

lay. But the control of the stream and sources of supply in Parley's and tributary canyons is far from being as satisfactory or perfect as that of City Creek. In fact it might be said that the city practically has no control at all, so far as owning the sources and those localities where it is reasonably certain a larger supply of the needful fluid may be developed. An important question which is now agitating the minds of the City Council is whether it is advisable at the present time to secure such control by accepting the offers made for lands which comprise the watershed of Parley's, Emigration and Lamb's canyons.

In the tract of country around the head of Parley's creek, and reaching from Lamb's to Emigration canyons, the Union Pacific railway owns a considerable quantity of land, through the government grant of each alternate section. The railway has made an offer by which the city can secure this land or any part thereof, should the purchase be deemed advisable. There are some 10,000 acres owned by the railway, which places the price at an average of between \$1 and \$1.25 per acre. The whole 10,000 acres, or half that amount if only that is wanted, can be obtained. These figures are given on the authority of Mr. Wantland, the railway land agent. Payment is to be made on the ten-year plan, with the proviso that during the next two years the corporation will not have to pay any more on both purchases if the new one is made than is now required on the old one in City Creek. It is true that a large part of the land in the district described is absolutely worthless as to commercial value, though some of it is worth more than the price asked; yet if it is desirable for watershed purposes, the total figure may not be deemed unreasonable.

But while the railway offers this part of the watershed, a like portion and more is still owned by the government. An effort is now being made by Delegate Rawlins, on behalf of the city, to secure it for the purpose named. Should this be unsuccessful, the ownership of the railway lands will be essential to the full control of the district. Even if Congress should decline to grant the very reasonable request made, there is still another way in which the land may be obtained—in the grant to the State, under the enabling act, of school and other lands amounting to nearly 8,000,000 acres. The desirable sections could be selected on behalf of the State and acquired by the city from that source.

Further than this, however, there are tracts owned by private individuals, the value of which far exceeds that of the properties named. It is here where the heaviest outlay is in prospect. Perhaps the owners of those tracts are not asking a dollar more for them than their actual market value; but even then the figures go away up into the scores of thousands. As a means of avoiding some of these costly purchases, it is suggested that no attempt be made to secure the watershed in the lower part of Parley's, but that the whole stream be piped for several miles up the canyon. This would place its control in excellent shape, but is by no means an inex-

pensive plan, though it may be a saving on the other, especially if owners want fancy figures. Even then, if the watershed scheme is adopted in the canyons named, some purchases of private property will be necessary.

It will be seen, therefore, in viewing the offers made even in their most favorable light, that there is involved the expenditure of a considerable sum of money in pursuing the watershed policy. It is urged, as a reason for immediate action, that such a policy is absolutely essential to the city's welfare and progress, and that every year will render the consummation of the idea more difficult and expensive. On the other hand it is pointed out that the city is already financially embarrassed, and should take chances of being better able to bear the heavier expense in the future than the more moderate outlay now. To decide between these two views of the case is the responsibility resting on the City Council; and a safe conclusion can be reached only after careful and complete investigation and thorough discussion of the subject in all its phases.

Related to the same general topic is a suggestion arising from the fact that while about 8,000,000 acres will come to the State by the congressional grant, only one-fourth of that can be irrigable land. In the selection of the remainder, therefore, it will be well to consider the watershed policy, and whether it will not be a profitable procedure to the State to secure through that means all the available sources of supply for the benefit of cities, towns and villages now growing up or to be established hereafter.

In this connection it may be stated that the Union Pacific railway has made a proposition to Weber, Summit and Morgan counties, to sell to them the railway sections embraced in the watersheds within their boundaries. All railway lands covering the sources of streams flowing into these counties are offered at what is said to be a low figure; and if the counties named look upon the securing of watershed land as good public policy, it is not unlikely that in turn they may look to the state to aid them in securing complete control by selecting lands of the character suggested when those more valuable have been exhausted.

BANKERS CHANGE FRONT.

Ever since Congress met, the telegraphic columns of the American newspapers have been filled with reports of discussions concerning the proposed reformation of the currency. The agitation is profound, and is being participated in by bankers and business men almost universally, throughout every state in the Union. No person or paper of any influence seeks to longer deny the absolute necessity of relieving the rigidity of our monetary system, and rendering it more elastic. Substantially the whole nation is converted to this proposition, and the only question is as to the method by which that result shall be accomplished.

Bankers and financiers in the trans-mississippi region are almost a unit in urging the free coinage of silver as the most sensible, natural and effective method of accomplishing the desired object, and a large proportion of the same classes in the South take the same view. But the moneyed men of the East have never tired of ridiculing the "fifty-cent dollar" which they charge the people of the silver mining regions with advocating. Now, however, to the western man unskilled in the metaphysics of finance, it looks very much like the goldites of the East were going him several points better by proposing a thirty-cent greenback.

Under the present national banking system, government bonds to the equivalent of about \$1.10 must be deposited as security for each dollar of currency issued by a bank. But under what is known as the Baltimore plan, because formulated and recommended by a convention of bankers and financiers held in Baltimore some time before Congress opened, it is proposed to require a deposit of government bonds equal to only thirty per cent of the amount of currency a bank may put out. This plan has been endorsed and officially urged by Secretary Carlisle, and presumably meets the views of the monometallists of the East generally.

From a western standpoint this appears to be a remarkable change of front on the part of the bankers of the East. They have so long insisted upon the admirable character and all-sufficiency of the present system, that it seems wonderful to see them favor so radical a revolution in it. In the West the belief gains ground that Wall street and its following, perceiving the imperative demand of the people for relief, and fearing that free coinage may be the result of that demand, have devised this scheme to make the currency less rigid in order to defeat the advocates of silver.

It seems reasonably certain that out of all the financial agitation now in progress some measure of relief will be devised and put in operation, and that great good will ultimately result.

A CONFESSED EVIL.

Those who attended the Tabernacle services last evening to listen to the address of General William Booth, the leader of the Salvation Army, must have felt that there was much occasion for the speaker's stinging rebuke as to the restlessness of the audience and the disorder which resulted from it. That the meetings should have been characterized by an unusual amount of noise caused by people moving about from place to place and continually coming in and going out of the building altogether, was doubtless due to two causes. One is, that the congregation was made up of various heterogeneous elements—much more so than is customary with religious services in the Tabernacle ordinarily—and that quite a considerable portion of it went purely out of curiosity, which was soon satisfied. The other, and we believe the principal cause, was that the speaker was unable to make himself heard in all parts of the vast building, and that people in unfavorable