

# The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the Ends thou Aims't at, be thy Country's, thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June, 1866

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## The Silver Convention.

### A GREAT GATHERING IN MEMPHIS.

### Senators Harrison and Tur- pie and Congressman Sibley Prominent Figures.

MEMPHIS, TENN., June 12.—When the committee on resolutions appointed at to-day's session of the Southern and Western States' silver convention makes its report there may be a lively time. The committee went out at five o'clock and it is thought will be ready to read the platform at an early hour to-morrow. The plank which may make all the trouble is one which endorses Joseph C. Sibley, of Pennsylvania, for president. Mr. Sibley is a man of brilliant attainments, a fervid friend of the free silver idea, and a cordial hater of the administration policy. In his speech to-night at the Auditorium he did not spare either Cleveland or Carlisle. It is somewhat doubtful at present whether the plank will ever get through the committee. If it does it is almost certain it will never get through the convention. The more conservative of the delegations do not believe it would be good policy to introduce a presidential boom for even so popular a friend of the free silver movement as Mr. Sibley into a platform which was originally intended to show nothing but the feeling of the convention on the money question.

From the standpoint of white money enthusiasts nothing was left to be desired by to-day's convention. Two thousand delegates braved the torrid skies to be present and every State, with few exceptions, sent its most representative men with instructions to shout for silver, vote for silver, tolerate nothing else but silver. The delegations varied in size, the largest coming from Mississippi and Tennessee and the smallest from the far western or so-called silver States. The small representation from western silver States was explained to the convention by Gov. L. Bradford Prince, of New Mexico, on the ground that representatives from all these States had recently attended the convention at Salt Lake City. Nevertheless, said Governor Prince, not one of these States will be unrepresented. A committee had been appointed at the Salt Lake City convention to represent all these States and the committee would arrive to-morrow.

The convention was called to order at 2 o'clock by W. N. Brown, of Memphis, as chairman of the central bimetallic league, of Shelby county, Tennessee, which sent out the call for the convention, rapped the assemblage to order. On the platform were the following: Thomas Scott, Secretary of State of Louisiana; M. J. Cunningham, Attorney General of Louisiana; John Fitzpatrick, mayor of New Orleans; A. J. Warner, president of the American bimetallic league; Gov. J. P. Clarke, Arkansas; W. J. Bryan, editor of the Omaha World-Herald; Senator James Berry, Arkansas; Senator Stewart, Nevada; Anson Wolcott, Indiana; Senator I. G. Harris, Tennessee; Alex. Delmar, California; Representative H. D. Money, Mississippi; Senator J. K. Jones, Arkansas; Senator Marion Butler, North Carolina; Senator J. Z. George, Mississippi; Senator David Turpie, Indiana; Ex-Governor Eagle, Arkansas; Gov. L. Bradford Prince, New Mexico; Ex-Gov. Benjamin R. Tillman, South Carolina; Gov. John Gary Evans, South Carolina.

From start to finish the convention was one of great enthusiasm. Every pronounced free silver utterance was the signal for prolonged applause and when the various persons well known in public life, appeared on the rostrum each received an ovation. When Chairman Brown had called the convention to order, L. D. Bates offered prayer. He implored Divine guidance for the delegates and hoped they might be led into adopting "honest money" as their platform. This created a bit of sensation until it was learned that he meant free silver.

Col. Casey Young, of Memphis made the welcome address, and in the course of his remarks he spoke strongly in favor of the silver standard. Senator Harrison nominated and introduced the permanent chairman, Sena-

tor David Turpie of Indiana. Both gentlemen made speeches.

