

BULWARK OF FREEDOM

Seven Billion of Foreign Coin Debts—Populism Should Advance into Supremacy

The honorable secretary of the treasury makes the country in general believe that the government and people of this country are the owners of some coin. In his report of December 1, 1898, he states that there is coin in this country as follows: Gold coin \$ 797,428,090 Standard silver dollars 468,238,597 Subsidiary silver coins 76,670,481 Total \$1,342,337,168

Admitting for the argument's sake that the statement is true, yet if the American government and people should be required now to pay all their coin debts abroad it would take all the coin in our country and over five and a half billion more. Our national, state, city, county, corporate and individual coin debts abroad amount to over seven billion dollars. This country owns no coin except in a qualified sense. We are paying interest on all the coin that there is in this country and on bonds and mortgages held abroad for over five and a half billion more.

In my last letter to the Independent I stated that although our exports of merchandise and money exceeded our imports by the sum of \$2,355,316,951 in the twenty-six years from 1869 to 1896, yet in that identical same period of time our foreign coin debts increased in the sum of six billion dollars.

Thus it will be seen that although our exports greatly exceed our imports nearly every year, yet the interest constantly accruing against this country on its enormous foreign indebtedness and the dividends constantly coming due from this country to foreigners on their enormous amounts of property investments here and the balances accruing against our shipments between our country and others being done mostly in foreign owned vessels, all these items easily liquidate the balances in favor of this country for its excess of exports over imports, and in addition to this keep the principal of the great foreign debt growing against us fearfully.

Long years ago had our foreign creditors, mostly British, headed by the Rothschilds, demanded the sums owing them as they came due from time to time from our people, we would have run out of coin money. And now should these foreign creditors begin to do this and follow it up, soon coin would become very scarce here. All foreign debts are coin debts.

The main point of interest with these our foreign creditors is to exact just so much of the sums due them from time to time as to keep our money circulation down to just such a point of distress with us as to enable them to keep on bonding and bankrupting and buying in American property at very low and trifling figures, and they let the balance of the sums coming due to them go constantly to increase the principal of the great debt against our people.

If we had free coinage of silver this would give us only fifty to sixty million more money by the year at most, and this the foreign creditors would demand and take in on their accruing dues as fast as they could let it increase our money circulation. They could make good use of it, lend it to other countries or send it to India to buy wheat instead of buying of our people. And all this would only slow up about one-fourth of the present rate of growing of the great foreign debt against this country, and that would be something.

But as long as we have coin redemption of our paper money, just so long will our foreign creditors, aided by their subordinates in this country, have complete control of the quantity of our money circulation, and the bondage of our people will increase in severity without remedy. Upon the other hand, as soon as it is enacted into law that all money shall be legal tender to pay all debts and redeemable in government dues only, the control of the quantity of our money circulation will pass immediately from said creditors to congress, and the very congress that shall have passed the above named enactment, being on the side of the people, of course, will immediately provide for the increase of our money as required by the populist platform, and an increasing and enduring prosperity will set in. Then, and not until then, will the government ownership of the railroads and telegraphs be easily attainable on account of the changed monetary conditions, and the easy accomplishment of municipal ownership of municipal public utilities, as also direct legislation and other benefits will follow in natural order. Until the money and monopoly power be destroyed it would deceive and corrupt voters and control elections under direct legislation if we had the same as now.

A great evil power is not destroyed at all until it is destroyed in its strongest hold. The strongest hold of the money and monopoly power by far is the coin redemption of paper money, whereby it has complete control of the quantity of our money circulation. And here it is at this strong hold of coin redemption that the people must wage a desperate, determined and unyielding warfare until they conquer their great enemy or sink forever deeper and deeper into his mortal servitude.

I insist that the populist party is now unitedly true to its platform and from now until the close of the election of 1900 contend with all its mind and might for its great cardinal motto that all money must be legal tender to pay all debts and redeemable in government dues only. If we do all that we shall prevail. If we prevail and that measure becomes the settled policy of the country, it will be the destroying of coin redemption and the bringing in of a coin that will uplift the people of this country at least into a new and better life of great and enduring freedom and pros-

perity. We can safely promise the people all this on condition that we prevail. Nay more, we can prove it proves it plainly. We should not judge what we can do by what has been done. We have never done anything commensurate with the power and strategy of the great foe. We have never concentrated our assault upon his strongest hold as he has his weapons for its defense. There is nothing that should discourage us.

