

opportunity under an autocracy any more than the boy could learn to swim while forbidden to go near the water. The way to learn is to go at it and try it. No one ever yet, or ever will, learned the art of self government without first having an opportunity to try. The Filipinos would not learn it under the present system in a thousand years any more than the Russians have.

Railroad Slaughter

The awful slaughter by the railroads of passengers as well as of employes has at last moved the Scientific American, which no one can charge with not loving the railroads enough, to give the following facts from the interstate commerce commission's report:

The statistics of train accidents for the year ending June 30, 1904, show not only the largest record of deaths and injuries, but one that has never been approached in any year covered by the investigations of the interstate commerce commission. Last year 3,787 passengers and employes were killed and 51,342 were injured in train accidents. In the previous year, 3,564 were killed and 45,977 injured, and in 1902, 2,819 were killed and 39,800 more or less severely injured. This is an increase in two years of nearly one thousand, or 34 per cent in the number of killed, and over 11,500, or 29 per cent in the number of injured. Now, just what these figures mean can be understood when we remember that they far exceed in killed and wounded the losses in some of the greatest battles of the present Japanese-Russian war, battles which we are informed will go down to history as among the most bloody on record.

The Scientific American attributes the increase in the deaths and injuries to passengers to the higher speed and the increase in the weight of engines and trains, but it does not mention the overworking and long hours demanded of the crews. In two or three of the most disastrous accidents reported, the train crew had been on duty from 18 to 28 hours without rest. Men worked that way are in no condition to handle trains, and it should be made a crime to keep any crew on the road without rest longer than 12 hours.

Judge Fitzgerald's Book

Among the number of books that have been printed in the last twelve years on that portion of political economy that treats of money and its functions, there has not been one that has such value to the scholar, and even for the lay reader, as the work entitled "The Thirty Years War against Silver" by Adolphus L. Fitzgerald, chief justice of the supreme court of Nevada. If a few allusions to passing events and the use of some "catch phrases" that are in common use among the gold standard advocates were eliminated, it would be a strictly scientific discussion of the question of "what is money," and in such form should become a textbook in all our high schools and colleges.

The work is a scientific discussion of two distinct propositions. The first is confined strictly to economics and the second to law. In the first part Judge Fitzgerald discusses all the definitions of money that have been in use by the economists and the people, such as "medium of exchange," "measure of value," "a store house of value," "standard of preferred payments," "a common denominator," "money a yard stick," and shows their absurdity to be so glaring that it would seem that any one who reads the work would ever after be ashamed to use them.

Definition of money. What does the word "definition" mean? Locke says that definition is "making another understand by words what the term stands for." In logic we are taught that a definition states what are regarded as the constituent parts, or the essence of that which is to be defined. A definition should distinctly set apart a thing so as to clearly distinguish it from every other thing. None of the

above phrases to any such thing and Judge Fitzgerald proceeds, not only to show that, but reduces each one and all others of the sort to so complete an absurdity that one is inclined to laugh as he reads the pungent paragraphs. After showing how ridiculous and absurd all these definitions are, the judge says:

"One general remark about all these 'definitions' of money, including that of so profound a thinker as Henry George, to-wit: 'Money is a labor saving device to facilitate exchange' may be made. They are in the main fallacious, false and misleading; they not only do not distinguish money from all other things in the world as a good and accurate and correct definition should do, but they do not distinguish money from any other thing in the world; and even in the parts of them where there are some elements of truth, they are too general to be of value."

Then the author proceeds to give us a definition of money that will stand the test, that will distinguish it from any and all other things in the world. He says:

"Nothing can pay a debt but legal tender, and consequently nothing but legal tender is money. * * * All money is made by mandate of law, the fiat of the law, and is therefore 'fiat' money. There can not possibly be any money but 'fiat' money."

