

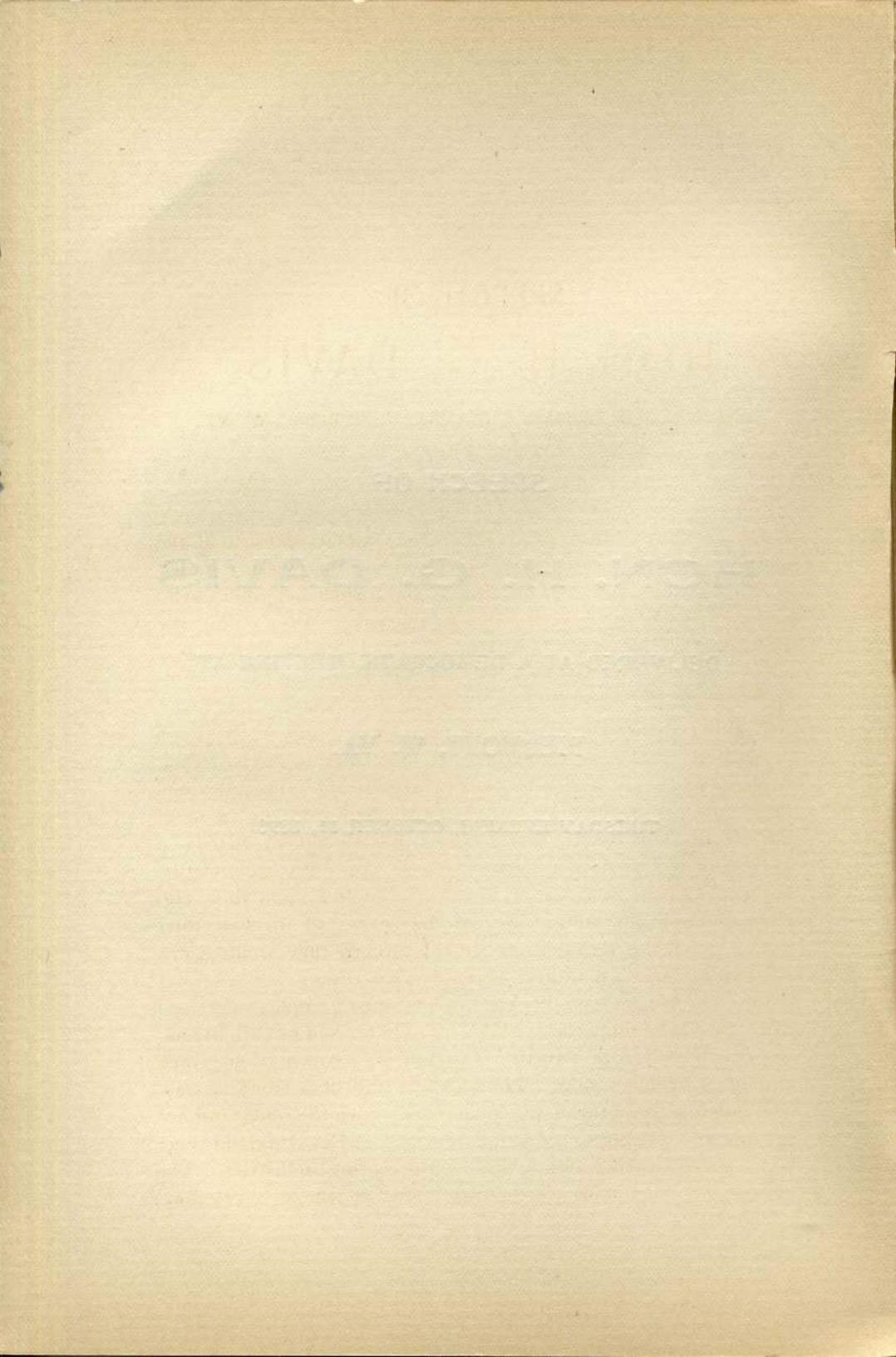
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SPEECH OF  
**HON. H. G. DAVIS**

DELIVERED AT A DEMOCRATIC MEETING AT

PIEDMONT, W. VA.

TUESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 11, 1898



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Delivered at a Democratic Meeting, at Piedmont, W. Va.,  
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Senator Davis referred to the large number present at the meeting, the warm reception he received and the pleasure he felt at being again among his old friends and former neighbors, who had so favored and honored him in the past. After telling the audience that, following him, Hon. C. W. Dailey would make a speech such as only Mr. Dailey could, Mr. Davis said:

The last Presidential election was won principally upon promises. The Republicans did not undertake to support their contentions to any extent by facts or arguments. They devoted their time to prophesying direful consequences in the event of the election of Bryan, and a great boom and prosperity if McKinley was made President. Indeed, not a few manufacturers and others went so far as to serve notice upon their employees that if Bryan was elected they expected to close their works, but if the Republicans should succeed they would work full time and increase wages. McKinley was elected, and what has followed? Wages have declined, many out of employment, and there have been numerous strikes, more bitter and intense in feeling than ever before. In the Hazleton, Pa., strike, twenty men among the miners were killed in the firing of a single volley. The rallying cry of the Republicans was "Open the mills, and not the mints." Owing to reduction in wages, in New England there was a general strike among the manufacturing industries. The cotton and other mills were either closed or run on short time.

Like conditions have existed in other sections, notably in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and the Western States. The wages of the workingman have not advanced, and how could they under the prevailing circumstances? The manufacturer is getting less for his goods; the producer less for his steel and iron; the operator less for his coal; the railroad companies less for transportation than previous to the election of McKinley.

### *Difference between Parties.*

It may be well to draw attention to the principles which separate the two great political parties to-day. As I understand them they are as follows :

#### REPUBLICAN.

1. Favor gold or single standard, and oppose silver as money.
2. High protective tariff.
3. Retirement of greenbacks, which pay no interest.
4. Payment of U. S. bonds in gold only.
5. Large standing army.
6. Republicans in several States, and especially in West Virginia, oppose Civil Service Reform ; formerly favored it.
7. Strong central government.
8. Acquiring foreign territory.

#### DEMOCRATIC.

1. Use of both gold and silver as money.
2. Tariff for revenue, with incidental protection.
3. Against the retirement of greenbacks.
4. Payment of U. S. bonds in either gold or silver, according to contract.
5. Against large standing army.
6. Honest collection of revenue, and economical expenditure.
7. Against centralization of power, and for home rule.
8. Follow advice of Washington, Jefferson and Monroe, to avoid foreign entangling alliances.

### *Gold and Silver.*

The founders of the Republic were far-seeing men. Washington and his associates established a government upon a new principle—upon the consent of the governed. They founded a republic not for a day, but for all time. The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the basis of our laws are all heritages derived from them. While Washington, Adams, Hamilton, Jefferson, and other statesmen of their times differed widely

on many subjects of public policy, they were all united on the question of a double standard of gold and silver. They provided that these metals should be the money of the country; that there should be free coinage for both, and the use of gold and silver continued from Washington to Grant's administration. Under the double standard established by the founders of the Government we prospered as no other nation ever did, and why should we abandon a system that has served us so well?

In 1873 the Republicans demonetized silver. Business depression began, and before the year closed a panic came. For five years there was general distress; but in 1878-9 when specie payments were resumed, and the coinage of silver was partially restored, conditions improved and we had what we called good times, until the coinage of silver was again suspended.

Gold and the great money power have ever been close friends. Silver and Democracy have always been allied. England and Germany gave way to the influence of long established wealth, and suspended the coinage of silver. They created the gold standard, and the Republicans have adopted it. Until then gold and silver had maintained their parity and no one had thought of its disturbance. After this demonetization of silver, the bullion value began to decline. Will it be denied that if the foremost countries of the world should discard the use of gold as money, and treat it as they have silver, that the bullion value of gold would decrease, and silver increase? I do not fear the free coinage of both metals as much as I do the placing of this country on a single standard. A fact that may not be generally known, and which is interesting in this connection, is that the amount of gold and silver in the world is about equal.

