

Free Coinage of Silver.

S P E E C H

OF

HON. BENJAMIN H. BUNN,

OF NORTH CAROLINA,

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Wednesday, March 23, 1892.

The House having under consideration the bill (H. R. 4496) for the free coinage of gold and silver, for the issue of coin notes, and for other purposes—

Mr. BUNN said:

Mr. SPEAKER: The importance of the question now under consideration can scarcely be estimated. Never before in the history of this country has any question so completely divided the dominant party in this Hall.

I have listened, Mr. Speaker, with much concern to the arguments against it; for it has seemed to me, Mr. Speaker, that at times its opponents were almost driven to madness. I congratulate this House to-day that reason has again been enthroned, and that the Representatives of a free people are left to the exercise of their judgments as expressed by their own people at home.

I listened with much pleasure to the gentleman who last spoke from the State of New York [Mr. COCKRAN]. I heard his eloquent appeals when he desired to impress on this House that this was no sectional question. I could but recall the language of the gentleman who occupies the seat just behind me, when night before last he arose in his place and stated that this was but a local question; that it was no political question, but simply a sectional one.

It seems to me, as I said before, that reason is about to be enthroned. The members who favor this bill have feared that there was too much of sectionalism in it. I regret, sir, that in the short time allowed me I am not able to review fully this bill. I shall leave that duty to the members of the committee, and shall content myself by responding to some of the objections urged against it by those who oppose it.

In the outset we were told that there were but two classes of men in the United States—in the whole of this broad land—who favored its passage. It is argued on this floor that the silver-miners and bullion-owners were one of the classes who favor it;

that they were to be the beneficiaries of it and were demanding its passage.

I need not pause to tell this House that if they were the men solely to be benefited by the bill, if the purpose and effect of it was alone to benefit the silver-miners and bullion-owners, it would find no place in a Democratic Congress. They said also that there was but one other class who favor its passage and that is the debtor class. Now, while they need all the assistance that we are able to give them, while they need every encouragement that we can offer, if they were the only persons to be benefited by its passage, this bill would have no standing here.

Now, sir, I call the attention of this House and the country to the class of men who are demanding the passage of this bill. I hold in my hand and I desire to send forward and have read as part of my remarks, these extracts from twenty-four of the Democratic State platforms, showing what they say in regard to this matter.

The Clerk read as follows:

Arkansas.—We denounce as iniquitous the silver bill as passed by the present Republican House of Representatives as an attempt to demoralize silver and to build up the fortunes of the favored few, and we favor the free and unrestricted coinage of silver, and an increased volume of currency, restricted alone to the necessary demands of the country, which shall be a legal tender for all debts, public and private. We believe the power to issue and control the volume of currency belongs alone to the Government and that this power should not be delegated to or controlled by any other authority.

California.—We favor the free coinage of silver, and demand that it be made an unlimited legal tender for all purposes, public and private.

Colorado.—We favor the free and unlimited coinage of silver, and repeat our condemnation of the act of the Republican party, which struck down the currency of the people in the interest of and at the dictation of the moneyed aristocracy of this country.

Florida.—We persistently and continuously oppose the pernicious system of contracting the circulating medium of the country, as now conducted by the National Government. The consideration of the subtreasury bill in Congress indicates a desire upon the part of the whole people for an increase of a circulating medium, and it is the duty of our members in Congress to secure the passage of some law that will give the required relief.

Idaho.—We tender our gratitude to the Democrats in Congress for their almost unanimous votes in both Houses for the free and unlimited coinage of silver, and congratulate the people of our new State that there is one great political organization in the country committed by its votes in Congress to a measure so essential to the prosperity of Idaho. The silver bill as enacted by the Republican Congress is a compromise in the interests of Wall street, clothes the Secretary of the Treasury with power to refuse to purchase bullion on the pretext that bullion is not offered at the market price, and enables him to bear the silver market by refusing to purchase except at his discretion, and at such price as he may determine.

Illinois.—We demand that all unnecessary restrictions be removed from the coinage of silver.

Indiana.—We denounce the silver bill, so called, recently enacted as an ignominious surrender to the money power. It perpetuates the demonetization of silver and the single gold standard, whereas the interests of the people require the complete remonetization of silver and its restoration to perfect equality with gold in our coinage. We demand the free and unrestricted coinage of silver upon the basis existing prior to 1873.

Iowa.—We reiterate our demand of one year ago for the free coinage of silver, and that it be made full legal tender for all debts, public and private; and denounce as unjust and dishonest the provision of the law recently enacted, allowing parties to stipulate against payment in silver and silver certificates, thus setting up one standard for the creditor and another for the debtor, one for the poor man and another for the rich man.

Kansas.—We favor the free coinage of silver.

Kentucky.—Recognizing the fact that the United States is the greatest silver-producing country in the world, and that both gold and silver were equally the money of the Constitution from the beginning of the Republic

until the hostile and fraudulent legislation of the Republican party against silver, which unduly contracted the circulating medium of the country, and feeling that the great interests of the people demand more money for use in the channels of trade and commerce, we tender our gratitude to the Democrats in the last Congress for their almost unanimous votes in both Houses in favor of silver, and demand its restoration to the position of equality before the law given to it by our fathers.

