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WASHINGTON NOTES.

The Prospects of the Silver Bill Discussed by Members of the House.

INQUIRY CONCERNING THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

An Informal Conference Between Democrats Touching the Free Coinage Bill.

By Telegraph to the News.

THE SILVER MEASURE.

Senator Stewart's Bill Criticised.—Democrats Consider It.

WASHINGTON, July 5.—Everybody in the House this morning was discussing the prospects of the silver bill. It is stated that Bland, chairman of the Judiciary committee, has consulted his free silver friends by his calculation that the Senate bill would change the legal tender character of the money notes issued under the terms of the act of 1890, which bill it repeals. The result is that the declaration the notes contain, "payable in coin" would be a dead letter. A number of men, including Bland himself, accept Cullom's opinion, and believe the Senate will have to be smoothed down to suit the silver. Even so, men are advocate as I have been this view. He is very much put out that Bland should have made the statement in advance of the consideration of the bill in the committee, as he thinks it will tend to strengthen the opposition.

On the other hand, a large number, probably a majority of the Democrats and no considerable number of Republicans, have taken Senator Stewart's view and hold that the bill does not in any way affect the legal tender character of the treasury notes. Unless that view should not be adopted by which they arrive at this conclusion, but probably none of the simplest and clearest is stated by a distinguished Democratic senator, who says Congress can do nothing to impair the contract already existing; that as the notes then on their face, they are contract and simple. A large number of Republicans take the position that the [illegible] could not be made retroactive, therefore no amendment is necessary. The Democratic senator