

ALLEN'S ARTICLES OF FAITH.

In a recently published letter Judge Allen, formerly a United States senator and now a district judge, promulgates his present political faith. He has at various periods of his unselfish and faultless life adhered to republican doctrines and also to those of the democracy, but, as late as last month, he was a member of the propaganda of populism, and made a confession of faith as follows:

"In the first place, I believe in the abolition of the issue power of national banks. I believe the power to issue money, gold, silver, copper and paper, under the constitution and the decisions of the supreme court, resides exclusively in the general government; and that either partial or total monopoly of this power by private citizens or private corporations, is a violation of one of the fundamental principles of the government."

This is rather vague for a jurist of known perspicacity of thought and expression. When did the government ever make a paper a dollar? When did any national bank make one? The government issued promises-to-pay dollars. These promises are printed on paper and so are the promises of the national banks. Individual notes promise to pay dollars also and likewise, as money, mediate exchanges just as well as the promises of either governments or banks do, and they are, therefore, from Allen's standpoint "a partial monopoly" of that "power to issue money" which resides "exclusively in the general government." And the ancient currencies of tobacco, coon skins, periwinkle shells and buckskin which were used as measures of value and mediators of exchanges were also invasions of and "partial monopolies" of "a power residing exclusively in the general government."

The judge knows very well that man has never created money with value in it, and made it permanently and successfully a measure of other values, out of anything which did not have value as a commodity before it became money. All paper performing the functions of money is the promise to pay money, and is at par, or below, as the probability of its redemption in money holds good, increases or diminishes.

Allen's Railroad Views.

"In the next place, I believe in government ownership of railways and telegraphs. Eighty per cent of the governments of the world, outside of the United States, own and operate a majority of the railways in their respective countries and in many they are owned and operated exclusively by the government, thus imposing upon the people not to exceed one-half of the burden our system imposes upon our people."

It is strange that those who dread and denounce a monetary system based

upon the gold standard because that system obtains in England and other parts of Europe should laud and advocate government ownership of railroads in the United States because "eighty per cent of the governments of the world outside of the United States own and operate a majority of the railways in their respective countries." Why reject a monetary method when it is used by eighty per cent of the inhabitants of the civilized world and adopt a railroad ownership for the same reason? Transportation of passengers and freights by rail in the United States is cheaper than in any other country on earth and better.

But as United States Senator Allen declared that he would not vote a dollar of bonded debt upon this country even to aid in carrying on a war, how then will he purchase the railroads for the government? The railroads have cost much more, eleven times more, than the present debt of the United States! Will Allen pay for them in spot cash? Will he confiscate them? How will he have the government acquire them? Does government dredge harbors, deepen rivers and erect buildings at less cost than private persons can do the same kind of work? Upon what data, what ascertained facts, does Judge Allen assert that with government ownership of railroads the burdens or cost of transportation in the United States would be reduced "one-half?"

Pennsylvania built and owned and operated a railroad. Is it from the experience and satisfactions in running the transportation business by the Keystone state Judge Allen is led to his conclusions? Michigan built two railroads, the Central and the Southern; did they give the Wolverines cheaper rates? THE CONSERVATIVE would be pleased to publish the figures and facts whence the incredible assertion of Judge Allen is deduced. There is so much misinformation circulated as to railroads and other corporations that it will be only adding another blessing to the long list which Judge Allen admits he has conferred on Nebraska if that distinguished and erudite publicist will demonstrate the correctness of his knowledge as to the cheaper rates of railroads which are operated by governments in Europe.

Protection.

Acknowledging his errors when as a republican he praised and exalted the faithful followers of the McKinley school of economists Judge Allen expresses his free trade views thus:

"I believe that under the constitution the power to impose tariff taxes is limited to the necessities of the government, economically administered, and that every dollar of tariff taxation otherwise imposed violates the constitution and the true theory of a republican form of government, in which the people are

entitled to have the burden of taxation rest upon them as lightly as possible."

This is very candid and inspires one with hope for continued revisions and amendments of the political faith of Judge Allen, who has, in a luminous office-holding career, evinced wonderful versatility as a party acrobat and contortionist.

But the brevity of Judge Allen on the money question is startling. He tersely says:

"I believe in postal savings banks, and in fact, in everything that is embraced in the St. Louis populist platform of 1896, including the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the legal ratio of sixteen parts of silver to one part of gold."

This is clearly in favor of the gold standard. He measures the sixteen ounces of silver by the standard, gold. Everybody who declares for the ratio of sixteen to one admits the one, the gold, to be the unit of value!

As we go to press the peace congress is wrangling over the style of bullet to be used hereafter in the coming wars, with which they can kill one another.

Our own great country is following in the footsteps of England, and civilizing the Philippines with powder and ball. It is an hereditary trait for our pilgrim fathers and even their descendants taught the Indians "Peace on earth and good will to men" with loaded rifles.

At the Detroit dinner given in honor of the delegates to the tenth annual congress of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution, the principal utterances were upon war by warriors from war time, and some of the delegates found a little war awaiting them upon their return for showing respect to the war chief, who, when among his friends made use of an expression that was at least indiscreet, but excusable under the provocation he has had to put up with from various examples of lurid literature.

"War is hell," and why need we have any more of it? There is nothing on earth that would care to tackle us, and why should we interfere with any one else? The Cubans have no kind feeling for us for what we have done for them and our regulars at Montauk Point said they would rather shoot a Cuban than a Spaniard. Let's mind our own business.—Spirit of '76.

The Money Power which Nebraska will have evolved from its bumper crop of cereals, its herds of fat cattle and its tens of thousands of lard-yielding hogs in 1899 will be very dangerous and damaging to populist officehunters in the hands of plutocratic plowmen who will basely demand sound money when they sell their products.