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Very cordially yours,

A. H. MATTOX,  
Editorial Manager National Economic League  
13 Astor Place, New York.

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## METALLISM

### The Father of the Silver Question Advises a Prominent Democratic Statesman

Readers of The Independent have doubtless noticed references from time to time to the books of Hon. Alex. Del Mar, who has the distinction of being the first to make the discovery that the coinage laws of 1873 dropped out the silver dollar. From that time until 1900 Mr. Del Mar has been a consistent advocate for the free coinage of silver and gold at the established ratio—yet strange to say his economic researches have confirmed his belief that there should be no "free coinage" of either of these metals. He believed that if gold is to be coined free, silver should be treated in the same way. But his studies teach him that all money should be coined on government account, for in no other way can congress "regulate the value thereof." Mr. Del Mar's "Science of Money" should be carefully studied in this connection. (The Cambridge Encyclopedia Co., N. Y.)

A meeting was held at Cooper Union, New York, a few nights ago to discuss affairs in the Philippines. Edward M. Shepard and Prof. J. G. Schurman were the principal speakers. What they said about the money question may be inferred from the following letter:

Editor Independent: In view of the interest in the monetary question which your reading columns evince, we have asked and been accorded permission to quote the following passages from a letter addressed this day by Hon. Alex. Del Mar to a distinguished democrat, relative to the Philippine mass meeting, held yesterday at the Cooper Institute in this city.

To appreciate the significance of this letter it should be premised that Mr. Del Mar is the father of the silver question, he having started it in 1875 and adhered to it faithfully down to the general election of 1900. He it was who first made the discovery that the coinage laws had been altered; who called public attention to it by preparing some of the first speeches on the subject which were delivered in congress; and who drew up several of the bills which were offered in congress for restoring the law. Mr. Shepard was the recent democratic candidate for mayor of New York and enjoys an excellent reputation for sagacity and probity. Dr. Jacob Gould Schurman of Cornell was a member of the Philippine commission and is universally esteemed for his private virtues and public spirit. Both he and Major General E. S. Otis, who spoke on the same subject on the same evening in Chicago, are believed to be independents in politics.

Mr. Del Mar writes as follows: "Mr. Shepard says we have a 'sound money,' meaning gold; and demands the same for the Philippines. Dr. Schurman says the Philippines need a 'stable currency,' evidently meaning gold. General Otis says the Philippines need a 'reformed currency,' meaning also gold. In default of the full text of these speeches it is difficult to say whether this unanimity discloses the real object of these meetings, or is due to the partiality of the newsgatherers and editors in selecting these extracts. Assuming the former—which seems most likely—it looks like an attempt to identify democratic and independent politics with the so-called 'gold standard.' These attempts do not stand alone. There have been many similar ones; and it cannot be denied that they have taken root.

As an economist, I am opposed to them; believing, for the reasons set forth in my 'History of Money in America,' p. 65, that such a 'reform' would result in causing a flow of the Philippine gold to New York and leaving the islands practically destitute of money. As a statesman and in your place, I would favor these attempts. It is 'good politics' to take advantage of them. To restore silver to the sixteen-for-one relation is now no

longer practicable. Even if it was so restored, it would not compensate those who suffered by its degradation, but an entirely new class of individuals and of nations. Moreover, the quickest way to demonstrate the unsoundness of the metallic theory, embodied in the so-called 'gold standard,' is to run with it, until it runs itself—which it is sure to do—into the ground. In your place I would simply drop the silver question as having been definitely rejected at the polls; and I would substitute in its place the demand that government shall issue or control the entire currency of the United States and its dependencies. I would not antagonize the proposed bank currency expansion, which, although as unsound as the 'gold standard' theory, appears to be as inevitable; but demand that, for safety's sake, it shall be firmly subjected to congress, who alone shall have the power to augment or restrain the issues. If the people accept this, the battle for an equitable measure of value is practically won; if they reject it, then the contention is hopeless; and government for the people and by the people is at an end; for usury will soon find a way to mould the government into an aristocracy."