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THE ASSESSMENT FARCE.

The coming legislature should do something to reform the assessment farce in this state, for nothing else but the word farce serves to adequately describe the present practice of assessing the property. Under the present law the condition is constantly growing worse, until the grand assessment roll of the state is \$10,000,000 less than it was ten years ago. This results in decreased revenues and deficiencies in public funds, while the assessors of the different counties vie with each other in the efforts to lower the assessments and cause their constituents to contribute less than the people of neighboring counties to support the institutions of the state. Taking our own county of Cuming for an example, its total assessed value in 1896 is less than it has been for the past eleven years. These facts call loudly for legislation that will result in the assessment of property at something nearer its cash value than at a uniform rate over the state.—Wesner Chronicle.

WORSE THAN ROYALTY.

On an average the royal families of Europe cost the people about \$1 per annum per family. Rockefeller's income from the American people is more than \$2 per family per year. Please pass us a dish of royalty and take away the untitled kings of the great republic.—Appeal to Reason.

LET IT WAVE.

Bryan's comments on the American flag will strike a responsive chord in every true American heart. The flag stands for more than military power—it stands for liberty and self government. Long may she wave.—Colorado Blade.

MUST ADMIT IT.

The quantitative theory of money is at the present time causing the gold more uselessness than any other argument advanced by the opposition. Those who favor silver do so believing that the value of money depends upon the supply and that it would result less disastrously to the people at large were the government to pass a law limiting production to one half the usual amount, than for the government to pass a law limiting free coinage to one metal only. Those who favor gold must and do deny the quantitative theory in order to be consistent, still their own arguments admit that there is no other theory by which the value of money can be governed.—St. Anthony Standard (Utah).

HOT REPLIES.

The Lincoln, Nebraska, Independent is in a peck of trouble over the many letters it is receiving from all over the state regarding the future course of the people's independent party in Nebraska, and it makes some hot replies as you will see elsewhere in this paper. The facts are that something must be done to bring the boys back into line as soon as possible.—Iowa Educator.

WORSHIP PRINCIPLES.

The fusionists have been chastened rather heavily, it is true, but they now begin to realize that if they are to maintain their principles next to their god, and not run after false idols, it is well that this is the case, for if the chastisement given us on November 8 will cause us to be more circumspect in our treatment of issues, and cause us not to qualify our words by our deeds, there may yet be balm in Gilead for those faithful people who put their trust in us. We have learned that our enemies do not sleep and it therefore behooves us to be ever ready to checkmate them a thing we can only do by acting in accordance with the wishes of the people who placed us in control of the affairs.—Holdrege Progress.

ENGLISH PROTECTIONISTS.

The three great thread manufacturers of the country are about to combine. In a circular letter to the trade these firms announce the abandonment of their separate selling offices in New York, and that their business will be handled by the Spool Cotton company of New York, which concern is incorporated under the laws of New Jersey. All of these companies were originally English and yet have English connections, but their American business exceeds that of the mother country. Their factories were established here to avoid the heavy tariff on that product.

WHERE IS HANNA.

The people of California are meeting in their accustomed places of worship and praying for rain. Mark Hanna has evidently been neglecting the rock ribbed republican heritage on the western coast.

CIVILIZING KANAKAS.

By way of civilizing the Hawaiians our "best government on earth" has abolished the old heathenish postal savings banks and granted several charters for the erection of breweries and distilleries. These benighted barbarians who have heretofore been putting their spare nickels into the savings banks for the good of their families will now have them to buy beer and whiskey with for themselves.—Pittsburg Kansas.

FIGHTING THE TRUSTS

The Only Thing That will Destroy them is a Substantial Rise in Prices.

Editor Nebraska Independent: In your recent issue you say: "Eleven trusts with a capitalization of \$410,000,000 have been formed and gone into business during the last year. They are the furniture trust, thread trust, acid trust, iron trust, and steel trust, flour trust, menhaden trust, sash and door trust, refrigerator trust, knit goods trust, envelope trust, and maling trust. It will not take much longer under the gold standard and falling prices to have every sort of business in the control of a trust. Still the republicans tell us that the gold standard is a good thing."

The premises you assume, attributing the causes for the formation of trusts to the gold standard is not well founded. Trusts are the legitimate outgrowth of our competitive system. Trusts are the haven and refuge to escape the ravages of commercial cannibalism, as heretofore existed before their formation in their struggle for the dollar, and they could exist under bimetallic, gold or silver monometallic, or under the exclusive paper currency.

