

A PARABLE.

It Shows That It is a Good Plan to Control Your Own Affairs.

A certain very rich man said unto himself, "I have many interests, and I will turn over the most important of them to a body of men whom I'll choose for a year or two years, and I'll call them a legislature." And he did it and went on his way. And the body of men met and they made money with the rich man's goods and sold some and mortgaged others and despoiled others. And the suitors and lobbyists flocked around as vultures around a carrion, and the rich man remonstrated and held mass meetings and screamed himself hoarse. And the body of men looked at him derisively and said to itself, "Surely we have worked for these offices and they are ours, and you can't put us out nor reverse our acts, but are bound by them." And they laughed in their sleeves at the rich man.

Again, an election came around, and the rich man chose another set of men of the same sort, and, having untrammelled power, they did likewise. And many moons waxed and waned and the rich man did not seem to learn by experience, but really he was growing very mad, and at last he rose up and said, "I will choose ye as councillors, but ye shall do naught that I do not wish, and ye shall do the things I wish, and I'll veto any acts of yours that I do not like by the referendum, and if ye will not pass the laws I wish myself I'll start them by the initiative." And the latter end of that man was better than the former.—Eltweed Pomeroy.

They Are Traitors.

Hot winds and drouth may effect the corn crop, but they can injure it now only to a limited extent. Nebraska's crop of 1898 is sure in the aggregate to yield one of its far famed banner harvests.—Omaha Bee.

The above is not true, and The Bee knows it. There will not be a half crop of corn in Nebraska, and The Bee knows that also. Such articles help the speculators and injure every farmer in the state. Such statements are gleaned from the plutocratic press by the board of trade men and used to bear the markets. The consequence is that our crops are sold at miserably low prices in the fall and winter, and next spring these same papers will come out and say the crop was small, the surplus is exhausted and the prices will be skyward when the farmers have nothing to sell. If the producing classes will refuse to believe any statement in a goldbug paper and will hold on to their grain as they cling to their hope of heaven, they will get a fair price for it after awhile. It is passing strange that in an agricultural state like Nebraska the plutocratic press always favor the men who buy instead of the men who sell; always favor the railroads instead of the people, the speculator instead of the farmer, the creditor instead of the debtor, the rich instead of the poor. They are our enemies instead of our friends. They are traitors to every interest of the commonwealth and ought to be held as public enemies.—Nonconformist.

Colonial Money.

Peter Cooper, discussing colonial paper money, said:

These colonial notes, being adopted by all the colonies, led to an unexpected degree of prosperity, so great that when Franklin was brought before the parliament of Great Britain and questioned as to the cause of the wonderful prosperity growing up in the colonies, he plainly stated that the cause was the convenience they found in exchanging their various forms of labor one with another by the paper money which had been adopted; that this paper money was not only used in the payment of taxes, but in addition it had been declared legal tender. It rose 2 and 3 per cent above the par of gold and silver, as everybody preferred its use. One of its advantages was its security against theft, as it could be easily carried and hidden, on account of its having no bulk, as all kinds of specie must necessarily have. After Franklin explained this to the British government as the real cause of prosperity, they immediately passed laws forbidding the payment of taxes in that money. This produced such great inconvenience and misery to the people that it was the principal cause of the Revolution. A far greater reason for a general uprising than the tea and stamp act was the taking away of the paper money.

Will Pay Twice.

How glad and willing the people would have been to have let Uncle Sam have everything he wanted to carry on the war, from a pair of shoes to a battleship, taking therefor noninterest bearing greenbacks and carrying them till the government was ready to redeem them by receiving them for taxes. The people would have taken \$200,000,000 of greenbacks and carried them for 20 years, thus saving \$120,000,000 of interest money.

As it is the war expenses must be paid twice, once for supplies and once to old Shylock.—Norton's Monthly

Not For the Farmer.

The "dollar wheat" boasted of by the Republican press leaders is not for the farmers. Last year nine-tenths of the farmers sold their wheat from 60 to 65 cents. In the hands of speculators the same wheat reached \$1.35 on the Chicago board. Now, when a new crop is in the hands of the farmers, wheat has dropped to 70 cents. Dollar wheat is not for the farmers.—Vincennes (Ind.) Sun.

Railway Changes.