Michigan.—We believe in the free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver, unhampered by conditions as to the legal-tender qualities of either, and unhampered by the proviso suspending coinage of silver after July 1, 1891. We condemn the Republican policy because it demonetized silver and still refuses the demand of the people for a restoration of silver to a complete equality with gold. We condemn the Republican members of Congress from the State of Michigan who voted against the complete remonetization of silver.

Mississippi.—We believe that gold and silver should be coined upon the same terms and conditions, and that when the Government shall cease to discriminate between them they will freely circulate side by side and be equally useful and acceptable to the people. We also believe that there should be an additional issue of Treasury notes, interchangeable with coin, sufficient to transact the business of the country and to relieve the present financial depression.

Missouri.—We are in favor of the free and unrestricted coinage of silver and the increase of currency to meet the legitimate demands of trade, and we believe that the power to issue and control the volume of such currency should be assumed by the Government.

Nebraska.—We favor the placing of the silver dollar on its former footing with gold coin in our coinage law, with equal legal-tender qualities, and we denounce as unjust and dishonest the law recently enacted as a discrimination in favor of the gold coin for the benefit of the money power, and we further declare ourselves in favor of the free coinage of silver.

Nevada.—We declare for the free and unlimited coinage of standard silver dollars of the present weight and fineness, to be legal tender for all debts, public and private, equally with gold.

North Carolina.—The Democracy of North Carolina favor the free coinage of silver and increase of the currency and the repeal of the internal-revenue system.

Ohio.—We denounce the demonetization of silver in 1873 by the party then in power as an iniquitous alteration of the money standard in favor of creditors and against debtors, taxpayers, and producers, and which, by shutting off one of the sources of supply of primary money, operates continually to increase the value of gold, depress prices, hamper industry, and disparage enterprise; and we demand the reinstatement of the constitutional standard of both gold and silver, with the equal right of each to free and unlimited coinage.

Oregon.—We reaffirm the position which has ever been maintained by the Democratic party, that gold and silver are equally the people's money; we are opposed to all measures of discrimination against silver, and demand free coinage to supply the needs of business; and that all money issued by the Government be made legal tender for all debts both public and private.

South Dakota.—We demand the currency be increased to meet the needs of business, but without causing its depreciation. We reaffirm the position always maintained by the Democratic party, that gold and silver should be regarded as equally the money of the people. We are opposed to all measures of discrimination against silver, and denounce the Republican party for its demonetization.

South Carolina.—We favor the free and unlimited coinage of silver, the increase of the currency, and the repeal of the internal-revenue system.

Tennessee.—We demand a currency of gold and silver, and also of paper, convertible into coin at the option of the holder, and we demand the free coinage of silver on the basis originally fixed by law, and that it and the gold dollar shall be equally a unit of value.

Texas.—We are in favor of the free and unlimited coinage of silver, and in-dorse the action of our Senators and Representatives therefor.

West Virginia.—That the Democrats of West Virginia declare that they are unalterably in favor of the free and unlimited coinage of silver.

Wyoming.—We demand the free coinage of silver, and we denounce the Republican party for the enactment of a law which makes it discretionary with the Secretary of the Treasury to demonetize silver.

Mr. BUNN. Mr. Speaker, the extracts which have just been read contain planks in the platforms of twenty-four States of this Union. These have been passed by the Democrats in con-

vention assembled, and none of them antedate 1890. I call the attention of this House to this fact, that, by the Eleventh Census, there were only 62,262,250 inhabitants in the United States; and the population of those States whose platforms I have sent forward and had read amounts to 31,769,867. So that we find that these States alone contain more than half of the population of the United States. They have spoken in the eloquence of figures demanding the passage of this bill.

Shall I stop here? Again casting my eyes southward I find, first, the State of Virginia, whose platform is not among the twenty-four just read. Her representatives stand here and say to us that she desires to cast her lot among those Democratic States who have spoken on the question. Again, Alabama's platform is not there. She joins with her sister States in this demand. Louisiana's platform is not there, but I am told that her Representatives here are almost solid for the free coinage of silver. Georgia is not in that list, and yet I am told that every single member from Georgia is speaking here for his State to-day, urging the passage of this bill. Montana is not there, and she is solid for it. So that we will add to these 31,769,867, 6,239,319, the aggregate population of these five States, and we find the people of twenty-nine States, aggregating 37,999,186, against only 24,623,062 people who are opposing it, and this calculation gives, to those opposing the bill, the benefit of all the Territories as well as States not above enumerated.