Manufacture and the distribution of manufactured goods is now beginning to be conducted on a scientific scale, grounded on the spirit of co-operation and consolidation for profit, instead of that of the individual standing on his own bottom struggling to retain his own in open competition in the markets which invariably resulted a bankruptcy and ruin. This the manufacturing and transportation companies of this country has learned, and to avoid a repetition, self-preservation prompts and compels them to consolidate their interests, so as to enable them to receive a fair return upon their investments.

This is strictly business and legitimate at that, for most every state in the union has passed laws recognizing the rights of incorporation, and designating the amount of fees to be charged for the privilege of operating in the state. This act gives these corporations a legal standing before the law and paves the way for the field of their operation.

We have passed the period for men to denounce trusts as public menaces without advocating anything to take their place in case of their dissolution. The great army of people employed in the various enterprises that are now becoming centralized for self preservation, feel that their wages or income is more secure in the hands of men controlling vast aggregations of capital and thereby control the prices, than to have the business of these establishments conducted along the lines heretofore existed before the formation of the trust. Falling prices of manufactured articles below that caused by improved machinery and methods of production which economizes in the labor cost of production leads to industrial warfare, commonly called labor troubles or strikes. The employer not being able to meet his fixed charges at the market price of his articles which is brought about by his competitor having superior facilities for production, is compelled, for self preservation, to lower the wages of his men, causing them to resist by striking at the changed conditions, only to be confronted by their most dangerous foe. The man with an empty stomach and a hungry family urging him to take the place of his unfortunate brother who is rebelling.

Mr. Editor, would it not be far more practicable and humane to leave capital organize, manufacture and the distribution of manufactured articles to perfection than let the people do as they did in the late war with Spain, acquire these properties by peaceful or forceful means and thereafter operate and conduct them in the interest of humanity instead of that of the dollar. LEWIS J. SHIN, No. 2811 Cass St., Omaha, Neb.

In regard to the above, the editor of the Independent would reply that theories, however beautiful and well worked out in the study, must be put to the test of actual experience before they can be accepted. The above theory of the causes of the formation of so many trusts is only the conception of the human mind. It is not demonstrated truth at all. When we come to the test of experience we find that there was never a trust organized during a season of rising prices. We also find that in every season of falling prices they have come into existence and the longer the period of falling prices the more trusts were formed. Again when we come to apply the well known and established laws of political economy, we find their teachings to be the formation and continuance of trusts would be impossible in a period of rising prices. Take the sugar trust for an example. How long could it control the market under continually rising prices? Even the steady prices of the last year has brought into competition with it two independent concerns, one the Apollos, of great importance. If prices should continue to rise, many other concerns would continue to come into existence, and the Hayemeyer concern would be a trust no longer. The only way that trusts can be destroyed is by such an increase in the volume of money as will start prices upward. That that end could be reached by a unanimous vote of congress upon paper money, redeemable by the government in taxes only, there can be no doubt. But the superstitious of our barbaric ancestors have still such force that it seems better to advocate along with the demand for more greenbacks, the demand for the free coinage of silver also.

DRESSING THE LITTLE BOY.

The mother who has two or three small boys to cloth will usually look well to the cost and quality of every garment. Cheap ready made suits are never satisfactory, for the material is not good, and after wearing them a few times the buttons come off and the seams rip. After trying a few of them, the economical housewife usually concludes that it is better in every way to make them at home. Remnants of cloth which may be obtained from the tailor or dry goods store at a great reduction from the regular price, can be used to advantage in making boys' suits, and with the aid of nicely fitting patterns, the task is not a difficult one. These may be purchased at a trifling cost, or by ripping a tailor made suit, pressing the pieces smoothly, and cutting one by them. When there are the partly worn suits of the father, uncle or other member of the family at your disposal, it is not usually necessary to buy new material for any except his Sunday suits, for after the worn pants are discarded, there is usually enough good material in a large suit to make one for a little boy. As the material is usually faded, it is best to dye it some pretty dark color or black, using Diamond dye for wool if the material is all wool, or the dye for cotton if it is a mixture. Then if the sewing is neatly done, and every seam carefully pressed, the little man will be as well pleased as if new goods were used.