WORLD.

Gold . . . . .	\$ 8,983,320,600
Silver . . . . .	10,556,706,800

UNITED STATES.

Gold . . . . .	\$696,270,542
Silver . . . . .	634,509,781

England and Germany are money lenders to other nations. They naturally want obligations paid in the money which is the

hardest to get, and therefore the dearest. They are ready to do in a financial way whatever will depreciate silver and increase the value of gold.

### *Bonds.*

During the last session of Congress, Senator Teller introduced a resolution testing the position of the various parties on the gold and silver question, and the Republican members, including the four Congressmen from this State, voted in favor of the payment of United States bonds in gold.

The greater portion of these bonds were paid for in paper money, worth on the dollar from 45 to 80 cents in gold. If the average was 66 cents, the bondholders would receive three dollars for every two invested. The laws of the country, and the terms of the bonds, provide that they may be paid in either gold or silver, but the bankers, largely Republican, demand their payment in gold only.

### *Money.*

President McKinley, Secretary Gage, and the Republican party are committed to the gold standard, retirement of the greenbacks, and opposition to the coinage of silver. It was not always so. President McKinley when in Congress was the friend of silver and voted for silver coinage, and in his public utterances afterwards continued to favor it, until his ambition for the Presidency impelled him to fall in with his party's views, and he now stands squarely with the Republican party on the platform of the gold standard. Not until the campaign of last year did any great political party declare for gold and a single standard.

### *Greenbacks.*

The greenbacks are an indebtedness of the Government upon which it pay no interest. They amount, in round numbers, to \$346,000,000. They help to enlarge the volume of the currency and comprise more than one-sixth of the money of the country. To retire them would contract the currency to that extent and to

the same amount increase the interest-bearing debt of the Government. Notwithstanding this, both the President and Secretary of the Treasury recommended to Congress their retirement. Silver and silver certificates in circulation amount to \$450,000,000. Add these to the greenbacks and we have \$800,000,000, or about half of all the money in circulation, in danger of being eliminated from our monetary system should the Republicans be successful in the coming election. Such a result would cause great disturbance in our business matters, make money scarce and high, and create conditions which bring about panics, commercial distress and consequent lack of employment among the people. A silver dollar always did and always will buy as much as a gold one. The Republicans say before it is coined it is worth only fifty cents. My answer to that is, paper dollars before receiving the stamp of the Government are worth less than a cent. The same responsibility is behind them both. Yet Republicans favor national bank notes as money, and they are not a legal tender.

#### *Labor Organizations.*

The labor organizations of the country are on record against the Republican policy of a single or gold standard and the retirement of the greenbacks. President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, in a letter to the present Secretary of the Treasury, says: "The wage-earners of America represented in the American Federation of Labor believe that the position you have taken in regard to the retirement of our greenback currency is antagonistic to their interests, and they are opposed to your plan of more thoroughly committing this country of ours to the gold standard. We oppose your currency bill because, as has been well said, it is 'a bill to provide for the abdication of the sovereign powers of the Government to the banks, of strengthening the hands of the speculative cliques, enriching the few, and impoverishing the many.'"