CAMBRIDGE ENCYCLOPEDIA CO.  
New York, Jan. 30, 1903.

## GIVE THE DEVIL HIS DUE

### Nebraska's Plutocratic Courts No Man With Political Influence in Danger of Conviction

The Independent has on several occasions had some remarks to make concerning the veracity of W. E. Curtis, and is glad to have the opportunity at last to republish something that appeared in his column in the Record-Herald that is true. It is not the production of Mr. Curtis himself, but a quotation from a letter which he says he received from "a prominent lawyer of Omaha." He says that this lawyer asserts with confidence that "no man of prominence in politics, society or business affairs; no man with money or friends has been or ever will be punished for robbing the government of land or timber in the western states." He declares that the special agents who are appointed to detect violations of the laws and secure evidence to prove them are politicians dependent upon political influence for their positions; that the district attorneys who conduct the prosecutions, the United States marshals who summon the juries and perform other service, and the judges themselves are creatures of the political parties and factions and are controlled by the United States senators, the members of the house and the chairmen of the republican committees. And that even when a conviction is unavoidable the defendant can always obtain continuance after continuance until the public has forgotten about his case and the district attorney can let it drop without exciting unfavorable criticisms.

The gentleman from Omaha predicts that the grand jury now in session at that city will not indict anybody for violations of the land laws, although everybody connected with the government from the secretary of the interior down, knows exactly how many acres Bartlett Richards and other offenders have fenced in, and exactly how long and how far he has violated the laws. He declares that Richards and the other men who should be defendants in the criminal courts are in Washington "hobnobbing" with the secretary of the interior and the senators and members of congress from Nebraska instead of sitting in the prisoners' box and that the district attorney dare not indict or prosecute them for fear of losing his job.

That is not only the state of affairs now, but it has been ever since republican appointees ran the federal courts in this state. Years ago when the editor of The Independent was an editorial writer on an Omaha daily, he drew attention to the way of do-

ing business that characterized the offices of the United States marshal and district attorney. They were in the habit of going away out to Alliance, Crawford or Scotts Bluff and arrested a poor homesteader or two and bringing them to Omaha charged them with stealing timber from the government lands, when the man had cut a few cottonwood poles to build him a shanty or bit of fire wood to keep his wife and children from freezing. At the same time the railroads were denuding thousands of acres and the rich mining corporations thousands more and never a man was arrested. Most of these homesteaders were fined small sums, but that was not the meat in the coconut. The marshals piled up fees amounting to thousands of dollars for mileage and this practice grew to such an enormous extent that appropriations for the expenses of the courts were not only exhausted, but large deficiencies were created. Whether the deficiencies were ever paid or not this dependent sayeth not, but the expenses were so enormous that it attracted attention at Washington.

Lately the same game has been played in another direction. Numerous persons are arrested before each term of the court for selling whisky to the Winnebago and Omaha Indians and a horde of witnesses summoned. The court down there is a fee mill that grinds out handsome incomes to a great number of republican officeholders. The bootleggers are fined a dollar and sometimes a day in the custody of the marshal. That is just enough to keep up the business. If a few of them were sent to jail for good long terms and fined to the extent of the law, that would put a stop to the whole thing and wreck the business. As it is, the bootleggers increase year by year and the fees grow larger and larger. It's as good as a gold mine.

With few exceptions, the whole outfit of republican officeholders in Nebraska are cut from the same piece of cloth, from Clem Deaver up. They have engaged in these same practices for years.

