

The crisis, (revised) or, The way to settle the gold and silver question

Section 3, Pages 61 - 88

W. H. Farrell of Leavenworth, Kansas, wrote this to support William Jennings Bryan's campaign for president and to explain how the unlimited coinage of silver would aid workers. This pamphlet presents a fairly clear argument of why Populists wanted "free silver." Bryan was running as a Democrat but the Populists were supporting him.

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Europe the power to express themselves on the question we would have it at once; but the people have no more to say in the regulation of the financial policies of Europe than they have in determining the movements of the earth. A nation's need for money is commensurate with its producing and consuming power. Every additional industry requires an additional supply of money to effect its exchanges.

A Deceitful Reformer.

What would you think of a reformer, who having become so through great tribulations, by convictions without number, until they resulted in apparent conversion, so overwhelming that all the faculties were willingly drafted into the service of humanity, by both silent and openly avowed declaration and action, should suddenly be transformed into an enemy by the advocacy of a policy totally adverse to his former

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utterances? Would you not say that man's profession was a fraud? What would Paul's conversion have amounted to for the human race, who, after having revealed to him the enormities of his persecutions and the unmerciful course he was pursuing to accomplish the ultimate annihilation of the simple and unoffending Christians, who were worshipping God according to the dictates of their own conscience, should have suddenly changed again, sealed up the eye of his mercy, wrapped himself in the mantle of the dark to continue his work of murder? I say, do you think, my gentle reader, that Paul's conversion could have been genuine? You certainly could not believe it, and yet we have the announcement of one high in authority before he was advanced to that position. That by the destruction of the silver of the world as redemption money, it would entail such ruin and disaster as would be be-

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yond human computation, and still in the face of this prophecy, the fulfillment of which is now being enacted, he is the head and front of that party who is attempting to destroy the larger part of the human race and reduce them to a condition of slavery compared with which the Babylonian captivity of the Jews would be merciful.

Effect of Corrupt Legislation.

When a government destroys, by an act of legislation, one of its primary or redemption moneys, it strikes a blow at its own life, and is guilty of a crime which, if continued, must result in the nation's financial wreck. Why? Because primary power should not be a thing of purchase any more than virtue should be a thing of sale, for in the doing of such an act you have established a relation of servitude and utterly destroyed equality. Gold and silver, therefore, being redemption money in

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the United States until 1873, and both having equal acceptance at the mints on the ratio of sixteen to one, and holding up together all credits, were by an insane or foolish act of legislation separated, silver having been thrown out and gold alone retained to do the work of both metals, increasing its value by increasing its use for redemption, and correspondingly diminishing the value of silver by destroying *its* use as redemption money. The question then arises, For what purpose was this done? Was it enacted in the cause of the masses or the classes? Let us see. Selfishness dominates nations just as well as it controls individuals, and so far as national sympathy exists in money matters, it is the baseless fabric of a vision, and reminds one of the definition given by Kossuth, who likened it unto "A sigh that trembled on the lips of a tender girl, only to die on the whispers of the passing breeze." No, my friend,

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this single gold standard was not adopted for any except for the gold *classes*, its chief aim being to enslave the *masses* and reduce them to a state of serfdom for the benefit of the great creditor and single gold standard nation *England* and her willing subjects in the United States.

Consumption and Production.

Consumption must keep pace with production. How are you going to increase consumption when you have nothing to exchange for it but your labor, which has no market value because of the withdrawal and impoverishment of that medium which does the exchanging.

Faith without works is dead, and how are you going to work except you have something to work with? Our faith becomes an active living principle just in the degree of the development of our faculties, acting in harmony with

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Divine law, expressing themselves in good works by both precept and practice for the upbuilding of humanity.

Girdle the tree, and you destroy its power to bear fruit. Money is the complement of both production and consumption. Destroy money, and you limit both. The gold dealer and money gambler is reversing the order of nature; he is putting the cart before the horse. Robinson Crusoe had no use for money on the island; it was something to minister to his necessities which was most important; the use of money came afterward.

Was money made for the people, or the people made for money? We can't have half the money free and half slave; both gold and silver must have redemption power in them. Compromise on this question is past; the stake is too great; it involves not only the advancement of the United States, but the advancement of the entire human

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race now and for all time. It is the Magna Charta of human freedom; destroy it and humanity will soon grope in the midnight of financial darkness to which the Middle Ages would be a paradise.

