

ABOUT DOLLARS.

Two Kinds of Dollars Some People Think are in Circulation.

It is Quite Evident That Moral Quality Does Not Inhere in Dollars of any Kind.

Many of the leading papers of the country have much to say about honest and dishonest dollars, in praise of the one and disparagement of the other.

Have we then in circulation a kind of dollar that differs from what a dollar should be, and from others of its kind as much as to merit the title of dishonest? What is an honest dollar?

It is manifest that moral quality does not inhere in dollars of any kind; they are but the tools of a certain trade.

If, therefore, the term dishonest be applied to any dollars it must be because the dollars are not either properly made, or not justly used.

The authority to make dollars is by the will of the people vested in congress. I believe it is not intimidated by any one that dollars have been made in violation of the will of the people as expressed in law.

Our dollars are then all honestly made. The use of dollars is to buy goods and pay debts, and these are more different characteristics than at first sight appears.

In the buying of goods the dollar always passes for what it is worth; it is not forced upon the seller for more or less than he thinks it worth; but in the paying of debts the creditor is obliged to take it, and the debtor is obliged to give it without any regard to its estimated value.

It is, therefore, in the matter of debt-paying that dollars find opportunity to be dishonest, or more properly speaking, that men give or take injustice by their use.

We have investigated ourselves into this: Are there any dollars in use with which either a creditor or a debtor will be wronged in the paying of a debt? If there are any such it is a matter of general concern that they be replaced with honest dollars.

Because any government, or people, or civilization becomes doomed as soon as universal dishonesty becomes a matter of universal concern.

Regarded as a debt-payer, an honest dollar is one that pays a debt exactly—giving neither more nor less than is due. Just as the marksman misses his aim whether the shot goes to the right or left, or above or below the mark, so a dollar is equally dishonest whether it pays too much or too little.

Turning now from the consideration of the theoretical dollars to that of the actual dollars, we find that all of our dollars, whether made of gold, silver or paper, are equal both as purchasers or debt-payers, therefore we have no dishonest dollars.

If a charge of wrong doing would hold upon any of our dollars it would be upon the gold one because it is the standard dollar.

While our dollars all do the work for which they are made, our monetary system does injustice to very many, perhaps to the majority of the people. We have decreased the number of dollars, thus increasing the value of those that remain, until debts of long standing have been added to as much as one-third in amount.

The sober, honest, industrial people of the country are confronted with a new problem in the science of government, and one which they cannot much longer ignore. Good people have in the past been wont to let the question of money-supply solve itself; they used whatever they had, and were content to attribute any ills they might suffer from a deficient circulation to an inscrutable Providence.

They did not perceive the connection between money-supply and prosperity; and civilization went up or down as the tide of money ebbed and flowed.

In the dark ages when the quantity of money was reduced to a minimum, society well nigh perished and Christian peoples became almost as barbarous as was their fathers who lived before the invention of money.

The civilization of the present day cannot wait upon the money that happens to be found. It cannot afford to go without. Money does the work of a tool; it may be but a mere tool; perhaps it could be nothing more; for its real usefulness stops there; and as a tool—the tool of trade—it can be made and in just such quantity as will best facilitate the work that waits to be done.

Beneath all the fog that is thrown around the subject, designedly and otherwise, there is solid and safe footing for those who will take the trouble to look for it, and are disposed to do justice. The supply of money must be regulated with reference solely to the greatest good to the greatest number before we can have peace.

The improvement of our money will not come by the calling of hard names in a wordy war, or by the vituperative slaughter of reputations. The bulk of the American people are honest. Show them the right and they will do it. If they are not now doing just what we think they should do, it is presumptive evidence that we have not yet been able to make the case clear to them.

safe a transaction as the present scheme by which it lends to the national banks at 1 per cent interest, 90 per cent of the par value of its own promises to pay (United States) bonds.

If I have \$100,000 in United States bonds and deposit them with the treasurer, the government permits me to loan 90 per cent of the face value of the bonds in national bank currency without interest, and at the same time it pays me interest on my bonds at 4 1/2 per cent.

I pocket the bank notes and lend them to the farmers at 12 per cent or any rate I can force them to pay. Now, is the bond any better security than the land, or is there any better reason why the government should lend to banks at 2 per cent than to farmers at 12 per cent?