Now, sir, is this bill sectional? The gentleman from New York [Mr. COVERT] says it is. If it is sectional, what section is demanding it? Casting our eyes southward, and following the Atlantic coast from here to the Gulf, we find them a unit for it. Sweeping the Gulf States to the great State of Texas we find them a unit for it. Taking up the Mississippi, even to the Great Lakes, and they are almost a unit for it. Looking westward from the Mississippi, even to the Pacific Ocean, we find that section almost a unit for it, and the section opposing it is hemmed in by the lakes and bounded by the Atlantic on the east, the Potomac on the south, and the St. Lawrence on the north. Is it sectional, I beg of you? If it is, let us discard it. Let us say to the people of this country that sectionalism shall no longer divide it. Let us prove our statesmanship by marching up to the performance of our duty, as the representatives of the whole people, a duty which we are instructed by our own constituents to perform.

Is any further proof that this bill is being pressed by the majority of the citizens of the United States necessary? I think not. Yet I can not leave this branch of the subject without referring to one other fact, and that is that those who raise the exports favor it.

The gentleman from New York last night in his very able and eloquent argument (I refer to Mr. BACON) stated that "the added wealth of this country is its surplus product shipped abroad.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I desire to add to this 37,999,186 of people who are demanding the passage of this bill for the free and unlimited coinage of silver that added surplus. How do I arrive at it? I send forward to the Clerk's desk and ask to be read as a part of my remarks a table showing the entire exports of this country for the eleven months ending November 30, 1891.

Exports of domestic merchandise.

Articles.	Eleven months ending November 30, 1891.	
	Quantities.	Values.
Agricultural implements:		
Mowers and reapers, and parts of.....		\$1,695,694
Flows and cultivators, and parts of.....		408,276
All other, and parts of.....		853,561
Total		2,957,531
Animals:		
Cattle.....No.	304,927	26,075,570
Hogs.....No.	59,027	754,779
Horses.....No.	3,147	605,208
Mules.....No.	1,437	190,464
Sheep.....No.	58,807	253,622
All other, and fowls.....		21,979
Total		27,901,622
Art works: Paintings and statuary		507,159
Bark, and extract of, for tanning.....		242,717
Blacking.....		188,042
Bones, hoofs, horns and horn tips, strips and waste.....		193,594
Books, maps, engravings, etchings, and other printed matter.....		1,620,504
Brass, and manufactures of.....		415,521
Breadstuffs:		
Barley.....bush.	2,015,852	1,348,275
Bread and biscuit.....lbs.	13,880,703	762,576
Corn.....bush.	24,842,529	16,407,660
Corn meal.....bbls.	247,204	826,346
Oats.....bush.	2,046,559	907,074
Oatmeal.....lbs.	9,165,632	253,512
Rye.....bush.	7,011,022	6,588,340
Rye flour.....bbls.	4,789	23,292
Wheat.....bush.	113,565,507	116,050,130
Wheat flour.....bbls.	11,464,594	57,007,145
All other breadstuffs, and preparations of, used as food.....		1,066,638
Total		201,250,997
Bricks:		
Building.....M.	4,047	30,570
Fire.....		40,142
Total		70,712
Broom corn		206,640
Brooms and brushes		143,827
Candleslbs.	1,522,302	148,935
Carriages and horse cars, and parts of		1,863,729
Cars, passenger and freight, for steam railroadsNo.	2,436	1,669,700
Casings for sausages		786,194
Chemicals, drugs, dyes, and medicines:		
Acids.....		103,504
Ashes, pot and pearl.....lbs.	485,934	26,713
Dyes and dyestuffs.....		612,336
Ginseng.....lbs.	218,566	777,337
Medicines, patent or proprietary.....		1,531,661
Roots, herbs, and barks, n. e. s.....		172,449
All other.....		2,561,151
Total		5,785,151

Exports of domestic merchandise—Continued.

Articles.	Eleven months ending November 30, 1891.	
	Quantities.	Values.
Clocks and watches:		
Clocks, and parts of.....		\$1, 111, 965
Watches, and parts of.....		241, 116
Total.....		1, 353, 081
Coal:		
Anthracite..... tons..	845, 238	3, 503, 813
Bituminous..... tons..	1, 473, 447	4, 655, 199
Total..... tons..	2, 318, 685	8, 164, 012
Coffee and cocoa, ground or prepared, and chocolate.....		64, 707
Copper, and manufactures of:		
Ore..... tons..	35, 803	6, 108, 884
Ingots, bars, and old..... lbs..	64, 735, 823	8, 290, 149
All other manufactures of.....		261, 865
Total, not including ore.....		8, 552, 014
Cotton, and manufactures of:		
Unmanufactured—		
Sea island..... {bales.. 31, 937}		2, 441, 892
..... {lbs.. 12, 235, 776}		
Other..... {bales.. 4, 901, 403}		230, 639, 636
..... {lbs.. 2, 451, 622, 318}		
Total unmanufactured..... {bales.. 4, 933, 340}		233, 881, 828
..... {lbs.. 2, 463, 918, 094}		
Manufactures of—		
Cloths—		
Colored..... yards..	55, 541, 356	2, 237, 910
Uncolored..... yards..	131, 272, 732	8, 649, 983
Total..... yards..	160, 814, 088	10, 887, 873
Wearing apparel.....		332, 721
All other.....		1, 425, 800
Total manufactures.....		12, 646, 294
Earthen, stone, and china ware:		
Earthen and stone ware.....		176, 429
China ware.....		12, 117
Total.....		188, 546
Eggs..... doz..	191, 854	37, 006
Fertilizers..... tons..	291, 189	2, 172, 846
Fish:		
Fresh, other than salmon..... lbs..	643, 450	33, 834
Dried, smoked, or cured—		
Codfish, including haddock, hake, and pollock..... lbs..	14, 015, 020	717, 701
Herring..... lbs..	2, 474, 081	71, 853
Other..... lbs..	1, 275, 149	70, 046
Pickled—		
Mackerel..... bbls..	2, 583	33, 594
Herring..... bbls..	2, 049	8, 780
Other..... bbls..	24, 641	121, 590
Salmon—		
Canned..... lbs..	21, 110, 833	1, 098, 148
Other.....		66, 790
Canned fish, other than salmon.....		130, 353