## Political Waste

Editor Independent: Enclosed please find coin for three months' mailing expense. I have read with a great deal of interest the propositions to reorganize the people's party published in The Independent. I wish there were some way to forestall and prevent the waste of political power and influence which is involved in an effort to organize a brand new party. It takes at least thirty or forty years to establish a party organization. The two organizations have monopolized the field. There is now no more reason to believe that reformers can meet and extemporize a new party of national and commanding proportions than in the scores of former instances where the thing has been attempted and has failed. The thing has never been done. It is an egregious error to maintain that the present republican party came into existence in that way. For my views on that subject I refer you to my book on Political Parties (The Macmillan Co.).

Nothing gives the corrupt element in the two old parties more aid and comfort than for the leaders of reform to call out their supporters and corral them in a so-called national party. On the other hand, if the numbers of all the third parties should give notice that henceforth they intend to seek the ends of reform through the two old parties then the corrupt elements in each party would be troubled. Let all the members of third parties declare that no more energy shall be wasted in seeking for themselves the spoils of office; but that all their power and influence shall be directed to the one end of keeping in office the men most favorable to their sense of right. Let third party people take as a model the civil service reform association. The members of this association remained as active members in the old parties. They commanded respect because, although few in number, they were alike in close districts; to defeat candidates who were conspicuously unworthy. The few reformers became a terror to spoilsmen because they remained in the old parties as good and active members. They persisted in offering resolutions committing the party to the policy of reform and then they took real pleasure in defeating candidates of their own party who were disposed to betray the professed party principles. Through the influence of reformers both parties were committed to civil service reform. Then the organization was directed to the one end of training and guiding enough voters in each party to command respect for party professions. What might third party prohibitionists and populists not accomplish if they could only be as wise in their generation as were the

civil service reformers? Of course it does not follow that every specific demand in a reform party can be enacted into law and made effective in administration through co-operation with the regular parties; but in this way the members of the minor parties may come nearer the attainment of their ideals and at least they may be saved from a criminal waste of valuable political influence.

JESSE MACY,

Iowa College, Grinnell, Ia.

## Post Check Currency

It would seem like carrying coals to Newcastle—or bringing a shipload of foreign anthracite to Scranton—to tell our readers anything further about what the Post check currency will be—if congress provides for its issue. It will give fractional currency and bills up to \$5 each of which can be converted into an order for money by writing, in a blank line provided for that purpose on the bill, the name of a payee, and affixing a one-cent or two-cent postage stamp (graded as to amount of bill) and cancelling same. What was legal tender money then becomes an order for money, payable only to the payee or his order, like any draft or postoffice order, and it can be sent through the mails with perfect safety. The fractional currency feature alone is worth fighting for. Every person who buys goods by mail and send small amounts by mail, is or should be interested in having the bill pass. The following letter is self-explanatory. Every interested person should write his congressman or senator urging support of the bill.

Editor Independent: The house postoffice committee today voted to favorably report the Post check currency bill. It will now go upon the house calendar and it is hoped will shortly be taken up and passed by that body.

The senate postoffice committee has had the bill under consideration for some time and it is expected favorable action will soon be taken upon it by that body. There is no reason to believe the senate committee will not be as favorably impressed with the merits of the Post check as the house committee has been.

Meantime it is especially important that both representatives and senators be urgently requested by their constituents to help along the bill in every possible way and to vote for it. If this is not done the measure may be side-tracked in the crush of business at the close of the session. By all working together there is a growing prospect that this measure, of so great consequence to the people and press of the country, may be enacted at this session. Please urge your readers to write as above.

POST CHECK CURRENCY BUREAU  
January 30, 1903.

The young man who succeeds is the young man who is willing to earn more than he receives.

## If You Are Sick

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You see this offer everywhere—all the time and every week thousands accept it. Don't you know that I must be curing those thousands, else the offer would ruin me?

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My success comes from strengthening the inside nerves, which alone operate the vital organs. I have spent my life in learning how to do it. A weak organ means weak nerve power. It is like a weak engine that needs more steam. To doctor the organ is useless; what it needs is power to act. My Restorative alone brings back that power, and in most of these diseases no other way can cure. My book will tell you why.

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