Were it not for the lands of the United States and the labor expended on it by her hardy yeomanry, her bond would be worthless. Besides, we must take care of these yeomen if we want provisions. There are now 9,000,000 mortgaged farms. The debt is so great it can never be paid.

The courts are burdened with foreclosures. Something must be done. The government always rushes to the aid of Wall street when her bankers are in distress, is it not high time to aid the farmer? * * *

My conviction is that Mr. Stanford sincerely believes, as I do, that if money is furnished to the people in proportion to their needs, the greatest evil of our day will be removed.

In addition this, the 2 per cent the borrower pays the government for the use of the money will defray all the expenses of the government, and we thus get rid of this vexed question of tariff and internal revenue. As 97 per cent of our business is done on credit, what harm could possibly come by substituting say 20 per cent of actual money for credit? This would give us \$20,000,000,000 of circulating medium.

Now, 2 per cent on this would return a revenue to the government of \$400,000,000 which ought to be enough for a government honestly and economically administered. It solves the tax question. It places all taxes on land in a more popular form than Henry George's plan. The man who borrows the money pays the tax. It transfers the burden of taxation directly to the beneficiary. Under the present system the men who pay the taxes get nothing in return.

A Fine Kettle of Fish. There is certainly a vast amount of wisdom among our modern political philosophers. No doubt we "hayseeds" are incapable of fathoming their sublime depths. How could "subalterns and subordinates," "men of the hoe," a customer to "pumpkins and shoes" philosophy, measure up to the giant intellects that gave utterance to such ponderous thoughts as the following: The Globe-Democrat (Rep.) says:

Cotton has lately touched the lowest point since 1855, owing to the largest crop on record; and the present crop promises to be even larger than the last. It is possible, evidently, to have too much cotton as well as to have too much corn.

And the St. Louis Republic, equally as good Democratic authority, says: Leading newspapers of the cotton belt seriously advise planters to plow up every fourth row of their crops now, when half made.

Yet both these philosophers testify that tens of thousands suffer every winter on account of insufficient clothing, and large numbers of hands are idle in our factories because they have shut down. We doubt if any more man one-fourth of the people of this country possess sufficient clothing to keep them comfortable during all seasons of the year.

And yet Dr. Dyerforth is practising, at the expense of the government and with the hearty approval of such progressive papers as we have quoted, on an experiment which, if it proves successful, will insure more abundant crops than ever all over the United States. Indeed, if rain can be produced at pleasure, there will be no more failures of crops.

Then the government statistician comes in and says the great cause of agricultural depression is over-production. Yet J. J. Ingalls, three times a senator from Kansas and until recently president of the senate, says: "there are 10,000,000 people in this country (nearly one-sixth of our population) who seldom get a good square meal."

Again, Texas and all our western states are endeavoring to make a creditable exhibition of our industries at the World's Columbian exposition with the supreme object in view of attracting emigrants to our vacant lands so they can increase our over-production.—Industrial Educator.

Secure the Courts. The Chicago Tribune, in speaking of the Demo-Rep. fusion in Kansas, to prevent the Alliance, if possible, from electing the judges says: "Bad legislation can be endured, but bad courts never." There is a great deal of food for thought in that sentence, not only for the Kansas farmers, but for the industrial hosts all over the country. The main bulwark of the money power is in the courts. Entrenched there they will defy the will of the people as expressed by their legislators.

The independents of Kansas and Nebraska have seen something of "bad courts" themselves. They have seen a supreme court decide that the Nebraska legislature could not institute an investigation of contested election cases without the governor, whose one election and citizenship both were contested, should assemble them for that purpose. They have seen the same court, when called upon for a decision as to the citizenship of said alleged governor, adjourn—with all the evidence before it—to give him an opportunity to defeat the will of the people and serve the corporations whose tools they both were, by vetoing the maximum freight bill, and immediately reassemble and decide that he was not even a citizen of the United States. The people have seen enough of that kind of courts, and the hydra-headed party of the plutocrats won't succeed in saving such from their righteous wrath.—Iowa Tribune.

Rise Above Party—Be Men. The partisan lash is being wielded by experienced hands to herd the people into the party pens of the two old parties. Republican journals of the west, and extreme Democratic journals of our section, read very much like family sentiments when they discuss Alliance demands. The office holding contingent of both parties are offering all sorts of stuff to the voters as opiates to prevent their political awakening.

