. It is also a legal tender in many other parts of Europe. France is one of the great commercial nations, and they have retained the double standard; and from my reading I believe if Germany could go back to the double standard it would do it most cheerfully. They believed that the large amount of French coin which had been brought there in a day would remain, and so believing they demonstized all the millions of silver that had been coined all the little principalities and duchies of Germany for ages before and substituted gold exclusively, recoining the French coin so as to make it the coin of the empire. But this imperial coin must go back to its imperial home; and, as I said a while ago, it has left that country in a condition of paralysis and prostration, not surpassed by its sad condition during the Napoleonic wars. It should be received as a fundamental fact so as to guide the statesmen of this country that the reverse of what suits England always suits us. And as the exclusive gold standard undoubtedly suits her, the double standard suits us.—See Congressional Record, March 6, 1876, pages 1477 to 1482.

We have strikes and strife enough now, when the workingman gets his pay in gold coin or its equivalent, but what will be the condition when he is paid in cheaper money of the same nominal amount, but of less purchasing power? Every sentiment of justice will be on the side of the workingman in his struggle for good money or increased wages in cheap money. Of all the evils which a government can inflict none can be greater than cheap money, whether of coin or paper.

The question will never be settled until you determine the simple question whether the laboring man is entitled to have a gold dollar if he earns it, or whether you are going to cheat him with something else. Gold has made the world respect it all the time. The English people once thought they could get along without gold for a while, but they had to come back to it. With the free coinage of silver gold will be demonstized. Nothing can be more certain than that the cheaper money only will circulate. The United States has thus far maintained its silver coins at parity with gold coins only by its exclusive monopoly of coinage and by limiting the amount, but with free coinage of silver there could be no limitation. Silver bullion in every form will be pressed upon the mints and with the mandatory duty of free coinage, silver dollars will soon fill the channels of circulation and the gold dollar will be hoarded or will be quoted and sold as a commodity at about 190 cents of the silver coin. Silver will stand as the par of value and gold will be quoted at its commercial value.—See John Sherman's speech at Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 15, 1896.

effort possible to elect Thurston to the senate, knowing full well that its raceality was about to be exposed, and a question of restitution raised? Is it not also a fact that the members comprising each and every one of the numerous trusts, which are fast driving competition from the field and raising the price of every article they handle, are, without exception, active supporters of the same gold party?
Does it not seem strange that the various members of these trusts, which have robbed the public, individually and collectively, on every conceivable

May Overthrow the Leaders.
Catskill (N. Y.) Recorder: The people of this state, Major Hinkley, are going to support Bryan and free silver and all, they are not going to wait until September before declaring their purpose. Moreover, if some of their old-time leaders don't like it they may throw up their commissions and take back seats.
And now it is claimed that the jawbones of civilized people are gradually becoming attenuated, chiefly owing to the prolonged use of knives and forb-

The Longevity of Trees.

America does not seem as favorable to the longevity of trees as are many parts of the old world. It is said that pines in the north of Europe are known to have endured for nearly 600 years. In Bavaria there is a larch which is known to be 225. Many oaks in Germany are known to be over 300 years. Of other trees individuals are known that have reached the ages set opposite to them: Ash, 170 years; birch, 160 to 200 years; aspen, 220 years; mountain maple, 225 years; elm, 120 years; and red alder, 145 years.
In our country there are few that are more than mere remnants. Most of Bartram's trees are gone wholly or are fading. The famous cypress has yet a few green branches. The fine silver fir on the Johnson estate in Germantown, which figured in the early issues of "the Horticulturist" and often elsewhere, is entirely dead now, though less than 100 years old.—Mechan's Monthly.

A Census Experiment.

In the recent census of the county of London the occupier of a tenement handed a blank paper to the collector with a confused statement that it did not apply to her. "And where do you live, then?" asked the bemuddled enumerator, after a long struggle to disentangle the witness. "Where do I live? Why, where should I live but in my own 'ome'?" "Well, where is your home?" "This is my 'ome' of course it is." "But you said just now that you didn't sleep here last night." "No more I did. I never slept a minute all night long, and my 'usband 'it tell 'e the same."—Household Words.

Sarcasm.

"There's one thing," remarked Willie Washington, "that I've made up my mind to do."
"Really?" responded Miss Cayens with languid interest.
"Yes, I shall never be a man of one idea."
"Don't say that. You are still too young to be discouraged."—Washington Times.

Insect Killing Torch.

A device for destroying millers and preventing the spread of fruit worms is coming into quite general use among cranberry growers on Cape Cod. It consists of a torch mounted on a pole which is left burning through the night. The millers are attracted by the blaze and fly into it.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

A Singular Form of Monomania.

There is a class of people, rational enough in other respects, who are certainly monomaniacs in doing themselves. They are constantly experimenting upon their somachs, their bowels, their livers and their kidneys with trashy nostrums. When these organs are really out of order, if they would only use Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, they would, if not hopelessly insane, perceive its superiority.

"That young widow next door has bought a bicycle." "Isn't that a little odd?" "No, she says she had to have it so she could carry flowers out to the cemetery."

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