

should appear most willing and capable of aiding in the restoration of silver to its rightful place as standard money.

The Democratic party in its Chicago convention has taken a position in its platform so pronouncedly favorable to silver and has nominated candidates of such unquestionable convictions in favor of the bimetallic policy and of such high personal character, that we have determined to give them our support. We support such candidates because they represent the great principle of bimetalism, which we believe to be the cause of humanity and civilization and the paramount question now before the American people.

We therefore announce that we shall by voice and vote support Messrs. Bryan and Sewall for President and Vice President, and we appeal to all citizens and especially to Republicans who feel as we do, that gold monometallism would be of lasting injury to the country, to act with us in securing their election.

The Democrats who believe in the gold standard are announcing their intention to support McKinley or proposing to put a third candidate in the field for the avowed purpose of aiding Mr. McKinley's election. A great number of leading and influential Democratic journals have declared they will support the Republican nominee. It is evident there is to be a union of forces on the part of the advocates and supporters of the gold standard to elect Mr. McKinley and a Congress favorable to him, which will support the financial policy outlined in the Republican platform.

To those who believe in bimetalism, which means the equal treatment of both gold and silver at the mints of the nation, there is but one course to pursue, and that is to unite the silver forces and to oppose with all our might the candidate representing the policy which we believe is fraught with disaster to the nation and ruin to the people.

Gold monometallism means the shifting of gold alone, as primary money, all the burdens of commerce and credit formerly borne by gold and silver, and as the world's stock of these metals has always been about equal in amount, it means the doubling of the burden upon gold. Doubling the burden upon gold means doubling the demand for the same, and doubling the demand of necessity doubles the value thereof. This gradual shifting to gold of all the burdens of both gold and silver has caused a gradual and steady increase in the value of every dollar redeemable in gold, and hence a gradual and steady decline in the value of every commodity that is measured by that dollar.

The representatives and supporters of Mr. McKinley consented to the insertion in the St. Louis platform of the gold standard declaration, thinly veiled by a declaration for bimetalism "when the leading commercial nations of the world should consent," but until that consent was secured the gold standard must be maintained. It is well known that this consent cannot be secured from Great Britain, and that such declaration for bimetalism means nothing with this limitation upon it. Mr. McKinley consented to the declaration for the gold standard in the platform, and in his recent speeches

has accepted it and has become the advocate thereof; he has shown by his speeches heretofore made that he understood the danger of the gold standard and the distress which would be inflicted upon the American people by its adoption, and yet he pledges the people to support and maintain that system, and fasten upon them all the evils of the financial system which he has heretofore repudiated, if they will make him President. Whatever may have been his attitude on the money question in the past, he must inevitably hereafter support the same financial system that the present Democratic administration has, and if elected must continue the policy of Mr. Cleveland in the sale of bonds in time of peace. Hence, with the success of Mr. McKinley we may look for a continued increase of the public debt and the sale of bonds to maintain the gold standard.

That the condition of the country is not satisfactory, all admit. The producers of wealth are not receiving fair and proper consideration for their labor, whether in field, factory or mine; enterprise has ceased; discontent and distress prevail to an extent never before known in the history of this country, and no reason can be found for such an unhappy condition save in a vicious monetary system. Those who profess to deplore the present financial condition and oppose the free coinage of silver are divided in opinion as to the cause of the present condition. Some declare that it is because we have too much tariff; others that we have not enough; while the fact exists that every gold standard country in the world, whether it has a high or a low tariff, is now and has been during recent years in the throes of a financial panic; and every silver standard country, compared with its former condition, is enjoying an industrial development and degree of prosperity hitherto unknown in its history. While thus differing in opinion, they unite in asserting that the gold standard must be maintained until foreign countries shall signify their willingness that the American people shall exercise the rights of free men and create a financial system of their own. If we overlook the demoralization and degradation we must feel on account of such a declaration of financial dependency, we may well inquire when the consent of the leading commercial nations will be obtained.

No one who has read the proceedings of the three international monetary conferences that have already been held, or who has examined the impracticable propositions presented at those conferences, can for a moment believe that any international bimetallic agreement can ever be made with the consent of all "the leading commercial nations of the world." When will Great Britain, controlled as she is and ever will be by the creditor classes, who collect vast sums of money for interest due her and her citizens, who buys of us annually many more millions than she sells to us, and whose interest it is to make the pound sterling purchase as much of our products as possible, consent that we shall be financially independent as we are supposed to be politically independent? When did the creditor classes of Great Britain ever give up or in any way

yield an advantage such as they now possess through the maintenance of the gold standard? There is no hope for international bimetalism until the United States shall establish bimetalism for itself, and when that is done international bimetalism may be secured without the consent of Great Britain. The United States on all other subjects of legislation acts independently of any other nation on earth. By what process of reasoning is its right, authority or ability to legislate upon this, the most important subject with which it has to deal, questioned or denied?

With a nation equal in wealth and power to one-fourth of the world, it is cowardly to say that we must ask the permission of Great Britain to establish and maintain a financial policy of our own. Believing, as we do, that a return to the monetary system especially recognized in the Constitution and completely provided for by law from 1792 till 1873, affords the only ground of hope for the betterment of the distressed condition of all the classes, except those who live by the increment that money loaned gives to those who loan it, we appeal to all classes to rally to the support of the only candidate whose success indicates any hope of relief.

Let the merchant and business man whose dwindling and lessened profits have, despite his care and economy, brought him face to face with prospective bankruptcy and ruin; the professional man, whose best efforts scarcely afford him compensation for his labor alone; the farmer, the continually falling prices of whose products have left him no returns for capital invested and work performed; and last, but not least, let the grand army of laboring men, so called, the artisan, the mechanic and the miner and every one who depends upon his daily labor for his daily bread, look about him and observe the great number of those who vainly seek for a chance to work, upon the great army of enforced idlers, and and one and all resolve to try, not an experiment (for bimetalism is not an experiment), but rather a return to the policy that throughout the vicissitudes of our nation's infancy, through the inter-necive struggle of its manhood, kept us a great, free and prosperous nation in which labor was not only represented and employed, but was so compensated that want and distress such as now weigh upon us was unknown. Let the lesson of history, too recent and too plain to be gainsaid or denied, be heeded, and let there be no fear that a system that so wonderfully protected labor, developed business enterprise and secured to the nation a contented and prosperous people in the past, will do aught but bring to us a return of like prosperity, the predictions of disaster of our opponents to the contrary notwithstanding.

In Mr. Bryan the Chicago convention placed at the head of its ticket a gentleman of exceptional ability and of high character. No man of his age was better known throughout the United States than he. A member of Congress for four years, he commanded the admiration and respect of all his associates in that body as a scholarly statesman and a profound thinker. No man had ever assailed his charac-