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W. HUMPHREY.

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W. HUMPHREY.

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THE CHEAPEST PLACE IN THE WORLD TO BUY

A FINANCIAL HISTORY.

Course and Effect of Legislation Since 1861.

No. 8.

You cannot borrow of capitalists any money on twenty years seven per cent bonds, nor on your 7-3-10 Treasury notes at the rate fixed by the act of July last. If you offer to the people and put on the market \$300,000,000 more, to the highest bidder in the present aspect of affairs, they would not be taken except in ruinous rates of discount. That policy would depreciate the bonds already taken by the banks and the people who are most loyal to the government, and who came forward as your best friends, and furnished the means so much needed during the last few months to organize your army and navy; and besides depreciation will greatly increase the debt by requiring a much larger amount of bonds to be issued than would be needed if your loans were taken at par. A loan put upon the market in the present depressed state of United States stocks, to be followed by other larger loan, is not regarded as a favorable mode of providing the means for maintaining the government at the present time. If it had been adopted at first it might possibly have been the best mode; but it is now too late to essay that plan, and I believe it would be ruinous to adopt it. I fear the twenty year six per cent bonds would under the pressure fall to 75, 70, 60, and even 50 cents. This would be a ruinous mode of raising the means to carry on the government.

What, then, is to be done? The Secretary of the Treasury in his annual report does not recommend the issue of demand Treasury notes, although he points out many advantages that would result to government from the issue. He suggests two plans: first the issue of demand Treasury notes, and second, a national currency, secured by a pledge of United States stocks, to be issued by banks and associations, with proper regulations for their redemption by the banks themselves. On the propriety of the issue of Treasury notes by the government, to be put in circulation as money, the Secretary says:

The first of these plans were particularly adopted at the last session of Congress, in the provisions authorizing the Secretary to issue United States notes, payable in coin, to an amount not exceeding fifty million dollars. That provision may be so extended as to reach the average circulation of the country, while a moderate tax gradually argued on bank notes, will relieve the nation from the competition of local circulation. It has been already suggested that the substitution of a national for a state currency, upon this plan, would be equivalent to a loan to the government without interest, except on the fund to be kept in coin, and without expense, except the cost of preparation, issue, and redemption; while the people will gain the additional advantage of uniform currency, and relief from a considerable burden in the form of interest on debt.

The remarks of the Secretary were before the suspension of specie payments. The situation of the country is now very different from what it was two months ago. The circumstances have changed; and the Secretary and Congress will find it necessary, in the present, to conform their action to what can be done, and not what they would be able to do, were it otherwise practicable.

If you cannot borrow the money on the credit of the United States, except at ruinous rates of discount, and cannot make the new banking system available in time, and cannot realize the amount required from your tariff and tax bills, in what mode can the means be obtained, and the government carry on? It is believed that

the only way in which it can be done is by issuing Treasury notes payable on demand, and making them a legal tender in payment of all debts public and private, and by adequate taxation to be imposed by new bills. This will bring into full exercise all higher power of government under the Constitution. The Constitution confers on Congress the power (art. 1 sec. 8:

"To lay and collect taxes, duties, imports, and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.

To borrow money on the credit of the United States.

To regulate commerce with foreign nations, among the several States, and with the Indian tribes.

To coin, money regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coins.

To raise and support armies.

To provide and maintain a navy.

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all others vested by the Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or office thereof.

These are among the high power of government which must now be brought into full, ample play. The table which I have before me, procured from the Census bureau, shows that the true value of the property, real and personal, within the United States, is sixteen billions, one hundred and fifty-nine millions, six hundred and sixteen thousand and sixty-eight dollars, (\$16,159,616,068) and the assessed to be \$12,006,756,585.

This is the capital, \$16,000,000,000 in amount, on which your Treasury notes and bonds rest. This claim of government, in the hands of Congress is direct and specific on the banks through the United States, including the gold and silver in their vaults, on commerce, on all kinds of production and business, on railroads, steamboats and their passengers, on gas companies, on manufacturing companies of all kinds, in short, all real and personal estate of every kind is held subject to the payment of the treasury notes and bonds issued by the government. Congress is clothed with this mighty power to sustain the nation at this time. Will you hesitate to do your duty? This is what the people, the capitalists, the merchant and all who confide in your demand notes, want to know. If they take these notes, they want to know positively whether you will enforce the claim of the government upon the property of the country, to the full extent necessary to redeem the treasury notes, and pay punctually the interest on the bonds which they take of you to sustain the government. Unless you are prepared to satisfy the country on this point, it is in vain to issue bonds or notes, and expect them to pass currently among the people. Unless this is done they will depreciate, and they ought to depreciate, but with ample taxation cheerfully voted by Congress, they will be the very best security in the country, because the whole property of the country is held for their redemption. Congress has a plain duty to perform. It has ample power. This power should now be enforced. Will Congress perform this duty?

