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Shrinking Dollar

(The Literary Digest)

tions of American life is something which, unfortunately,

is not open to argument. A Yale professor's idea for

stabilizing the dollar is, in a nutshell, to add weight

thereto, or subtract weight therefrom, in accordance with

the fluctuations in prices. Confronted by such a book as

Prof. Irving Fisher's "Stabilizing the Dollar" (Macmil-

lan), it would be an impertinence on the part of the re-

viewer to attempt either to endorse or to discredit. His

province is to place before the reader as clearly as

is possible within the allotted space the author's

conception of the problem and his suggested remedy. The

war having loosened the fetters of tradition, now is the

time for the consideration of new and radical ideas. It

was the French revolution which led to the metric system.

To quote Prof. Fisher: "It would not be surprising if, as

is being suggested, this war should give Great Britain a

decimal system of money, revise the monetary units of

the nations so that they shall be even multiples of the

franc, give us an international money and stable pars of

exchange, and, as the greatest reform of all, as well as

the simplest, give us a monetary system in which the units are actually units of value in exchange, as they ought,

times those of a thousand years ago. In England between

1789 and 1809 prices doubled; between 1809 and 1849 .

they fell all the way back and more; between 1849 and 1873 they rose 50 per cent. Between 1873 and 1896 in

gold standard countries prices fell, while in silver stand-

ard countries prices rose. Between 1896 and 1914 prices

in the United States and Canada rose 50 per cent, and

in the United Kingdom 35 per cent. That was a period

of 18 years. During the war prices in the United States

rose seven or eight times as rapidly, and in Europe the

rise was even faster. The purchasing power of a dollar-

today in the United States is about that of 35 cents in

1896. For the purpose of establishing the facts by an in-

dex number of prices, Prof. Fisher takes the year 1913

as a basis for comparison. He calls its price level 100

per cent. The index number representing the price level

of 1917 was 176 per cent and of 1918, 196 per cent. It

is the thrift of the nation that has suffered most from this

fluctuation. A working girl who in 1896 put \$100 in

the savings bank and left it there to accumulate at 3 per

cent would now have nominally twice as much as she put

in, but prices are now more than two and a half times

what they were in 1896. Likewise the bondholder has

had no real interest. He has cut his coupons and cashed them, but his principal, nominally intact, is, in actual purchasing power, less than half what it was. He has been,

in effect, eating up his capital. Even if that bondholder

had saved every penny of interest and compounded it,

he would have less purchasing power now than when he

started. The newly rich today are not bondholders, but

board-foot of lumber, 15 pounds of coal, half a pound of

sugar, a quarter of an ounce of butter, a quarter of an

ounce of leather, a quarter of a pound of steel, etc. Such

an aggregate of goods, selected on the basis of their rela-

tive importance in trade, may be called a goods dollar

or a market-basket dollar. Such a goods dollar would be a good standard of value, but a poor medium of exchange.

being too heavy, bulky and perishable. Therefore it is

proposed to retain gold as a medium of exchange, but to

correct the gold dollar so as to make its value equal to

that of the imaginary goods dollar. It would be merely a

matter of varying the weight of the gold bullion dollar,

with the understanding that the use of coined gold be

entirely abolished. Today gold circulates most by proxy

-through paper certificates, which are redeemable in

gold bullion bars. The proposal is simply to change the

rate at which these bars are exchangeable for certificates

from the present fixed rate of 23.22 grains of pure gold

for each dollar of cetificates to a higher or lower rate

to discretion, but would obey the index-number of prices.

Every two months, for example, this index number would

be calculated representing what the imaginary basket of

goods, called the goods dollar, actually costs. If this

basket costs 1 per cent, or 1 cent, more than a dollar, 1 per

cent more gold is added to the dollar. If it costs 1 per cent less than a dollar, the dollar is lightened 1 per cent. In

considering the international aspects of the matter Prof.

Fisher points out that the plan does not require concerted

action of nations, though concerted action would be de-

sirable to avoid the inconvenience of fluctuating ratios

The changes in the dollar's weight would not be left

In the suggested remedy the dollar standard should be worth a specified bill of goods, to include, say, one

In France, before the war, prices were five or ten

and were intended, to be."

The inadequacy of the dollar under present condi-

Saving Puts Money in Pocket; Words in Brain. BY ARTHUR DETMERS. (Francis W. Parker School)

How would you like to have enough money always in your pocket over a house, or suppose that you to buy whatever you liked? And how could sing in Chicago and be heard should you like to have words in New York! You would be some enough in your brain to be able to tellow. say just what you wanted to saythe right word every time? It would certainly take a brainful of them.

Have you the exact words to describe a sunset, a garden, a church? Can you name all the objects you find in a kitchen, a hardware store, grocery? Can you describe a butcher knife to your mother so she will know what it is without you naming

I kept a notebook in which I set down every new word I met, using my friend Dick (short for dictionary) to help me to the meaning. It was a bankbook, you see, only it was words I deposited, not money."

