

SILVER AND THE FARMERS.

The American farmer has very generally come to understand that something is wrong. He has been assured by the republican party for the last quarter of a century that he was sure to get rich as a result of the protective policy of that party, which gloried in the "home market" it said it would create by putting duties so high that the foreign producer couldn't afford to enter into competition with him. The farmer has seen his products steadily depreciate in market value, while the protected manufacturer became a multi-millionaire and went over to live with and become himself one of the despised foreigners. In shutting out the foreign producer the republican party had shut in American products, and the restrictions thus placed upon him have paralyzed enterprise and made it difficult to eke out an existence.

Then the republican party and the goldbug members of the democratic party who are in it for its hurt, told the farmer that what he wanted was less money. That the surest way to grow rich was to let a few monopolists control the currency; that silver was an obstacle in the way of these philanthropic monopolists and would the people be so kind as to remove it from their pathway and give these plutocrats full sweep? To which proposition the people made emphatic reply in the negative, when they discovered that the few monopolists had more power than

all the people, and silver was cast out into the scrap-iron heap.

The result of this action is felt by every farmer in the United States today. And this result was foreseen by all who wanted to see and who gave the matter thought. It was in 1886 that Sir Robert M. Fowler, M. P., a well-known banker of London, made the prediction that—

The effect of the depreciation of silver must finally be the ruin of the wheat and cotton industries of America, and be the development of India as the chief wheat and cotton exporter of the world.

What wheat grower of the north and west who has seen his product drop from \$1 to 50 cents a bushel, what cotton grower of the south who has been compelled to see his crop rot upon the fields because it would not pay to pick it, what corn grower who has used his product for fuel because there was no market for it—what producer in America but knows that some blight has fallen upon the happy prospects of a few years ago, even though he may not understand whence it came? Let us note the truth of Mr. Flower's prediction as shown by statistical reports. In 1873, the year that silver was demonetized in the United States, largely through the influence of the same John Sherman who is now leading the republican hosts of Ohio, and who is at the same time chief counselor of the present administration at Washington on all matters relating to the currency, India exported 730,485 bushels of wheat. In 1892 India exported 59,000,000 bushels of wheat. In the matter of cotton India's growth as an export nation has been even more rapid and, not content with shipping the raw material, great mills have been established and the cheap labor of India employed in the manufacture of cotton goods, which are now exported in vast quantities.

The twin policies of destruction, originated and faithfully followed by the republican party, have all but done their work and reduced the plain people of the land to the position of humble subjects of the most despotic, most dangerous oligarchy the world has ever known. There is but one way to save the weak and retrieve what is lost. The ballot box is the place and the ballot the cure-all. Every man worthy of citizenship who would see the nation preserved from its deadliest foes will see to it that no man is elected to legislative place and power who is not fully committed to the restoration of silver to its place in our currency system, and the sweeping out of existence of the last vestige of the ruinous protective legislation of the republican party.
