

renegades of the jungle, the wolves, the hyenas and the jackals."

On being asked what was the purpose of the Ingot-Barons and the unctuous green frog Brian-go-bray, and why they were so anxious to unite with the pops, and the renegades of the jungle, Solon, the Solomon mouse, answered: "It has been known to the Ingot-Barons for a long time that the prosperity of the industrious and self-supporting inhabitants of the jungle, the Behemoth, or middle classes, the lions or generals of industry, and the tigers or clans of labor, have long been in the possession of a peculiarly tenacious and indestructible bug, which has become noted for its great reliability in all industrial emergencies for centuries. During all the vicissitudes of the inhabitants of the jungles, during the ages of civilization, these bugs have never changed in their trustworthy characteristics. These valuable creatures have been termed the "gold bugs" on account of their peculiarly brilliant and attractive color.

"Knowing, as you do, the inestimable value of these bugs of gold, you should not be surprised that the same is also well known to the Ingot-Barons, the wolves, the hyenas and jackals, as well as the polecats. But there is a characteristic of these bugs of gold which, though almost unknown to you, is well known to the Ingot-Barons. The gold bugs are the only creatures in the jungle which can carry the silver maggots and without which the silver maggots cannot long maintain themselves. The silver maggots are parasites to the gold bugs. Such is the tenacious invulnerability of the gold bugs, however, that these parasites cannot injure them.

"It should now be apparent to this distinguished convention of the self-supporting ability of the jungle, why the Ingot-Barons, the sole proprietors and breeders of the silver maggots, have sent the unctuous green frog Brian-go-bray to the convention of the discontented pops and the wolves, the hyenas and the jackals. It is because of your possession of the invaluable gold bugs. It is for this alone that they designate you as monopolists. The art of breeding and maintaining possession of the bugs of gold being due to your especial ability, has created great jealousy among the Ingot-Barons, for without them their silver maggots are of little or no value, as they can scarcely live of themselves, though the Ingot-Barons have lately discovered a way of breeding them in countless numbers. As the pops have but little or no ability to breed or maintain possession of the gold bugs and the art is entirely unknown to the wolves, the hyenas and the jackals; and as the Ingot-Barons, on account of their small number, are entirely unable to capture the gold bugs from you, or impose their silver maggots upon you, they have incited these malcontents against

you and sent the unctuous green frog Brian-go-bray to stimulate this rebellion of the unfits in the jungles of civilization.

"There is, as you probably know, if not it is known to the Solomon mice, such a thing as a law of incompatibles. Now, though the bugs of gold can carry the silver maggots without it in any way injuring them (the gold bugs), they have no more affinity or use for them than you, most illustrious examples of the survival of the fittest, have for those unfits, the pops, the wolves, the hyenas, the jackals, the polecats and the sloths.

"These attempts of the Ingot-Barons to fasten the silver maggots to the bugs of gold have been made many times, though at no time with such desperation as at present, on account of the overwhelming—to themselves—number of these maggots which the Ingot-Barons have lately succeeded in breeding by some peculiar incubator known only to themselves. It has come to the ears of the Solomon mice that this last attempt is sure to fail. We have been notified by our special detectives—the Solomon mice can go undetected anywhere—that the Ingot-Barons have already begun to lose courage on account of dissensions between the wolves, the hyenas, the jackals and the pops; in fact it is said that the latter are already becoming so dissatisfied at the small per centage of silver maggots, and especially their uselessness, allotted to them, that they are threatening to pop back into the army of gold bugs; a procedure the Solomon mice most urgently warn you not to permit of. We have also heard that the malcontents have become very uneasy of the unctuous eloquence of the oratorical green frog Brian-go-bray.

The Retreat of the Ingot-Barons.

"Perhaps you may have noticed that there has recently been a great increase in the bugs of gold among you. As this has come to the knowledge of the Ingot-Barons they have become much discouraged, for they hoped to fasten the silver maggots in such numbers on the gold bugs as to completely weigh them down, and thus force you to take their silver maggots in their place. This great multiplication of the gold bugs, now likely to go on for an indefinite number of years, has been the work of a peculiar order of the Solomon mice, known as the prospectors, who have in their employ a most energetic army of ants, called the miners, who know the peculiar native haunts of the bugs of gold and how to introduce and acclimate them to the jungles of civilization. So successful has been the work of the Solomon mice in counteracting the plans of the Ingot-Barons, that I am able to inform you that these unworthy knights have already become so disheartened as to order the march of the silver maggots from the valleys of the

mountains called Rocky to be stopped, and have already ordered that those that had gained access to the plains of civilization should be carried back, though a very large number have been distributed among the pops, the wolves, the jackals and hyenas. These will soon die, as these malcontents are totally unfit to take care even of such discontented creatures as the silver maggots. Having thus ended my mission, most illustrious Behemoth, active lions and industrious tigers, I will now retire to the grotto of Delphi, on the mount called Parnassus, and report to Apollo, the chief of Solomon mice, the satisfactory results of this meeting." As he bade the convention adieu, Solon, the Solomon mouse, said: "My honored friends, the bugs of gold have one peculiarity, you have not paid sufficient attention to in the past; they are very sensitive, they love not dissensions in the ranks of those fit only to take care of them. So long as you, the Behemoth of the middle classes, and you, the lions of industry, and you, the tigers and workers of the world, appreciate you are indispensable to one another's comfort and safety, so long will the bugs of gold abide with you. But, if discussions and wars spring up among you, or bitter jealousies turn your hearts against each other, then will the bugs of gold depart from you, and you will lie in greater distress than you were from this threatened invasion of the Ingot-Barons with their silver maggots." Having said these words, Solon, the Solomon mouse, departed to the grotto of Delphi to make his report to his chief, Apollo.

FRANK S. BILLINGS.

Grafton, Mass.

EXPANDED DOLLARS. The infant industry of counterfeiting silver dollars

is stimulated to a frenzy of activity by the low price of bar silver—quoted at 60¼ an ounce, Monday, August 7th, in New York City, and Mexican dollars, containing eight more grains than those of the United States, selling at forty-eight cents apiece.

The expert counterfeiter may put precisely the same amount of standard silver into his secretly and unlawfully made dollar coin that is put in by the government of the United States.

The new counterfeit silver dollars may contain precisely 371 25-100 grains of pure silver and precisely the alloy that the government adds to that amount of the white metal and still leave its maker a profit of more than sixty cents. In fact, with silver at sixty and a quarter cents an ounce, the bogus money-maker can afford to put the whole ounce in his dollar and then have a rake-off of sixty-nine cents; silver dollars of the United States are on the basis of one dollar and twenty-nine cents an ounce. Why not expand silver dollars until they contain a dollar's worth of silver bullion?