E. B. Wade, of Tennessee was made Secretary and all the newspaper reporters assistant secretaries.

Resolutions were passed that each State should name a vice president and a member of the committee on resolutions. A roll call of States followed, with these names being presented: Alabama, State Treasurer Frank Smith as vice president and James Bankhead on committee on resolutions; Arkansas, Senator James H. Berry as vice president and Senator J. K. Jones on committee on resolutions; Colorado, Alva Adams, vice president and Charles S. Thomas on committee on resolutions; Florida delegation delayed, but will arrive to-morrow; Georgia, Judge F. M. Langley as vice president and Henry Jones on committee on resolutions; Indiana, David Turpie as vice president and member of committee on resolutions; Kentucky, J. Randall, as vice president and Joe A. Martin Chairman of committee; Louisiana, M. J. Cunningham as vice president and Gilbert L. Dupree on committee on resolutions; Mississippi, W. G. Yerger as vice president and J. Z. George on committee on resolutions; Nebraska, W. J. Bryan as vice president and on committee on resolutions; Montana, Paul I. Furse as vice president and Charles S. Hartman on committee on resolutions; Nevada, W. M. Stewart as vice president and on committee on resolutions; North Carolina, T. F. Heath as vice president and Marion Butler on committee on resolutions; Ohio, A. J. Warner as vice president and on committee on resolutions; Pennsylvania, Jos. C. Sibley as vice president and member of committee on resolutions; South Carolina John Gary Evans as vice president and ex-Governor Tillman on committee on resolutions; Tennessee, Wm. D. Bate as vice president and Edgar Carmack on committee on resolutions; Virginia, P. F. Weaver as vice president and E. C. Treadway on committee on resolutions; New Mexico, Rev. J. D. Bush as vice president and L. Bradford Prince on committee on resolutions.

Amid enthusiastic applause Senator Harris was then named delegate at large from the United States.

J. H. McDarrow, of Tennessee, a well known State Populist leader, in an impassioned speech demanded that the Populist party members be given better representation on the committee on resolutions. Only one Populist, he declared, Marion Butler, of North Carolina, was now on the committee. The Populists have been assured by those in charge of the convention that if they handed a list of names to the secretary they would be placed on the committee. This list was now in the hands of the secretary but had not been read. Were the Third party men to be ignored? The convention ordered that the list of Populists be placed on the committee.

Senator Stewart, of Nevada, presided at the night session. Congressman Joseph C. Sibley, of Pennsylvania, the man who wants to run for President on the silver platform, addressed the convention in part as follows:

I believe that there are going to be two parties at the coming election. One of them will be the mono-metalists and the other the American people in their majesty. The gold standard has been erected many times before. Once Aaron erected a golden image, but it was not a success and once Nebuchadnezzar set him up one and said whosoever refused to bow down and worship it should straightway be cast into a fiery furnace and burned up. Without meaning to make any invidious comparisons, I respectfully refer you to Grover Cleveland's letter to Governor Stone, of Mississippi.

There were three men who refused to worship this image and Nebuchadnezzar ordered the furnace to be made straightway seven times hotter, and had these men cast in, but they walked upright amid the flames and came out brighter and happier than ever. There are a good many Nebuchadnezzars in this work yet, but they do not cut much of a figure. If you will just read along a little further you will find that Nebuchadnezzar found his level all right. For seven years he had to eat grass. We silver people have all the logic and all the law on our side. The Secretary of the Treasury spoke to you in this hall the other day. I do not know what to quote Mr. Carlisle when he said that the demonetization of the white money would mean misery and unhappiness, for half the people of the world; then John G. Carlisle was the tribune of people, now he is the high priest of the temple of Mammon. Mr. Carlisle the plebeian and Mr. Carlisle the aristocrat are two very different kinds of people. But I do not want to complain of Mr. Carlisle. Every word he said about the demonetization of silver has come true.

It is impossible under the present condition of the American agriculturists to compete with those of India and the Argentines. You take your bushel of wheat to the London

market and you get 50 cents for it. When the Indian or the farmer from the Argentines takes his money home, he has 100 cents. Under the present system you are simply fostering the industries of other countries. This is a ruinous competition for you. Mr. Carlisle told you when he was here that the wages of everybody had increased under monometallism about 51 per cent.—it is not that way in my country. Fifty thousand coal miners in Ohio and Pennsylvania had 9 cents a ton taken off their wages about the day that Mr. Carlisle spoke to you here in Memphis. Why, they tell you that wheat out of which they make bread was lower than it ever was and yet more people starved to death for the lack of this low priced wheat than ever did before. They tell you cotton and wool are cheaper than they ever were, yet there is a greater army of tramps walking up and down our highways and our byways to-day in rags for the lack of this same cheap cotton and wool. They tell the farmer East that what he needs to make times better is a higher protective tariff. In certain parts of the West they tell him what he needs to prosper is free trade. You have to give this tariff question as a medicine according to the locality. Now the fact of the matter is that there is nothing to do with monetary panics and it's about time the people gave it a long needed rest, and I believe they are going to do it. There were two monetary panics under a high tariff and two under a low tariff and I think this shows the tariff has nothing to do with this.

