

THE SILVER QUESTION AND THE DEMOCRATS.

THE silver free-coinage question seems likely to prove troublesome to the Democratic party in and out of Congress. It is well known that a majority of the Atlantic seaboard Democrats are pronounced anti-free silver men. The demand for reform in the coinage and currency system is so earnest and urgent in the West and south that the great bulk of the party incline to free-coinage.

A short time ago Springer, Palmer and other prominent Democrats, outlined a scheme for an international currency congress to be held in Chicago in 1893. The extreme free-silver Democrats do not take kindly to the proposed plan. Now it is reported that another programme has been formulated by Senators Gorman, Hill and Brice. This is simply to make the repeal of the McKinley bill and the silver act of 1890 the political issues in the pending campaign. A series of resolutions could be adopted in the House which would be utilized as a party platform. These resolutions can be made so general that opposition from any wing of the party will be set aside, and at the same time all silver legislation can be postponed for the present.

The Bland Bill, now in the hands of the Coinage Committee, and on which action was to be taken on February 10th, meets all the requirements of the free silver men. The bill provides that the standard unit of value in the United States shall be the dollar, coined of 412½ grains of silver or 25 8-10 grains of gold. The same shall be coined for any owner of bullion, or the owner may deposit it at the mint and receive coin notes therefor. These notes shall be issued in denominations of from \$1 to \$500 and shall be full legal tender. Gold and silver certificates under the act of July 14, 1890, shall not be re-issued, but cancelled and destroyed, coin notes as mentioned being issued instead. These notes shall be redeemed in coin on demand, and for this purpose the bullion shall be coined as fast as necessary.

The Bland bill has another provision of a rather singular nature. The French ratio of coinage is 15½ to 1, that provided for in the Bland measure is 16 to 1. That is, the gold dollar shall contain 25 8-10 grains of gold, this multiplied by 16 gives 412½ which means that the silver dollar in the United States must contain 16 times as much metal as the gold one. But in France the silver dollar contains only 15½ times the same quantity

of metal as the gold dollar, which means that the French silver dollar contains only 400 grains.

The provision referred to in the Bland bill is that when ever France shall re-open her mints to the free coinage of silver, our coinage ratio shall be changed to conform to the French standard. This means, of course, that in the event of the adoption of free coinage in France, unless that country should change its silver ratio, the American silver dollar thereafter would consist of 400 instead of 412½ grains, of standard silver. And the provision would extend further. It would require the re-coinage of all the existing dollars into 400-grain coins in case the contemplated contingency developed into reality. This would net the government a handsome profit, and possibly a monetary alliance with France would more than repay the loss to the people. That country is the head of the Latin Union, a very important federation of European States for monetary purposes. It is composed of France, Italy, Belgium, Greece and Switzerland. The silver and gold coins of any of these countries are legal tender in all the others. Hence a union with France would ultimately mean a possible union with all these countries mentioned.

It is said that England favors an international monetary arrangement, but it is difficult to see how she can give up her gold standard. A very able writer, a short time ago, stated that international commerce had adjusted itself to the British sovereign or pound sterling, owing of course to her supremacy in trade and in the money markets.

The provisions of the Bland bill will repeal the silver demonetization act of 1873, and also the silver purchase act of 1890. It is said that a majority of the Coinage Committee are in favor of this measure, and of making it an issue immediately. If this is passed it will please the South and West, but the Atlantic seaboard Democrats will be hostile to it, and the probable consequences are not promising to that party.

THE "LIBERAL" TICKET.

THE "Liberals" have made up their ticket, according to the slate framed by the bosses, and the people can now scan it and take time to make up their minds as to whether they want the city controlled by the men named.

At the head of the ticket is a chronic political dyspeptic and confirmed "Mormon"-eater, noted for no other marked characteristics. He is one of

the last persons that peace-makers and shrewd business men would select for a Mayor. The choice for Assessor is an unknown quantity, a comparative stranger, whose sole recommendation for the place is that he is an active and not over scrupulous political worker for the "Liberal faction." The strongest name on the ticket is that picked out for Marshal. He is a well known Democrat, and is considered a very good officer. The other names are passable and well enough for a "Liberal" ticket. They will probably gain the solid "Liberal" vote.

It is a question, however, whether the candidates for Mayor and Assessor will not run considerably behind their ticket. Of course the hordes of "Liberal" colonizers and employees of the city, with their friends and associates and the rowdy and criminal elements, will all take the ticket placed in their hands and vote it without question. But there are thinking and respectable people, who have in times past joined in with the faction that has obtained local control, who have become thoroughly disgusted with its tricks and policy and will repudiate it, or at least parts of its ticket this time, at the polls.

Notwithstanding the scheme by which the chief wire-worker fondly expects to deliver the whole city into "Liberal" hands in February—for a consideration—there is a strong probability that the welfare of the city will rise above factional interests in the breasts of many respectable "Liberals" and the result will be different from that which is estimated.

Whatever may be said or left unsaid about individual nominations, it must not be forgotten that all the "Liberal" candidates represent the faction that stole the city government two years ago, that foisted upon the people officials who are now cast out and despised by the men who put them in, that inaugurated extravagance, the creation of new offices, the assessment of exorbitant values, the protection of vice and immorality and the stoppage of needed public improvements, and that is opposed to that liberty which should be enjoyed by citizens here in common with people in other parts of this great country.

This should not be lost sight of by the voters at the municipal election, and should be a stronger consideration than the character of the individuals who are claimants for public support.

CHURCH AND STATE IN GERMANY.

THE Emperor of Germany is now posing before the civilized world as a champion of compulsory religious and