The McKinley press bureau gives out statistics of the number of railroads which have passed out of the hands of receivers this year. It does not explain that they were bankrupted as a result of plutocratic politics, and that now they are reorganized, with London owners, to whom our Western and Southern shippers must pay tribute in gold.—Journal of Agriculture.

FRENCH ASSIGNATS.

JOHN DAVIS EXPLAINS JUST WHAT THEY WERE AND WHAT THEY DID.

He Satisfactorily Answers a Question That is Frequently Asked—The Requisite Conditions For a Successful Money System.

"Were the French assignats a legal tender?" This question has recently been sent to me urgently asking reply. Technically the assignats were legal tender; practically and in effect they were not. And when we understand the case every one will see that "the various governments of the French revolution," as Sir Archibald Alison calls them, had no power to confer the quality of legal tender on money in any true and lasting sense. At best they could only attach to it an edict of the convention which happened to be in power when the paper was printed, perhaps to be reversed by the new party of the next day, and never to be obeyed out of sight of the guillotine.

Every enterprise, every special sort of work and every invention or creation of man must conform to certain requisite conditions necessary to success or it must prove a failure. Suppose the farmer plants a crop of corn. The land must be properly prepared for the planting, the planting must be done in the proper season of the year, and the crop must receive reasonable culture afterward. If any one of these conditions is neglected, the crop to that extent will be a failure.

If the orchardist desires to plant a field with fruit trees, the land must be plowed; the trees must be wisely selected as to the variety of fruits; they must be properly dug, with plenty of healthy roots; holes for the trees must be located to suit the sizes of the full grown trees, the planting of the trees must be done by men who understand the work, the after culture must be strictly attended to, and the field must be protected from the destructive inroads of cattle and other animals. If any of the requisite conditions are not complied with, the enterprises will, to the extent of the neglect, be a failure.

When a mechanic makes an implement or a machine for any special purpose, as a plow, a wagon, an engine, or any implement or device whatever, it must have all the parts in proper place, well fitted and fastened as the purposes of the implement requires. Not an important bolt, screw or crank can be omitted or misplaced without marring the value of the machine and perhaps ruining its value entirely. This is a law of mechanics and nature that cannot be defied with impunity.

So money, which is the most important device of civilization, has its laws and conditions which must be complied with, and the system of finance which is constructed in defiance of the requisite conditions must, to the extent that it neglects, prove a failure. Monetary laws are just as inexorable as the laws of nature, and they cannot be violated with impunity.

What, then, are the requisite conditions for a proper and successful money system? First, there must be a regular established government, as the issuing of money is an act of sovereignty. The said government must be in practical operation, collecting and disbursing revenue and performing the usual monetary functions of a civilized government. Then the money, when issued, must be receivable in the revenues of the issuing government, and it must possess the quality of legal tender. The quantity of the money issued must be in reasonable proportion to the revenues collected, and the material of the money must be fashioned and executed in the highest artistic style, above the arts of the counterfeiters. Money is valuable in proportion of limitation. An unlimited money is a worthless money. If the money can be cheaply and easily counterfeited, the counterfeiters will inflate it to the point of worthlessness.

Now the question arises as to the issuing of the French assignats. Were any of the requisite conditions of a safe and sound money system present in France at the time of the issuing of assignats or at any time during their circulation? They were issued first in March, 1790, several months after the overthrow of the regular government. "The various revolutionary governments" which followed each other in rapid succession collected but little taxes and could not in any proper and regular manner receive the assignats in the government revenues. There was no established government which was competent to confer on the new money the quality of legal tender. Merely an edict of a revolutionary convention cannot either confer or enforce the law of legal tender for money any more than it can enforce any other law which it has no power to enact or enforce. Neither did the revolutionary governments limit the issue of paper money in any reasonable proportion to its limited receivability in the revenues, but it was largely overissued by the revolutionary governments.

This of course reduced its value. But it was not the French issues which finally destroyed the value of the assignats. It was the English issues in the form of counterfeiters which completed the work of degradation which the French issues only began. The mechanical execution of the assignats was rude and easily counterfeited and the British government embarked largely in the business of forgery in order to destroy the French finances and ruin the enemy.

Mr. Thomas Doubleday, an English writer, relates the case as follows: "The accession of England to the hostile league of the European powers went far to produce this catastrophe, and to complete the work the minister had recourse to a device novel as a mode of warfare—that is to say, the forgery of the paper money of the enemy. This procedure on the part of Mr. Pitt has

since been denied, but its truth rests upon indisputable evidence and the attempt was quite characteristic of a politician who knew better than most men that money constitutes the real sinews of war.

