

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

In this column we will publish communications of a worthy and suitable character, received from subscribers to this paper. No communication should contain more than 250 words. Manuscripts will not be returned.

Price and Value.

Indiscriminate use of synonymous terms bids fair to utterly confuse the average voter who is honestly trying to solve the money question to his own satisfaction. The terms "price" and "value," and the delicate shades of difference in their respective meanings, cause, perhaps, more confusion of thought than is generally supposed, especially when used without discrimination by men who are supposed to be authority on questions of economics. Even our dictionaries are but poor sticks to lean upon, most of them having been written long before such an interest was manifested in the money question and when people generally cared but little about a "standard of value" or whether value could be "measured" or otherwise.

Value is defined by the standard dictionary as "the desirability or worth of a thing as compared with the desirability of something else; often confused with the qualities and circumstances on which, taken together, such desirability depends." Price is defined by the same authority as "an equivalent given or asked in exchange."

According to the definition given, value is estimated by comparing the desirable qualities of one thing with those of another—a purely mental operation. While a thing, by itself considered, may have worth, may have those qualities which make it desirable, yet its value cannot be ascertained until it is compared with some other thing. It often happens that these qualities themselves are considered as value, whereas nothing could be more erroneous, and it is this confusion of ideas, this substitution of one thing for another, that gives rise to the misleading phrase "intrinsic value," used so much by the advocates of the single gold standard.

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The term "standard of value" or "measure of value" has caused much confusion also. Hon. John W. Booth, walter in his valuable book, "If not silver, what?" says: "All this talk about an invariable dollar which shall be like the bushel measure or the yard stick is the merest clapnet."

It is measured by what it will exchange for. It is, in fact, its purchasing power, or power in exchange. Now, if the price of anything is an equivalent given or asked in exchange for it, it would seem that the price of anything is its measure of value. Inasmuch as the price of any commodity can become greater or less without any change whatever in the physical composition of that commodity, and without changing its relative desirability for certain purposes, it seems erroneous to speak of measuring value, at least "real" value. It is perhaps true that the commercial or exchange value of a commodity is measured by what it will exchange for; but the real value of anything, its usefulness to mankind compared with the usefulness of some other thing, is surely incapable of being "measured" in any sense of the word.

Right Should Eulie Against Wrong.

In the election of 1824 Jackson received more of the popular and electoral vote than any other candidate, but not enough to elect; therefore the election went into the House. By reason of the constitutional limitation to the three highest Clay was out of the race, his strength went to Adams and resulted in his election.

Although there was no proof of any "bribe" or "corruption" of any kind on the part of Adams and Clay, and there was abundant proof that such a "deal" had not been made, yet Jackson and his friends kept up the cry until the people believed it to be true, and such efforts were then kept upon the parties combining to defeat a common enemy that from that time to the campaign of 1896 it has not been possible for parties with different principles to effect a fusion or alliance for the purpose of crushing a foe.

In times past it has only been necessary for a newspaper or "stump orator" to ask the question "can right ally itself with wrong?" And we have never thought to answer that two or more rights can ally themselves against one or more wrongs and crush them.

There is no good reason why we, of the second generation now, should be kept apart from a union of reformers, simply because we are not expedient to touch the people that a continuation of parties would result in defrauding the people of their rights.

Cleveland's Contracting Policy Continued.

The most prosperous time the people of our country ever experienced was during the first ten years after the close of the war of the rebellion. It was during those years they enjoyed a larger per capita circulation of money than ever before or since in her history.

Cleveland's contracting policy is being continued. The reports sent out by the secretary of the treasury from Washington, July 1, 1897, and the one dated July 1 shows that the per capita circulation has been reduced fifty-seven cents per capita during the first four months of the present administration. In other words, the amount of fifty-seven cents has been withdrawn from the possible reach of such and every man, woman and child in the nation, amounting in the aggregate to about forty-two million dollars.

As well as finance; the currency circulating among the people will have been reduced over five hundred and twenty-six million dollars in the aggregate, or \$5.84 per capita.

Does it not seem that the teachings of all standard political economists, backed up by facts in the political history of this and every other nation, that the reduction of the currency always brings low prices to the producer, low wages to the laborer, distress, poverty, and degradation and crime to the people, is thoroughly impressed upon every reader or observer at this time?

Wall street with her mask torn off, as done by James C. Ridpath in the Arena for this month, ought to convince every honest man where he should stand on this money question, if he would be for the masses instead of the classes.

Omaha, Neb., July 14, 1898.

The following dispatch appeared in the Journal of July 13 and is a sad commentary upon the boasted freedom we are supposed to enjoy:

London, July 12.—An important conference was held at the foreign office today by Senator Woodcock, Former Vice President Stevenson and General Payne, the members of the United States monetary commission and Ambassador Hay and Lord Salisbury. Sir Michael Hicks Beach, chancellor of the exchequer, Arthur Z. Balfour, first lord of the treasury, and Lord George Hamilton, secretary of the state for India.