The Government of the United States is not prohibited by the Constitution from issuing treasury notes on demand, and making them a legal tender in payment of all debts within its jurisdiction. The Constitution (Art. 1, Sec. 10) prohibits the states from making anything but gold and silver coin a legal tender in payment of all debts, but this does not at all restrict the sovereign power of the United States. Congress has the power to coin money "regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin." Gold and silver by long practice—a practice that has continued for centuries among all nations—has become the legal money of the world in all commercial transactions. Its real in-

trinsic value is not as great as that fixed upon it by governments. All governments fix the value of gold and silver, and without the government stamp, gold and silver would be simply commodity, like other things having intrinsic value. Some governments fix the value of coin higher and some lower, just as each for itself chooses to determine. Any other metal or thing that should be stamped, and its value regulated by all the governments of the world, pass equally well in all commercial transactions as gold and silver, although intrinsically as valuable. Exchequer bills or treasury notes whose value is fixed by government, and stamped as money, would pass as money in the payments of debts within the jurisdiction of the government fixing such value.

In regulating the value of "coin," either foreign or domestic, Congress may provide that gold and silver shall be of no greater value in the payment of debts within the United States than the treasury notes issued on the credit of this government, which stamps such coin and fixes its value. These high powers of government have been frequently exercised by Great Britain during her continental wars, in making the bank of England notes receivable for public dues, and virtually a legal tender in payment of debts, by suspending the statutory clause requiring specie payments within the United Kingdom; and other governments of Europe have exercised the same high prerogative whenever necessary to preserve their existence. But we are not left to this argument alone for constitutional power to issue these demand notes and make them a legal tender in payments of debts, as I will endeavor hereafter to show.

THE POPULIST CONFERENCE.

A Good Start Made for the Campaign of 1894.

According to previous announcement a conference of Populists of Missouri met at 10 o'clock, Monday, Jan. 1st, 1894, in the parlors of the Centropolis Hotel in Kansas City. There were some 200 persons in attendance.

In calling the conference to order, M. V. Carroll, chairman of the state central committee, said that the purpose of the conference was to formulate some definite plan of work, so as to enable the party in different counties of the state to act in harmony. He also said the conference was a promiscuous meeting of the members of the state central committee and friends invited for the purpose of consulting together and profiting by a free interchange of opinions.

L. Leonard, the Populist candidate for governor during the last campaign, was elected temporary chairman, and J. Weller Long, state secretary of the Farmers' Alliance, as temporary secretary. The call of the state central committee was then read for the information of those present.

After short addresses by Messrs. Leonard and Long, the convention proceeded to business by making up a list of those present. In the meantime, to facilitate matters, two committees were appointed, one of which was an order of business and the other for the purpose of formulating a plan of campaign work. The first committee consisted of Messrs. J. M. McCall, of Kirksville; J. H. Hillis, of McFall, and W. T. Aldrege, of California. The committee on plan of campaign consisted of Messrs. G. P. Garland, of Butler; H. W. Pulliam, Kansas City; J. B. Johnson, Lyndon; George A. C. Campbell, of Odessa.

The list of delegates being completed, a permanent organization was effected by the election of Mr. W. O. Atkeson, of Butler, as chairman, and Mr. Long as secretary.

The permanent organization being effected, the report of the committee on order of business was received and adopted.

A committee on resolutions, consisting of Messrs. T. A. Hunt, M.

McOmber, U. T. Judson, J. M. Lyndon and L. Leonard, was appointed.

A period of speechmaking then ensued, the conference being addressed by Messrs. Long, Leonard, T. W. Gilruth and others. A recess was taken until 1:30 o'clock.

Upon reassembling the conference was addressed by S. S. King of Kansas City, Kansas; Austin Demmitt, J. H. Moore, M. B. Rice, T. W. Gilruth and others. Mr. Rice designated himself as a common clodhopper farmer, who farmed his own farms. At the close of Mr. Gilruth's talk the flow of eloquence was interrupted long enough to permit the committee on resolutions to submit its report which is as follows:

To the Chairman and Members of the Peoples party State Central Committee.

We, your committee on resolutions respectfully report the following:

Whereas, it is customary for public bodies to set forth their sentiments in resolutions; and

Whereas, the adverse conditions foretold by the national conference of St. Louis and reiterated at Omaha are now realized in the prostrate condition of our commerce, our industries of our finance; and

Whereas, the suggestions offered by the Democratic and Republican parties hold forth no hope of relief and offer no practical plan for the present or future prosperity of our people and nation; and

Whereas, we, the people, having already seen and foretold these evils, both at the industrial conference aforesaid and the Omaha national conference; therefore

Resolved, That we reaffirm our faith in the Omaha platform and reassert our firm conviction that the remedies therein set forth offer the only efficient measure for the popular relief and future prosperity.

Resolved that we unflinchingly oppose to the further issue of interest-bearing bonds for any purpose whatever, and demand that any deficit in the public revenues be met by the issue of full legal tender paper money in small denominations, convenient for the general business of the people.

