





**GOOD TIMES---FOR HIM.**



The Gold-Bug papers have the impertinence to talk about good times being "with us." Of course they mean with the men who toil not, but who accumulate wealth by means of bonds and contracted currency. As a matter of fact times are "harder" now than they have been since 1893.—National Democrat.

**DIRECT LEGISLATION.**

**The People Should Pass Upon Important Economic Questions.**

There is no stronger point in the Populist platform than the principle of Direct Legislation, and none more simple or easier explained to the people. It is the one thing upon which all ought to agree, at least to the extent of extending it as far as practicable. We already have it incorporated into our laws to some extent. We use it in the adoption of amendments to our state constitutions. In some states it is used in regulating the liquor traffic, where they vote on license or no license by counties, and so far as it has been used it has given excellent satisfaction.

One of the arguments used against Direct Legislation is that it would be impossible for the people to vote on all the laws. This is no argument at all. It is not intended that the people shall vote on any but the more important laws, but that they may have the right of petition to not only vote on any law passed that they want to vote on, but that they shall have the privilege of initiating laws—that is, preparing them by petition. There are many laws passed of minor importance upon which the people do not care to vote. Direct Legislation would provide that when the people did not send in a petition to submit it to a popular vote within a specified time, it should then become a law.

The benefits of this system are readily apparent to any intelligent person. It means government by the people and not by their representatives, who are more frequently their misrepresentatives. It is the quintessence of democracy. Under our present system of law making, with our legislative halls filled with lobbyists, many of whom are members who owe their nomination and election to corporate influence, it cannot be said that we have a government of the people, and I frequently hear men say, in sheer desperation, that "it don't matter who you send to the Legislature or Congress, money will buy him." And so powerful has been the influence of money in the past that the people generally have about arrived at that conclusion.

With Direct Legislation this difficulty would be removed. Any obnoxious law that would be passed could be voted down by the people. Corporations could not afford to buy legislation that would be vetoed by

the people and the lobby would no longer be an undesirable adjunct to our legislative bodies. Recently the city of Philadelphia, through its council, granted a charter to a corporation. The franchise was said to be worth \$40,000,000 and the city had been offered \$10,000,000 for it. But the council gave it to a corporation. What could the voters do? Nothing but hold indignation meetings. They had elected their representatives—agents—and, reserved no power by which they could nullify their acts. If they had had the referendum, or system of direct legislation, they could have vetoed the act of the council.

But there are other reasons why we should adopt the system of Direct Legislation. It practically takes law making out of partisan politics. Men would then vote on the measure upon its merits, and not in accordance with the position of their political party not be compelled then to vote against a measure they did not want in order to vote the party ticket, nor to vote for a man they did not want in order to secure a law they did want. It would be a question of measures and not of men or political parties. Corporations would go out of politics and those that could not stand and do business on business principles without special legislation in their favor would have to go out of business. When the corporations are driven out of politics, the political boss is practically dethroned, for he thrives off of the corporations, and with the boss out of politics, the people are free to exercise their judgment as to the merits of measures.

Direct Legislation would act as a stimulant to the education of the masses on economic questions. I think it is safe to say that a majority of men vote their party ticket without little real knowledge of what it actually represents. They blindly follow the dictates of their party, and permit their leaders to do their thinking on economic questions. Whatever their party says goes. With direct legislation it would not be so. When men vote on measures they want to know what those measures mean. This leads them to investigate, in order to know how the measure upon which they are asked to vote is going to affect their interests. Thus every voter is directly appealed to do his own thinking. The responsibility is thrown directly upon him. There is no intervening agent. He is therefore likely to be more careful as to how he casts his vote, and gives the measure more

consideration than he would if merely voting for an agent to attend to these matters.

It is sometimes urged as an objection that while this system might be practical in a township or county, it would not be so in a state or in the United States. The United States is made up of separate states, each of which has control of its election machinery. What is practical in one state is practical in the others, and in all, as a whole. There is not a state, perhaps, but what resorts to direct legislation to some extent, at least so far as the adoption of constitutional amendments is concerned. In most school districts it is in practice in voting school taxes and the length of term of school. So far as tried in this country, it has proved both practical and desirable. Switzerland, with her three million of people, has extended its operations to every important law.