There is no difficulty about the fashions, for the styles for boys are more permanent than their sisters. For those three or four years of age, there are the Eton jackets, blouse waists, and knee pants. Boys six or eight years old wear double-breasted coats, knee pants and waist. Their overcoats are very much like those made for men, long and double-breasted, with rolling collar, revers, and deep pockets, in which the little hands are sure to find refuge from the wintry winds. There are double or triple capes which provide extra warmth about the shoulders, and add much to the appearance of the garment. Heavy cloth is made without lining, but the light weight material is lined, and sometimes interlined to make it warm enough. For the very little folks, the Mother Hubbard cloak is as popular as ever, made of elder down, ladies' cloth and other suitable material, trimmed with fur, braid or ribbon. They are lined throughout, and are long enough to reach the ankles.

My little boy needed new waists, and as he objects to wearing a coat when it is possible to get along without it I thought it best to make his waists of warm material. So I washed some pieces of heavy woolen dress skirts, and dyed them navy blue with Diamond dye. The new waist is made with three box plaits on each side of the closing in front. A strip of drilling is sewed under the material at the waist line, making it strong enough to sew the buttons on. The neck is finished with a round turnover collar and the lower edge of the sleeves is gathered into narrow cuffs. The second waist was made of the best parts of a black woolen shirt with a coat and not vest, the neck and front of the shirt were badly worn, while waist was made quite plain with a narrow feather stitching of yellow embroidery silk around the edge of the collar and cuffs, and on each side of the button holes in front. J. E. C.

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HORRIBLE RAILROAD WRECK.

Eighteen Persons Killed in a New Jersey Smash-Up.

New York, Jan. 11.—By a head-on collision between two passenger trains on the Lehigh Valley railroad at West Dunellen, N. J., at 12:47 p. m. yesterday, eighteen persons were killed and over twenty were injured.

West Dunellen is three miles from Boundbrook and about thirty miles from New York city. At the spot where the disaster occurred, there is a sharp curve in the Lehigh Valley tracks and a steep cutting, but the accident was due in the first place to some terrible mistake in train orders and in the second place to another accident that occurred at Boundbrook earlier in the day.

The scenes which accompanied the collision, the sufferings of the injured and the panic that reigned among the 400 passengers were well high indelible. The blood-stained wreck of tangled and twisted iron and wood bore witness to the truth of the general verdict of railroad men, that this was one of the worst collisions in recent years.

A head-on collision on a double track road was made possible only by a freight wreck which occurred at Boundbrook at 6 o'clock in the morning when the axle of a freight car broke and nine cars were piled on top of each other. This completely blocked the east bound track, and all through the morning Lehigh Valley trains bound for New York switched from their own track to the west bound track, going over these rails from Boundbrook to Newmarket, a distance of six miles, and changing at the latter place back to their right side of the road. To permit this mode of traffic, all west bound trains were held at West Plainfield until their own line was clear of trains going in the opposite direction. Train No. 29, which left Susquehanna, Pa., at 7 a. m., was so heavy with hu-

man freight that it had to be broken into three sections. The first two sections arrived at Boundbrook, switched over to the other track, switched back at Newmarket and reached New York in safety. The third section of this train was almost an hour late. Its seven cars were crowded with 400 excursionists, most of them from Mount Carmel and Shamokin, Mahoney City, Hazelton, Ashland and Pottsville, Pa. The party was traveling under the auspices of the business men's excursion, an annual event which many patronize for a three days' visit to New York. Not a few of the excursionists were coming to witness the McCoy-Sharkey fight. Their train switched over at Boundbrook and proceeded, like the preceding sections, on the west bound track.

Meanwhile, there had been waiting at Newmarket a local train that plies regularly between New York and Roundbrook. Its number on the schedule is 71 and it is due in Boundbrook at 11:59 a. m. Owing to the traffic all going on one track, it was almost an hour late. At last the train dispatcher at South Plainfield gave it permission to go. Just before reaching West Dunellen, Engineer Kiek allowed his train down, because he stops for passengers if there are any. Martin Brennan, the signal man, threw up his arms and waved them, as if to say there were no passengers, so the local put on steam and headed round the curve, going at about twenty-five miles an hour. There were only four passengers on the local.

In the cab of the excursion train was James Prendergast, the engineer, with his fireman, George Cheshire. They saw the local as it started on the curve. With shrieking whistle and brakes grinding sparks from the wheels, the excursion train bore down to what seemed certain destruction. The passengers, alarmed at the continued whistling, opened the windows; mothers snatched their children in their arms, men started from their seats, but before they had time to find out what was the matter they were hurled headlong, knocked senseless and many killed outright.

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