The President says he is afraid the silver dollar will depreciate, but the only way the dollar can depreciate is for prices to rise. This is equivalent to an admission by the President that he is afraid prices will rise. If the President would divide his anxieties more equally between the persons who produce the wealth of the country and the limited few who absorb them, he would make a better chief executive. The magnificent patriotism of Mr. Rothschild, who, although an alien, was willing to come to this country and save it for the paltry sum of \$9,000,000 which the people of the United States lost and which he gained, is worthy of note as is also the magnificent patriotism of Mr. Cleveland in thus helping to save the country. But if these two men could save the country they could also ruin it.

With the mints open to the unlimited coinage of silver and gold there will be no more talk of a fifty-cent dollar. They say our shores would be flooded with silver if the mints were open to free coinage. Now that is not true, and if it were true we would simply give them something to have rather than for something we would rather have.

Banker Cornwall, of Buffalo, made a speech in Chicago the other night to a lot of bankers and the next day a reporter showed me the article and asked what I thought of it. I told him if he would have a number of copies printed and distributed to all the voters in the United States I would never make another speech on the silver question, but would rest my case on his argument. He tells the bankers they must keep their thumbs on their customers. We have felt the thumbs of the bankers heavily in the last few years.

We must win this fight in 1896. If we do not win it then it will be too late. There will be two avenues open to the people after 1896. One will be repudiation and the other revolution—and both I dread. If the English were to land in New York you would help to drive them out, wouldn't you? The English are in New York; they have been there for years. Will you drive them out, even if party lines have to be dropped?

MEMPHIS, June 13.—Notwithstanding the cloud that for a moment threatened to darken the horizon of the free silver convention of the Southern and Western States in the shape of the bolting of prominent Democrats because of the advocacy of the abolition of party lines by one or two of the speakers, the end was harmony and there was no fight over the resolutions after they were read to the convention, speakers being careful to avoid any reference to produce discord. The resolutions advocate the free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, declare that international co-operation is not necessary and attribute the recent hard times entirely to the demonetization of silver.

Although nothing was said in the resolutions about abolition of party lines as proposed by Sibley, Stewart, and others, the speakers of the day, almost without exception, took care to assert their Democracy and to repudiate any affiliation with either Republicans or Populists. The resolutions follow:

Silver and gold have in all ages constituted the money of the world, were the money of the fathers of the republic, the money of history and of the

Constitution. The universal experience of mankind has demonstrated that the joint use of both silver and gold coin as money, constitute the most stable standard of value and that the full amount of both metals is necessary as a medium of exchange.

The demonetization of either of these historic metals means an appreciation in the value of money, a fall in the prices of commodities, a diminution of profits of legitimate business, a continuing increase in the burden of debts, a withdrawal of money from the channels of trade and industry where it no longer yields a safe and sure return and its idle accumulation in the banks and the great money centres of the country.

There is no health or soundness in a financial system under which a hoarded dollar is productive of increase to its possessor, while an invested dollar yields a constantly diminishing return, and under which fortunes are made by the accretions of idle capital or destroyed by a persistent fall in the price of commodities and a persistent dwindling in the margin of profits in almost every branch of useful industry. Such a system is a premium on sloth and a penalty upon industry, and such a system is that which the criminal legislation of 1873 has imposed upon this country.

The bimetallic standard of silver and gold has behind it the experience of ages and has been tested and approved by the enlightened and deliberate judgment of mankind. The gold standard is a departure from the established policy of the civilized world with nothing to commend it but twenty-two years of depression and disaster to the people and extraordinary accumulation of wealth in the hands of a few. There are some facts bearing upon the question, recognized and admitted by all candid men whether advocates of bimetallic or of the single gold standard. Among these is the fact that the very year that marked the change from the bimetallic to single gold standard is the very year that marked the change from a condition of rising prices, large profits, general contentment and great prosperity to a condition of falling prices, diminishing profits, in security of investment, unemployed labor and a heavy depression in all branches of trade and industry. It is not a matter of dispute even among the honest advocates of the gold standard, that general prosperity came to an end with the destruction of the bimetallic system and that hard times, falling prices, idle workmen and widespread depression came in with the gold standard and prevails to-day wherever the gold standard has been adopted.

