

Useful and logical thought is brain **MENTAL MONEY.** Coined bullion. Coined into words it passes current from mind to mind, measuring man's reasoning powers as accurately as chronometers measure time, or gold measures values. Reason is the standard which determines the worth of all speech-making. The arts of oratory sometimes successfully counterfeit logic, stamp the semblance of truth upon falsehood, and simulating sound sense, cause its imitation to circulate at par though the fraud is sooner or later detected and punished. Sometimes sophistry, prejudice, vagaries, fallacies and demagoguery are emotionally and designedly circulated at the ratio of sixteen to one. Out of such debased metal of the mind bogus logic and counterfeit truth is coined. It is detected either before or after it has deceived or damaged the innocent who have accepted it as genuine. It never circulates unchallenged for any great length of time, and is readily detected by the economists who manage universities and colleges—those great clearing houses for that intellectual currency which is the life-blood of healthy commerce and popular government. And just as counterfeit coins, shoved into trade channels, always accumulate penalties and pains for the culprits who issue them, so fallacies and vagaries in finance inevitably bring retribution to those who coin them, and inexorable disaster to governments which adopt them.

#### RATIO OF EDUCATION TO PRODUCTION.

Dr. Charles W. Dabney, president of the University of Tennessee, in the *World's Work* for April, contributes an instructive article upon the relation of education and production. Dr. Dabney shows, by careful investigation of statistics obtained from industrial and educational commissions of the several states and of the United States, that production is in direct proportion to the education of a people. The acquisition of material wealth is inseparable from mental growth and development. The productive capacity is largest in those states that have the best and most liberally patronized schools.

In 1898 and 1899, the average school attending period for each child in the United States was four years; for Massachusetts seven years; for Tennessee three years. For the year 1899 the average per capita production for the United States was \$170 or 55 cents a day; for Massachusetts, \$260, or 85 cents a day; for Tennessee \$116, or 38 cents a day. The average per capita school attendance in Massachusetts was a little more than double that of Tennessee. The average per capita daily earning-capacity in Massachusetts exceeded by

about the same proportion the per capita earning-capacity in Tennessee.

"This is not a mere coincidence," says Dr. Dabney, "in the case of Massachusetts, the United States, and Tennessee; it is the law the world over. The productivity of a people is everywhere proportional to their education,—to their intellectual, physical, and moral training. It is not the natural resources, the climate, the soils and the minerals; it is not even the race, much as these things count in production; but it is education which above everything else determines the wealth-earning power of a people.

"The population of Massachusetts is 2,805,346; of Tennessee is 2,020,616. They have the same number of children to educate.

"Massachusetts taught school 188 days in the year, and her enrolled pupils attended an average of 143.5 days. Tennessee taught school only 89 days, and her enrolled pupils attended only 62.8 days.

"Massachusetts expended for all purposes on her public schools in 1898-99, \$13,889,838, which was \$38.55 per pupil and \$5.07 per capita of her population. Tennessee expended for her public schools in the same year, \$1,628,313, which is \$4.62 per pupil and only 83 cents per capita of population. The average expenditure for all the states of the union is \$19 per pupil and \$2.67 per capita of population of the entire country.

"The power of education in production may be presented again in this concrete way:

"Massachusetts spent in 1898-99, \$12,261,525 more upon her public schools than Tennessee. But see what a return she gets. Each one of the 2,805,346 citizens of Massachusetts,—men, women and infants—has, as we have said, a productive capacity of \$260 a year, against \$170 a year for the average inhabitant of the whole United States and \$116 a year for the average inhabitant of Tennessee. The inhabitant of Massachusetts has thus an excess of \$90 a year over the average inhabitant of the United States, and \$144 a year over the average inhabitant of Tennessee. This means that the people of Massachusetts earned in that year \$252,487,140 more than the same number of average people of the United States and \$403,969,824 more than the same number of people in Tennessee. Twelve millions invested in superior education yielded four hundred millions a year."

#### BUSINESS AND POLITICS.

The American people, taken as they come, are proverbially the shrewdest business men on earth. The very keenest of competition makes them sharp. From the common laborer to the master of a billion-dollar trust, every man has some idea of business methods and some ability to get the worth of his money in

whatever commodity he desires. And yet in spite of this native shrewdness and business capacity, no cities on earth are governed with so little regard to business principles as our American cities. It is often said that politics ruins a man for business. No wonder, for while he is in politics on the American plan he is expected to use anything but business methods.

The head of a business house, when he wants a bookkeeper, seeks the most efficient man to be found at a fair salary. The head of a department in city or county, when he needs a clerk, gets the largest possible appropriation of money and gives the office, as he is expected to do, to a political henchman, no matter how many better men might be secured at lower salaries. The stockholders of a great corporation invariably elect the most efficient man to be found as president; the voters of a great city seek a man with a political pull for mayor. When a railroad superintendent has work to be done he hires the best men he can find to do the work. When a street commissioner needs men to work on the streets, he is expected to hire men of his own party who have friends in the swim.

If any business house should attempt to carry on its affairs in the methods pursued in municipal governments it would become bankrupt within a year. Cities remain solvent simply because they have a perennial income, to be squandered. What we need is not only men of business ability in office, but men of business ability voting as they would vote if stockholders in a corporation, for the best men regardless of politics or past services, or favors to be secured. There is no good reason why business and politics should be divorced. We can secure a business administration of municipal affairs just as soon as we begin to use business judgment in electing men to office.—*St. Joseph News.*

#### MAPLE SYRUP.

DEAR MORTON:

Please accept can of maple sprup I sent you by express yesterday, made on my farm south of Wilber, where you and Hon. A. J. Poppleton stopped over night with me some thirty-two or three years ago, in 1868, when he was making a canvas for congress as the nominee of the democratic party of this state against Hon. John Taffe. Things agricultural have materially changed for the better since that date. The vast prairies, then unoccupied, lying between my place and the point on Turkey creek where you held the meeting, are now owned and tilled by a thrifty and industrious people. Land then vacant, not considered worth anything, now sells for \$35 and \$50 and as high as \$60 per acre. "Sweet are the uses of adversity."

TOBIAS CASTOR.

Lincoln, Neb., March 20th, 1900.