

Col. Dockery's Position.

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He States It Clearly and Emphatically—Financial Reform Paramount to Everything Else

To the Voters of North Carolina:

Magnum, N.C., Sept. 30.

In view of the complicated political conditions by which we are surrounded I deem it proper to state fully my position.

I believe the approaching election is the most important one that you have been called upon to participate in. Whatever may be the result, the strong common sense of the manhood of America will array itself on that side which believes [sic] in the arbitrament of the ballot, and while this election may not be accepted as final, recourse will continue to be had to the ballot until prejudice, ignorance and precious thought shall have been eliminated from the contest and by a process of judicious reasoning one side has gained a permanent victory. The silver forces will not disband. It is a battle of the great common people for the people's money and their banner will never be furled until the victory is won and they are prosperous.

Financial reform overshadows all other issues in this campaign, and until that is settled the people cannot be driven or cajoled into political by ways. Who that is not for the rehabilitation of silver is against it, nor can a profession in favor of silver to day and for gold after next March hoodwink even the most ignorant. The issue is squarely with us and must be squarely met.

I am a silver Republican, and as such am constrained to cast my vote for Bryan for President as the only feasible way to secure the free coinage of silver, and with this declaration goes my support of every man down to constable who is favorable to that cause. I fail to see any honesty in a genuine silver man supporting a goldbug for President or for any other office whereby he may be enabled to further retard the course of silver money.

Unlike Mr. McKinley, I have not changed my views on this question. Only about four years ago in Congress, he voted for silver—today he stands for the gold standard and for all the evil it carries along with it. I have never been for the gold standard, and while I regret the necessity which compels me to sever my connection temporarily with a party that has honored me, and one which I have gone out in all weather to serve, yet my conscience tells me it is right in order to secure the end in view—financial reform at the hands of the friends, not the enemies of silver. Furthermore, in advocating the cause I do not feel lonesome in company with a Grant, a Blaine, a Matthews, a Teller, a Dubois, and even a McKinley up to four years ago. Nor do I consider myself more of a traitor than the aforesaid illustrious Republican statesmen, and McKinley's eye servants and satellites, Pritchard, Pearson Russell, who within a twelve months were setting the woods afire for free silver, but having been Hannaized are now goldbugs. Only last spring their cry was McKinley and silver, and it is well known that a goldbug had a chance to be elected as a delegate to the St. Louis Convention—the aforesaid combination swept this State and went to St. Louis for silver. Why this precipitous change of base? How much brazen effrontery does it require to denounce

others who did not go to St. Louis to become hypnotized by Hanna in a short interview and then flop over to the gold standard?

At our State Convention just one month before, the platform, a creation of Senator Pritchard, and supposed to be inspired from Ohio, said:

“We favor the use of gold and silver as standard money and the restoration of silver to its functions and dignity a money metal.”

Whereas the creation of Hanna at the behest of the gold syndicate, says:

“We are unalterably opposed to every measure calculated to debase our currency or impair the credit of our country. We are, therefore, opposed to the free coinage of silver except by international agreement with the leading commercial nations of the world, which we pledge ourselves to promote, and until such agreement can be obtained the existing gold standard must be preserved.”

Mr. McKinley in a speech by him in the presidential campaign of 1892, before the Ohio Republican league, in speaking of Mr. Cleveland, said:

“During all his years at the head of the government he was dishonoring one of our precious metals, one of our great products, DISCREDITING SILVER AND ENHANCING GOLD.”

“He was determined to contract the circulating medium and demonetize one of the coins of commerce, limit the volume of money among the people, MAKE MONEY SCARCE AND THEREFORE DEAR.”

“HE WOULD HAVE INCREASED THE VALUE OF MONEY AND DIMINISHED THE VALUE OF EVERYTHING ELSE, MAKING MONEY THE MASTER AND EVERYTHING ELSE ITS SERVANT. He was not thinking of the ‘poor’ then. He had left ‘their side.’ He was not standing forth in ‘their defense.’ Cheap coats, cheap labor and *dear money*. He the sponser [sic] and promoter of these, professing to stand guard over the poor and lowly! WAS THERE EVER MORE GLARING INCONSISTENCY OR RECKLESS ASSUMPTION? He believes that poverty is a blessing to be promoted and encouraged and that a shrinkage in value of everything but money is national benefaction.”

In his letter of acceptance Mr. McKinley says, near the beginning and under the subject “No benefit to Labor,” referring to silver, as follows:

“It would not make labor easier, the hours of labor shorter, or the pay better. It would not make farming less laborious profitable. It would not start a factory nor make a demand for an additional day’s labor. It would not add to the comfort of the masses, the capital of the people or the wealth of the nation.”

If McKinley was right then he is wrong now, but the syndicate made him take his medicine and his henchmen hero who went to St. Louis for silver gladly say “me too” and want what was left of this medicine.

