

Money on Your Old Clothes

Suppose you were hard up—wife and children hungry and nothing to eat—and you could not find work.

Suppose also, that your only earthly possessions were an old horse, a wagon and a harness.

Then suppose you were to go to Washington and ask the administration to help you secure the enactment of a law that would enable you to issue money under the government's name to the extent of part of the value of your horse, your wagon and your harness, meanwhile retaining the possession and use of these things.

What would that be? Why it would be populism in its most aggravated form, for the most that the populists ever asked was that the government should lend them money on their lands—not let them issue money in the name of the government.

But suppose you were the greatest banker and financier in the world—Mr. Rockefeller.

Suppose you had accumulated so much property that you couldn't convert it into money at its real value if you tried, simply for the reason that there isn't a billion dollars lying around loose for such investment in the entire country.

And suppose that your genius for money-getting were such that if you could only raise more money on your present holdings that you could easily get hold of another billion in a few years.

As the result of which—having two billions—you could swell your fortune to four billions and so on until, if you lived long enough, you would come into possession of practically the whole country.

Then suppose you were to send some of your senators to Washington—billionaires and even millionaires always have senators, you know—and ask the administration to help you secure the enactment of a law that would enable you to issue money under the name of the government on your stocks, bonds, mortgages and all other possessions, in the meantime retaining the possession and use of these things.

What would that be? Why, that would be a simple request for an "elastic currency," to consider which our good president is now sitting up late at night, according to the dispatches, in order that he may hear the arguments of Rockefeller statesmen who want him to call an extra session of congress in October—a request that he is disposed to grant, say reports from Oyster Bay.

And what are the arguments in favor of an "elastic" currency? Why, bless you, don't you know? Listen to Senator Cullom:

"More money is needed to move the farmers' crops. If an extra session were to be held in October it would come just at the time when the farmers would feel the necessity the most for more money to handle their crops."

Come to think of it, we remember that about October every year, the farmers are in great distress because of their inability to get money for their crops.

Feel Your Pulse

If it beats fast, then slow—skips beats, your heart is weak and should be treated at once. Dr. Miles' Heart Cure is the best and safest remedy. Sold on guarantee. Send for book on the heart. DR. MILES MEDICAL CO., Elkhart, Ind.

When they take a load of wheat to town they have to shake dice with themselves on the way to tell whether the elevator man will have enough money to pay them, so they will not have to haul the wheat back home.

It's even so bad, along this time of year, we've heard tell, the farmers' wives oftentimes cannot get ready cash for their eggs and butter, simply because the dealers haven't got it.

Wouldn't that sort of twaddle "make you mad?" to use the expressive language of Mr. Opper, the cartoonist.

An "elastic" currency needed to "help the farmers move their crops." Not a word about enabling Mr. Rockefeller and all the other bankers in the county to pledge even their office furniture, to issue millions of money in the government's name, as one honest member of congress says they could do under the proposed law.

Not a word about a desire to get millions for private speculation in Wall street and elsewhere.

And yet so gullible have the people of this country been in the past that Mr. Rockefeller really believes—and evidently not without reason—that he can hoodwink them into thinking that if their bribed representatives do his bidding, they will only be performing a patriotic duty for their country.

Why does Mr. Roosevelt lend a willing ear to Mr. Rockefeller's agents?

We give it up. Figure it out for yourself. But it is not because he can't tell a bunco game when he sees one. The discerning will have noticed, however, that Mr. Roosevelt, being a shrewd politician, never prods organized wealth, except at psychological moments.—Detroit Times.

Postal Scandals of Other Years.

For a parallel to the postal scandals revealed within the last few months it is necessary to go back twenty years. The star route revelations of the Garfield and Arthur administrations were even more sensational than these recent ones, for the men involved were of high rank and the evidence showed a more picturesque plot than has so far been laid bare by the efforts of Mr. Bristow. One of the principal characters was a United States ex-senator who was secretary of the republican national committee, and another was the second assistant postmaster general. The field of operations was perfectly definite and the conspiracy of a sort that appealed to the imagination. The amount of the booty was found by a congressional investigating committee to be about four million dollars.

The frauds were carried on chiefly under the Hayes administration when the growing demand for mail facilities in the sparsely settled west and southwest invited unusual expense and extravagance in the establishment of postal routes. When Garfield's postmaster general, Thomas L. James, assumed office, his attention was at once directed toward the suspiciously large expense of the delivery on the star routes—so called because of the identifying asterisks printed on the blank contracts in which neither railway nor steamboat carriage was specified. The president and Attorney General McVeagh were called into consultation and a thorough investigation was determined upon. According to Mr. James' testimony before a congressional committee Mr. Garfield insisted that the inquiry be pushed, no matter who might be hit.

