

ment. The act, it is true, contained no change in the old unit dollar. It simply omitted to mention it as one of the coins to be made at the mint.

Section 17, of the bill reads: "No coins either of gold, silver, or minor coinage, shall hereafter be issued from the mint, other than those of the denominations, standards, and weights, herein set forth." The unit dollar was not mentioned in the bill, therefore under this clause it could not be issued from the mint. From the time of the passage of this bill silver began to depreciate, and in 1876 the question of this demonetization became a topic of discussion throughout the nation at large.

In a lengthy address on "Silver money and its relation to the commerce and progress of the world," at Colorado Springs a few days ago, the Hon. Charles S. Thomas touched on the bill of 1873. He said that for a period of some three years thereafter, the great majority of the leading men of the nation were ignorant of the fact that by it silver had been demonetized. In 1874 President Grant did not know it, nor did Senators Hawley and Hoar. In 1876 Landers of Indiana, Garfield of Ohio, Blaine of Maine and Conkling of New York did not know it, and openly confessed their ignorance. In order to show that this was the case, Mr. Thomas quoted a dialogue which took place in the United States Senate on March 30, 1876. It reads as follows:

Mr. Conkling—Will the Senator allow me to ask him or some other Senator a question? Is it true that there is now by law no American dollar? And, if so, is it true that the effect of this bill is to be, to make half dollars and quarter dollars the only silver coin which can be used as a legal tender?

Mr. Sherman—I will answer the Senator from New York that since the law of 1853 the use of the silver whole dollar has been discontinued, and none has been issued; that has been so since 1853.

Mr. Conkling—Is there power to issue it?

Mr. Sherman—There is no power, and has been none.

Mr. Boggy—The power to issue existed from 1853 to 1873, but since 1873 I think there has been no power.

Mr. Sherman—There has been no silver dollar issued since 1853, and my impression is that the law of 1853 did not confer the power to issue it. The senator thinks it did confer the power, but the law of 1873 cut off the power. In my judgment, if it existed.

Mr. Jones of Nevada—The law of 1853 authorized the coinage of the silver dollar, and it was never demonetized until February, 1873, but it needed no law to prevent people from coining such a dollar for use in business, when there was another dollar to be got 3 or 4 per cent. cheaper. The people did, in 1853, and up to 1873, have the option that if gold became dearer they could fall back on the silver dollar. In 1873 that privilege was taken away.

This puts the case in a nutshell, and shows conclusively that the statesmen of twenty years ago did not give that attention to financial and currency

questions that is devoted to them to day. And when such a man as Roscoe Conkling was hoodwinked, it is little wonder that the Representatives from Kansas and Texas were also misled.

There is another thing disclosed by recent discussion of this subject and that is that national legislators like those of some States and Territories give their sanction to measures of paramount importance without understanding their true inwardness and their effects upon the people whom these lawmakers are chosen to represent. Such carelessness in legislation is truly deplorable and condemnable.

### "LIBERAL" COLONIZATION.

[Correspondence of the DESERET NEWS.]—A large gang of workmen are operating on East South Temple street and on streets running north therefrom, on sewer trenches. At such a season of the year and during such severe weather it occurs to a casual observer that it is a very expensive piece of business. With frost out of the ground and milder weather it will be readily admitted that a man will do twice as much in the spring as he possibly can now under such adverse circumstances. Then why keep such a large number of men employed at work now when it could be done better and at one half the cost later on? Besides, there is no immediate necessity for sewer connection now. It will answer just as well, if not better, next March, April or May. Then why is it that Mr. Van Houten keeps such a force of men there doing comparatively nothing? Are the revenues of the city so great and the coffers so full that the taxes must be squandered in this way? Or are the people living along that way so rich that they can afford to pay now double what it would cost later on? There must be some reason for employing so many men in such inclement weather, and perhaps what the writer heard in passing along on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings of this week will reveal the "hidden mystery." On the morning first above mentioned one of the workmen approached a sub-boss and was heard to say: "Well, where do you want us to go?" The sub-boss answered, "Go up on the hill there." The answer was, "H—ll, we'll freeze to death." On Wednesday morning two men were engaged in conversation at the place where the men are digging and one of them was heard saying to the other, "H—ll, here's another gang coming and I have a d—d sight more men than I can find work for." The absolute truth of this can be attested by another besides the writer, who was also an auditor of the elegant language that emanated from the regions of the sewer trench.

Can it be that "Liberal" colonization is going on again in the Fourth precinct? Of course the municipal election is near at hand and the conversation above reported looks a long way in that direction. What a government our city has! Exorbitant

taxes imposed to be squandered. It reminds one of how Lord Beaconsfield characterized the English Liberal government in 1870. He said that their policy or administration had been one of "plundering and blundering."

How long will the people submit to such incompetent administration? I suppose we shall refuse as national partisans to unite to secure good government and thus allow the tramps, thugs and colonizers that marshal under the name of Liberals to have a walk over in February, and rule and ruin our city and blast its fair name for two years more at least. As a tax-payer and property holder I enter my solemn protest against criminal incompetence and extravagance.

Respectfully,  
DAVID L. MURDOCK.

### BEAR LAKE VALLEY.

Editor Deseret News:

Of the twenty-seven wards (one only a branch) comprising the Bear Lake Stake of Zion, fourteen are situated in Bear Lake County, Idaho, which together have a total membership of 4343, divided into 735 families, a little in excess of three-fifths of the entire membership of the Stake. Bear Lake County embraces the extreme southeast corner of the State of Idaho, and is one of the smallest but most thickly populated counties of the State. Its area is about 930 square miles, and its population, according to the United States census, 6061, in 1890. The greater portion of the county consists of mountains, covered in many places with a heavy growth of pine timber, and the lower hills with nutritious grasses, affording excellent facilities for pasturage; while the settled part is confined to the famous Bear Lake Valley, extends north and south through nearly the entire length of the county, with an average width of about six miles. The entire valley, including that part thereof lying in Rich County, Utah, is nearly fifty miles long, and varies in width from one to eight miles. The surface of the valley is somewhat uneven in many places, which makes irrigation rather difficult in some of the settlements, but the soil is generally very rich and productive, and water wherewith to irrigate it ample.

Bear Lake County is divided into six justices' precincts, thirteen voting precincts and twenty school districts.

The renowned Bear Lake nestles in the south end of the valley and covers an area of upwards of one hundred square miles. It is twenty miles long with an average width of five miles, its widest part—from the mouth of Snow Creek on the west side to Eden on the east side—near the boundary line between Idaho and Utah, is seven and one-half miles. This is one of the finest sheets of water in the Rocky Mountains and abounds in fish of various kinds, such as several kinds of trout (salmon trout, silver trout, speckled trout and mountain brook trout), also mullet and white fish, as well as chub. The lake is fed by several mountain streams and there also abound in fish; it has an outlet emptying into Bear River in the north. The shores of the lake are mostly