standard. When the Republican Convention met in Astoria on the 14th of April, a platform was adopted making the gold standard the single issue. The following is the sweeping declaration adopted:

"We are in favor of the maintenance of the present gold standard; we are unqualifiedly opposed to the free coinage of silver and to all other schemes looking to the debasement of the currency and the repudiation of debt. We believe that the best money in the world is none too good to be assured by the Government to the laborer as the fruit of his toil and to the farmer as the price of his crop. We condemn the continued agitation for free silver as calculated to jeopardize the prosperity of the country and to shake the confidence of the people in the maintenance of a wise financial policy. * * * We declare that the interests of all sections of our country alike demand a sound and stable financial system." On the other hand, the Democrats, the Populists, and the silver Republicans formed a fusion and adopted a platform which demanded not only free silver but an inflated Government paper currency made legal tender, with prohibition of all contracts to give or take payment in anything else.

It will be seen that the issue was sharply made. The result is highly gratifying. The Republican candidate for Governor has a majority of some 10,000, and in the Congress districts where in 1896 the Republican candidates squeezed through with a plurality of 63 in the First and 378 in the Second, they now have majorities estimated at 2,000 and 7,000, respectively. It may be said that this decisive gain is due in some degree to the advantage a party in power in the National Government has in a time of war, but this influence cannot have been of much account since both parties were strongly in favor of the war, and neither made any canvass on this point. We regard the Oregon election as clear proof that the gold standard will win the hearty support of the majority of the people in any State heretofore regarded as doubtful when it is presented in a clear and honest fashion.

THE VICTORY IN OREGON.

It is the common complaint of observers, particularly foreign observers, that it is hard to get at the opinion of the American peope through the elections. The complaint has some foundation, for elections are frequently determined by popular feeling on one or more subjects not put forward in the platforms and not very much talked of in the press. The financial question has been very important since, in 1868, the Democrats took ground in favor of paying bonds in greenbacks, but it was not until 1896—twenty-eight years later—that a National election can be said to have turned chiefly on that question. Up to 1880 the issues of the war were controlling; in 1880 protection won the day; in 1884 the demoralization of the party in power was the dominant element; in 1888 protection was again victorious; the Democratic victory of 1892 was in part due to reaction against extreme protection, and in part to the rather cheap character of Mr. HARRISON'S Administration. Thus it was only in 1896 that the currency question outranked all others. And even then the will of the people was not expressed in a manner to command clear interpretation and absolute conformity.

It is, therefore, very satisfactory to have at this early date, preceding the Congressional campaign, a State election turning wholly on National issues and of those the issue of the gold standard made so definite by the action of all parties as to leave no doubt about the meaning of the result. Oregon has been for a quarter of a century a close State, with a small margin on the Republican side. Its vote has more than trebled in that time, and both parties have been much torn by the currency issue, but the general proportion of Republicans to anti-Republicans of all sorts has remained much the same. In 1892 one Weaver Elector was indorsed by the Democrats and elected, but the other three were Republicans. In 1896 McKINLEY had an absolute majority over the fusion for BRYAN of only some 2,100. Meanwhile Senator MITCHELL, the leader of the Republicans, has long been seeking to compromise with the silver men, and has kept the party from taking definite and decisive ground on the currency question, and Oregon has afforded a very fair example of the unsettled and threatening condition of the public mind which has produced the muddle in our finances and has cost the country so dear.

Since the election of 1896, however, the more intelligent Republicans, aided by the gold Democrats, have taken great pains to rescue the State from the dubious situation in which it had been involved by the politicians, and to range it fairly and fully on the side of the gold

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