The press dispatches state that the Populists in Missouri split and put out two separate tickets. It is reported that there were about 199 delegates in each convention, which is calculated to convey the impression that there are as many fusionists in Missouri as there are roaders. I am waiting for the details to come in by freight before I care to express myself on the situation, but I venture the assertion that there was "shenanigans" on the part of the Rozells crowd. One thing I do know, however, that of the four men nominated by the roaders, I am personally acquainted with three of them—Hillis, Voris and Livingston—and I know them to be true and tried Populists, while I do not know a single candidate nominated by the fusionists, and never heard tell of them. I began my reform work in Missouri twenty-four years ago, and thought I was acquainted with the prominent Populists of the state, so this ticket which the fusionists have put up must be composed of new recruits, men of poor ability, or Democrats. They are probably intended to run along until such time as would be too late to fill their places, and then withdraw in favor of the Democrats ticket, as did Jones and North in '89.

W. S. MORGAN.

A girl just naturally hates boys until she is 12 or 13 years old.  
Other people don't take as much interest in your children as you do.  
Half the people work too much, while the other half don't work enough.  
Rob with a velvet hand, instead of a pistol, if you want to get away with it.

**Captured the Forts.**  
London, July 14.—A cablegram from Manila dated July 13 says Insurgents reported that the German gunboat Irene refused to allow them to attack Spaniards on Grande Island, in Subic bay. Dewey sent the cruisers Raleigh and Concord to investigate. They opened fire on the forts, which with 500 men promptly surrendered. One Hotchkiss gun and 49,000 rounds of ammunition were captured.  
The Irene slipped her cable and steamed. Her captain said he interfered "in the cause of humanity" and tendered some refugees on board, but the offer was declined.

**Cablegram From Dewey.**  
Washington, July 14.—The navy department has received from Admiral Dewey the following dispatch:  
Aguinaldo informs me that his troops have taken all of Subic bay except Isla Grande, which he was prevented from taking by the German man-of-war Irene. On July 7 the Raleigh and Concord went there. They took the island and about 1300 men with arms and ammunition. No resistance. The Irene retired from the bay on their arrival.  
I shall send the Boston to Cape Engano about July 16 to second army detachments. It is not practicable to send to Guam. No transport vessel available. DEWEY.

**Will Join Lee.**  
Washington, July 14.—Adj. Gen. Corbin last night received the following telegram from Hon. William Jennings Bryan:  
Omaha, Neb., July 13.—Adjutant general United States army, Washington, D. C.; I have the honor to report that I was mustered into the service yesterday and await orders. The command will be uniformed, equipped and ready to move within a few days. BRYAN.  
Colonel third regiment Nebraska volunteers.  
As soon as Col. Bryan's regiment is ready to move it will be ordered to join Major Gen. Fitzhugh Lee's corps—the seventh—in Florida.

**Killed the Officers.**  
Hong Kong, July 14.—Letters received here from Cavite under date of July 9, say that while the Spanish steamer Filipinas was hiding in the river near Subig, the crew mutinied and killed the officers. Then they handed the steamer over to the insurgents, who armed the vessel and dispatched them to Subic for the purpose of an attack on Grande Island.  
Continuing, the letters confirm the story in regard to the action of the German warship Irene and the steps taken by Admiral Dewey to prevent interference with the insurgents, adding that the Spanish prize crew was handed over to the insurgents.  
The Germans, it appears, fraternize with the Spaniards, and German officers are often seen in the Spanish trenches.  
Dysentery is reported to have broken out among the American troops.

**Arrived With Wounded.**  
Newport News, Va., July 14.—The transport City of Washington arrived at Fort Monroe yesterday from Santiago de Cuba, having on board twenty wounded and sick privates who fought under Gen. Shafter around Santiago. Most of the men belonged to the seventh New York and rough riders, while a few are from the ninth Massachusetts and thirty-fourth Michigan. It was impossible to get a list of the wounded last night.

**Terrible Death.**  
Minco, I. T., July 14.—Mrs. John Sherman died here Monday night from the effects of a dog bite. About two weeks ago she was bitten on the finger by a young dog. Saturday morning she felt the effects and gradually grew worse. She craved for water but could not drink, and having convulsions every few minutes, it was the most horrible death this town has ever witnessed.

**Gridley's Funeral.**  
Erie, Pa., July 14.—The remains of the late Capt. Gridley arrived in this city yesterday morning and were immediately turned over to the family with no demonstration. The funeral was held yesterday at sunset and was largely attended.

