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Are We to Have a "Yellow Scare" Instead of a "White One?"

In an address delivered by Mr. Bryan, he said that the people were entitled to the gold standard if they wanted it; that if they concluded that the gold standard made money too plentiful and wanted radium standard, that they were entitled to that too, adding that there is said to be just two pounds of radium in the world.

Referring to this statement, the New York Evening Post says:

> The implication would seem to be that an analogeous dearth of the yellow metal stands in the way of its serving as an acceptable medium of exchange. Unfortunately for the covert insinuation, the United States treasury yesterday, for the first time in its history, held over one billion dollars in trust funds; and its holdings of gold amounted to $846,655,068. Mr. Bryan is fairly good at pursuing issues, but he seldom overtakes them.

Although Mr. Bryan's statement as to the radium standard was a bit of pleasantry, it is a fact that already there is dissatisfaction shown with the gold standard by some of the stalwart advocates of that standard. The objection these gentlemen make is that on account of the increase in the production of gold recently, money is becoming altogether too abundant. While seriously speaking, it is not at all probable that anyone would advocate a radium standard, it is a solemn fact that there is, just now, in certain quarters a protest against the gold standard.

On the same day the Evening Post printed this criticism, the Wall Street Journal directed attention to statements made by W. R. Lawson of the London Financial Times, and United States Treasurer Ellis M. Roberts. The Journal states that it is a remarkable fact that just at the time when the candidate of the party which has so long opposed the gold standard has announced that the issue is "irrevocably" settled in this country, some of the political economists are "looking ahead so far as to say that the time is not far off when gold will go the same way as silver has and no longer be available as the world's standard of value." The Journal points out that in the last century nearly $9,000,000,000 of gold has been taken from the mines of the earth, $3,000,000,000 of which has been produced since 1891. While the Journal admits that this production is a tremendous gain to the world's wealth, it says that "it is clear that there might be such an increase in the yellow metal that it would no longer be the best commodity to serve as a standard of value in making exchanges of commerce." Indeed, the Journal says that "some of our writers on financial subjects think that already the stocks of gold are heavy," and that "the point has been made by some that the circulation of money in the United States has outgrown the needs of the people and that we are carrying an excessive supply of gold."

Mr. Lawson of the London Financial Times thinks that the estimate made by our director of the mint that the per capita circulaltion of the money in the world is $9.47, is undoubtedly a prodigal allowance of money." Mr. Lawson says that American currency has been inflated to the amount of $760,000,000 in the past seven years and that this has become "an embarrassment of riches." Mr. Lawson further says:

> Bankers as a rule look to quantity only. "More gold!" "More Gold!" is their one cry. But gold is not invulnerable any more than silver was. It is in much the same position today as silver was 30 years ago. Precisely the same causes and influence are working against it, and the end will be the same. The legal, or conventional, value of monetary metal can only be maintained so long as it does not materially exceed the commercial value. In the case of silver, when the two values diverged sufficiently the so-called silver standard snapped. In the case of gold the same process of divergence between the conventional and commercial values has begun, and when the breaking point is reached the so-called gold standard will snap. The breaking point might have been reached ere now, but for the huge hoards of gold which the treasuries and the state banks of Europe are accumulating. Europe is unconsciously preparing for a counterpart of the American silver crisis in 1893—for a yellow scare, instead of a white one.

Mr. Roberts' address from which the Wall Street Journal quotes, was delivered before the North Carolina Bankers' association and was entitled "Is our currency growing too fast?" Mr. Roberts' address was not delivered as an answer to Mr. Lawson; but Mr. Roberts took up the subject of our growing money circulation and contended that the currency was not growing too rapidly. As a proof that our currency has not outstripped our growth in wealth and commerce, Mr. Roberts says "that between 1890 and 1900 the national wealth grew 44.9 per cent, farm products 53 per cent, the value of manufacturers 39.1 per cent, exports 62.5 per cent, bank clearings 43.7 percent, and deposits in national and savings banks 68.5 per cent. The money in circulation increased 43.7 per cent. This growth in circulation was 1 per cent less than that in national wealth, 9 per cent less than the increase in farm products, 4 per cent more than that in manufactures, the same as that in bank clearings, 12.5 less than that in national and savings bank deposits, and 19 per cent less than that in our exports. So far as the actual gold is involved, says Mr. Roberts, we can rest secure and satisfied. The complaint is often heard that gold as currency in coin and certificates involves too heavy a burden of cost. This ratio to the total circulation in the United States is 43.6. Bank notes are as sound and strong as the credit of the United States, that is to say, as minted gold, and as human ingenuity can secure. They constitute only 17.2 per cent of the total circulation. They are, however, not legal tender nor money of final redemption." Nevertheless, Mr. Roberts thinks that in view of the large additions to bank notes in circulation during the past year, "no need exists for artificial methods to incite to more rapid and abnormal growth."

It would be interesting if the New York Evening Post would give its readers the benefit of its opinion of Mr. Lawson's statements. Does the Post agree with the London financier that "Europe is unconsciously preparing for a counterpart of the American silver crisis of 1893?"

If we are to have "a yellow scare instead of a white one," what will the Post do for a standard?

Hail Jensen, Hero!

A dispatch from Corliss, Wis., describes the heroism of James Jensen, a farmer boy of 18, who lost his life a few nights ago flagging a train. He stood upon the track waving his straw hat in front of the headlight and in his anxiety to attract the attention of the engineer, stayed on the track too long and was run over—but his signal prevented a train wreck. "He saved others, himself he could not save." Who will deny to him the crown that his self-sacrificing bravery won? President Roosevelt talks of "strenuousness" as if it could only be shown by clubbing "inferior people" into sullen submission to foreign made laws; he seems to ignore that moral strenuousness which finds ample field for employment in noble example, in resistence to temptation and in unselfish service to others. James Jensen deserves to have his name recorded among the brave—he died at his post of duty—he gave his life for others.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend." But those for whom this farmer boy died were not friends but strangers! Hail, Jensen, hero!

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A Good Example

Judge Parker has earned praise by resigning his place on the bench in time to allow a successor to be elected. Had he waited a few days longer the place might have remained open for him in case of defeat. He has by his own act excluded himself. He is now ready to begin his campaign.

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Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan appears amply able to do a little strenuous subduing himself.

State Ownership of Railroads

The Wall Street Journal of New York, in an editorial which is reproduced in this issue of The Commoner, criticizes Mr. Bryan's position in favor of state ownership of railroads. The Minneapolis Journal, in an editorial reproduced in this issue, likewise finds fault with the plan of state ownership. Opposition is to be expected from both these sources. If the Wall street and Minneapolis papers were advocating the ownership and operation of railroads by the federal government their criticism of state ownership would be more in point. But it is evident that they are finding fault with the method of securing government ownership, whereas their real objection is to any kind of government ownership of railroads. The Wall Street Journal, in fact, concludes with the statement that it does not believe that