#### *Money in Circulation.*

The paper money of the United States, in circulation July 1, 1898, was as follows:

Greenbacks . . . . .	\$286,572,329	
Currency Certificates . . . . .	26,045,000	
National Bank Notes . . . . .	223,129,703	
	<hr/>	\$535,747,032
Gold Certificates . . . . .	\$ 35,820,639	
Silver Certificates . . . . .	390,659,080	
Treasury Notes . . . . .	98,665,580	
	<hr/>	\$525,145,299

Add to this—

Gold . . . . .	\$660,959,880	
Silver Dollars . . . . .	57,259,791	
Silver, smaller than dollars . . . . .	64,323,747	
	<hr/>	\$782,543,418
		<hr/>
		\$1,843,435,749

It will be observed from the above that more than a third of the money of the country in circulation is composed of silver certificates, issued upon silver in the Treasury, and greenbacks, upon neither of which the Government pays interest, and to the use of which the Republican party is opposed. We all know that when money is scarce it is hard to get. We had an example of this within the past few years, when we were threatened with a panic, and the results were quite as disastrous to business as if it had actually occurred. Banking institutions closed their doors to borrowers and hoarded what they had. The people did not have enough money to do business. Should the Republicans gain the coming elections, and secure a majority in Congress, they could enact legislation to discontinue the use of silver and retire the greenbacks, thus reducing the money of the country one-third. Such a contraction of the currency would no doubt help the moneyed institutions, but would work much hardship upon the laboring men and persons of small means. Instead of the period of great prosperity promised to us by the McKinley advocates, we would probably have business depressed, labor unemployed, and general discontent prevailing.

#### ***Banks and Bankers.***

Nearly all the large banking and other financial institutions of this country favor the Republican party. Would this be so if Republican legislation was not in their interests? Trusts and



combinations require immense capital, and are held together by the money power. The gold policy of the Republican party finds its strongest advocates among the bankers, who naturally want to make money dearer and more productive.

It is a well known fact that in the last election the financial institutions, especially in the East, were almost solidly against the Democratic party, and it is said that the banks and bankers of this country contributed more than twenty million dollars towards the election of McKinley and the maintenance of the gold standard. Not only the bankers of this country, but of Europe, and especially of England and Germany, took a lively interest in the election, all intent upon the preservation of the gold standard. To what extent the banks of this country have gold in their possession may be estimated from the fact that there is in the United States \$660,000,000 of gold coin—one-third of all the money of the country. How much of this is in actual circulation among the people? As a matter of fact, it does not circulate, but belongs to and remains in the banks.

### *War with Spain.*

We have not had the boom from the election of McKinley which was to bring into greater demand labor and products, thereby adding to their value; but we have had a war, increasing taxes and exacting further tribute from the people.

The cost of the war to October 1, 1898, was, in round numbers, \$140,000,000.

I do not question the righteousness of the war with Spain. It was fought in the cause of humanity, and was declared by Congress, both parties supporting such declaration. But it devolved upon the party in power to prosecute the war, and they alone are responsible for its conduct. The mismanagement has been flagrant; our soldiers have suffered untold and unnecessary hardships; disease has prevailed and increased wherever campaigns have been conducted or camps established. Ten men have died in the hospitals to every soldier lost in battle. In many instances untried and untrained men have been placed, through favoritism, in positions of great responsibility; neglect has often been

the rule, while extravagance and speculation have prevailed in many quarters.

*Philippines.*

Under the excitement and impulse of victory the present administration has made the war with Spain one of conquest, and the Republicans now advocate the retention of all the conquered territory. This means a colonial system, a new and dangerous principle in our government, a radical departure from our traditional policy, altogether inconsistent with the Monroe Doctrine. Cuba is our neighbor, and deserving of our sympathy. In proclaiming war Congress disclaimed all intention of acquiring territory, and told the world we were intent only upon aiding in the emancipation of an oppressed people, seeking liberty and self-government. In the progress of events our navy achieved a remarkable and magnificent victory over the Spanish fleet at Manila, in the Philippine Islands, a Spanish colony eight thousand miles from California. Troops were sent across the Pacific, and the city and harbor of Manila are now controlled by our forces. The Republican party, with its tendency always towards a strong central government, is unable to withstand the temptation which these circumstances offer, to commit the country to a policy of imperialism. Evidences are multiplying that they propose to retain these possessions and make the United States responsible for the government and conduct of their inhabitants. There are a thousand islands in this group, with a population of eight or ten millions of people, most of them living in a state of semi-civilization, with all the passions and impulses of a tropical race. They are totally unfit for self-government, and can be controlled only by force. The United States has had this problem before it in the case of the American Indians, and everyone knows the result of the efforts to bring them within the laws and customs of our civilization. If we found this question so troublesome at home, what should we expect with a people less tractable than the Indians, and nearly half way round the globe from us? The Territory of New Mexico has long had sufficient population for Statehood, but the greater portion of the people speak a foreign tongue, come from a tropical race, and the Government of the United States is distrustful of their ability to govern themselves.

