

## PLEA FOR THE WHITE METAL.

The following is a full report of a speech delivered by R. W. Sloan before the members of the Utah Democratic club, on Saturday evening, July 29th:

In 500 years, up to 1880, there has been produced, in all the world, 10,355 tons in gold, and in silver 193,000 tons. Taking it at actual weight there has been produced a trifle less than 18½ times as much silver as gold. If both metals are to be recognized as money, is not the logical way to make the ratio as it is found in nature—about 18½ ounces of silver to one ounce of gold.

The latest statistics I have been able to find disclose that there was in gold money, approximately, \$3,600,000,000 and in silver \$3,900,000,000 or in all the world, as money, about one twentieth more silver than gold. Estimating the value at 16 of silver to 1 of gold, this makes a difference of one and one third. So that on this basis as money there should be in every dollar of silver 17½ oz to 1 oz of gold.

From 1849—California gold days—and up to 1870, the United States produced \$800,000,000 more in gold than in silver. The production of silver has, however, in the last few years rapidly gained on gold in the United States. It has also gained on the production of gold in all the world.

From 1793 to 1891, the value of gold coined in the United States was \$1,460,486,253, of silver \$602,574,324, considerably over \$2 in gold for every dollar in silver, despite the fact that there has been an increased production of silver in later years as compared with gold. The United States has \$10.06 in gold, and \$8.25 in silver for each inhabitant. It has already been shown that of money in the world there is one 12th more silver than gold, yet the United States has ¼ more gold money than silver. The question is suggested: How comes it then that ours of all nations is the only one whose financial sufferings are to be charged to the coinage of silver, when others that necessarily have more silver than gold do not suffer from this cause?

France has \$20.52 in gold and practically \$18.00 in silver per head of population. She has 10 per cent more gold than silver, while we have 25 per cent more gold than silver. We do not hear that France is perishing because of the silver she owns. It must also be remembered, in this connection, that France has coined all the silver at a ratio of 15½ oz of silver to 1 of gold, whereas the United States has coined at 15½ and 16 oz of silver to one of gold, or given more silver for gold than France. Yet we are in the throes of ruin, while France, with \$10 more per head of silver is pursuing her even course. If the theory of anti-silver men is correct then France should be irredeemably ruined, for she has more silver per head of population than any other nation on earth, and barring the Netherlands she has practically twice as much as any other nation on earth.

The United States coined for the fiscal year ending June 1891 over \$36,000,000 in gold, and about \$2,000,000, in silver—or \$18 in gold for each \$1 of silver; yet the production of gold in the United States for '90 was but \$32,845,000, while of silver it was \$70,465,000. We imported gold for coinage and we left \$68,000,000 of the native silver product

to bear the market and become a drag on the world to its own destruction.

Every man in this country who borrows money from a regular loan agency signs a note payable in gold. Every corporate, state, county, or municipal bond is payable in gold. The national debts of the world aggregate \$3,500,000,000. It has been roughly estimated that the other debts, banking, private corporations, States, territorial, county, city, railroad, etc.—amount to at least four times as much. I have no knowledge that would enable me to vouch for these last figures, but certainly the debts other than national must aggregate a vast deal more than the national debts. Every dollar of all this money is payable in gold—principal and interest. In all the world there is not over \$3,700,000,000 in gold—that is in money. If the indebtedness of the world were divided evenly, and the gold were owned evenly, it might be conceded that the frightful indebtedness referred to could be liquidated by this \$3,700,000,000 in gold. But of the national indebtedness referred to 80 per cent, or \$2,800,000,000, it is alleged is due the Bank of England, and the Rothschild's of Frankfort on the Maine, and of Amersdam. These lenders it is asserted, own \$3,000,000,000 of the \$3,700,000,000 gold that constitutes the whole gold currency of the world. The United States has \$650,000,000 in gold, and but \$575,000,000 in silver. She owes as a nation, approximately \$1,000,000,000 in gold, saying nothing of State, territorial, county and city and private indebtedness payable in gold. If the Bank of England and the Rothschild's could demand their money today the United States would be insolvent. If the money lenders of the world should force upon America her gold payable and gold interest bearing securities there is not gold enough in all the world outside of what these money lenders themselves own to take up the securities. Yet financiers assert that to preserve our credit, we must enter into obligations to make payments which cannot be met.

Authorities declare that 95 per cent of all the business done in this country is transacted on credit. If we remove silver, we destroy nearly ¼ of our value measure, and in order, therefore, to transact the same business it would be necessary to increase the credit transactions still 80 per cent more, or, for every dollar in cash transaction, we would do \$175 business in credit, or on a promise to pay in a money that we have not, and of which in all the world there is not enough.

There will be found no one to dispute the statement that confidence decreases and failures increase in business in exact ratio with the extent of credit. We call it by that seductive appellation "Speculation." It is over-speculation, or boom, or inflation, we are told, that provokes panics. Panics are followed by protracted periods of liquidation, which result in industrial distress, often in financial ruin. The greater the circulating medium, the less credit there is, and the less credit the less liability to failure. Those who hold to John Randolph's philosophers stone—"pay as you go"—are never ruined themselves, and what is more to the point, never compass the ruin of others because unable to pay when called upon. No better evidence of the lack of wisdom—

not to say inhumanity—in proposing an increase in the credit system by destroying half of our circulating medium need be shown than now finds daily illustration. Men of large wealth are forced to the wall because they cannot liquidate their obligations in what we call money.

There are but three things that a people in our condition can do—first increase the stock of money, or, second, increase the amount of credit, or, third, decrease the volume of business. To increase credit is to augment the opportunities for more frequent panics and attendant ruin, and to give money gamblers additional opportunity for amassing still greater wealth than legitimate trade transactions afford. To decrease the volume of business is to bring about like results by other methods. And what would be the effect of increasing the volume of money? It would both increase business and decrease credit. Does not the proposition thus considered present a very simple solution and an attractive aspect? It must be borne in mind that the supply of gold or silver cannot be increased at will.

Let me recur to the condition of France. In the sense that Great Britain, Germany and the United States are commercial nations, France may not fairly be included. France has \$40.50 of money for every man, woman and child in her population. Of this amount 2.09 is paper, or government promise to pay. The United States has \$25.15 per capita, and of this amount one-fourth or \$6.24 is government credit; 25 per cent of our circulating medium is paper; only 5 per cent of money in France is paper. As has been said before, France has twice the silver and twice the gold that we have, while she has but one-fifth the paper currency. Despite this calamitous condition we do not hear that she is on the verge of general ruin. France has a national indebtedness of about five times that of the United States for a population of about one half that of the United States. The national indebtedness of the United States is \$14.63 per capita; while that of France is \$116 per capita. Despite this, France is today in the better financial condition. The United States is young, with the agricultural wealth of ages in her loins, and in her mountains lie boundless mineral resources. This cannot be said of France. Our country had a war, it is true; yet France since that time has lost large territory and paid \$1,000,000,000 indemnity to Germany, and still has more than \$2 in circulation for every one that Germany has, France has the largest per capita of circulating medium in the world.

When it comes to the per capita of paper in circulation the United States is in the society of such highly commercial nations as Greece, Spain, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria-Hungary, Netherlands, South America, Canada, Cuba, and Hayti—China has neither paper nor gold. She has \$175 per capita of silver in circulation, the per capita paper circulation of Great Britain is about one-fifth that of the United States, of Germany about ¼; yet both nations have nearly the same specie circulation.

I say nothing about the fact that there has been a reduction in necessary commodities corresponding with the purchasing power of silver. Undoubtedly the degradation of silver is partially responsible for this condition as would have been the case had gold been