The Ballot Mightier Than the Bullet.

This grave question must be decided by the ballot, and not by the bullet. When decided by the latter it produces a harvest for the gold gambler, because it costs money to fight, so that an abnormal demand is created for his money; for while men are fighting, the production necessary for human wants languishes, and his money cuts like a two-edged sword. The more intelligent the ballot the less need for the bullet, and the more need for both the precious metals, gold and silver, to exchange for the products of intelligent labor; for the more produced by the honest sweat of the face the nearer do

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we approach the fulfillment of the Divine command, and exemplify more fully nature's law of exchange.

Much has been said and written in double-dealing words about

"Sound" Money.

Plato says, "Fixed words, like fixed ideas, have often governed the world," and the word SOUND has been chosen by the gold party for a purpose—a special purpose, a definite purpose, a vicious purpose, a malicious purpose. It has evidently been selected with a view to entrap and captivate the minds of the vast rank and file of the voters who have no time to devote to the investigation of the money subject. There is not another word in our language that could be used to greater and more effective advantage and with which the general ear is more familiar. Its meaning, as understood, implies the opposite of unsound, unhealthy, decayed, bad,

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vicious, disloyal, corrupt, impure. The public ear, therefore, takes up this keynote and multiplies its vibrations, until from the sowing of the wind you are liable to reap the whirlwind. This word, SOUND, like gold, has become prostituted to base uses, and is being made the "Iago of the Moor" by the leaders of the exclusive gold party. By the illegitimate use of this word, SOUND, they are endeavoring by every device to sully "the snow of character" of our silver. Can there be an injury more deadly? Can there be a crime more cruel?

No Analogy Whatever.

There is another word closely related to this word, *sound*, which conveys a like meaning to the general ear when used by the leaders of the Republican party, and that is the word, debauched, debased money, referring to the silver dollar. Now, language should not be

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used by gentlemen to deceive or misrepresent truth in order to poison the public ear, that they may catch votes. Has the silver dollar of the United States ever been debased by any act of adulteration by lessening its fineness and purity since the first dollar of 1794 until the last dollar of 1896? Have they not always contained the full weight of $371\frac{1}{4}$ grains of fine silver, and if so, then in what way have they been debased? In no way known of except by a questionable act of legislation. To more fully understand what debased and adulterated coinage means, I refer to the time and circumstances in English history in the reign of Henry VIII. and his son Edward VI., 1551, when the government was so heavily in debt that they resorted to dishonest means to meet its obligations. Calling to the aid of the crown the services of a merchant named Sir Thomas Gresham, who devised means to pay off the debt

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by debasing the coins of the realm and reducing the fineness of them until the debt was extinguished, and I would like to know if there is any similarity in the two cases before us. In the first, that of the United States, we have the purity of the coinage maintained, and in the other we have the coinage adulterated to increase its numerical power; so that when parties say we now have a fifty-three cent silver dollar, which they claim is debased, debauched and adulterated, they are not telling the truth. They say they have been exceedingly friendly to silver by throwing the mantle of legislation around it, and while by an act of questionable legislation silver was stripped of its redemptive character, and they found that the very elements cried out against such a barbarous act, the portentous cloud of a people's indignation had gathered to such vast proportions between 1873 and 1878, that the makeshift compromise in

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the Bland and Sherman law had to be resorted to to save the nation. By these acts the nation became *particeps criminis* to the transaction, only to see that as the years rolled round the cancer become larger, until the whole financial body is now diseased. Silver, therefore, denied of one of its most important uses—redemption power—became a commodity, and now they call it a fifty-three-cent dollar. If this is so, and the Republican party claims it is, where has the other forty-seven cents gone? I can't conceive of any other place unless it has been added to the gold dollar. This would make the gold dollar, according to their own admission, a 147-cent dollar, besides the additional power it has invested in it as the *only* redemption money. So they can take hold of either horn of the dilemma to suit themselves.

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Banks Control All Now.

Mr. McKinley says: "Open up the mills if you want prosperity." How is Mr. McKinley going to secure prosperity in that way? Why, by establishing confidence with the holders of English money, returnable on the single gold standard. Mr. Bryan certainly offers no objection to the opening of the mills, but wants them opened up equally as much as Mr. McKinley, but claims, and very justly, too, that unless mines and mints are equally open to the production and coinage of both gold and silver on the ratio of sixteen to one as *redemption* money, so that the people can have something to exchange for labor of mill, mine and farm with all other callings, that there can be no consumption. But I ask you, my reader, how are you now going to have either while the gold standard party, which controls both

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mills, mines and mints, is in power. There can be no advancement in America or any other progressive nation until the single gold standard band is broken by the votes of the people.