A superficial investigation was sufficient to disclose frauds of wide extent, and to indicate the method by which they had been carried out. An insignificant route in Dakota was

found, for instance, which had been let to one of the conspirators for \$398. The postoffice department had then ordered the service improved and had increased the compensation to \$6,133. The revenue from the route was only \$240. There was another route which a resident contractor had been serving for \$6,000 a year. One of the ring underbid him. As soon as the new contract was signed the service was made daily instead of weekly and the compensation raised to \$52,000. The ringster sublet the work to another man for \$28,000 and pocketed the \$24,000 profit. An inspector discovered a 725-mile route through the wilderness of the southwest which had cost the government \$300,000 in three years, while its revenue in the same period had amounted to only \$600.

As a result of this preliminary investigation T. J. Brady, the second assistant postmaster general, resigned, one of his clerks was removed and the auditor for the department retired. The assassination of the president and the cabinet changes interrupted the prosecution of the case, but early in 1882 the grand jury of the District of Columbia indicted Brady, ex-Senator Dorsey, John W. Dorsey and several others for defrauding the government. The ring was popularly known as the Dorsey combination. Distinguished counsel were retained by the accused, including Robert G. Ingersoll, Judge Jeremiah Wilson and Mr. Chandler. After a hard preliminary fight on technical points the cases came to trial on June 1.

It was charged that the combination had contracted for certain routes for \$143,000. But by a process of increasing the number of trips a week, shortening the time for making them and giving allowances for the improved service, the amount of compensation had been increased to \$623,000. This sum represented the contracts upon which the indictments rested. The actual frauds, as the congressional committee reported, had involved more than four million dollars.

The case proved a difficult one to establish, as conspiracy usually is. The defense succeeded in having much evidence excluded on which the prosecution had depended. For instance,

Rerdell, Dorsey's secretary, had confessed to Postmaster General James and Attorney General McVeagh that he had been manager of the combination. He had kept a set of books recording payments to "Smith" and "Jones," the first name standing for Brady and the second for his clerk, Turner. Brady, Rerdell had said, received from 33 1/2 to 40 per cent of the extra compensation when "increase and expediton" was granted. This testimony had been received in a police court hearing, but it was ruled out in the trial. Ex-Senator Spencer of Alabama was depended on by the prosecution to testify that he had seen Dorsey put \$6,000 in an envelope to be given to Brady, with the remark that the assistant postmaster general was a thief. But Spencer failed to appear at the trial and he could not be found. Later he denied that he had anything of importance to testify to.

Rerdell and a minor contractor were convicted, the postoffice clerk was acquitted and the jury failed to agree regarding Brady, the Dorseys and the others. On a second trial held in 1883 all the defendants were acquitted. The congressional committee later attributed the result to the conflicting testimony, part of which was believed to be perjured. So the government failed to punish any of the criminals or to regain any of the stolen funds. Its sole gain was in the resulting departmental house cleaning.—Kansas City Star.

Merit Does Not Count.

The fact that Dr. Leonard Wood was promoted over the heads of some five hundred trained soldiers, his superiors, will have a tendency to impress the thoughtless with the idea that the time has come when merit is no longer at a premium.—Concord (N. H.) Patriot.

Tom Worries 'Em.

The worriment Tom Johnson's "red devil" has given the republicans in Ohio the past year is nothing compared to what it will be between now and November.—Columbus Press.

A Good Pointer on CREAM SEPARATORS

From the "Nebraska Dairyman" Lincoln, Neb.
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Our friend, J. M. Betts, of Broken Bow, Neb., sends us the following:—

"Our esteemed citizen, Frank Norton, and his wife are the recipients of a very fine present from their son Frank Lee Norton, of Racine, Wis., who is manager of the J. I. CASE THRESHING MACHINE COMPANY. The father and mother being extensive farmers and have many milch cows, wrote the son that as all the neighbors were getting cream separators, they thought that they, to be in line with them, should purchase one. The son, on receipt of the letter, immediately purchased a DE LAVAL SEPARATOR and shipped it to them, writing to them as follows: 'My Dear Father and Mother: I have examined the different makes of cream separators and send you the one that I consider the very best; it costs a little more than some others, but the difference in price is more than made up in quality.'

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