Exports of domestic merchandise—Continued.

Articles.	Eleven months ending November 30, 1891.	
	Quantities.	Values.
Fish—Continued.		
Shellfish—		
Oysters		\$652, 985
Other		238, 533
All other fish		202, 688
Total		4, 451, 935
Flax, hemp, and jute, manufactures of:		
Bags		218, 569
Cordage.....lbs..	7, 710, 554	663, 901
Twine		456, 485
All other		169, 298
Total		1, 511, 253
Fruits, including nuts:		
Apples, dried	13, 019, 215	660, 517
Apples, green or ripe	496, 261	1, 373, 629
Fruits, preserved—		
Canned		1, 367, 737
Other		116, 753
All other green, ripe, or dried fruits		944, 971
Nuts		54, 782
Total		4, 518, 194
Furs and fur skins		3, 489, 422
Glass and glassware:		
Window glass		6, 672
All other		823, 536
Total		533, 208
Glucose or grape sugarlbs..	62, 625, 048	1, 563, 633
Gluelbs..	818, 189	94, 442
Grease, grease scraps, and all soap stock		1, 521, 296
Gunpowder and other explosives:		
Gunpowder.....lbs..	719, 350	82, 496
All other		829, 278
Total		911, 774
Hair, and manufactures of		297, 526
Haytons..	24, 952	424, 616
Hides and skins, other than furs		1, 383, 185
Honey		62, 728
Hopslbs..	6, 125, 593	1, 350, 689
Icetons..	31, 594	54, 920
India rubber and gutta percha, manufactures of:		
Boots and shoes.....pairs..	190, 818	155, 917
All other		1, 036, 128
Total		1, 192, 045
Ink, printer's, and other		121, 047
Instruments and apparatus for scientific purposes, including telegraph, telephone, and other electric		1, 444, 136
Iron and steel, and manufactures of:		
Pig iron.....tons..	13, 380	229, 121
Band, hoop, and scroll iron.....lbs..	364, 197	9, 350
Bar iron.....lbs..	2, 833, 007	80, 976
Car wheels.....No..	13, 747	111, 569

Exports of domestic merchandise—Continued.

Articles.	Eleven months ending November 30, 1891.	
	Quantities.	Values.
Iron and steel, and manufactures of—Continued.		
Castings, n. e. s.....		\$749, 937
Cutlery.....		130, 973
Firearms.....		783, 419
Ingots, bars, and rods of steel..... lbs..	1, 177, 633	35, 001
Locks, hinges, and other builders' hardware.....		1, 898, 873
Machinery, n. e. s.....		9, 258, 755
Nails and spikes—		
Cut..... lbs..	9, 585, 549	229, 785
Wire, wrought, horseshoe, and all other, in- cluding tacks..... lbs..	1, 688, 806	125, 989
Plates and sheets—		
Of iron..... lbs..	733, 545	23, 593
Of steel..... lbs..	233, 703	7, 484
Printing presses, and parts of.....		245, 069
Railroad bars or rails—		
Of iron..... tons..	160	3, 358
Of steel..... tons..	10, 429	336, 035
Saws and tools.....		1, 692, 370
Scales and balances.....		280, 234
Sewing machines, and parts of.....		2, 560, 439
Steam engines, and parts of—		
Fire engines..... No..	1	5, 630
Locomotive engines..... No..	330	3, 043, 746
Stationary engines..... No..	307	234, 343
Boilers, and parts of engines.....		648, 307
Stoves and ranges and parts of.....		225, 757
Wire..... lbs..	24, 489, 549	818, 439
All other manufactures of iron and steel.....		3, 836, 330
Total.....		27, 712, 482
Jewelry, and manufactures of gold and silver.....		
Lamps, chandeliers, and all devices and appliances for illuminating purposes.....		636, 702
Lead, and manufactures of.....		473, 478
Leather, and manufactures of:		159, 488
Leather—		
Buff, grain, splits, and all finished upper leather.....		4, 467, 166
Patent or enameled.....		277, 313
Sole..... lbs..	38, 817, 322	5, 936, 001
All other.....		439, 398
Manufactures of—		
Boots and shoes..... pairs..	497, 318	599, 950
Harness and saddles.....		248, 678
All other.....		325, 400
Total.....		12, 293, 906
Lime and cement..... bbls..	77, 888	120, 103
Malt liquors:		
In bottles..... doz..	367, 391	535, 489
Not in bottles..... gals..	244, 627	67, 766
Total.....		603, 255
Marble and stone, and manufactures of:		
Unmanufactured.....		157, 609
Manufactures of—		
Roofing slate.....		65, 114
All other.....		441, 881
Total.....		664, 704

Exports of domestic merchandise—Continued.

