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Until they can explain satisfactorily to themselves what became of the Democratic vote in 1894, when the party went literally to pieces under Grover Cleveland's leadership, the "reorganizing" papers and politicians would be wiser if they refrained from charging Bryan with leading the party to defeat. Any statistical almanac will reveal to them not only the fact that in 1896 Bryan polled a larger vote and a larger percentage of the total vote than Cleveland polled in 1892, but that he gave new life and vigor to the party which had gone down to apparently hopeless defeat two years before he supplanted Grover Cleveland in its leadership.

If a Republican or a "reorganizing" Democratic Congress should be elected this Fall, the Fowler bill, which we described at length last week (p. 244), will be rushed through. It is the climax of the legislation for the contraction of legal tender which began systematically in 1866. According to the report of the committee on banking and currency, whose Republican majority recommends the enactment of the measure, one of the purposes of this bill is to provide for the—

redemption in gold coin of all legal tender money of the government, including the silver dollar, as well as the United States and treasury notes and the subsidiary coins.

A vote for a Republican congressman this Fall is a vote for that bill.

One of the interesting facts about the Pan-American Fair held last year at Buffalo is not generally known, but we are assured upon good

authority of its truth. Although the artistic conception of the Fair, its high ideal of international union and brotherhood, and the perfection of detail with which the scheme was carried out, did not save it from a financial loss mounting up into the millions, two men, the richest in Buffalo, made great unearned gains. For the quite unproductive land on which the "City Beautiful" was built, they asked \$360,000, and are to receive this sum from the debt-burdened stockholders in four yearly payments. Their total gifts or subscriptions to the Fair amounted to only \$5,000, and there have been no reports of their having contributed in any other way towards its success. But this is not all. In addition to their profits they reap the benefit of the excellent and thorough drainage and other improvements; and the first \$50,000 raised was, according to contract, set aside for restoring the property to its original appearance. No blame attaches to these men. They only asserted their legal rights and got their legal profit. But what queer people those of Buffalo are to think of such legal rights and profits as moral rights and profits.

The process of Anglo-Saxon civilization moves on apace in South Africa. According to the London Speaker, "the recently published report of the Transvaal Mines Department for the six months ending December 31, 1901, called special attention to 'the great reduction in the scale of native wages, the average monthly wage paid by the gold mines during the period covered by this report being \$6.35 per head, against \$11.30 in 1898.'" The uncivilized and corrupt Boer government tolerated even as much as \$15.24. Something in the nature of "government by injunction" seems also to have been introduced by the civiliz-

ing race. For Reuter's news agency, relieved now of military censorship, tells of the arrest of native chiefs—walking delegates of the tribal union, no doubt, and probably "agitators," "busybodies" and "vampires"—"for inciting natives to quit the Rand," which means urging them to go on strike in the mines. Talk is reported also of the importance of compelling the natives "to recognize the dignity of labor," by restricting their movements with registration and pass laws, and imposing taxes that will force them into the labor market to get legal tender with which to pay taxes. We suppose that "God is in it," though we refer that question to Bishop Potter and Archbishop Ireland.

A correct diagnosis of the disease of national extravagance is made by the Charleston News and Courier, when it warns the Democratic party that extravagance in national expenditures cannot be made a popular issue, because the people are not only used to it but are used to clamoring for its disbursement in their own several neighborhoods. The truth is that no one is interested in the lavish expenditure of public revenues derived from indirect taxation. The people are drained by indirect taxes but no one realizes that it is a tax drain. If we had direct taxation we should have economical expenditure, for then every taxpayer would know that large expenditures by the government would mean a lean pocket-book for him.

Nothing is better known in business circles, nothing could be more easily proved, than the existence of an anthracite coal trust, criminal under the Federal statutes, and the identity of the criminals. Coal dealers, even large houses, are known to