**Steamer Wrecked.**  
Bonneville, Ore., July 14.—On account of high winds the river steamer Regular has been wrecked on the rocks just below the cascades in the Columbia river, while attempting to enter the government locks. She had 100 passengers on board and a large amount of freight.  
The passengers and most of the freight have been landed. It is believed the vessel can be saved.  
Queen Isabella fears a Carlist uprising.

**Changes Quarters.**  
Washington, July 14.—Brig. Gen. Gobin, commanding the third brigade at Camp Alger, received orders to transfer his brigade to the Crittenden farm near Dunn Toring, Va. One regiment has already left the camp. It is not known if the entire camp will be moved, but it does not appear probable.

**Troops are still being massed at available points for the descent on Porto Rico and the reinforcement of the army in Cuba.**

**Asserts Overtures Were Made.**  
London, July 14.—A Hong Kong correspondent says:  
Gen. Aguinaldo declares that both the Spaniards and the Germans have made overtures to him, though he declines to divulge their import. United States Consul Wildman asserts that Admiral Dewey could compel the surrender of Manila to-morrow if he liked. He says his dispatches show that Germans continue to interfere, their action causing much anxiety, as it is said they are assisting the Spaniards by landing flour and other supplies, and moreover German officers have been seen in the Spanish trenches.  
The Germans have not been careful to observe the naval courtesies required by the situation. They have given Admiral Dewey much annoyance by going against the regulations and by insisting on sending their boats around the bay after dark.  
At the same time, the German admiral informed Admiral Dewey that he has no intention of giving offense to America and that his movements are not to be considered at any non-observation of ill will. Admiral Dewey is said to have replied: "Perhaps it would be better if matters were managed a little differently."  
The German ships have done and are still doing rash and impertinent things, like the Irene incident.  
The Americans hope the Spaniards will continue their waste of ammunition in fighting the rebels and then surrender Manila without bloodshed.  
Admiral Dewey, on the report that the German fleet was landing large quantities of rice and flour for the Spaniards, decided to be more strict and has put a pinnace at each end of the jetty to overhaul all launches going and coming.

**Blockade a Success.**  
Washington, July 14.—The success attending the attempt to blockade the entire coast of Cuba is a source of gratification to the navy. It is confidently asserted that since the president's second order extending the blockade lines no substantial aid in the matter of food or war supplies has reached the Spanish forces in Cuba. In some measure this is chargeable to the energetic efforts of the United States consular officers abroad to prevent the departure of expeditions gotten up for the relief of the blockaded Spaniards.

**Said to Have Attempted Suicide.**  
Key West, Fla., July 14.—According to advices from Havana received yesterday Gov. Blanco attempted to commit suicide when he learned beyond doubt that Admiral Cervera's squadron had been annihilated.  
He was closeted with his staff and Gen. Arosols of the Spanish forces discussing the news when he made the attempt on his life. After a struggle he was subdued and disarmed, but the shock was so severe that he was prostrated and compelled to keep to his bed for several days.

**Wounded Doing Well.**  
Atlanta, Ga., July 14.—All the wounded at Fort McPherson are doing well, with the exception of Capt. Bigelow, tenth cavalry, who in addition to the seriousness of his wounds, is combating a high fever. Capt. Bigelow has a gunshot wound in the thigh and calf of the leg, and one of his hands is shattered and his right shoulder blade was chipped by a Spanish bullet.  
Dr. Taylor does not consider Capt. Bigelow's condition dangerous, but fever greatly retards his ultimate recovery.

**Siboney Destroyed.**  
Key West, Fla., July 14.—Siboney, consisting of fifty houses, was set on fire and burned Tuesday night at the urgent request of Maj. Legaro of the hospital corps, for the double purpose of getting rid of the dirty buildings and causing the Cuban hangers-on to leave.

**Fever Cases.**  
Washington, July 14.—Fourteen suspicious fever cases have broken out among employees of the quartermaster's department near Santiago. The men have been isolated.

**The ship San Domingo was wrecked off the Isle of Pines while trying to run the blockade.**

**Started for Home.**  
Montreal, July 14.—Messrs. Dubosc and Carranza sailed yesterday on the Dominion line steamer Ottoman. With them went a petty officer and two sailors of the steamer Panama, captured at the beginning of the war. These are the men who accompanied Carranza on a schooner on his recent mysterious trip.  
Carranza had his beard shaved off and went to the boat with a false beard.