Silver Goblin Story Tellers.

It is really ridiculous, as well as humorous, did it not invite so serious consequences, to listen to some of these gold standard missionaries prate about the awful calamity that would follow this country in the event of Mr. Bryan's election. One of these ardent enthusiasts, who is under a fixed salary of \$5,000 a year as Congressman on the gold standard, was addressing a large audience of many thousands in a country town in Kansas. He said if Bryan was elected that Mexico would have all her available means of transportation drafted into the service of hauling free silver into the United States, and it would be so cheap that it

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would be sold out of wagons like potatoes and shoveled into sacks, and would become as valueless as stones for money purposes. Reader, what do you think of that kind of talk before an intelligent audience by a man who is the representative of an intelligent constituency? Why, the most ignorant of his hearers were better informed on finance than he. The question is, How did such a man get to represent the people? It was not because *he* did not know better, but because he thought the *people* did not know better; and so he tried to scare them by saying that the "SILVER GOBLIN would catch them if they did not watch out." The whole country seems to be infested with gold cure preachers, and the pulpit largely as well as the political field, is furnishing a part of the army of locusts to preach for the upholding of a single gold standard which, if successful, will relegate them to some other unforeseen

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calling to make their own bread and butter. It may be that some of them are desirous of reinstating the conditions of the Dark Ages, for there is a class of men in every calling in life that seem to be the sons of night instead of day—who thrive better under the adversity of a nation than when it is advancing to prosperity.

Selfishness is Blind.

Plato has said there are two ways by which men become blinded. One is when they emerge suddenly from the light into the darkness, and the other, when they go suddenly from darkness into the light. To which class shall we assign the single gold standard advocate? Did you ever know a selfish person to exhibit any genuine heartfelt sympathy—a sympathy that was expressed in act and born of that love for another's welfare by the sacrifice of self gratification? I think not; and yet the

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law of sacrifice is the only true law of advancement. The single gold standard, therefore, by reason of its singleness, is a standard of supreme selfishness, and the projectors of it are as barren of mercy as the Sahara Desert is of water. They seem to thrive most when mankind is in deadly conflict and nations are warring either with themselves or with their neighbors. Interest on their gold is what they are seeking; it makes no difference to them what human sacrifices are offered so long as they get their usury. If all the gold and silver of the world available for money purposes were brought to these United States, there would only be about \$100.00 per capita for the population of this country alone. So you see, my reader, how much truth there is to the silver goblin story. There is nothing to it when it is punctured. It is all gas, like the creators of it.

There are three things necessary to

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a nation's commercial success: (1) its *power* to create or produce, (2) its power to consume and produce, and (3) the medium for the transmission or exchange of labor in production. Now, if there is no consumption to keep pace with production, then there is no need for production; and if there is no common medium to exchange for the labor involved therein there is no advancement; but "like an unweeded garden, everything goes to seed, and things rank and gross in nature will possess it merely."

That is the condition of the nation to-day. It is sick both in the heart and head. Property which is the wealth of the nation, as the result of years of economic savings, has no value with mortgages and debts hanging upon it until the equities are being consumed. Labor is stagnant likewise, having no market value, and nothing but money



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is marketable, which will itself finally be shorn of its usefulness.

Single Gold Standard a Tyrant.

Reader, have you ever thought of the ruin the single gold standard has wrought—that imperial standard established by England in 1816? I will call your attention to a few of its effects. And first, I assert that the single gold standard was conceived in selfishness and heartlessness; it has no quality of sympathy or mercy in it, but delights in the writhings of its victims in order to secure its interest. It secretly and subtly works to divide nations and precipitate them into a state of war to create a demand for its gold. It flourishes most and returns a larger interest to its holders when it can create internecine war, such as it did in the United States in 1861, arraying father against son, and brother against brother, and section against section, until it cost

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billions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of lives, and untold mourning throughout the land, and fixed a debt upon this nation from which it seems unable to recover. The single gold standard has infected its poison into the very center of authority in this nation; bought up a large portion of the press, the guardian of the people's liberties, and is fastening its bands of gold around the pulpit, to absorb and destroy that Divine charity by the exercise of which religion exists and which makes our Christian civilization possible.

