



The country is rapidly approaching a crisis in its monetary affairs, and almost every day now marks some new development in the financial situation.

The president's message, urging upon congress the necessity for issuing a long time low rate gold bond to take up the legal tender and treasury notes, is generally considered by business men, without regard to politics, a strong and wise recommendation and which will if followed prevent panic and disaster in the future. What is needed now is for the members of congress to lay aside for a time questions of politics and personal ambitions and do a little legislating for the good of the country. Whether they will do this and relieve the business situation of further uncertainty is a question which will be settled within the next few days.

The country is rapidly drifting to a silver standard and unless something is done at once by congress, we are liable to be doing business on a silver basis within sixty days. This seems to be what anarchists of the Allen-Bryan-Pfeffer type are working for and they have very nearly succeeded in bringing it about. What will such a change mean to the country? It means that gold will go to a premium at once and will disappear from use as money. It will then simply be a commodity, such as wheat or corn, subject to fluctuations of the market. Foreign holders of American securities will sell at once as they do not want to run the risk of receiving back in fifty cent silver what they paid one hundred cents gold for, and such action would undoubtedly break the stock market. This might mean another financial panic and it might not, but business men at present are not in the condition to run even the chance of another panic if it can be avoided. The price of all commodities, wheat, corn, cotton, pork, is lower now than it ever has been and the only reason which has been advanced for the great drop in prices on the Chicago board of trade the past week, is that gold is going out of the country and there is danger of a silver standard. The great argument of the silverites has been that a change to a silver standard would increase prices, yet the moment there is danger of such a thing the price of everything the farmer has to sell begins to fall. Corn has been this week lower than it was before the hot winds of last July. Wheat went lower than it has ever gone before and all because New York and Chicago speculators think there is danger of this country breaking away from the gold standard and they are selling whatever they have and there are no buyers. Business men realize now as never before how little divides the two standards of value and how easily we may drift, imperceptibly and thoughtlessly, from the conservative, safe honest standard that our government is now trying to maintain to the depreciated silver standard of Mexico and China. No wonder that bankers are holding onto their money and business men and manufacturers are timid and hesitate about branching out or making new investments and that there is stagnation in all lines of business. The condition of affairs which confronts us today is bound to continue and perhaps grow worse until definite settlement is made of the currency problem. If congress will for a few days drop politics and pass a bill on the line of the president's recommendations, that is to authorize the issue of \$500,000,000 3 per cent gold bonds, to redeem the greenbacks and treasury notes and allow the banks to issue circulation up to the par value of their bonds, also make import duties payable in gold, it will settle the currency question for some years at least, will restore confidence both at home and abroad in the ability of our government to maintain the parity between silver and gold, and with this returning confidence will come better times throughout the business world.

There has been some talk among the legislators of the advisability of reducing the interest paid on state warrants from seven to five or six per cent. There is no reason why the state should pay seven per cent on its warrants when they are sold in the east at from four and one half to five per cent, and a bill should be passed at this session reducing the rate to five per cent. The members of the House and Senate could have no more convincing proof of the necessity for such a law than the fact that every one of them received two per cent premium on his salary warrant this week and the thanks of the buyer beside for letting him have it at that rate.

## THE NATIONAL GAME

News of the Week Among the Ball Players.

The Omaha papers of Sunday contained several columns of matter about the Western Association. It is evident that they are making a hard fight to have both Quincy and Jacksonville thrown out of the Association and take Rock Island and Jacksonville in to take their places. The *Sioux City Journal* contained the following: "President Kent has displayed poor judgment in the course pursued since his election. Instead of trying to patch the existing differences he has from a position of authority given forth an edict that unless Omaha closes its mouth it will be thrown out. Of course, this is senseless talk against the strongest city in the association, and will not be taken by the followers of ex-President Rowe. There is a secret movement going on, and when the battle comes both Quincy and Jacksonville may find themselves out in the cold. A withdrawal of a few cities from the circuit would break it, and another organization could be quickly formed comprising St. Joseph, Omaha, Lincoln and Sioux City in the west, and Peoria, Rockford, Rock Island and Des Moines in the east. Undoubtedly this would be a strong circuit and a sure money maker next season."

"Will the attendance at Des Moines, St. Joseph, Lincoln and Peoria be as good the coming season as it was last season? This is a question, and you don't have to read the answer in the stars," says Col. Eaton. "All that is necessary is to ask a man from one of the towns and he will tell you that the attendance the coming season will be as far ahead of that of last year as a Florida orange grove is ahead of a Manitoba farm. There is every indication that he speaks the truth. Interest in the game seems to have received an impetus that cannot be handicapped by the croakers and chronic complainers whose sole object in life is to discourage others in well doing. The reports from these towns are to the effect that the people are more interested in the game than for many years past and that the prospects are good for the sale of a large number of books before the season opens."

Lincoln has a very fast outfield in Taylor, Van Buren and Archie Cole.—*World Herald*.

The make up of the teams in the Western Association so far is as follows: Lincoln—Manager, Ebright; catcher, Speer; pitchers, Barnes, Kimerer, Gragg, Myers, Simons and Fisher; first base, Sullivan; second base, Ebright; short stop, Hollingsworth; third base, Hill; fielders, Cole, Van Buren and Taylor. Omaha—Manager, McVittie; Hutchinson, first; Miles, second; Walsh, short; Ulrich, third; Shaffer, Slagle and Donnelly outfielders; Whalen, catch; Carrish, pitcher. Jacksonville—Manager, Jake Ayndelotte. Des Moines—William K. Traffley, manager and captain; Andrews and Mosher, pitchers; Burns, first base; Mohler, second base; Fisher, short stop; McKibben, third base; Holmes and McVicar, outfielders. St. Joseph—Harry Gatewood, manager; catcher, Creighton; first base, McVey; Howe, Jones and Marcum. Quincy—George E. Bracket, manager; McCormick, Farrell, Boland and McGreavy; Routcliffe, Heyn, Coroatt, Kellum and Lutenberg. Rockford—Hugh Nichol, manager; Pabst, first base; Nichol, pitcher.

Secretary Hickey is busy collecting dimes from the multitude of skaters at the park each evening.

Manager Nicol, of Rockford, Ill., has signed Pitcher Tom Fleming, who was with Pottsville in the Pennsylvania league last year. He is a south paw.