Yet they are far superior to the inhabitants of those far-off islands.

Should we retain the Philippine Islands our supremacy there can be maintained only by the exercise of military power. Our soldiers, illy fitted to live in such a warm latitude, must be kept there for all time, and the waters must be continually patrolled by our naval force, all at great cost of money and lives. We would be constantly watched and harassed by European Powers and the danger of another war with some distant country would be always imminent. England has many colonies and dependencies, most of them very expensive, and only a few self-sustaining. She has none that are as troublesome to her as these islands would be to us. There could be but little supervision by the Government at Washington of the officers sent to administer the affairs of a people so far distant, and we would have the un-American phrase of "The Home Government." Corruption would be sure to follow, and these distant possessions would be a source of continual irritation and trouble in our form of government. We can have all the advantage of our victory over Spain in the Philippines without the evils which would follow their retention. We can make one of the conditions of the treaty of peace the free commercial intercourse with the inhabitants of the islands, and insure their trade to the same extent that we could if they were in our possession.

### *Large Standing Army.*

We already see evidence of the tendency to greatly enlarge the regular army, which has been more than doubled in the past few months. With these distant possessions this would be a necessity, and it would not be long before we could find ourselves in the position of the European countries where self-preservation requires the maintenance of large standing armies.

Look for a moment at the number of men in some of the armies of the Old World, in peace times, and the cost of their maintenance. The figures are for the year 1897:

	Men.	Cost Annually.
Russia . . . . .	1,743,000	\$227,000,000
Germany . . . . .	607,000	119,750,000
France . . . . .	559,000	135,000,000
England . . . . .	221,000	91,000,000

Compare these with the size of our regular army in 1897 and its cost of maintenance:

	Men.	Expense.
United States . . . . .	27,000	\$25,000,000

We have been heretofore able to devote to the arts of peace and industrial progress much of the wealth that in the old countries has had to go to support their military establishments. It would be very unfortunate if this country should now depart from its policy of non-interference with foreign affairs, which has enabled it to develop so rapidly, and should enter the list of nations that attach more importance to their military than to their civil service. It is very easy to arouse enthusiasm by an appeal to patriotism even upon false premises. The Government of the United States cannot afford to make so hazardous an experiment as the retention and control of the Philippine Islands.

On the basis of our present population the cost of maintaining our army in 1897 would average about \$2 for each head of family in the United States. Increased, as it has been recently, to 60,000, it will cost, though indirectly, on an average to each male citizen, about \$5 annually. If further increased to 100,000, the cost would be about \$9, and if put upon the footing of European armies the cost would be several times this amount. In addition to the increased taxation necessary to maintain the army, it would draw heavily upon the vitality of the country. It would take from all localities many of the active young men who give strength and vigor to their communities.

#### *Taxes.*

Our taxes now are higher than ever before. Besides the law known during its passage as the Dingley Bill, which materially raised the rates of duty on importations, we have the present internal revenue war taxes. The necessities of life, which are almost all the laboring man has, are heavily taxed. Sugar pays two and tea ten cents a pound, there are additional taxes upon everything he wears, and more articles are now subject to taxation than ever before. Notwithstanding the increased tariff, new bonds were issued and sold to pay the war expenses. For the months of July, August and September just passed, the

receipts of the Government from all sources were on an average a million and a third a day, while the expenditures were two millions a day. During the three months named the disbursements have exceeded the receipts by sixty millions of dollars. The ordinary expenses of the Government under Republican rule have increased until they have nearly reached the enormous sum of half a billion dollars annually.