Whenever I wrote in a word, I looked back over the old ones and tried to recall their meaning. I was like a miser counting his coins. Words whose meaning was hard to remember I wrote the definition of. I found out that a lot of very useful short words there are-much more useful than the sesquipedalian (ah, ha, you don't know that word. Look it up) words. In a few years I had hundreds of words-not only in my bankbook but in my head as wella real treasure-I was getting rich.



new words? In the books and maga-zines I read. Usually, i didn't stop to look up the words because tha interrupted my reading too much. I put a dot in the margin opposite the line that contained the word I didn't know and, when I had fiinished, I went back and picked up the unknown words and put them away land animal for he has lungs, and m my notebook, always consulting breathes through a nose. friend, Dick, of course.

versation or my compositions.



Bullfrog Holds Record for

Suppose that you could crouch own and in one spring leap clear

as powerful in proportion to your size as a Bullfrog's, you could do exactly these things. A very big frog is 7 to 7 1-2 inches long in the been known to take leaps 8 to 10 feet long and 5 feet high. His voice is so powerful that it can be heard tor several miles.

"Suppose a little frog noses his way through the stiff, cold mud It takes a long time to acquire way through the stiff, cold mud word-wealth. But it's a real game and pipes, Spring, spring, spring! has he not as much claim upon our taith as a bird that drops down from no one knows where with the same message?" If you are fortunate enough to hear these cries from an old ice-covered pond, you forget the March winds and the March mud for you know that spring is really

> When you hear of a man that "leads a double life," you don't exactly speak of him as an amphibian but that is exactly what the word means. It is the name given to the big family to which the frog belongs. They lead a double life because live partly in the water and partly on land. There are two main lasses of amphibibians: the frogs and toads, which have no tails, and the newts and salamanders, which



which lives entirely o All school boys and girl know the story of the tadpole. He the fish, for he breathes through gills; the grown frog is more of

Tadpoles are vegetarians; grown The next thing to do was to invest frogs live on meat. They can throw in the new word, that is, to use it; out their tongues to capture unforfor it was really little use to me tunate bugs. They can do this betill I could handle it easily in talk- cause their tongues are stuck in ing or writing, Generally I made up backwards. The big end is fastened sentences to see if the word was at the front of the lower jaw just actually mine; if I thought it was, behind where the teeth ought to be; the little end points down the



Dutch Twins Go Fishing. One summer morning, very early.
Vrouw Vedder opened the door of her little Dutch kitchen and stepped

She looked across the road which into the water," she said. ran by the house, across the canal green fields that lay beyond, clear beside the canal. to the blue rim of the world, where . The house where the Twins lived the sky touches the earth. The sky was right beside the canal. Their shining face of the sun was just tiful rows of cabbages and beets and

Vrouw Vedder listened. The side. roosters in the barnyard were crow- Grandfather lived in a large town, the fields were singing for joy, have a holiday, because he carried Vrouw Vedder hummed a slow lit- milk to the doors of the people in back into her kitchen.

them each a kiss. The Twins opened their going fishing.

their eyes and sat up. O Kit and Kat." said Vrouw Vedder, "the sun is up, the birds are all awake and singing, and grandfather is going fishing today. you will hurry, you may go with him! He is coming at 6 o'clock; so pop out of bed and get dressed. I will put some lunch for you in the yellow basket, and you may dig worms for bait in the garden. Only be sure not to step on the young cabbage that father planted."

Kit and Kat bounced out of bed

n a minute. Their mother helped them put on their clothes and new wooden shoes. Then she gave them each a bowl of bread and milk for their breakfast. They ate it sitting on the kitchen doorstep.



digging worms. You see they did just as their mother said, and did not step on the young cabbages. They sat on them, instead. But that was an accident.

Kit dug the worms, and Kat put them into a basket, with some earth in it to make them feel at home. When grandfather came he South Thirtieth avenue, Omaha, and brought a large fishing rod for Dorothy Lameke, 922 Avenue H,

Twins. There was a little hook on Vrouw Vedder kissed Kit and Kat

"Mind grandfather and don't fall Grandfather and the Twins start on the other side, across the level ed off together down the long road

was very blue; and the great, round father was a gardener, and his beaupeeping over the tops of the trees, onions stretched in long lines as she looked out.

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What Do You Know?

By J. H. BEVERIDGE. rebellion take place?

the revolutionary war?

(Answers published Thursday.)

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been spared to make it so.



ing, the ducks in the canal were a little way beyond the farm where quacking, and all the little birds in the Twins lived. He did not often tle tune of her own, as she went the town every morning early, Sometime I will tell you how he did Kit and Kat were still asleep in it; but I must not tell you now, their little cupboard bed. She gave because if I do I can't tell you about

(Here's a chance to make your with worth money. Each day The Bee will publish a series of questions, prepared by Superintendent J. H. Beveridge of the public schools. They cover things which you should know. The first complete list of correct answers received from an Omaha reader of The Bee will be rewarded by SI; the first from outside of Omaha will win the same. The answers and the names of the winners will be published on the day indicated below. Be sure to give your views and address in full. Address "Question Editor," Omaha Bee.)

7. Why was the exposition at Philadelphia in 1776 called the Cen-

8. What was the first battle of What was Washington's salary er year as president? 10. Who is "The Wizard of Men-

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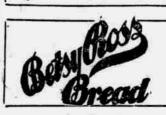
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