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Silver to be Ignored.

It appears to have at last dawned upon the intellect of those who have been pushing silver to the front, in season and out of season, that no progress can be made toward the increased use of silver as a money metal by urging the early passage of a free silver coinage bill in this country, for there is no chance of its becoming a law, and it would not improve the condition of silver bullion if it should. It is not that they have lost hope in the ultimate triumph of their cause, but deem it more politic to postpone action, with the hope that Great Britain will find it necessary to take the lead in promoting bimetallicism, being forced thereto by her great interests in the trade of India, which trade is much depressed by the low prices prevalent for silver bullion, but while there has apparently been some gain in the popular sentiment in Great Britain favorable to an increased use of silver, the sentiment of those controlling the policy of the government is apparently opposed to this, so that there does not seem to be any reasonable ground for hope that there will be much of anything done by Great Britain to increase the use of silver in the early future, whatever may be the case in the more distant time. The fact is that the leading European banks have gained largely in gold during the past year and very lightly in silver. The present holdings of the leading banks of Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Spain, Netherlands and Belgium are about \$805,000,000, against about \$743,000,000 a year ago, showing a gain of about \$62,000,000, whereas the gain in silver during the same time was scarcely \$750,000. It is evident that with such a large gain in gold and such a small increase in silver, the European banks will see no necessity to adopt a policy which would promote a larger use of silver. The increased cost of the transportation of silver, compared with gold, must ever militate against its increased use in a large way in settling balances of trade between the leading commercial nations. It is not that there is any prejudice against silver per se that there is less disposition to increase its use, but it is wholly on economic grounds, and as a matter of convenience. Europe holds, say, \$805,000,000 of gold to \$75,000,000 of silver in its principal points of accumulation, and while there is a constant effort to increase the holdings of gold, there is a forthcoming supply which increases the ratio of that metal over silver. The world's statistics indicate that the production of gold is proportionately less than that of silver, and this if continued may, in the long run, cause a revival in the value of the latter; but such a contingency seems at present a long way off, for there is more silver now than finds employment, and the price continues to decline. It is commendable to drop the effort to "do something for silver," especially as all such efforts have only served to force the price of silver bullion lower and lower. There are plenty of theories that silver should, and in certain contingencies would, revive in value, but none of them work satisfactorily in practice.—Cincinnati Price Current.

Trade Still Depressed.

As we progress further into the spring, and closely approach the summer season, there is a failure in business in general to show any essential increase; in many lines there is, on the contrary, an actual decrease in volume, and in some instances a further decline in prices. There are, on the other hand, some reports of increased production and distribution of shoes and a few other articles of domestic manufacture, but there is not much encouragement to be gained by the evidence as a whole of the general condition of business, although there is a considerable volume of business in progress, which shows that trade is very far from a stagnant condition. Legislation on tariff matters has taken no definite shape, and does not seem likely to in the early future. The discussion goes steadily forward, but that does not essentially affect current trade, and only has a little influence on the feeling for the future, for there does not appear to be much confidence that there will be an early revival of trade in any event, and certainly not while the tariff question remains unsettled, and while we are probably making some progress towards such settlement, for we know that everything must have an end, yet there are no indications that the conflicting interests are making much if any satisfactory deal towards a plane of harmony which will bring about such a state of things as will result in the revival of trade before the summer season ends. In fact we may consider that the country will be fortunate if legislation should take such a shape as to bring the trade of the country into a more satisfactory condition during the approaching fall season. But business seems to be steadily growing in most lines of domestic production in spite of the delay in the tariff legislation, and while there is no boom in anything there is a fairly satisfactory distribution of commodities of prime necessity.—Cincinnati Price Current, May 24.

British Grain Trade.

The London cable on May 29 says.—The weather during the past week has been more genial and the crops have been very little damaged. A warm rain would restore their color. The market hardened on American advices, but eventually relapsed and became dull and depressed, at 3d to 6d down. The stocks are not large, but 6,400,000 bushels are due to arrive. The demand was very poor for parcels and there was a small trade in spot, which was very quiet. Red winter wheat, June delivery, was quoted at 20s. Flour was dull and slow and stocks were heavy. Owing to the tone of the market and the weather there was a decline of 3d to 6d. No 1 Minnesota bakers' was quoted at 14s 6d to 16s. Corn was stronger, but is now weaker, with poor trade. Mixed American, prompt delivery to buyers, was quoted at 16s 6d. Barley was quiet and easy. Oats were steady, with light spot offerings.

Fire has destroyed the shoddy department of Huber's glue works and shoddy factory at Berlin, Ont. The loss is large.

Unloading Bananas.

An Eastern exchange describes the unloading of bananas as follows:—

It is an interesting sight to watch the unloading of a banana steamer. The wharves are always crowded with teams, either awaiting their turn for a load or receiving their quota of the luscious fruit, which is stowed away by the thousands of bunches down in the hold of the vessel. Everything moves with celerity and dispatch, and it is wonderful how soon the large steamer can be relieved of her cargo. Gangs of men, generally of the colored persuasion, are at work in different parts of the steamer passing out the bunches, so that the wagons, which are backed right up to the edge of the wharf at several points, can be readily supplied with a load. So soon as one receives the required number another takes its place, and thus the work continues until the cargo is discharged. Men with a quick eye and good judgment are stationed where they can watch the work closely, and decide upon the merits of each and every bunch, so that the fruit is assorted as rapidly as it comes out of the vessel, the various grades being assigned to their respective places.

Cereal Crops in Japan.

Although the cultivated lands of Japan are scarcely equal to one-eighth of the total area of the country, yet the home-grown produce is sufficient in ordinary seasons to meet the requirements of a population which exceeds 40,000,000 of people. Expressed in English measure there are 11,390,000 acres of arable land, of which 6,913,000 acres are occupied by rice, 4,234,000 acres by other cereals, and the remaining area by divers kinds of crops. Rice is grown in every province of the empire from south to north, and the mean yield is equal to about 30 bushels per acre, though the yield varies widely according to soil and situation. While wheat, barley and rye are capable of successful cultivation in all parts of the country, barley tends to predominate in the provinces of the northeast, and rye in those of the southwest.—Dornbusch.

The Money Markets.

The only feature of the New York loan market, says Bradstreet's, is the anxiety of lenders to find employment for their funds. Banking interests consider current rates for commercial paper too low, but are helpless in view of the rapidity with which the limited amount of first-class names which come on the market are absorbed, the rates being 2½ to 3½ for doubles or the higher grades of single names. The demand for time money continues so slack and the amount seeking employment is so large that competition among lenders affects rates on collateral loans, quotations this week being 1 per cent. for thirty days, 1½ to 2 per cent. for sixty to ninety days, and 2 to 3 per cent. for longer periods. Call money is 1 per cent.