

and one-half of our available money is withdrawn from circulation, will wages then advance or will the prices of commodities advance and wages decline? When is labor most in demand, when money is abundant and great enterprises can be set afoot and kept going, or when there is a stringency and the wherewith to pay for labor and materials cannot be found? Perhaps the *Tribune* will "see the case in another light" if it will only take the pains to look at both sides of it.

MONTANA'S SILVER STATUE.

The solid silver statue of Justice which the enterprising state of Montana is to supply for the World's Fair is likely to secure for the ambitious commonwealth more unsavory gossip as to the manner in which the model was secured than genuine praise for the magnificence of the idea and the shapeliness of the creation. Out of all the stories concerning the selection of this, that, or the other lady to pose as the model, there seems scarcely any room for doubt that the intention all the time was to reserve the honor for the highest bidder; and the affected indignation of the argentiferous Mountain state that one of her own daughters was not chosen smacked too strongly of hypocrisy to be very impressive. It has looked as though the distinction of being considered the handsomest and most perfectly formed woman in the world was deemed to be worth a considerable sum; and that there has been a distinct bid for purchasers for it can hardly be doubted. This may be thrifty, but it is none the less scandalous, especially if, after all, it shall transpire that the highest offer was not entertained. It would be rash to say that all the ladies who have been prominently mentioned in connection with the statue owe that fact to their generous bid; but it is perfectly safe to say that in the national mind such is the general belief. Instead of coming in for the homage and admiration that mankind universally pays to beauty, they are receiving, therefore, a vast amount of free advertising and disagreeable notoriety. For much of it Montana is to blame; and the mercenary spirit that has been manifested by the managers of the project ought to be thoroughly unmasked and rebuked.

WILL POPULISM BE POPULAR?

Whether or not the lusty young political movement known as the Populist or the People's party has come upon the American stage to stay; whether, in fact, it has now reached its highest limit of success or is just emerging from its swaddling clothes, equipped for a long, strong fight against contending elements, there is no doubt that it has achieved during its brief career wonderful success and prestige and is believed by many of the most sagacious politicians of the day to be the lion in the path of both the great parties in the nation. That its adherents should feel elated

over its successes in the late election is not strange. For the Weaver electors a million votes were cast in the West and South, and in the latter section this total would have been enormously increased but for the shrewd Democratic tactics which threw the "Force bill" prominently as an issue to the fore, and brought the wavering solid South firmly back into line. This million or more of votes yielded the following results: Twenty-six electoral votes, five United States senators to be elected as Populists or by Populist votes, ten members of the House of Representatives, the state governments in Colorado, Kansas and North Dakota, and a greatly increased representation in the legislatures of these and several other states.

The leaders of the movement may well feel gratified at so stupendous a showing at a time when every condition seemed so unfavorable to third-partyism; and they have excellent reason for the belief that even these results do not represent the full measure of their strength, if tested under circumstances where the people would not be swayed from their sincere preferences by the compulsion to choose what they could at best regard as but the lesser of two evils. The vitality of the movement, however, is another matter. Has it the soundness of principle, the coherence of policy, the cohesion of elements that would make its platform the rallying ground of the disaffected of both the other parties? Ripe as is the moment for the disintegration of the old organizations, the abandonment of old issues, and the evolution of new questions of social, industrial and economic polity, is it at all certain that the time is equally propitious for the Populist doctrines to find acceptance by those who are seeking a new light for their political pathway?

We do not think so, any more than we think the recent triumph of the Democratic party is an evidence that in its policy the country will find a cure-all for every political evil. The wholesale desertion from the ranks of Republicanism, which formed so striking a feature of the late campaign, is in our opinion only the prelude to a like desertion from the ranks of Democracy whenever a political creed shall be evolved that comes in nearer touch with the popular heart and aims at higher ideals and greater perfection in government. To say that the fight will be maintained by the old parties along the old lines is manifestly absurd, since we have today thousands of free trade Republicans and thousands of protection Democrats. To say that the tariff, higher or lower, will be the great issue of future national contests requires a hardihood that few politicians are possessed of, since after all it amounts to little more than the difference between tweedledum and tweedle-dee. It is not unlikely that silver may be a great issue in the next campaign, and if so the Populists would have the prestige of having already championed the cause. But to believe that either the Republican or the Democratic party will survive the century unless radical changes in policy are made, is a species of partisan optimism seldom exhibited; while to think that the party

growing out of their ruins will bear the lineaments and attributes of the present People's party is to admit that the American nation will become a convert to vagaries and its politics indeed become "an iridescent dream." The party of the future is not born yet, though to an observing eye the premonitory throes are not wanting.

THE THEATER HAT.

The ladies who attended the performance in the theater last evening without hats or who removed them on taking their seats, may not have been conspicuous for their number but they were noticeable for their courtesy, their unselfishness and their observance of the great underlying principle of all true politeness and good breeding—a consideration for the feelings of others. The gentlemen, and ladies too, who sat behind the towering headpieces that were all too freely sprinkled through the fashionable part of the audience, and whose enjoyment was of an inverse quantity to the agility displayed in dodging their heads from side to side in order to get an occasional view of the stage, assuredly felt, if they did not declare, that at the price of \$1.50 per seat the pleasure of having an artificial flower garden or a bunch of waving plumes thrust squarely before their eyes for three hours, comes a little high. Our only wish is that their indignation might find expression loud enough to reach the ears of the offenders. One who is so regardless of another's comfort as to impair it in this way, ought not to be too tender to receive an occasional word of rebuke.

It is an interesting question whether the management are not in a certain degree responsible for the continuance of the evil. If there is any force in what is usually understood as a contract we think they are. The purchaser of a ticket to any performance hands over his money with the understanding that he is going to be permitted to see the stage and those who appear upon it. He would hardly take the trouble to go to the box office and pay for a reserved seat to look at a milliner's window; these latter exhibitions are free—at least to those who only care to look. Why, then, should the company that accepts his money fail to guarantee him that which he paid for? Why should one patron be permitted to destroy the enjoyment of another patron? Why has a lady any more right to wear her hat if it interferes with the view of those in the rear than a gentleman to wear his? Why cannot the women who go to theaters be ladies in this one respect? And, finally, why cannot the management do something to remind them of the proprieties, since it seems that nothing short of a pointed personal request will accomplish that much-desired result?

The *Carson News* learns that the Mexican mill at Empire started up six ten stamps last Thursday on rock that has been accumulating on the mill dump for the past two years. It will take five or six weeks to get through with the batch.