Every international monetary conference that has been called, every demand in this country and in Europe for international agreement to re-establish the bimetallic standard, is a confession that the demonetization of silver was a blunder, if not a crime, that its consequences have been disastrous, that the conditions it has wrought are full of menace and of peril. The logic of facts establishes beyond intelligent argument that the destruction of silver as a primary money by a conspiracy of selfish interests is the cause of the widespread depression and suffering that began with the gold standard. There can be no restoration of prosperity, no permanent relief from the prevailing conditions, until the cause has been remedied by a complete restoration of silver to its proper place as money equal with gold. We believe in a money of stable values, we believe least of all in an appreciating standard. It is only through the practical operation of bimetallicism that a stable standard of value can be secured. A standard constituted of money constantly increasing in value is not a sound, single nor a stable standard, but a constantly changing standard. The effect of gold monometallism is to have one standard for the creditor and another for the debtor and there can be no more dishonest monetary system than that which gives short measure to the borrower and long measure to the lender.

Under the policy prevailing prior to 1873, there can be no violent change in the relative value of the two metals, for a rise in value of one metal is counteracted by a decreased demand, and a fall in value by a higher demand. Under the operation of this beneficent law, a stable relation was maintained between them in spite of the most extreme production. From the first period of our history up to 1873, the right of the debtor to choose whether he should pay his debts in silver or gold coin was always recognized. The policy has been to transfer this right to the creditor, thus tending to constantly increase the value of the dearer metal and destroy the parity between them. Believing that it is absolutely necessary to reverse this iniquitous and ruinous policy, we, therefore,

Resolve, That we favor the immediate restoration of silver to its former place, as a full legal tender, standard money equal with gold, and the free and unlimited coinage of both silver and gold at the ratio of 16 to 1 and upon terms of exact equality. That while we should welcome the co-opera-

tion of other nations we believe that the United States should not wait upon the pleasure of foreign governments, but should themselves proceed to reverse the "grinding process" that is destroying the prosperity of the people, and should lead by their example the nations of the earth. That the rights of the American people, the interests of American labor, and the prosperity of American industry have a higher claim to the consideration of the people's lawmakers than the greed of foreign creditors or the avaricious demands made by idle holders of idle capital.

The right to regulate its own monetary system in the interest of its own people is a right which no free government can barter, sell, or surrender. This reserved right is a part of every bond, of every contract and of every obligation. No creditor or claimant can set up a right that can take precedence over a nation's obligations to promote the welfare of the masses of its own people. This is a debt higher and more binding than all other debts, and one which is not only dishonest but reasonable to ignore.

Under the financial policy that now prevails we see the land filled with idle and discontented workmen, and an ever growing army of tramps, men whom lack of work and opportunity has made outcasts and beggars. At the other end we find that a few thousand families own one-half the wealth of the country.

The centralization of wealth has gone hand in hand with the spread of poverty. The pauper and the plutocrat are twin children of the same vicious and unholy system. The system is full of menace to the liberties of the people and the life of the republic. The issue is enfranchisement of hopeless servitude. Whatever the power of money can do by debauchery and corruption to fix its grasp on the lawmaking power will be done. We therefore appeal to the plain people of the land with perfect confidence in their patriotism and intelligence to arouse themselves to a full sense of the peril that confronts them and defend the citadel of their liberties with a vigilance that shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The fight over the principles laid down by Sibley in his speech last night, began early in the day, with no less a man than Senator Isham G. Harris at the head of the faction advocating simon pure Democracy. With him were Mr. Galloway of Memphis, formerly editor of the Appeal-Avalanche, and Governor Clarke of Arkansas, besides many others of political prominence in their own parts of the country. These men said that they would secede from the convention if it endorsed Sibley's radical sentiments. Sibley said in his speech last night that the time had come to abolish the party in favor of the principle and it was to this the Democrats took exception. They declared the Democratic party was strong enough in itself to champion the cause of silver and they did not propose to turn over the convention to the Populists and Republicans, although these latter were welcome to the ranks of free silver. The fight spread to the room where the committee on resolutions was holding its deliberations, but fortunately it did not go further. The platform as was originally intended—contains no mention of any party. The convention adjourned to-night after speeches by W. J. Bryan, A. J. Warner and Senator Wolcott.