Do you want to see still further the effects of it, go to the cemeteries and read the inscriptions over the graves of our immortal dead, the records of its work. Go to our Soldiers' Homes, and behold the living monumental wrecks it has made of them.

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Vote Against the Single Gold Standard.

The single gold standard alone, like all tyrants its hand is treacherous and bloody. The prime author of it—England. Her assistants are sedulously at work to create dissension in this country again, that she may fasten another colossal debt to increase her interest on loans and discounts. Are the people of the United States ready for the question? Are they ready to vote to have this single gold standard incubus fastened upon its vitals, and palsy the limbs of the nation, and destroy its advancement in everything that makes a nation great? Then vote for it, and you will stamp the signet of death upon your own tomb, and like old Timon of Athens, write your own obituary, and have the oceans sing your requiem. But if you want your country to live, the hope of the world, whose exalted destiny for good no pro-

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phetic vision can penetrate, vote for the *destruction* of the single gold standard, and by your voice and vote replace it with the bimetallic standard, having the unit of value in gold and silver to uphold national and individual obligations, and by so doing you will attest the truth of that other great Divine fundamental principle of substitution, which proclaims not only justice, but also equity, mercy and sympathy, the very key-stone of the arch of our enlightened Christian civilization.

Two Distinct Parties.

There are two distinct parties in the world; one is the advance guard, the other is the pull back. One is optimistic, with its face towards the rising sun, as our earthly chariot rolls on to meet and greet it, its faith, hope and works being constantly renewed, enlarged and fitted with eagle wings to face newer conditions in the field of creative energy.

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A great spiritual Roentgen illuminator, penetrating the dark cavities of the human brain, lighting up the mysteries of creation, and unfolding the marvelous laws of nature and nature's God, transforming this apparently dark and dreary and desolate world into a heaven of resplendent beauty and order, where everything is the result of laws which, when understood and obeyed, grafts us upon the very infinite source of law. This party is always in the front rank, and as it is lifted heavenward into the field of knowledge, with one hand securely holding heaven, its other hand clasping that of its weaker brother below, lifting him up to not only a level with itself, but helping him still higher, to catch glimpses of grander inspirations, that the world may be made better.

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Bimetallic Standard for America.

This is the American idea as against the other portions of our globe, and particularly England, which having shaped the destinies of the human race in government and finance for the past, has arrogated to herself the right to shape the financial destiny of this as well as of all other nations, and thereby holding them in perpetual bondage; and the mighty question now before the American people is, Shall we have England's single gold standard as the primary money of the United States and of the world, or shall we have both gold and silver as the foundation of the financial building of the world?

Shall the nations of the earth uphold England as the world's clearing house on the single gold standard, or shall this honor be transferred to the United States on the bimetallic standard?

If we adopt the first we consign our-

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selves and our children and our children's children to a monetary bondage beyond the powers of redemption. If the latter, to that freedom which will insure liberty and happiness for all time. This nation belittles its honor and dignity when it bows as a suppliant to one or any number of other nations for their consent as to what method it shall adopt in the regulation of its own financial policy so long as its obligations are honestly discharged.

The Dual Law in Creation.

Protection is the great law of infinite wisdom. The Creative Power, when He prepared this earth for the dwelling place of His children, prepared also means by which they should be protected. While He provided us with the great golden sun and its blessed beams to vitalize all creation, He also gave us the silver moon to regulate the ebb and flow of our tides, and maintain that

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watery vail encircling the globe, and which tempers the intense heat of that sun. So, in our monetary world, He has provided us with gold and silver to be the strength of our financial system, one balancing the other in that monetary equipoise so necessary to financial life.

You might, therefore, without the protecting offices of the silver moon, as well expect the earth to survive the sun's unobstructed fires as to hope for this nation and the world to prosper by removing silver, and leave us to the warping and shriveling measurements of the single gold standard. That marital relation divorced is sure to result in ruin.

And now, my gentle reader, I sincerely hope that you have been not only profited but instructed by the perusal of this little volume. If it has opened up to your vision a light to guide you as to how you shall act on

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this great national question, then my work shall not have been in vain ; and I now extend to you my farewell, with the following authoritative declaration :

“Yea, the Almighty shall be thy defense, and thou shalt have plenty of silver.”—*Job 22:25.*

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