Year.	Ordinary Receipts.	Ordinary Expenditures.	Receipts Per Capita.	Expenditures Per Capita.
1860	\$ 56,054,599	\$ 63,200,875	\$1 70	\$2 01
1897	430,387,168	448,439,622	5 91	6 16

It will be seen that the receipts and expenditures of the Government per capita are three times as much as they were in 1860. The figures given are for 1897. The Spanish-American War will of course make the figures for this year much larger yet.

#### *Progress Under Democratic Rule.*

It is the fashion of the Republicans, both on the stump and in their party organs, to speak of the Democrats as Bourbons, to picture them as being non-progressive, to charge them with being obstructionists, etc. They forget that the period of most rapid growth in industrial affairs the country has ever had, as shown by the census returns, was the decade from 1850 to 1860, when the Government was under the control of the Democratic party. The wealth of the country more than doubled in value and the rate of progress was greater than during any similar period since.

#### WEALTH OF THE UNITED STATES.

Years.	Estimated Valuation of Property.	Per Cent. of Increase.
1850	\$ 7,136,000,000	. . .
1860	16,159,000,000	120
1870	30,069,000,000	86
1880	44,642,000,000	48
1890	65,037,000,000	46

ASSESSED VALUATION FOR TAXATION.

Years.	Estimated Valuation of Property.	Per Cent. of Increase.
1850	\$ 6,024,666,909	. . . .
1860	12,084,560,005	100 ½
1870	14,178,986,732	17
1880	16,902,993,543	19
1890	25,473,173,418	48

Although great strides have been made in late years in industrial affairs, yet they have not equalled the rate of progress attained in the decade named, as will be shown by the following table:

MANUFACTURES.

Years.	Value of Products.	Per Cent. of Increase.
1850	\$1,019,106,000	. . . .
1860	1,855,861,676	72
1880	5,349,191,000	. . . .
1890	9,056,764,000	69

*Carrying Trade.*

The carrying trade of the United States prior to 1860 was one of the largest factors of its commercial life. The merchant marine was the pride of our citizens. Its flag was known in every port, and its ships dotted every ocean. We carried two-thirds of all the trade to and from this country. That trade has expanded and grown to large proportions, but American shipping has been steadily declining, until now only 11 per cent. of our foreign trade is carried in our own vessels, as will appear from the following table, taken from the reports of the Treasury Department:

CARRYING TRADE OF THE UNITED STATES.  
IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Years.	In American vessels.	In Foreign vessels.	Per cent. carried in American vessels.
1860	\$507,247,757	\$255,040,793	66
1866	325,711,861	685,226,691	32
1870	352,969,401	638,927,488	35
1880	258,346,577	1,224,265,434	17
1890	202,451,086	1,371,116,744	12
1897	189,075,277	1,525,753,766	11

Not only has this trade fallen from 66 per cent. to 11 per cent., but the value of American goods carried in American vessels has declined from over \$500,000,000 in 1860 to less than \$200,000,000 in 1897. The carrying trade of the United States was built up under Democratic policies and attained its greatest prosperity under Democratic rule. It was in a most gratifying condition when the Government passed into the hands of the Republicans in 1861. The war affected it to some extent, but in 1870 it comprised 35 per cent. of the foreign trade. It has been falling off ever since, until now it is comparatively insignificant.