Articles.	Eleven months ending November 30, 1891.	
	Quantities.	Values.
Matches.....		\$70,353
Musical instruments:		
Organs..... No..	11,974	766,582
Pianofortes..... No..	704	205,738
All other, and parts of.....		127,890
Total.....		1,100,210
Naval stores:		
Rosin..... bbls..	1,717,053	3,149,427
Tar..... bbls..	18,733	43,303
Turpentine and pitch..... bbls..	7,914	16,821
Turpentine, spirits of..... gals..	12,014,477	4,437,255
Total.....		7,636,806
Oil cake and oil-cake meal..... lbs..	556,835,230	6,683,952
Oils:		
Animal—		
Lard..... galls..	804,388	425,699
Sperm..... galls..	97,424	72,436
Other whale and fish..... galls..	1,126,939	307,813
Other..... galls..	407,321	235,859
Total animal..... galls..	2,436,072	1,041,807
Mineral, crude, including all natural oils, with- out regard to gravity..... galls..	85,167,198	4,753,788
Mineral, refined or manufactured—		
Naphthas, including all lighter products of distillation..... galls..	9,557,760	725,485
Illuminating..... galls..	486,006,173	32,232,889
Lubricating and heavy paraffine oil..... galls..	29,809,037	4,478,073
Residuum, including tar, and all other from which the light bodies have been dis- tilled..... bbls..	23,402	59,084
Total refined or manufactured.....		37,505,531
Vegetable—		
Cotton seed..... galls..	9,144,947	3,300,574
Linseed..... galls..	90,921	49,175
Volatile or essential—		
Peppermint..... lbs..	41,657	115,975
Other.....		55,190
All other.....		72,406
Total vegetable.....		3,593,320
Ore, gold and silver bearing.....		23,523
Paints and painters' colors.....		646,192
Paper, and manufactures of:		
Paper hangings.....		76,416
Writing paper and envelopes.....		103,520
All other.....		1,042,060
Total.....		1,221,996
Paraffine and paraffine wax..... lbs..	58,158,712	3,553,388
Perfumery and cosmetics.....		384,662
Plated ware.....		374,758

Exports of domestic merchandise—Continued.

Articles.	Eleven months ending November 30, 1931.	
	Quantities.	Values.
Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products:		
Meat products—		
Beef products—		
Beef, canned	lbs.. 76,050,391	\$6,671,117
Beef, fresh	lbs.. 183,046,087	15,184,942
Beef, salted or pickled	lbs.. 66,278,918	3,825,938
Beef, other cured	lbs.. 1,474,882	147,555
Tallow	lbs.. 84,651,325	4,237,817
Hog products—		
Bacon	lbs.. 432,260,047	32,200,062
Hams	lbs.. 75,152,775	7,412,244
Pork, fresh	lbs.. 863,055	61,075
Pork, pickled	lbs.. 68,296,910	4,041,790
Lard	lbs.. 386,219,953	27,267,191
Mutton	lbs.. 80,325	8,406
Oleomargarine—		
Imitation butter	lbs.. 1,537,726	204,836
The oil	lbs.. 68,396,693	6,799,696
Poultry and game		
		12,554
All other meat products		
		923,212
Dairy products—		
Butter	lbs.. 14,275,610	2,270,424
Cheese	lbs.. 75,380,478	6,970,064
Milk		227,080
Total		118,496,031
Quicksilver	lbs.. 274,199	140,163
Seeds:		
Clover	lbs.. 19,049,932	1,491,939
Cotton	lbs.. 9,248,126	75,794
Flaxseed or linseed	bush.. 2,007,255	2,225,117
Timothy		268,561
All other		185,490
Total		4,246,701
Silk, manufactures of		119,474
Soap:		
Toilet or fancy		93,339
Other	lbs.. 23,061,143	935,623
Total		1,028,962
Spermaceti and spermaceti wax	lbs.. 241,090	85,292
Spirits, distilled:		
Alcohol, including pure, neutral, or cologne spirits	proof galls.. 437,316	191,163
Brandy	proof galls.. 169,829	136,418
Rum	proof galls.. 725,075	871,298
Whisky—		
Bourbon	proof galls.. 236,500	237,152
Rye	proof galls.. 66,590	81,536
All other	proof galls.. 31,473	23,908
Total	proof galls.. 1,666,783	1,541,475
Starch	lbs.. 13,649,491	479,985
Stationery, except of paper		542,551
Stereotype and electrotype plates		31,470
Straw and palm leaf, manufactures of		63,691

Exports of domestic merchandise—Continued.

