

Of course, it was to be expected that senators living in the silver producing region would speak favorably of it, but there were many people who believed that senators in the North and South, as distinguished from the New England senators, would not feel so well disposed. But if you have been able to see the eastern papers published within the last six or eight days, you have noticed interviews from many senators, all of them saying that they would not be in favor of repealing the Sherman law without enacting some substitute designed to deal justly with the silver producers of this country, and to uphold the bi-metallic principle. We are convinced that this feeling is growing among public men, not so rapidly in the House as in the Senate probably, but we look for an increased growth of this feeling in the House also, as soon as the subject is presented to them in a fair and dispassionate manner.

The recent interviews with ex-President Harrison, Senator Sherman and ex-Senator Edmunds, in which they assert that the silver question was not the only disturbing one, has put a great many conservative people to thinking, and you now hear business men on every side attributing the deplorable condition of finances largely to the fear that the next Congress will make radical changes in the tariff.

We do not speak as partisans when we say that, immediately after the election, the fear became widely spread in business circles that such radical changes would be made, and with a disastrous effect. Following that fear, came the agitation with reference to the silver question, and we have excellent reason or asserting that this agitation began and has been fostered as a speculative movement, aided by certain political manipulators of the anti-tariff kind, and abetted and encouraged by the mono-metallics of England.

When the Utah committee reach here, they will doubtless secure information corroborative of our statements in this letter. The course pursued about silver cannot possibly be responsible for the withdrawal of capital for manufacturing interests and enterprises, which has taken place since the election and before the silver agitation began.

This agitation against silver began after the withdrawal of capital from manufacturing enterprises had commenced, and when all of the great business institutions of the country believed that such withdrawal of capital from manufacturing business would result in hard times.

I might write you pages on this subject, but I think I have said enough to give you the key to the situation.

THE CITY IN THE DESERT.

A San Diego, California, dispatch of July 25th, which appeared in the NEWS Tuesday evening, gave a brief account of the discovery, made by prospectors in the Colorado Desert, California, of the ruins of a prehistoric city. The telegram further stated that a party which started out from San Diego to explore these ruins had been driven back by a furious sandstorm, but would make another effort to reach the place.

The first discovery was made by treasure-hunters from Arizona. Three weeks ago a party of prospectors, consisting of Hank Ferguson, Theodore Prier, Gus Atherton and John Mine, left Yuma in search of the mysterious Pegleg mine. They took a new direction after leaving the Colorado river bottom and bent their course slightly

to the northwest, toward the Cocopah mountains, in the hope that as the fabled mine was not to be found on the most direct route across the desert it might reveal itself in some out-of-the-way place toward the bleak and uninviting peaks of the Cocopahs.

The men prospected along the unbeaten trail, but without success. They came into a region where the rocky hills gave good indications of being gold bearing. One particular spot some little distance from where the party camped, showed what the men supposed were dikes of granite extending in a peculiar manner above the surface.

Hank Ferguson and some of the others went over to have a closer look and were amazed to come upon the ruins of what appeared to have been a great stone building or a series of buildings. The objects they had seen from camp were granite pillars of remarkably quaint design that seem to have been the entrance to the structure. Ferguson and his associates began a further inspection of their queer find, which from their accounts will undoubtedly prove to be the most important archaeological discovery that has come to the notice of scientists for years.

The walls of the once great building had been taken down or perhaps had been shaken to the ground by the tremendous earthquakes that even to this day visit the desert region, terrifying the Indians and reviving the mud volcanoes.

A rough approximation of the extent of the ruins showed them to be about 420 feet long by 260 feet wide. The north and east walls, or what little remained of them, were exposed to view, as well as a portion of the south wall. The pillars already mentioned were upon the north side and were curiously formed to represent rattlesnakes. They were slightly curved, the bottom or tail ends were made to resemble the rattles, and upon their heads rested immense slabs of granite weighing tons. In all forty-eight pillars, so admirably well preserved, were found, and all were beautifully proportioned. At their tops, above the snakes' heads, was frieze ornamentation, resembling Egyptian sculpture, and exhibiting far more skill in its workmanship than is possessed by the Indians of the present day. The inclosure between the walls was filled with debris, and no satisfactory examination of the interior could be made. However, fragments of pottery were found near the surface, which, with a piece of the stone upon which was a small portion of the ornamentation, were carried away by the prospectors.

Ferguson says that he could see no cement or similar material that had been used in the construction of the building, big slabs of granite having apparently been laid one upon another. All around the exposed part, the same class of ornamentation was found that was upon the pillars. In one place at the foot of the stone pillars stone steps were found hewn out of granite. The number of steps, on account of the earth and debris, could not be ascertained.

Ferguson and his associates were naturally much excited over the discovery and gave no further thought to prospecting for minerals. After

resting and taking particular note of the locality, two of the party started to return to Yuma, and Ferguson and his companion headed toward San Diego. They arrived there over a week ago, dirt-begrimed and with the appearance of having had a hard trip. The wonderful discovery they had made was kept a secret between them for several days, there being an agreement to that effect among the party.

Ferguson proposed to find some man of capital who would make an examination of the ruins. He thought the discovery would prove profitable. He broached the matter to H. C. Gordon of San Diego, told the story of the great find, and exhibited pottery and fragments of the granite, with its wonderful carving. The story seemed "fishy" to Gordon and he was slow to become interested. Ferguson's evident sincerity, however, and his continued enthusiasm over the matter at last convinced Gordon that there was something in the man's story, and he promised to try and find someone to go to the ruins.

Gordon told John H. Gay Jr., one of the wealthiest men in San Diego, of the reported discovery, and the latter evinced a deep interest in it. Without further delay Gordon and Gay arranged for a trip to the place. They sent teams ahead to Stonewall and with Ferguson and his companion they took the Cuyamaca train to Lakeside, northeast of San Diego, a week ago last Friday.

Saturday morning the party, six in number, started down Carriso creek and camped that night at Carriso ranch. The stream near which they camped led from a mud volcano near by and small and apparently eyeless fish were caught in large numbers in the stream. They had no fishing tackle and simply used a barley sack, scooping the fish up by the dozens.

The following day the party reached the base of the Laguna mountains. Monday morning the 17th, all the water that could be possibly taken along was secured, and after sending two Indian runners ahead to look for water holes, the party again started.

They had proceeded a number of miles on the desert when they were overtaken by a sandstorm and were compelled to stop. The storm raged for hours with no signs of abating, and the heat was intense. The water supply was greatly reduced, and rather than brave further dangers the men resolved to return and await a more favorable season to make the exploration.

Ferguson himself was averse to any such arrangement and insisted on finishing the trip, but the others talked him out of the idea and the return was begun. The teams were left at Julian in charge of Ferguson, while the others came on, arriving at San Diego on the evening of Saturday, July 22.

Gay and Gordon have lost none of their interest in the exploration, and Ferguson is exceedingly anxious to have the place revisited. The men are arranging to start out again in a few days, prepared to make the trip through if no unforeseen difficulty prevents. In the meantime the general interest is increasing, and other parties will probably head for the same direction, eager to give to the world the first detailed description of the new discovery.