

LEGALIZED VIOLENCE.

In the state of Wyoming there are at present many placards advertising that \$3,000 will be paid for the capture, "alive or dead," of any person who shall prove to be one of the men who robbed a certain express train not long ago. Of this large sum, a portion is offered by private parties and a portion by the government. No names are mentioned of the men wanted, and their identification is apparently left to individual enterprise.

Now, assuming what is very probable, that applicants for this reward are more likely to produce their captures in the dead than the living state, in what material respect does this proceeding differ from the lynchings in the South, that are so much deplored; where citizens known, or reasonably suspected, to be guilty of crimes, are taken by the neighbors and hanged out of hand? What would be the legal standing of a man who should shoot another for the sake of this money, if the victim proved to be innocent? And in what position towards its own laws does it put the government, to offer cash payment for the dead bodies of men whom it cannot name and who have not been convicted of any offense?

ENGLISH CHEAP MONEY.

ST. LOUIS, June 9, 1899.

EDITOR THE CONSERVATIVE,
Nebraska City, Neb.

In the early part of this evening I received THE CONSERVATIVE of June 8, and noticed with amusement the article entitled "A Certain Preventive," which refers to Bryan's prescription: "Take the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16-to-1." Later I was deep in "The English Government and Constitution," by Earl Russell, originally published in 1823, but re-edited in 1865. My edition is the one of 1865. At page 142 of this work I suddenly came upon something which brought me back to your article on Bryan's prescription; it is this: After tracing the history of the rise of public credit in England, showing the history of the establishment of the Bank of England, how existing evils were remedied in England by Mr. Montague, chancellor of the exchequer, and the finances of England put on a sound basis, the author then contrasts the then finances of England with those of France and refers to the desperate expedients which the king of France resorted to at that time. This is what I find in a note at the foot of page 142 of above named book:

"Among other schemes, the king of France ordered that every coin should pass for a nominal value higher than it had hitherto passed for. Addison wittily said that he might as well have ordered that every grenadier of six feet

should in the future pass for seven feet high, and thus think to increase the strength of his army.—Freeholder."

It was rather odd that I should find this so soon after reading the article in your paper.

By the way, as I am on this subject, I wish to call your attention to something with which you are no doubt familiar but which has heretofore escaped my notice. The earliest instance in this country of the fallacy upon which the doctrine of the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16-to-1 rests is, I think, that referred to in Bancroft's History of United States, Vol. 1 (edition of 1854), page 202. The author is there speaking of the year 1640 and of the conditions existing in this country then, he says:

"History has recorded many instances where a legislature has altered the scale of debts; in modern times, it has frequently been done by debasing the coin, or by introducing paper money. In Virginia, debts had been contracted to be paid in tobacco; and when the article rose in value, in consequence of laws restricting its culture, the legislature of Virginia did not scruple to provide a remedy, by enacting that 'no man need pay more than two-thirds of his debt during the stint;' and that all creditors should take 'forty pounds for a hundred.'" PAUL BAKEWELL.

Ex-Secretary of Agriculture Morton, in his paper, THE CONSERVATIVE, makes a pretty good point on William J. Bryan in commenting upon his present declamations against the trusts. The principal effect attributed to the trusts is the raising of prices, and this, Mr. Bryan thinks, is very wrong when it is done by that agency. But in 1896 Mr. Bryan was preaching the doctrine that the fall in prices, supposed to be due to the gold standard was ruining the country, and that its only hope lay in the free coinage of silver, the effect of which was going to be to advance prices rapidly all along the line. Mr. Morton calls on Mr. Bryan to reconcile these positions, if he can. Whether due to the trusts or to increasing demand, the prices of nearly all products—agricultural, mineral and manufactured—are going upward with alacrity, the advance in iron prices being over 8 per cent in a single week.—Oakland (Cal.) Inquirer.

A PIONEER TALKS.

On Friday evening, June 16, 1899,
Dr. George L.

Miller of Omaha delivered a lecture at the Overland theatre in Nebraska City which was distinguished for honest, practical thought. The audience was not large but it was attentive, interested and responsive.

Every father and mother in Nebraska and all knowledge-seeking and ambitious youth who wish to ascertain and do the

right ought to hear this wise and useful discourse.

The intelligence, experiences and observations of Doctor Miller during a residence in Nebraska of more than forty-four years entitle him to the most respectful and attentive hearing. His high character—as a citizen of great spirit for public good, as a pioneer who was always altruistic and philanthropic—commands the affectionate regard of all who know him and remember the unceasing efforts of nearly half a century which he has made for the mental, moral and material development of the commonwealth.

THE TORRENS LAW.

The New York Commercial, which is distinguished authority on business matters, is watching the workings of the Torrens land system in Illinois with interest. It calls attention to the increased facility with which an owner of land can use his property as a collateral for securing loans of money under this system:

"Landowners find that one advantage of the new system is that it makes their property easily available as an asset on which loans may be secured with but slight loss of time. Formerly, as a rule, none but loans having a long time to run were made on land, because the searching of titles involved so much labor, time and expense, but under the Torrens system, it is claimed, sixty or ninety-day loans may be made on real estate as easily and simply as on stocks. The Chicago Record reports that recently a loan was made on a Torrens certificate of title, and that the time devoted to the transaction in the recorder's office was only 15 minutes. It is expected that the number of registered titles will increase very rapidly as the advantages of the system come to be more generally understood.

A COALITION CANINE.

A very hungry, sheep-killing dog met a starving

wolf and though they were both members of the ancient family of canines they had never harmonized together nor spoken to each other before. But the wolf opened the conversation on this occasion, saying:

"Cousin, you look gaunt and famished; you love mutton and so do I. You are however too feeble to catch sheep alone but together we can capture enough for our wants." To which the despondent dog replied:

"I think you are a wise wolf. What is your name?"

"My name is Populism and yours is Bryanarchy. Together we shall surely get some mutton, though the best and most of the flocks may escape us."

"Well," said the wolf, "we will call ourselves Fusion."

"Offices are our Mutton."