### *Railroads.*

In 1850 there were nine thousand miles of railroad in the United States. The per cent. of increase in railroad building in the next ten years, during Democratic administration of the Government was much greater than in any decade since. The following table shows the total number of miles of railroad in the United States at the close of each decade since 1850, and at the close of 1897:

Years.	Miles of Railroad.	Per cent. of Increase.
1850	9,021	. .
1860	30,626	231
1870	52,922	72
1880	93,296	77
1890	166,698	78
1897	184,464	10

The per cent. of increase in the building of railroads has fallen from 231 between the years 1850 and 1860, to ten between the years 1890 and 1897, and the number of miles built in the former period was actually greater than in the latter.

The following statement shows the number of railroads sold under foreclosure, and the number of receivers appointed, during the year 1897:

	Roads.	Miles.	Bonded Debt.	Capital Stock.
Receivers appointed . .	18	1,537	\$ 46,254,000	\$ 46,655,000
Sold under foreclosure . .	42	6,675	280,011,000	237,669,000

About one-third of the total railroad mileage in the State of West Virginia is in the hands of receivers.

### *Currency Reform.*

Among the good things promised by the Republicans in the last campaign was legislation that would remedy the evils of our currency system. They would enact measures to make our currency more elastic and better suited to the changing conditions of our commercial needs. This is one of their numerous unfulfilled pledges. They wrangled over the matter in Congress, but could not agree among themselves and made no substantial move to secure legislation on the subject.

### *Results of the War.*

There is discontent among the people with the present condition of affairs. The criticism of the management of the War Department had become so general that the President, to avoid further scandal and to quiet this unrest as much possible, has appointed a commission to investigate the whole subject. The country is apprehensive lest the Administration commit it to a dangerous foreign policy. In the prosecution of the war personal and political favorites have been put forward, while such men as Bryan and Lee have been kept in the background. At the recent elections disapproval of these things has been made manifest. In Maine, Vermont and Arkansas the Republicans lost heavily, while the Democratic vote about held its own. The leader of the Republicans in the House of Representatives, Speaker Reed, a man of marked ability and much experience, had only about half his usual majority, it being some 4000 less than at the previous election. While McKinley carried the territory covered by the Greater New York, a Democratic Mayor was elected last fall by a majority of 80,000. The Republicans appear to be apathetic and giving only lukewarm support to the present order of things, while the Democrats are active and taking an earnest interest in all that affects the welfare of the country.

It has been extremely fortunate for the Republicans as well as for the country that in the first year of the present Administration the wheat and corn crop has been exceptionally large. In



1897 the wheat raised in this country approximated 600,000,000 bushels, about one-third of which was exported. Owing to short crops abroad, prices were good and the money value of the entire wheat crop was about \$500,000,000. Even this abundant harvest, it is thought, will be exceeded this year, as it is estimated the product for 1898 will reach 700,000,000 bushels. The following shows the extent of our foreign trade in agricultural products compared with our entire exports:

Year.	Agricultural.	Per cent.	Manufactures and others.	Per cent.	Total.
1897	\$683,471,139	66.23	\$348,536,464	33.77	\$1,030,007,603
To Aug. 1.					
1897	341,783,085	62.15	208,146,468	37.85	549,929,553
1898	464,972,432	68.18	216,754,139	31.82	681,726,571

It will be observed that the trade in grains and other products of the farms is twice as much as all other articles combined, and that for the first seven months of this year it is considerably larger than for the corresponding period of 1897.

The Republicans are claiming credit for any favorable conditions that may exist, but I hardly think they are responsible for this increase in Nature's productiveness, and yet the fact should not be forgotten that this circumstance has been of great benefit to them. With the farmers fairly prosperous, the country is better able to bear the depression in its commercial and manufacturing industries, and there is less agitation and political unrest than would otherwise be the case.

#### *West Virginia.*

In regard to State issues, I have no disposition to go into details. There are other speakers, some of them on the State ticket, who will analyze these matters, but there are a few subjects so prominent that I desire briefly to refer to them.

From the organization of the State until 1870, the Republicans were in control. During that time a State debt was created, due principally to the Civil War. In 1870 the Democrats were successful, and remained in power more than twenty-five years.