**The Slipper.**  
Antiquarian—The custom of throwing the slipper after a bride comes down from very ancient times. Long before the Christian era a defeated chief would take off his shoes and hand them to the victor, to show that the loser of the shoes yielded up all authority over his subjects. Therefore, when the family of a bride throw slippers after her they mean that they renounce all authority over her. Do you understand? Small Auditor—Yes, sir. They throw away the slippers they used to spank her with!—New York Weekly.

**FARM AND STOCK NOTES.**

Wheat and oats are rolling into market at a lively rate.  
Some fine Cuban tobacco has been grown around Welmar this year.  
The dipping experiments at Fort Worth are attracting considerable attention.  
Threshing in Grayson county is panning out more grain than was anticipated.  
The tobacco crop of Trinity county is being cut and housed. From 500 to 700 pounds per acre is the yield.  
The late roping and riding contest at Fort Worth attracted more people than any similar entertainment in that city.  
Will Oertling of Beeville recently shipped a carload of watermelons to Montana. The freight was \$300, but he made a good profit.  
Farmers have all their cotton clear of grass and the crop looks well around Marshall. The Marshall market is overrun with fruit and garden truck.  
Over one hundred carloads of watermelons have been shipped north and east from Hempstead and Waller stations this season, and hundreds from other points.  
In the first half of 1898 Chicago received 550,000 head of cattle from Texas, a shortage of 44,000 head from last year and 102,000 head from receipts of previous year.  
M. J. Reynolds, a leading farmer of Johnson county, living near Grand View, reports the presence of boll worms and sharpshooters in his cotton and that of his neighbors.  
American steers in Liverpool are reflecting the advance on this side of the water. The papers give current quotations at 12 cents, an advance of nearly 2 cents during the past fortnight.  
Mrs. J. B. Rice, who lives on Clear creek, near Pecan Valley, reports that thirty gallons of snap beans were gathered from two rows forty rods long. The beans had only been watered twice.  
Horn flies are becoming very troublesome in many parts of west Texas, and although there seems to be a remedy for nearly every other ill to which cattle flesh is heir, as yet there has been found nothing that will eradicate these pests.  
The report of the deal between E. C. Sugg of Sugden, I. T., and E. T. Comer has been confirmed. The sale involved the purchase of Comer's ranches in Irion and the adjoining counties and his entire herd of about 15,000 head. The price paid will approximate \$400,000.  
The town of Childress, in Childress county, is building a large new gin, in anticipation of a large cotton crop. It appears from reports that the cotton crop in the panhandle promises better this year than ever before, for outside of a little damage done by the worm, the season has been almost faultless and the plant has thriven accordingly.  
Albert McKay, living on Santa Fe avenue, Dallas, owns a little half Jersey heifer which a few days ago gave birth to three calves, all males and looking exactly alike. One of the calves died a day later, and Mr. McKay is having the hide taxidermized. The other two calves are living and gave promise of being exceptionally fine bovine specimens.  
Reports from northwestern ranges place the losses, as shown by recent round-ups, at not to exceed 1 per cent of the stock wintered. This very small loss was, of course, due to the mild winter weather, freedom from blizzards and, more than all, the high price of stock, which induced cattlemen to take better care of their property than in years past.  
A cattle dealer from Chicago recently remarked, in speaking of the death of cattle in Texas and elsewhere, that three or four weeks since when a buyer came in and placed an order for eight or ten cars of cattle there was no trouble in filling it promptly, but that now it was not nearly so easy and that good cattle were getting scarcer daily from all points, Texas especially. Stock cattle, he thought, were practically out of the market, and would be for some time to come.  
Gov. Culberson has issued a proclamation prohibiting the shipment of cattle from the counties of West, Tom Green, Irion, Sterling, Mitchell, Scurry, Fisher, Jones, Haskell, Stonewall, King, Knox, Hoard, Cottle, Childress, Hardeman and Wilbarger prior to Oct. 1, 1898; also that no cattle from the following counties shall be moved to other parts of the state prior to Oct. 1, unless they shall have been properly inspected by the sanitary board: Donley, Hall, Motley, Dickens, Kent, Borden, Howard, Glasscock, Midland, Upton and Crane.  
In some parts of the panhandle country cattle are becoming infested with animal lice, and several cattle owners are considering the advisability of erecting vats and dipping their stock in some strong solution that will destroy the insects.  
Prof. Gleason, well known in the state, has offered his services to the government to train cavalry horses, and says he can educate them at the rate of 100 per week so that they will be thoroughly equipped for service.









