should Spokane boosters place easterners on desert tracts, where fruit and flowers can only be coaxed to grow by filling the sand holes with water, when Stevens county offers natural fruit soil, climate, and favorable rainfall?

True, Stevens county is growing. Spokane secures most of the business without seeming effort. It is the largest trading point for this section. Our growth is Spokane's gain. But Spokane cannot notice this fact in her hurried effort to sell city lots situated in the country, and to enforce Sunday closing without injuring the saloon business.

Stevens county will bear watching. It is a trifle too large for one city to watch all at once, but it is time for some in that vicinity to sit up and take notice.

It requires an object lesson to convince a person or a nation of error. The 1907 panic is a lesson—a severe one to many—of the result which follows a financial misrule. The party responsible for present conditions is now eager to propose changes. "They can fix things as soon as congress meets." "They know just what to do." In other words they realize (11 years late) that democracy did know a little about financing a country when its platforms demanded a change in the system.

Under ordinary conditions, with a nation awakened and watching, the party in power might be trusted to take advice from the people's needs and create a system fair and equitable to all. But the republican party of today is astraddle both horns of the financial dilemma. The people want protection from trusts and moneyed interests. The corporate institutions want protection from the people's wrath in order to keep at least a part of what has been wrongfully acquired. Republicans have ever been known as political acrobats, but how to stay on the fence and yet be on both sides is indeed puzzling to party leaders now.

There is no question as to their ultimate position. The question is how best to keep in the stream of republican campaign money and yet get a few votes from honest thinking people. The asset currency system has been decided on by Wall street as its best protection. Therefore asset currency it will be—unless the people arm themselves with sufficient ballots to stop it.

Those who have been interested in national economics may have noticed that a certain gentleman by the name of Bryan has been agitating for a number years a national system of currency which could not be controlled by the trusts. This was looked upon by some as a huge joke. And now is a very good opportunity for them to laugh. Their risibilities may be further excited when the proposed republican system of asset currency is further brought to light. This system is of the endless chain variety, with elasticity guaranteed much greater than that of common rubber kinds. With the country's gold and silver safely in the eastern bank vaults, there could be no cause for alarm in Wall street, and the people of the nation would be highly pleased with their new paper promises, printed in variegated colors and bearing dollar signs in bright hues. In all, what a pleasant dream!

But the awakening? Money is a representative of value. Paper promises are taken as representatives of confidence. There may be those who have confidence in the future honesty of corporate power—based perhaps on the opinion that things cannot become worse. But there certainly are those fully conscious of alarming conditions and determined that the future shall not be as the past. Upon these democracy rests its hopes of power—not power to wrest further gain from a depleted treasury or a burdened country, but power and ability to bring succor when actually needed, without awaiting capitalistic advice or foreign consent.

Packing house checks, rubber money, asset currency—a fitting end to 47 years of almost uninterrupted republican rule.

As a matter of interest to newspaper readers of Stevens county, we again publish a statement of the amount of reading matter contained in Colville papers. The figures given below are for the number of square inches of editorial, county and local news, excluding all heads or paid matter:

Statesman-Index, Nov. 22, 412.
Reveille, Nov. 21, 438.
Examiner, Nov. 23, 608.

This paper refrains from comment. If any be made, let it come from supporters of these papers.

If congress is compelled to descend from its pedestal of financial wisdom and make changes in currency laws, then proof is evident to all of the truth of W. J. Bryan's prophesy that a change was not only necessary but inevitable. In such case who deserves credit for wisdom or trust in capability? Can a republican campaign again successfully decry a champion of liberation from financial despotism, and again place men in national control who will not take action short of a general panic?

Clean money agitators ought now to be satisfied. Eastern capital, under republican sanction, has successfully cleaned most of the money of the country, and with an asset currency the cleansing process could be satisfactorily completed. Water is an excellent purifier and congress has allowed it a plenteous use.