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THE CASE OF SILVER.

The gratifying announcement comes that the President has determined upon having the Brussels congress reconvene at an early day. It is to be hoped he will also permit the personnel of the United States delegation to remain unchanged, or as nearly so as possible. The work formerly accomplished by the commissioners should scarcely be dignified by such a word, amounting, as it did, to little more than preliminary feeling around. But it opened the ball, and that is something, especially if followed up with vigor and before the movement loses much of its force.

From some of the European delegates nothing favorable is to be looked for. By reason of their peculiar business relations or their peculiar business education, they are set in their opinions and set in a way which promises most for them and least for us. They do not want silver for money at all and only yield so far as to give those who do so want it a hearing because they are as one against a hundred and not even their vast possessions can carry them through successfully against such odds. The great bulk of the people in all the civilized and most of the uncivilized countries of the world recognize the innate qualities of silver and are able to determine by intuition alone that there is a vast difference in its favor as compared with metals which rust or corrode; perhaps the few others referred to also recognize the disparity in fact, but they admit it very reluctantly and when such admission is made they invariably supplement it with the claim that there is but one metal fitted by reason of royal properties to be the arbiter of values—gold. To it all other metals, silver included, must be in subjection, their value gauged by the law of supply and demand as the same may be determined by gold. This gentry also recognize that with silver hopelessly demonetized and all obligations made payable in gold, they are not only striking out half of the world's circulating medium but, measured by what gold would then buy, they are doubling the value of the latter. Naturally they prefer such a condition; those who owe them would thus be paying two dollars for every one they were indebted, while factories closing up, armies of men in idleness and interest on loans crawling up like the mercury in a thermometer on a summer morning, would still further enhance their possessions.

This would be very good for the gold man, but how about the other ninety-nine? As previously suggested, it is because their interests cannot be utterly ignored all the time, that they are becoming unruly

in places, and for the further reason that the business of silver-production in and of itself is a mighty factor in the world's economy, that these "lords of creation" have consented to even spare the time to meet in a conference with the representatives of a more popular financial arrangement than they would prefer to have. Even here they will concede no point looking to the establishment and maintenance of a dual standard of values, it must be gold or nothing. Under such circumstances, and realizing that the United States alone can not adopt and force into recognition a system which its customers and correspondents abroad will not have, perhaps the best thing our representatives can do is to agree with the others upon a compromise. It being impossible to obtain full recognition for silver, and the others finding themselves unable to make their way through the tide of opposition prevailing to the complete overthrow of the white metal, all the conditions for a mid-way agreement would seem to be on hand. The plan which seems to meet with most general favor is for all subsidiary coins and all coins below a certain amount—say five dollars—to be of silver exclusively at a fixed ratio in point of weight as compared with gold; as to what extent silver could thus be made a legal tender for all debts public and private, that might have to vary some, as in some nations a dollar amounts to much more than it does in some others, but for international purposes it would have to be agreed to by the conference. Then, by an arrangement providing for the issuance of notes based on coin in possession, the objection of bulkiness would be removed and the international legal tender of silver might be largely extended.

Something of this kind it would seem will have to be accomplished, as in the very nature of things an agreement consented to by all the parties in interest must be had. We are at liberty to look to the Brussels gathering for something in the nature of satisfactory results this time.

CHINESE EXCLUSION.

Associate Justice Brewer of the United States Supreme Court delivered a speech on the occasion of a recent banquet which, however much of truth it may have contained, will not be likely to win him many friends on the Pacific Slope. He is quoted as having said the reason the Chinese are excluded from this country is because their economical and industrious habits are a constant source of annoyance to the other residents of this country, who are disposed to be careless in their ways of living. In other words, the people of the United States are like the man who desired the banishment of Aristotle, not that he knew anything wrong against him, but because it irritated him to "hear him everywhere called the just."

If the people of America can divest themselves of prejudice long enough to look calmly at the question of Chinese exclusion, they will have to agree that as a matter of political economy this statement of the case is very nearly correct. Many men have thought and said the same thing; there is no more

reason to exclude Chinese than there is to exclude industrious, law-abiding subjects of any other foreign power; for statistics prove that they rarely if ever become paupers or a public charge, and that in proportion to their number there are few of them that have to be rated among the criminal classes. As to the complaint that their competition drives out all other labor, and that they do not come here to identify themselves with the country as citizens, that seems to carry its own remedy and answer. Unless their work and wares are in demand by the people among whom they live they would have nothing to do and would soon have to go back home again. To say by law that they shall not come into this country is in effect to say that it needs the enactment of a law to prevent the American people from hiring and buying from any laborers and merchants they please, if those laborers and merchants should happen to be Chinese. Justice Brewer's remarks will arouse a storm of indignation because of the high and important position he occupies.

THE EFFECT OF AMNESTY.

It will be of interest to the public to know that so far as executive recognition by the Governor is concerned, the late Presidential proclamation of amnesty has received full force and effect in this Territory. This will be understood when we cite the fact that a commission as notary public has just been issued to E. A. Box of Brigham City. Under the law Mr. Box was ineligible as either voter or office-holder, he having served a term of imprisonment for unlawful cohabitation as defined by act of Congress. But he was able to avail himself of the amnesty granted in the proclamation of President Harrison, and on this showing claimed the rights of a citizen. The Governor holds that the claim may not be denied, and accordingly issued a commission as above noted. The case is interesting as being the first of its kind.

GRADUATED TAXATION.

"All taxation is vexation," quoth one who knew humanity well and the ills to which humanity is subject. He might have added, for he equally well knew, that while there are inequalities and hence injustice in all kinds of taxation, yet some system is necessary, even though it be a bad one, to the maintenance of every government.

Modern thought has grappled long and earnestly with the question as to how to provide, with the greatest amount of fairness and equality, for the payment by the people of the burdens necessary to the support of the state. Much advancement toward the desired end must be reported; and it seems now that the plan likely to receive most general acceptance is that which insists that the rich shall be compelled to pay as much and the poor as little as possible. The pro rata idea is giving place to that of graduated assessment, and in at least one country, Switzerland,