The conference, which lasted an hour was preliminary to the carrying on of further negotiations on the subject of international bimetalism. The Americans did most of the talking.

The British representatives present made no statement indicating their intentions in the matter.

We have been saying all the time that the republicans were tending to the money kings of England and now we see it in a republican paper. The United States representatives will privately discuss the question with Baron Rothschild and other financiers and endeavor to secure their support.

Yours Truly, D. CLEM DEAYRE.

On Land Monopoly.

Omaha City, Neb., July 12, 1897.

Editor NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT.—I would like space in your paper for an idea. To commence with, I believe that the land is an inheritance of all mankind and that no government should allow the land to get into private hands—except so far as there needs to. Now for a plan to stop the few rich men from holding all the land. We wish to annul all contracts or deeds or any man's property by law, but simply to enact laws so that no person within this nation can come into possession by inheritance, purchase or otherwise, of land to exceed their actual needs, say 50 acres.

W. W. LA MUYON.

Do Them Likewise.

Gilead, Neb., July 12, 1897.

Dear Sir: Prosperity has been a long time coming my way, but as hard as times are, I or any other well meaning person should not be without your paper.

Just try a 10c box of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and you'll be glad to recommend it to all.

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

J. Y. M. Swigart Editor—Mail, Cyclone and Fire, Farm and Town—Agents Wanted—Write Editor of Insurance Department.

We submit the following article, clipped from Wallace's Farmer, and would like the experience of any one on the subject.

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION OF CLOVER HAY.

The hay harvest is now upon us, and while the crop of clover is not in general a heavy one and much of it will not be cut on time and hence be worth only half its value, there is a likelihood that here and there the farmer who started out to secure first-class hay will have it take fire some night while he is sleeping and lose both it and his barn.

Spontaneous combustion of clover hay is not a myth, although some folks would have us think so. It is not common, and yet it does occur in certain years and in certain localities to the extent that should make every man consider who is making hay. There is no effect without a cause, and spontaneous combustion comes not by accident or mysterious providence, but because the farmer has not put up his hay in the proper way.

Great heat is developed in the center of the mow, the steam rising condenses as it does on all mows or stacks to a greater or less extent, and is condensed on the surface, turning it black.

The average wealth in this country is \$1,000. If a few have a great deal more others must have very much less. In order for one man to have a million, a thousand must have nothing, or two thousand only half their proportion.

FOR SALE—A few extension tables at 50 cents per foot, also some second hand ones cheap. Bayard and Guerin, 1329 O.

A great deal has been said in the past few years about bribing congress, the courts, juries and voters, and there must be some truth in it.

Help is needed by poor, tired mothers, debilitated and run down because of pain, this best Help is needed by the nervous sufferer, the men and women tortured with rheumatism, neuralgia, dizziness, vertigo, heart, help comes quickly when Hood's Sarsaparilla begins to rapidly purify and vitalize the blood and send it to every part of the system, invigorating stream in all the nerves, muscles and organs of the body.

RUDGE & MORRIS CO., 1118 to 1126 N St, Lincoln, Neb.

THE BIG STORE Leads in... FURNITURE, CARPETS, HARDWARE AND STOVES. See Our New GARLAND STEEL RANGE only \$25.00. SPECIAL SALE for one week on Refrigerators. QUICK MEAL GASOLINE STOVES are the best.

SMALL HAPPENINGS. Hon. J. N. Gaffin was in Lincoln Saturday. The barn of corner of A. G. Larson, near Malmo, Neb., was burned last week.

THE NEW BOOK. "The New Treatment; How it Cures," is the title of Dr. Shepard's book which is now in circulation.



SAM'L ALKIRE, Ashland, Neb. "I was deaf about two years. My hearing at first began to be slow, and then it got indistinct until I found I was really deaf. As the hearing failed I began to hear buzzing sounds through the head.

\$5.00 A MONTH. Distant patients are welcome to our famous Symptom Blanks, that cover all chronic diseases.

SHEPARD MEDICAL INSTITUTE, Omaha.

MAKE CHEESE AT HOME

Send One Dollar to E. C. KITTINGER, Powell, South Dakota, and receive by mail ten Rennets with plain printed instruction in making Cheese at home with such apparatus as every farmer now has.

Chicken Mite Lice Killer

No banding of poultry is needed, simply joint roasts, nest boxes, cracks in boards, and Mite Exterminator will do the rest.

Manufactured by JAMES CAMERON, Heaver City, Neb. Will give "satisfaction" or return the money for refund for the balance of the price paid for the product.