Articles.	Eleven months ending November 30, 1891.	
	Quantities.	Values.
Sugar and molasses:		
Molasses and sirup.....galls..	4,868,401	\$773,527
Sugar, brown.....lbs..	162,238	7,061
Sugar, refined.....lbs..	73,153,273	3,849,675
Candy and confectionery.....		171,864
Total.....		4,802,117
Tin, manufactures of.....		232,489
Tobacco, and manufactures of:		
Unmanufactured—		
Leaf.....lbs..	217,536,473	18,709,800
Stems and trimmings.....lbs..	11,735,744	302,912
Total unmanufactured.....lbs..	229,332,217	19,012,712
Manufactures of—		
Cigars.....M..	3,504	92,760
Cigarettes.....M..	306,603	1,006,504
All other.....		2,823,566
Total manufactures.....		3,922,830
Toys.....		93,070
Trunks, valises, and traveling bags.....		163,737
Varnish.....galls..	152,869	213,585
Vegetables:		
Beans and pease.....bush..	337,430	538,150
Onions.....bush..	47,503	56,878
Potatoes.....bush..	386,709	308,659
Vegetables, canned.....		301,163
All other, including pickles.....		141,997
Total.....		1,348,847
Vessels sold to foreigners:		
Steamers.....tons..	848	150,750
Sailing vessels.....tons..	9	2,000
Total.....tons..	857	152,750
Vinegar.....galls..	67,386	10,764
Wax, bees'.....lbs..	173,863	42,434
Whalebone.....lbs..	128,787	620,065
Wine:		
In bottles.....doz..	10,669	50,853
Not in bottles.....galls..	594,516	340,321
Total.....		391,174
Wood, and manufactures of:		
Firewood.....cords..	1,144	3,890
Lumber—		
Boards, deals, and planks.....M feet	528,751	8,654,143
Joists and scantling.....M feet	10,650	155,859
Hoops and hoop poles.....		52,877
Laths.....M..	7,330	18,556
Palings, pickets, and bed slats.....M..	449	4,839
Shingles.....M..	33,873	86,865
Shooks—		
Box.....		197,890
Other.....No..	342,237	458,550
Staves and headings.....		1,665,887
All other lumber.....		863,454

Exports of domestic merchandise—Continued.

Articles.	Eleven months ending November 30, 1891.	
	Quantities.	Values.
Wood, and manufactures of—Continued.		
Timber—		
Sawed.....M feet.....	197,033	\$2,284,130
Hewn.....cubic feet.....	4,418,040	658,994
Logs and other timber.....		1,985,171
Manufactures of:		
Doors, sash, and blinds.....		301,745
Moldings, trimmings, and other house fin- ishings.....		162,335
Hogsheads and barrels, empty.....		213,839
Household furniture.....		2,793,356
Wooden ware.....		323,925
All other.....		1,701,817
Total, not including firewood.....		22,584,332
Wool, and manufactures of:		
Wool, raw.....lbs.....	118,382	16,825
Carpets.....yards.....	26,857	18,516
Flannels and blankets.....		25,256
Wearing apparel.....		358,615
All other manufactures of.....		51,218
Total manufactures.....		453,605
Zinc, and manufactures of:		
Ore or oxide.....tons.....	5,626	139,352
Pigs, bars, plates, and sheets.....lbs.....	3,731,557	223,987
All other manufactures of.....		31,949
Total, not including ore or oxide.....		255,336
All articles not elsewhere enumerated:		
Unmanufactured articles.....		713,234
Manufactured articles.....		1,075,846
Total value of exports of domestic mer- chandise.....		838,755,134
Carried in cars and other land vehicles.....		27,622,032
Carried in American vessels: Steam.....		42,241,982
Sailing.....		32,384,950
Carried in foreign vessels: Steam.....		647,990,536
Sailing.....		88,515,634

Recapitulation of values of exports of domestic merchandise, by groups, accord-
ing to sources of production.

Domestic products of—	Eleven months ending November 30, 1891.	
	Value.	Per cent.
Agriculture.....	\$631,415,041	75.28
Mining.....	19,587,184	2.34
Forest.....	24,970,728	2.98
Fisheries.....	5,573,203	.66
Miscellaneous.....	3,843,900	.45
Total.....	685,390,056	81.71
Manufactures.....	153,365,078	18.29
Aggregate.....	838,755,134	100.00

From this it will be seen that the total exports November 30, 1891, for the eleven months ending on this day, aggregate \$838,755,134. Glancing at the Southern States I find that in that time she shipped cotton aggregating \$233,381,828. Where does she stand to-day? She stands upon this floor almost as a unit demanding the passage of this bill. I sweep down the columns, and I find that of breadstuffs \$201,250,997 were shipped. Where are the great States of this Union that raise these breadstuffs? They are generally in favor of the passage of this bill.

