

PROSPERITY AND POLITICS

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Prosperity and politics by Allen Ripley Foote

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ALLEN RIPLEY FOOTE

**PROSPERITY
AND POLITICS**

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
PROSPERITY AND POLITICS.

BY

ALLEN RIPLEY FOOTE,

AUTHOR OF

"ECONOMIC VALUE OF ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER"

AND

DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES INVOLVED IN

"THE LAW OF INCORPORATED COMPANIES OPER-
ATING UNDER MUNICIPAL FRANCHISES."

1893.

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PREFACE.

Is anything interfering with your prosperity? Then some one has blundered.

Has it ever occurred to you that all the money you have lost by your own and others' mistakes; that all the time used in correcting your own and others' mistakes, if the mistakes had not been made, could have been used in the "pursuit of happiness?" Think of this! Does it not make clear to you the fact that mistakes are the fruitful source of all troubles and the real obstacles in the way of prosperity and happiness?

Money and time lost by mistakes is the cost of Education through *Experience*. This is the most uneconomic way of acquiring an Education. Education acquired through reason is much less expensive and far more satisfactory and helpful. *Money spent for Education through reason is put to its highest economic use.*

When you correct a mistake, you furnish proof that you are wiser than when you made it. Growth in intelligence is evidenced by increased capacity for useful work; greater precision in action; and diminution of of errors in judgment. The acquisition of intelligence is life for the wise, and death for fools.

Is anything interfering with the prosperity of the whole people? Then some one has blundered.

I have undertaken to show you in what form these blunders have been made, why they have been made, and by whom. I have also undertaken to indicate in what form these blunders may be corrected, why they

should be corrected, and by whom they must be corrected. The correct settlement of these questions is imperatively demanded as a condition precedent to a return of prosperity for yourself and for the whole people.

It is your duty first carefully to consider each subject *on its individual merits* and to correct your own views regarding it, and then, as you are suffering from the mistakes of others as well as from your own, to lose no time nor spare any effort in insisting that others shall correct their mistakes also. Show them where they have made an error and, if they are reasonable beings, they will be glad to make the necessary correction and to thank you for your service.

You will find that you cannot approve of some of the measures I advocate without being inconsistent with your past political record. Neither can you correct a mistake without being inconsistent with what you have done. Will you for this reason refuse to correct a mistake? If I cannot show you wherein you should change your views, I shall not succeed in being helpful to you. If I do succeed in this, you must not let a false idea about being consistent deprive you of the benefit to be derived from correcting a mistake.

Consistency is the jailor of small minds. It kills weak ones.

I am not interested in your past political record. The vital consideration is, what action are you ready to take to-day? I present certain measures and explain why I think their adoption will correct the errors of the past and will induce a return of prosperity for yourself and for the whole people. Holding these views as I do, it is my duty to make you acquainted with them. Having done this, it is now your duty either to adopt them or to disprove the correctness of my conclusions. More

than this, it is your duty, if you cannot adopt all of these measures, to adopt such as you can approve and to work for their adoption by others, thus dealing with each question absolutely upon its own merits. In this way we shall co-operate where we can and disagree where we must. If we now ignore the well-being of the whole people for the sake of a supposed party advantage, we shall assume that the people are very stupid and very slow to anger. This will be an error. I think the people know when they have had enough of such nonsense ; that they are already satiated with suffering caused by the criminal disregard for their well-being that has been shown by politicians in the past, in their mad endeavor to maintain party lines, or to defeat or to embarrass opponents.

If you believe any measure that I advocate to be well calculated to promote the prosperity of the whole people, then, as an honest and a loyal citizen, it is your duty to work with all the energy you can command, to secure its enactment. It is your duty to do this, no matter how your former views and actions may align themselves with the measure. By doing this, we shall gain time for the further discussion of those measures on which we do not agree. It is probable, when we honestly examine our reasons for disagreeing upon any single measure that we can find a basis for mutual agreement regarding it.

The responsibility of action is yours. If the measures herein advocated are well calculated to induce a return of prosperity for the whole people, then you must admit that your earnest efforts to secure their enactment is the price of your own prosperity.

ALLEN R. FOOTE.

Takoma Park, D. C., *July 1, 1893.*

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GOLD STANDARD.

Years.	GOLD VALUE of the bullion in a Coined Silver Dollar.	GOLD VALUE. Lowest Price Quoted for Wheat.	SILVER DOLLAR. Price of Wheat. Gold Value of the Silver Bullion.
1873	\$1.004 *	\$0.89 †	\$ 0.8938 ‡
1874	.988	.815	.8052
1875	.964	.8325	.8026
1876	.894	.83	.742
1877	.929	1.015	.943
1878	.891	.77	.6861
1879	.868	.8163	.7088
1880	.886	.865	.7664
1881	.881	.9537	.8402
1882	.878	.9112	.8000
1883	.858	.90	.7712
1884	.861	.695	.5984
1885	.823	.7337	.6038
1886	.769	.6937	.5335
1887	.758	.6663	.5051
1888	.727	.7112	.5170
1889	.724	.755	.5466
1890	.809	.7425	.6007
1891	.764	.85	.6494
1892	.674	.6912	.4659

* Report—Director of the mint, 1893, page 30.

† Prices of wheat—Chicago market, World Almanac, 1893, page 133.

‡ Calculated, silver dollar price of wheat at the gold value of the bullion in the coined silver dollar.