They paid off the debt, and the State increased largely in wealth and population. In the last ten years of that period its development was especially rapid and attracted much attention among the capitalists of the East. When the present Republican Governor and other officials entered upon their duties the State was without debt, and the Treasury and School Funds were in good condition. These were the legacies from the Democratic administration which preceded them. The way State affairs are now being conducted, can anyone foretell what will be the condition of the Treasury and the School Fund at the close of the present Republican administration?

At the last session of the Legislature, solely for political advantage, the Republicans undertook to change the representation from Jefferson, Berkeley and Morgan counties, so as to give Morgan a member of the House of Delegates, thus adding to the Republican membership of that body. This was done contrary to law and the established plan of representation in the State. It was an attempt at an arbitrary exercise of legislative power, and has since been declared unconstitutional by the Court of Appeals of the State.

In the senatorial district composed of Jefferson Berkeley and Morgan, the Republicans unseated Shaffer, a Democrat who had a clear and clean majority of about sixty votes, and gave his place to Getzendanner, a Republican. The district had always been Democratic. The Republicans had made repeated and unavailing efforts at the polls to secure it, and finally resorted to the extremity of might over right to obtain it, a principle that will not be tolerated by the people of the State. Political parties have often found excuses to remove members of the opposition in legislative bodies, but perhaps there has been no case so unreasonable, unjust and unlawful as this one. Surely the people, when the opportunity is presented at the coming election, will remedy this great injury.

#### *Candidates.*

You are particularly fortunate in your candidates this year. They are all men of exceptionally good qualities and well fitted for the duties of the offices for which you have nominated them.

This is especially true of your candidate for Congress, Mr.

McGraw. He is a native of the district and has always lived in it. He is of steadfast character and in the prime of a vigorous manhood. He entered upon the duties of life equipped with energy, ambition, a pleasing personality, a careful education and high ideals.

By perseverance, industry and ability he has been successful in many lines of activity. While his efforts have been directed largely to the development of his State and to the welfare of its citizens, his acquaintance has extended far beyond its boundaries. To his prudence and discretion men of large affairs have entrusted business matters; to his keen judgment and legal acumen clients have submitted their causes, and to his good sense and commanding abilities you can safely commit the interests of the district and the State in the halls of legislation.

For State Senator you have named Mr. Cornwell, a man thoroughly conversant with the needs of the district, one who, while guarding well your interests, will legislate for the good of the entire State. He is an active, enterprising, energetic man, and is deserving of your earnest support.

It is hardly becoming in me to praise too highly your candidate for the House of Delegates, Col. Davis. The nomination came to him unsought, but the unanimity with which it was made caused its acceptance. With his history and life work you are familiar. They are a part of your daily affairs. His efforts and industry have been devoted to the growth of your section and the development of its resources. His enterprise has furnished the means of employment for many of your citizens. His experience in business matters has been extensive and varied. He knows minutely the affairs of the district, and would bring to the discharge of his legislative duties mature judgment, sound discrimination and an active interest in all that affects the welfare of the State.

#### *Self-Government.*

The Republicans have always been the advocates of a strong Federal government. They believe in centralization of power, but the entire fabric of our Republic is based upon self-government. It is a principle which the founders charged us to guard well. As long as the Government remains of the people it is

safe. When it drifts into the hands of the few it has lost its anchorage and is in danger. Rome, the greatest republic the world has ever seen, prospered and grew as long as local self-government was practiced. When the control of her affairs passed into the hands of selfish and ambitious men her strength was weakened. They sought to enlarge their power by conquering and governing other countries, but the citizen was no longer independent and free. His rights and liberties were usurped and the principle of self-government was gone. The nation tottered and fell, destroyed by the want of vigilance of the people in preserving untrammelled their liberties as free and independent citizens.

Remember to keep well within your control the right of representation and taxation, to hold your representatives accountable to you for their stewardship, and to preserve inviolate the principles of free government.