I turn to the great section that produces the provisions of this country? I find that they shipped \$118,496,031, and where do they stand to-day? They stand, I say, almost as a unit demanding the passage of this bill for the free coinage of silver. These items alone aggregate \$553,128,856. Add to that \$78,286,185 for the other agricultural exports, and we have a total of \$631,415,041 of agricultural exports, practically a unit for this bill, and these exports comprise 75.28 per cent of the entire exports of this country. These figures speak in thunder tones, and more eloquently than mortal tongue could tell, that the people of this nation are with the Democratic party in its demands. My people, Mr. Speaker, are in favor of this bill, but they do not believe that it will give them absolute immunity for all their sufferings.

It is my purpose here upon this floor to demand relief until the present financial system is changed. I regard this as but the entering wedge. I am demanding now, only that which has been foreshadowed by the platform of our party for years past. It was in the platform of the national Democratic party in 1894. We went to the country upon that platform, and for the first time in a quarter of a century, we won. If it was Democratic then, why is it undemocratic now?

Mr. Speaker, I was shocked this morning when I picked up the Brooklyn Eagle and read a marked piece headed "If the South wants the force bill, the South can have it." I will not read the article. It ought not to have been written, and I will let it "rest in peace."

This article, Mr. Speaker, is but a threat from the New York Democracy that we must vote with them or they will turn their backs upon us. We have followed their leadership, Mr. Speaker, over a quarter of a century, and we have never preferred a single demand as a condition precedent to our devotion to their cause. We have not asked them to put a single plank in our platform, but we have followed in their lead. We want to do so again, but they seem determined to drive us into measures. This they can not do. The first time we prefer a request they say, "If you persist in demanding that request we will say that you can go under Republican rule." Is it fair; is it just; is it right? It is not fair; it is not just; it is not right; it is not Democratic, and the penalty for such conduct must rest where it belongs. [Applause on the Democratic side.]

I have tried to show by stating the facts that every principle of justice to a great majority of our people requires the passage of this bill. Now let us pause for a moment and see where that majority comes from. Is it from those sections where the Democratic majorities usually come? I think any candid man will admit that. It will also be admitted that the agricultural districts demand its passage.

Upon this point I wish to dwell for a few moments. That silver

is the coin of the poor man and the debtor class no one can or will deny. It will also be conceded that prior to the act of 1873 demonetizing silver, silver was worth more than gold. It is now claimed that it is dishonorable to remonetize silver, because it is greatly reduced in value, and that the value of the silver bullion is only 70 cents in the dollar, and that it will force a 70-cent dollar upon the country. I deny that the passage of this bill would have that effect, but I assert that the value of both silver and gold would soon be equal; and to show that I am not alone in this belief I will read the following from Mr. Trumbo, a leading banker and miner of San Francisco, Cal.:

There has been a steady increase in the amount of business done in this country, and a constant shrinkage of the volume of money per capita. At the beginning of the late war this nation did \$15,000,000,000 of business, and we had \$22 for every inhabitant. Last year the business aggregated \$66,000,000,000, but the money per capita in the country has dwindled to less than \$12. So there is an absolute need of more currency.

But the opponents of the free-coinage bill say that if the bill becomes a law gold will go to 25 per cent premium. Admit that and say you have \$100,000 in gold in your vault, and what will you do with it? The abstraction of gold would put money to 6 or 7 per cent per annum. I possess \$100,000 and earn that per cent by the withdrawal of the yellow metal. Then you would sit down and look at your gold for a year. It would bring you in about the same revenue as an unimproved corner lot. I am getting 7 per cent or higher for my silver. How long before you would come to the conclusion to sell your gold; and would not all who held it come to this conclusion at the same time? Now, to whom will you sell it?

Suppose I buy a stock at par and it runs up to 25 per cent premium. The first thing I do is to sell my stock and capitalize the premium. That is what every individual would do in stocks, and he will do just so with gold. It is said the foreigners will get all our gold. Is it to be supposed that we are such fools as to sell our gold for nothing? And if they are willing to pay us 25 per cent premium for it we will dig it out of the earth so fast that it will make us rich and them poor. Moreover, the effect of gold at 25 per cent premium would be the same as putting an export duty of 25 per cent on all English and foreign goods exported from abroad. How long do you suppose they would pursue this course toward us, their greatest customer?

It will be interesting to take the price of silver in 1872 and since its demonetization and compare it with the price of cotton since that time.

A careful examination of this matter will show that when silver is low cotton is low; as soon as silver rises cotton instantly advances, the latter in about the same proportion as the former. This having been the case for twenty years, and neither silver nor cotton having been as high as they were before, and cotton to-day having with silver touched about the lowest point ever reached, can there be any surprise at the united action on the part of the cotton belt in this matter? And Mr. Speaker, it is easy to see why this is. It is because India raised enough cotton to hold the balance of power, and all her cotton is paid for in silver. The same may be said of wheat. But I leave the discussion of this matter to others whose immediate interests are involved in it.

Suppose, however, we admit for the sake of argument that it would have the effect claimed, is there any justice in enacting a law to reduce the value of a poor man's money and when you have by your own act succeeded in doing so and are asked to again give silver her place among the metals of the world, to say it is dishonest and dishonorable, and if you take that road, that is, if you attempt to restore it, you are pursuing the road to national disgrace and shame. This is the argument of some of the opponents of this bill. I know not how to characterize such expressions as these, which come from some of the great moneyed centers

of this country, other than to say that eloquence is substituted for reason and argument and intended to obscure the real issue involved in this bill.