Resolved, that we are in hearty sympathy with the general aims of organized labor, and in proof thereof refer them to the state and national platforms of the People's party, and we invite and urge their co-operation of securing through the ballot-box a realization of reforms demanded.

T. H. HUNT,
M. McOMBER,
W. T. JUDSON,
J. M. LONDON,
L. LEONARD,
COMMITTEE.

This report was received and adopted, and after some more talk the committee on plan of campaign submitted its report, which is as follows:

The scarcity of money in circulation, stagnation in business, enforced idleness, debt's, high taxes, fall in prices, all financial failures that everywhere harass and distress the people, are the direct results of mistaken and vicious legislation by the state and nation, and the only remedy of relief is to repeal the bad laws and substitute just laws instead; and to this we recommend that the people come together, irrespective of previous political party affiliations, in every precinct and ward in the state and form a People's party organization, and the only condition of membership shall be an avowed willingness to support the Omaha platform.

Therefore, we, your committee respectfully recommend and urge upon the chairman of each county central committee of the People's party that he call his county committee together on the last Saturday in January, 1894, and see that each and every township and ward is provided with a committeeman. It shall be the duty of each township and ward committeeman to immediately organize clubs throughout their respective townships or wards. The name of each club to be the "People's Club of _____ township or ward; each club to be officered by a president, vice-president and secretary-treasurer, and their term of office to be three months.

Any person shall be eligible to membership in clubs by subscribing to the Omaha platform.

Whereas, The People's party is fighting for the liberties of the people, and in the conflict is opposed by the united forces of corporate monopolies from whom the old parties receive their campaign funds, we appeal to the patriotic impulses of the masses of the people and recommend

that for the purposes of a fund to pay the legitimate campaign expenses, that the dues of each member shall be 5 cents a month, to be paid to the treasurer of the club, three fourths of which shall be forwarded to the treasurer of the county central committee on the 1st of each month, together with a report of membership and all such other information as may be of benefit to the county committee. The treasurer of the county central committee shall forward to the treasurer of the state central committee on the 10th of each month one-third of all the dues received by him from the clubs of his county. No person shall be eligible to serve as a delegate in any People's party convention unless he be a member in good standing of a regularly organized People's party club.

G. P. GARLAND,
J. B. JOHNSON,
H. W. PULLIAM,
A. ROZELLE,
GEORGE A. CAMPBELL,
GEORGE C. WARD.

The Blessing of Memory.

The following poem was committed to memory more than forty years ago by the writer, who, at the request of the friends of temperance, has given it for publication:

"Ye friends of moderation, who think a reformation, or moral renovation, would benefit our nation,

Who deem intoxication, with all its dissipation, in every rank and station, the cause of degradation:

Of which your observation gives daily demonstration, who see the ruination, distress and desolation;

The open violation of moral obligation, the wretched banishment without accommodation or any regulation for common sustenance;

A scene of deprivation, unequal in creation; the frequent desecration of Sabbath ordinance; the crime and degradation defying legislation; the awful profanation of common conversation; the dire infatuation with mimic sanctification.

Ye, who with consternation, behold this devastation and utter condemnation on all inebriation, why sanction its duration, or show disapprobation of any combination for its utter extermination?

We deem a declaration that offers no temptation, by any palliation of this abomination, and under this persuasion, hold no communication with noxious ammunition or brewer's fermentation, or any vain libation producing stimulation.

To this determination, we call consideration and without hesitation invite co-operation not doubting imitation will raise your estimation, and by continuation, afford you consolation.

For in participation with this association, you may, by meditation, insure the preservation of a future generation from all contamination.

And may each indication of such regeneration be the theme of exultation 'til its final consummation.

S. B. NEEDHAM.

Immediate Duty of Congress.

The present duty of congress is quite plain. To comply with the requirements of the law in force at the time every contract has been entered into since 1892, it should decree the free coinage of gold and silver money. This should be supplemented by a carefully regulated volume of legal tender treasury notes. Prohibit bank issue altogether.

To do other than this is to permit the continuance of the system of fiscal robbery, which is one of the chief cause now rapidly reducing the people of the United States to two classes—masters and dependents. Every dollar of indebtedness in the county, except where a special contract provided otherwise, could have been paid last spring in gold or silver dollars.

By the repeal of the purchasing clause of the Sherman act, we are now absolutely on the small basis of gold alone. Everything is measured by the yellow metal, which is controlled by the Rothschilds and their allies. Prices are falling, the industrial masses are out of employment starving and growing desperate, but Shylock is gathering in an abundant harvest through the appreciation of his money.

We are at the mercy of the few who control the gold of the world, few who enjoy without working an honest dollar, a dollar which, as well as human ingenuity can devise will maintain the same relation to the commodities which it measures in exchange this year, next year, and for all time.—To: shoe's Magazine.