"If success be a justification, and were justification needed, this attempt is fully justified, for it completed the annihilation of the credit of the assignats, in spite of the terrible means adopted by the French convention to force their circulation. It is not a little curious, however, to reflect that within a very few years after the destruction of the French assignats—that is to say in 1797—Mr. Pitt should himself have been driven by the force of circumstances to adopt this very expedient and risk the hazardous step of relying upon an inconvertible paper circulation, and that this measure, the fruit of imperious necessity alone, should be classed by his eulogists, and by the first Sir Robert Peel among others, among the brilliant phases of his administration."

Mr. Stephen D. Delays of Philadelphia, in his history of the assignats and mandats, 1877, speaks of the British scheme of counterfeiting the French assignats as follows:

"But finding that the revolution was stronger than the clergy, stronger than the nobility; that imperial France was conquering the enemies of liberty everywhere; that nation after nation was yielding to its power; that its armies were victorious and its principles, developed by its constitution and laws, were such as reason and humanity approved, the clergy and the nobility set criminal law, honor and every principle of honesty at defiance and organized forgery and made the passage of counterfeiting assignats an occupation—thus attempting by crime, by stealth and by villainous and secret infamy to undermine the credit of the assignat, deprive France of its resources and overthrow the revolution."

This business was prosecuted by individuals in a small way in Belgium and Switzerland, but mainly in the city of London, under the eye and approval of William Pitt, the premier of England.

The history proceeds as follows: "Seventeen manufacturing establishments were in full operation in London, with a force of 400 men devoted to the production of false and forged assignats. The extent and success of the labor may be judged by the quantity and the value they represented. In the month of May, 1795, it was found that there were in circulation from 12,000,000,000 to 15,000,000,000 francs of forged assignats, which were so exact in form, appearance, texture and design as to defy detection except by the most minute examination and exact knowledge of the secret signs by which the initiated were taught to distinguish them."

Now, taking all these facts into consideration, can it be said with any show of reason and truth that the assignats had a fair trial as money? With no established government or sovereignty, they were not in any true sense a legal tender. There being little revenue collected, they could not be properly honored or received in the revenues in any sort of proportion to the amount issued, and, being rudely executed and easily counterfeited, it was easy for the counterfeiters to inflate them to the point of worthlessness. There was not a single condition on which to base a safe money system in France at the time the assignats were issued. Not an enterprise on the farm, in the shop or in the entire fields of science or industry could have succeeded with so many essentials lacking.

And yet, in spite of the difficulties in the way, the French assignats made the revolution a success. They overthrew the monarchy and became the means of permanently subdividing the great landed estates of the nobility into small homes for the people.

Mr. Alison, in his "History of Europe," volume 4, page 371, states this part of the case very clearly. After mentioning the evils arising from the fall of the assignats Mr. Alison says:

"On the other hand, the debtors throughout the whole country found themselves liberated from their engagement. The national domains were purchased almost for nothing by the holders of the government paper, and the land, infinitely subdivided, required little of the expenditure of capital and became daily more productive from the number and energy of its new cultivators. These vast alterations in the circulation induced social changes more durable in their influence and far more important in their final results than all the political catastrophes of the revolution, for they entirely altered, and that, too, in a lasting manner, the distribution of property and made a permanent alteration in the form of government unavoidable from a total change in the class possessed of substantial power."

In volume 6, page 3, Mr. Alison further says: "A great part of the landed property of the country had passed into the hands of several millions of small holders, who might be expected to be permanently resolute in maintaining their possessions, etc."

After the conversion of the great estates into "public domain," the assignats became the agency by which the lands were subdivided into small homes. The assignats were a child of the revolutionary government. They performed a good work in giving homes to the people. As a money they were precisely as good as the issuing power. No better, no worse. They lived as long as the revolution and went down with it. The last insurrection was put down by Napoleon in 1795; the assignats finally fell to the point of worthlessness in 1796. The revolution fell into the arms of Napoleon, the most bitter foe of all forms of paper money. He often said that he never would issue paper money, but when it came to the test he was compelled to issue paper until by his victories he was able to live entirely upon his conquests.—John Davis in Omaha Nonconformist.