The author of the minority report on this bill, and its leading opponent [Mr. WILLIAMS of Massachusetts], says: "I argue that this country should do everything in its power to secure silver again its proper place in the currency system of the world." We would expect any man capable of uttering this sentiment to be fighting with us for the passage of this bill. Not so with Mr. WILLIAMS. He desires to seek an international conference to do what the United States alone, has undone. His reasoning may be traced to the fact that his constituents are numbered among the single-standard men, who are willing to see the purchasing power of a dollar enhanced by making the dollar itself, harder to get.

We have it in our power now to give silver its place in the currency system of the world, and it is our duty to do so speedily and at once. I appeal to you, my fellow Representatives, without regard to section, and ask you to hear the tales of distress as they come from the vast agricultural sections of this country, knocking at the doors of Congress asking that you do justice to them. They have been working day by day, week by week, month by month, year by year. They have been told that the country is prospering and all is working well. They have found that the laws upon our statute books, while good enough for our manufacturing and commercial cities, causing them to grow rich and richer each day, alas, at their expense, until want, suffering, yea, almost starvation itself, is staring them in the face, and they must, they will, have relief.

I take no stock in the cry of the demagogue that any one statute, I care not how broad and comprehensive it may be, will give absolute immunity to our agricultural interest. Time alone, coupled with good laws, is its only salvation. You had as well tell me that the patient who is in the very lowest stage of convalescence with typhoid fever, whose physician has sat by his bedside for days and weeks and has just discovered that the crisis had passed, could be restored at once to his former vigor of body and mind by the prescription of a quack, as that our farmers can be restored to their former prosperity by any one bill, I care not how sweeping it may be. They are like the patient, they must have all the advantages good laws can give them, so that nature, combined with their own efforts, will build them up again.

I advocate the passage of this bill because it is in line with the financial relief which this country must have, and which this body must give, if it shall do justice to that class of its people whom I have the honor in part to represent. If we shall hope to succeed as a great political party we must do justice to all sections. We can not succeed by aligning ourselves alone with the moneyed aristocracy of the Northern States, we must also do justice to the agricultural States.

We must go to the country in the coming campaign with financial reform and tariff reform as our issues, and we will win. I would reduce the tariff, even if by its reduction we ran the risk of having the collections from all sources of revenue less than the expenses of the Government. In this event I would meet the deficiency by having the United States Government issue legal-tender notes to make it up. We have, in my opinion, paid the

indebtedness of this Government, during the last two decades, more rapidly than the good of the people has warranted. This generation has paid enough of it, and ought, in my opinion, to pay no more. By this we would also accomplish another purpose, and that is, increase the circulating medium, which is too small for the business needs of the people.

Mr. Speaker, I need not call the attention of this House to the fact that there is a state of unrest in the rural districts of the United States which demands at our hands serious consideration. We have from every stump in the land for years past educated these people to believe that the Republican party alone was responsible for the unjust burdens heaped upon them. In this we were right, and I here and now reiterate it.

We have promised them relief if we ever succeeded in getting control. The people believed us, and when they went to the polls in 1890 they wiped out of political existence the men who controlled the Fifty-first Congress because they had done those things which they ought not to have done.

They sent the Fifty-second Congress here, with the largest Democratic majority that any political party has had upon this floor during the past quarter of a century.

Shall this body, elected as it was upon this promise, fail to offer some relief; it will not be claimed that we can fulfill our promises, because we control but one of the legislative branches of the Government; but this branch should show its willingness to do something for this class of our constituency. If we do not, it will be no excuse for us to say that the Senate and the President were Republican and that we could enact no laws for their relief. By our action here our sincerity will be weighed. I grant that it would be impolitic for this House to go too far in its legislation, lest its bills might fail in the other end of the Capitol, and thus we lose the opportunity to loosen in the slightest degree the bands which bind them so closely.

But we must do something in the direction of relief for our people, and failing to accomplish all that is absolutely necessary the responsibility for our failure must rest where it belongs. If we fail to act at all the responsibility must rest upon us. And when the marshaled hosts shall meet on the 1st day of November, 1892, to pass in judgment upon us it takes no prophet to foretell the fate of the Fifty-second Congress.

Those who have been faithless to the people will be beaten because they have left undone those things which they ought to have done. Let us heed the mutterings of the discontent which are conveyed to us from every quarter before it is too late.

Let us do our duty to the whole people, and see that we give no just cause for desertion from our ranks.

Let us rather reach out and catch the stragglers and bring them into our fold. We can do it by treating the whole country with scant justice now. This will be an earnest of good faith, and will assure them that complete justice will be meted out to them when the Democratic party shall have gained control of every branch of this Government.

Do not, I beseech you, my fellow-members, pass lightly this appeal.

Justice to an outraged and oppressed people, now growing impatient, demand your earnest and careful consideration.