The committee on resolutions introduced the following resolutions which, like the platform, was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That a committee composed of one member from each State be appointed by the delegates thereof in this convention whose duty it shall be to correspond with the representative advocates of bimetallicism and bimetallic societies in the different sections of the Union and devise measures to advance the cause of bimetallicism throughout the United States. That this committee shall have power to cause a national conference of bimetallicists whenever, in the opinion of the committee, the cause of bimetallicism can be advanced thereby. Said committee shall have power to fill all vacancies.

At the beginning of the morning session Kean St. Charles, of Arizona, who had just arrived, was made vice president for that State, and John B. Park, of Kansas, Chairman Turpie then introduced Senator Stewart, of Nevada, who readily complied with the demand for a speech.

At the beginning of the afternoon session Secretary Wade announced that these letters endorsing the work of the convention had been received: Senator John T. Morgan, of Alabama; John P. Jones, of Nevada, and from Jas. I. Pugh, of Alabama and E. C.

Walball, of Mississippi. The letters were voluminous and were not read to the convention.

There was uproar and applause when Senator Jones, of Arkansas, arose to read the report of the committee on resolutions. It was received with wild enthusiasm and adopted without a dissenting voice. A resolution providing for the appointment of a delegate from each State to a National Monetary Convention was then introduced by Senator Jones and unanimously adopted.

Ex-Governor Tillman of South Carolina then spoke as follows: "I shall open my remarks by congratulating you upon the representative character of this gathering. Some three or four weeks ago there assembled in this city a body called to teach 'sound money.' After putting in motion all the secrets of the use of illimitable money and drumming up delegates from this chamber of commerce and that bank, they assembled to tell us what was the meaning of 'sound money,' and after having the people of this city, whose loans from the banks make them subservient to the banking interests, they succeeded in drumming up a large gathering and they had the Secretary of the Treasury to tell us the difference between sound money now and sound money in '78. And, God save them, by request of the President they had three cuckoos who sold their birthright for the mess of pottage, three Congressmen only; and I saw in the paper that there was not a solitary farmer in that party in this Southland where the proportion between the agricultural interests and rest is seventy-five farmers to twenty-five of all other occupations.

"What is sound money? It is money which requires two pounds of cotton, two bushels of wheat, to get the same quantity that it did a few years back. I claim that such a dollar as that is a robber dollar of two hundred cents. They tell you about the fifty cents dollar. Let us fling it into their teeth, the two hundred cent dollar.

"There was some talk in Congress last winter by Mr. Carlisle, who presented a bill of a financial scheme looking to the giving of some measures of relief (that poor Congress, that pitiful Democratic Congress did have the saving grace to reject it, but the scheme is still on foot) as promulgated by the banker's convention in Baltimore that they shall have the greenbacks retired; that the silver certificates shall be retired; that the government shall retire from banking and that they shall have the issuing of all the paper money in this country on a gold standard, at that.

The following national committeemen were chosen by the State delegations in accordance with the resolution passed at the afternoon session of the convention:

Alabama, J. W. Tomlinson; Arkansas, Charles Coffin; California, Alex. Delmar; Colorado, A. W. Rucker; Georgia, Judge N. W. Longley; Kentucky, J. A. Parker; Louisiana, Senator Blanchard; Missouri, J. C. Gage; Nevada, C. S. Nixon; Nebraska, C. J. Smythe; North Carolina, M. B. Elliott; Ohio, F. J. Scott; Pennsylvania, A. C. Hopkins; South Carolina, J. A. Stokes; Tennessee, John R. Goodwin of Memphis, temporary chairman and J. H. Acklen of Nashville, temporary secretary.

The committee will meet in Chicago in July, the exact time not being fixed, and there choose permanent officers and delegates at large.

### Stopped Poaching.

A Scotch gentleman, plagued by poachers, procured a cork leg dressed in stocking and shoe and sent it through the neighboring village by the town clerk, who proclaimed that it had been found in a man trap on the previous night in Mr. Ross' grounds, who desired to return it to its owner. There was no more poaching after that.

### The Fatal Word.

"My darling," he exclaimed, rapturously, "How brilliant you are. You fairly—er—bristle with ideas."

The Chicago girl drew herself up to her full height and brushed him haughtily aside as she swept out of the room.

"You seem to forget"—she turned on her heel at the door and faced him—"that I cannot brook any reference to my father's business."—N. Y. World.

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