DISGUSTED REPUBLICAN

He Has Done Some Thinking and is Moved to Denounce g. o. p. Newspaper Rot

REPUBLICANS MUST EXPLAIN

Meserve's Great Financial Feat in Paying off State Debt Without Increasing Taxation

The Facts Are Not Denied.

Many men who have heretofore always voted the republican ticket, for the first time in their lives, are beginning to do some serious thinking along political lines. One of them in a confidential talk opened up his mind something after the following fashion: "As for the money question, I am free to say that I do not understand it. But there are other things that I do understand, or at least I think I do. I know that a reduction of the state debt over half a million of dollars, during these hard times is a financial feat of no mean proportions. That it has been accomplished without any increase of taxation, it seems to me, requires of those who have run the state government to make some satisfactory explanation why they, with the same revenues, ran the state deeper and deeper in debt as long as they held the government. Our state press makes no attempt to explain this matter at all. It seems to me that they must get at it, or we will lose many votes this fall that have always been with us heretofore."

Having thus relieved his mind, he pulled a copy of old Tiddle-de-winks from his pocket, and said: "I was thinking over this morning, the situation, and I thought I would look through the Journal and see what sound and solid reason was given for still supporting the republican party. There was not a sentence on the subject in the whole paper that would appeal to a man's reason. There were slurs, insinuations, misrepresentation and outright falsehoods—falsehoods so apparent on the very face of them that they would not deceive even a clodhopper. Now listen to this, and he read the Journal: "The democratic managers have not decided whether or not to cut loose from silver and other dead issues." Is there a man so ignorant in the whole state that he does not know that the demo-

crats are fighting for silver just as hard as they were two years ago?"

Then he read other passages from the same paper, which was of the date of September 10th, like the following: "We have gained in wages during the past year at least 12 per cent in all the avenues of business." His remark on that issue was: "Every body knows that's a lie. If a single firm has raised the wages of their employes hereabouts, I would like to know what one it is. I have been forced to cut wages or go into bankruptcy." Then he read some items on the state campaign remarking in advance: "See how they discuss the important matters that I mentioned in the beginning. It is disgusting. Here is one which it seems of so much importance, so convincing, that it reprints it from another paper. Senator Allen and Governor Holcomb are doomed to bump their heads this fall when they both make one grand effort to reach the big rope and jury political plum which they have their eyes on." Now that will undoubtedly convince a lot of voters that the fusion state government has not paid off half a million of dollars and reduced the cost of the government as much more! Here's another of the profound arguments: "The fusion candidate for governor is accused of being partial to the stock yards people." It don't say who accused him or whether the accuser had any evidence to sustain his accusation. Isn't that profound and convincing? If our papers can't put up a better fight than they have done so far, they carry this election by a 100,000 majority."

The gentleman whose words are quoted is a business man. He would had better quit, or the populists will get by saying: "I am not talking to get myself in print. But whenever you deem it necessary, you may say that I said it." After the interview was written out it was shown to him. He read it over and remarked: "Yes I said it and a whole lot more besides. Now you ask the Pierce Call to inquire who said it. When it does, you may give my name."

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NOTICE. Notice is hereby given that I, W. V. Pace, the assignee of the noted mortgages to Frank M. Hall by J. W. Mitchell of the date of September 6, 1896, and filed for record in the office of the county clerk of Lancaster county, Nebraska, said mortgage being for \$800.00, together with interest thereon at the rate of 10 per cent per annum from the first day of September 1896, that being the amount now due on said mortgage, upon all of the general stock of merchandise belonging to J. W. Mitchell and situated in his store at 1235 O street in the city of Lincoln, Lancaster county, Nebraska. Said mortgage covering all of J. W. Mitchell's general stock of wall paper, goods, wares and merchandise, fixtures, furniture, paints, oils, varnishes, picture mouldings, pictures, tools and one gray horse and delivery wagon used by said J. W. Mitchell in his said business. All of said property will be by me the assignee of the said mortgage, offered for sale at the store rooms of the said J. W. Mitchell at 1235 O street Lincoln, Nebraska, at 10 o'clock a. m. on the 15th day of October, 1898. W. V. PACE, Assignee.

Notice to Farmers and Stock Feeders.

Buy your cattle and sheep at the stock yards, West Lincoln and save freight and other expenses. Have your sheep dipped. We guarantee to cure scab, we do the work for one cent per head. We are buying HAY, STRAW AND GRAIN. G. H. Geoghegan, Gen. Mgr., West Lincoln, Neb.

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