The Judge devotes considerable space to the evils arising from the various kinds of so-called money in the United States. He illustrates it as follows:

"A incurs a debt to be for, say \$100,000. A wishes to make a payment. He goes to B and offers him the amount in national bank notes. B says: 'No, I will not take them, because they are not money, not tender.' A then goes and gets silver in half or quarter dollars or dimes and offers them to B. B says: 'No, I will take ten dollars of the amount you owe me in fractional silver coin, but for the remainder, I will not take fractional silver because it is not tender.' A then tries gold certificates, but meets with like answer and like result. A then tries silver certificates, but meets with a like answer and like result. A then tries treasury certificates, but meets with a like answer and like result. B then sues A; attaches his property; breaks him up in business, ruins him and makes him pay the cost of the suit. All this; and all the time A has in his pocket thousands of dollars

of what is called money; called dollars, but it will not pay his debt! What man of reason and prudence would desire to be placed in such a position? But this is the perilous position that millions of people of the United States are in today."

There could not be a much better argument for the soundness of that plank in the people's party national platform that demands that all money shall be full legal tender.

In the form of an allegory, giving the history of the two cities of Micropolis and Megalopolis, the judge makes the process by which the financial operators gather the wealth of the world to themselves while the millions toil on year after year, so plain that the wayfaring man, though he never read a chapter of political economy in all his life, can not fail to understand it. It graphically pictures the conditions that we are fast reaching and which VanVorhis and other correspondents have been calling attention to in the columns of The Independent. It is also the subject of Mr. Griffin's book on Hocus Pocus money, although these writers approach the subject in an entirely different way from Judge Fitzgerald.

The latter part of the book is devoted to a legal argument, and The Independent must say that is the best that ever came under its notice on that side of the question. Judge Fitzgerald takes the ground that under the constitution, congress can not make anything except gold and silver coin a legal tender. He does not make the ridiculous assertions that most lawyers have made in supporting that position. He acknowledges the full force of the quantitative theory of money, he says that all money is fiat money, but if anything besides silver and gold coin is made a legal tender, the constitution must first be changed.

Wholesale Murder

For three or four years The Independent has been calling attention to the increase of crime. Now it is the constant subject of discussion in many publications. There will be an increase of crime in the lower circles of society as long as the awful crimes in the higher circles are condoned and the criminals, not only admitted to all social circles, but in many cases made heroes. Attention is being constantly called to the fact that there were 31,395 homicides in the United States in the last three years and there were killed on the railroads, 21,847. The British

killed in the Boer war was only 22,000. What is the cause of all this slaughter? Nearly the whole of it can be traced to greed and graft. There is no corresponding increase in crime in other countries. In London with an area of 688 square miles and a population of 6,500,000 there were only twenty-eight murders last year and the murderers were all arrested except four, who committed suicide. In Chicago with one-third of the area and population, there were 128 murders and 106 of the murders were never found. There are at present four and a half times as many murders and homicides to each million of inhabitants as there were twenty years ago. This state of affairs threatens not only the stability of the nation, but if not corrected, will in the end murder civilization itself.

Francis Ellington Leupp, who has been appointed commissioner of Indian affairs, has long been the agent of the Indian Rights association in Washington, a society that was founded as the result of the work of Bright Eyes in the eastern states. It is to be hoped that there will be a complete change in the methods of that bureau and that steps will be taken to take the probate administration out of the hands of local courts and place it in the hands of a federal court, located on the reservations, with an appeal to the United States district courts. Of course every lawyer living within fifty miles of a reservation will fight such a measure as they always have done, but that is no reason why it should not be adopted.

In a case just decided at Dessau, Germany, the court held that a soldier does not possess the right of self-defense against a superior, even if the latter wantonly attacks him or is intoxicated and irresponsible at the time of the outrage. It astonishes the people of this country whenever they think of the submissiveness of the German people to a military rule that is a relic of the dark ages. How long will they continue to endure it?

When imperialists started out on their policy of conquest, they called it "destiny." Mr. Debs says that socialism is the next "inevitable" phase of the evolution of civilization. If it is inevitable, it does not need Mr. Debs' assistance. It will come anyhow. What do the imperialists want of big armies and navies! If it is destiny, they can neither assist or hinder.

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