How about Senator Pritchard’s record? In a speech in Congress, he said: “I am a friend of silver and believe it should be restored to its dignity as a precious metal.” And he signed a paper with Senators Teller, Mantle, Dubois, and other Republican Senators declaring that “The unlimited coinage of silver at 16 to 1 by the independent action of the United States” is the only method possible of securing the people of the United States from the impending danger of the difference of exchange between gold countries.

Senator Pritchard further said: “I have proved my loyalty to the cause of silver by my vote in the Senate. My record will parallel Senator Butler’s on that great and vital question. They reflect not only the SENTIMENT OF THE PEOPLE THAT I REPRESENT, but they

EXPRESS MY HONEST convictions and my honest PURPOSE TO SECURE AN AMERICAN SYSTEM of finance.

But the Senator also said October 17, 1895: "I consider that free trade and gold monometallism are twin brothers, and he who courts gold monometallism invites the disasters which must follow in the wake of free trade."

The Senator might now add that the McKinley plank now favoring a continuance of civil service is another free trade idea imported from England.

But when was the Senator conscientious on the money question—then, or now when he is trying to switch off on the tariff, well knowing that no tariff brings employment in the protected cotton factories to a single one of the 100,000 North Carolina negroes. The Senator's views on the money question have likewise been shared by Pearson, Russell and others who are for McKinley, and also by Walser who unfortunately occupies a straddling attitude on the cooperation ticket in the hope of fooling both Republicans and Populists out of an office.

The fact is demonetization alone has caused the decline in value of silver bullion. When that infamous act was surreptitiously passed the silver dollar was worth more than the gold dollar, but since then it has been steadily declining, and now, when silver has been discredited by the government, refused mintage and the law for its payment of government obligations openly violated, the demand for it has decreased and the bullion has value only for use in the arts—it is no longer a money metal.

Remonetize it, admit it to the mints, coin it into the standard dollars and then contract the money value of each metal. If conditions were reversed and the seal of condemnation set on gold, and silver alone was honored, then indeed would like results follow. The people should see to it that the jugglers and their henchmen, the pie counter fellows keep their hands off the money of our fathers.

Bismarck, the wisest statesman in Europe, advises America to get it alone, tae the lead and other nations will follow.

Shall we longer submit to the selfish greed of England, whose statesmen declare that as she is the creditor nation of the world, debts must be paid in gold. Ours is a debtor nation and our people are alarmingly embarrassed by this moneyed strain upon their every interest—this destruction of the money in which they might pay their indebtedness. How need we fear results with our abundant resources, our unrivalled facilities and our unprecedented vim and push?

We want and must have good money—no sane man thinks or desires otherwise; and the term sound money is merely a catch phrase used by demagogues for purposes of deception.

If, then, the gold standard has prostrated your dear interests, of what remedial use will the election of McKinley be when he proposes to pursue the line of policy dictated by Wall street shylocks?

The effort to maintain the present gold standard under Cleveland has already cost the people two hundred and sixty-two million dollars in bonds which will hang as a mortgage over your children for generations to come. Let us come back to genuine bimetalism—the mintage of both gold and silver—the metals of the Constitution, the money of our fathers and the poor mans only acquaintance and friend. Dear money makes cheap labor, cheap products, cheap clothing, cheap food and a cheap people. Dear money makes it easier for the few to control the masses. Already our country is rapidly

losing the prestige of an immensely prosperous people through the concentration of all money into the hand of the few men and the consequent destruction of the great middle class, the backbone of every country—and the making of millions of paupers.

The West and South must come together and redeem the fame of the nation by securing the enactment of wise, just and equal laws for all citizens alike.

When a Presidential nomination is put up for side through a “fat frying” process it is time for the people to resent it. No more glaring instance of public degeneracy and debauchery ever characterized the latter days of the Roman Empire than we have lately witnessed in the Hannaizing system adopted in our country.

When money is plentiful the people are prosperous, not otherwise. If you have plenty of money go ahead and help the shylocks make that money harder for others to get and therefore dearer and content yourself in the belief that everybody is happy, that everybody can get employment at big wages and that nobody wants an office except for the honor of the thing. If you are a goldbug vote that ticket, if not don't stultify your principles by helping to put a goldbug in any sort of an office. I would remind Republicans that free silver is one of the most cherished principles of the Populist party, and also that but for this party some Republicans would not have made such an unseemly scramble for nominations. The sudden summersaults and flimsy reasons therefore can only be equaled by Russell's audacity in seeking the support of a race whom he denounced in 1888 as “largely savages and rogues.” How can any self respecting colored man endorse him—will not the brand of savage and thief be indelibly stamped upon his brow? Won't he be a self-admitted outcast unworthy the high privileges of citizenship?

“Truth is irresistible in a time when public confidence is badly shaken; the people's measure of oppression, misery, misleadings and disappointments is full; as also in a time when the ball of fate has fallen into the easy reach of almost every honest and patriotic citizen, and when there is intelligence and wisdom enough to put it into motion.”

The ballot is your power—start that ball in motion and secure you disenfranchisement.

Respectfully, O.H. Dockery