These office-holding party aristocrats hold out tariff reform, negro domination, white man's party, etc., as incentives for letting matters stand as they are, and reasons? Bah, for doing nothing. These do-nothing, stick-to-party (because party feeds them) fellows, have been housed and groomed so long by the people that they verily think themselves the party and dictators of all party creeds.—The Shorter, Miss.

SHORTEST HOURS. Labor Must Not Be Debauded but Must Receive Its Reward. In his report of statistics relating to the factory system of the United States, Carrol D. Wright, in charge of that department of the census work of 1880, says: "It would require about one hundred and fifty millions of persons working under the old system, to produce the goods made by three millions or so factory workers of to-day."

This is a startling statement when fully comprehended. It is but another way of saying that the invention of labor saving machinery and the systematization of methods is now displacing the labor of 147,000,000 people in the United States. Were the hours of labor reduced to correspond with this increased power of production the United States alone would, if Mr. Wright's estimate is correct, afford employment to the idle of the civilized world, and thereby eliminate all the want and suffering and crime consequent upon it. But this displacement of labor is not limited to the factory system. It is equally true of all industrial pursuits. The introduction of modern machinery and modern methods has vastly increased the productive power of man; and this fact under normal conditions, should insure more leisure to all, rather than enforced idleness and consequent want to so large a number.

When we consider, says the Topeka Advocate, that the men who formerly performed the labor by the old system have been the men who invented the machinery which has multiplied the power of production; and when we reflect that the laboring classes, instead of reaping the benefits that these triumphs of their genius and industry, have thereby been deprived of employment, we are led to question, not only the wisdom, but the justice of this modern system. The labor which formerly required strong men to perform, is now, by means of improved machinery, performed by women and children, and that, too, in occupations entirely unsuited to the age and sex of the employed, solely because their services can be secured for a smaller compensation. This is likewise one of the causes of the enforced idleness of the American workman; and through this enforced idleness, of the great depression of every industrial pursuit. Idle men not only add nothing to the wealth and productive resources of the country, but they are likewise necessarily non-consumers of the products of industry.

How may these evils be more readily remedied than by a general reduction of the hours of labor? If the hours be reduced so that the labor of two men would be required to accomplish what is now performed by one, the active industrial force will be doubled. This should be done without corresponding reduction of wages. Every man taken from the ranks of enforced idleness and added to the list of active producers, will, at the same time be added to the list of consumers of agricultural and manufactured products. This increased consumption will cause increased demand, which in turn will stimulate production to furnish increased supplies; and the inevitable result must be constantly increasing reciprocal demand for labor and all its products. Reduction of the hours of labor therefore, so far from being inimical to any interest, must inevitably inure to the common benefit of all. Let us push the demand for shorter hours.

Alliance Demagogues. One of the pet phrases of the stats press is "the demagogues who lead the Alliance" and the "office-seekers in charge of the Alliance." This is stated in earnestness and faith by some who believe it; by others, it is simply a part of their tactics in politics which they have been using for twenty years. Whoever opposes them is a demagogue, and every office-seeker who has not their endorsement is a bad man from Bitter creek.

The people ought to know that the Alliance of Alabama is its own boss and its own leader. There is no man who can lead the Alliance, except in the path it has laid out. There is no man in the order who does not know that he can no do it. The officers of the Alliance are its accredited agents to do its will and push its purposes. While doing that they will be encouraged, but when they vary from the line some candid and zealous brother will tap them on the shoulder and kindly admonish him.

The Alliance is founded on principles; and these up, cautious rank and file members who seem to be not particularly bright, know about as much about it as anybody. No one can lead the Alliance, unless he can lead the honest, law-abiding, God-fearing people of the line there is very little doubt that he will be admonished and looked after without delay. But these brethren who have been put in the offices, have been chosen on account of their fidelity to the cause and the capacity they have shown for the work, and they do not require much looking after; but if any of them should begin to bobble or to run off on a tangent, they would very soon find that they are servants and not bosses.

The press of Alabama is giving itself very unnecessary concern in its admonitions to the Alliance about its demagogic leaders and office-seeking members. It might take a very cursory view of the gentlemen it is commending as statesmen and plinks of perfection and find every one of them either an office-holder or an aspirant. It is awful bad for these Alliance fellows to seek office, but these other gentlemen were born with a title to one for half of their lives.—Alliance Herald.

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