

and the stopping of various enterprises? When I was a boy, ten dollars a month was good wages, and the average daily wages was seventy-five cents a day. Today you can hire no one under \$1.50. Take those men out there who are raising the track of that street railroad, said the senator, as he pointed to the street they get \$1.50 a day. It is little enough but I doubt whether the business can afford to pay it."

"What will be the effect of the action of Congress as to silver on wages?" I asked.

"That depends on what the action of Congress is," replied Senator Sherman.

"If the so-called Sherman clause of the law of 1890 is repealed without further legislation being enacted, it will put us on the gold basis, and wages will be worth all they are now as far as the purchasing power of the dollar is concerned. If free coinage of silver should be adopted, wages would not advance nominally but their purchasing power would fall to sixty cents in gold all over the country, and the price of all other articles would rise. I think the labor situation is a serious one, and wage earners are always among the first to be affected by hard times.

NO MORE PANICS.

"Do you apprehend a panic?"

"No, I do not," was the reply. "The enactment of the resumption law did away with the danger of panics in this country. As to the times, however, I do not care to speak. I don't feel that I could better the prospects by talking of them, and I assuredly would not do anything to make them worse. The United States is by no means a poor country and our resources are great."

"How about the Worlds Fair? Will it not have an influence to make times better? It will bring a great deal of money into circulation?"

"I doubt that its effect will be appreciably felt," replied Senator Sherman. "This is a big country and we deal in millions. The amount brought out by the Fair will be no more than a drop in the bucket."

SILVER VERSUS OTHER METALS.

"What do you think of the appeal of the miners of Colorado as to free coinage?"

"It is the strongest presentation that has yet been made to the Democratic party in favor of it," replied Senator Sherman. "What they say is true. If we should refuse to purchase their silver, they would have a limited market for it and the industry would for a time be crippled or suspended."

"The truth of the matter is," Senator Sherman went on, "silver has fallen in value, like most other metals, with the improved methods of production. We used to have to pay \$500 a ton for iron rails; now they can be produced for \$20 a ton. Aluminium used to be worth nearly as much as gold; by the present methods we can produce it from 50 cents to a dollar a pound. Nickel has fallen in value, and silver can be mined cheaper and reduced at less expense than it could in the past. The processes of smelting it with lead ore are such that the lead sometimes pays the cost of reduction and silver has fallen in value. It will, if the Sherman act be repealed, continue to fall and eventually will stand at its market value in the same way that iron and non-precious metals stand."

THE REPEAL OF THE PENSIONS.

"How about the cutting down of the pension list, senator?" I asked.

"The Democrats are arousing much indignation among the soldiers by their construction of the pension laws," replied Senator Sherman, "and the re-examination and repeal of pensions that have been granted. I look for a great change in the soldiers' vote. Still you can't tell as to the effect of such legislation. The pension list is very large. No country has ever been so liberal as this to its defenders, and \$160,000,000 a year is an enormous load. You must also remember that it is almost a full generation since the war. Nearly all the voters under fifty were too young to have been engaged in the war or to have been impregnated with its spirit save that they have gotten it from their parents. These people are among those whom the Democrats are trying to gain by their wholesale repeal of pensions."

THE REPUBLICANS WILL CARRY THE COUNTRY.

"How about the election this fall?"

"I think the country will undoubtedly go Republican," was the reply. We will carry Ohio by a large majority and other states of the north likewise. This is always the rule in elections following presidential elections. The party which fails usually carries the country the following year. It will be more so than ever this year, as the Democrats are so divided among themselves and the financial situation is blamed upon them."

"How about the tariff?" Will the Democrats reduce it?"

"They will attempt to do so. They have promised and they will try to carry out their promises. What they will really do the Lord only knows."

POLITICS AND YOUNG MEN.

The conversation here drifted off to general subjects. At one point I asked the senator something as to politics as a profession for young men. He replied: "I don't think young men should engage in politics with the idea of making it their life work. Our conditions are such that we do not have a profession of politics as England. There is no money in politics and the young man who engages in them with a view to a livelihood makes a great mistake. The average life of the politician is short. Think of the changes that take place in every Congress. The only two men now in the Senate who have spent a great part of their lives there are Senator Morrill and myself."

THE RICH AND THE POOR.

At another point in the talk I spoke of the growing number of very rich men in this country and asked Senator Sherman if he did not think we might eventually have a party of rich and a party of poor. He replied:

"Our laws against entail are such that great fortunes can not last in the United States. They are divided at the death of their owners among their children and are soon dissipated. Only the fewest fortunes outlast half a century. The majority are divided long before that. Few banking businesses live more than twenty years, and the law of fortune is change. The great fortune of today, you will see if you

look at them, have all been caused by new inventions and modern improvements in satisfying human wants. The railroad, the telegraph, the telephone and nearly every other one of the great wealth producers have been instituted during my lifetime. I can remember when we had only a few miles of railroads in the United States. When there was a short strip running from Baltimore on to Cumberland and when we had here in Ohio but one road running from Sandusky to Newark and Zanesville. All such institutions have produced great fortunes, and other things of the kind may do likewise. But I apprehend no party of rich against the poor and believe that human wants and the natural tendencies of the human race will equalize us more and more as time goes on."

SOUTH AMERICA.

"How about the foreign trade? Will we ever control the business of South America?"

"That is a question that only time can decide. The chances, it seems to me, are against us. If you will take a look at the globe you will see that nearly all of the South American continent lies east of New York, and that it is not much further from their leading ports to London than to New York. England competes with us as to the trade of Rio Janeiro on very nearly equal terms as regards distance, and it has many advantages over us in other respects. The Nicaragua canal will make some difference. I have no doubt it will be eventually completed and that it will result in as vast an increase of trade as the Suez canal did when it was completed."

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

ELDERS MOBBED AND WHIPPED.

A letter was received today by Elder Robert Patrick of the Eighteenth ward in this city, from his son William George Patrick, who is now laboring as a missionary in Clarendon county, South Carolina, with headquarters at Foreston. It is dated Foreston, July 28th, and the writer tells of a mobbing of two other Elders in the Southern states. He says:

"Two of our Elders, namely Done and Carter, have been whipped by a mob in the adjoining county. The mob was headed by two Methodists and one Baptist preacher. They took the Elders out of a friend's house at 4 o'clock in the afternoon and marched them to a dark place in the backwoods and kept them all night. In the morning they robbed them of all the money they had, which was fifty cents, tore up all their books and licenses, and then made them lie down over a log and gave them twenty-two lashes apiece with harness tugs. They then took them to the train and started them to Utah. The Elders went to Columbia, the capital of the state, and from there they walked down here to Foreston. They are not hurt much and are both feeling well in spirits."

All the rest of the Elders are well and getting along fine. This is the time of the Baptist and Methodist revival meetings and the ministers get the people worked up to a great state of excitement. None of the other Elders have been molested."