

entity nor could it circulate with anything approaching regularity. It would have a value undoubtedly, but that value would not be fixed by any authority recognized by "common people," by the masses; it would command more in exchange from some than it would from others, depending upon the peculiar circumstances present and probably upon the degree of intelligence or information possessed by the parties. But let it be rolled out, given shape, milled, rimmed, the usual devices placed on it and the words "United States of America, one dollar" appear, and no one whether high or low, educated or uneducated, rich or poor, will refuse it, or be unwilling to give a dollar's worth of anything he has to sell in exchange for it. Silver is not, then, as the single standard people would have us believe, a purely commercial product whose value is determined by supply and demand as in the case of wheat or cordwood or calico. Could any law fix the value of these things and be recognized? And when it is shown that law can fix the value of silver and be recognized, does not the difference between silver and the other things with which the goldites would associate it appear at once to even the most obtuse? We should think so.

Meantime the mines are all closing down; the mills and smelters are all shutting up; the great caravan of unemployed men who must live by some means is enlarged now by hundreds of thousands, all the late adoptions being west of the Missouri river. It is a discrimination against the people of the better and fairer and more promising portion of this land such as no word in ordinary and moderate language can define. It is a dreadful condition, all the more so because utterly without legitimate foundation or justification. Before long it will be felt more violently in the East than in the West, because there is a very much greater ratio of the population dependent upon manufactures and employing industries generally for support there than here; and when the bulk of the traffic of this section is cut off or so greatly curtailed as to amount to that practically, through our inability to trade and pay as we have been doing, that army of working people will be thrown upon the highways without even such reduced chances of employment as those in the shadows of the western mountains have. Capitalists and monopolists may be able to and in fact generally do cope with lawlessness among employees and those who agitate them; but they have never yet had any "bread riots" to contend with and if they ever should it is a safe guarantee that they will not want to try another.

All this time, as is admitted by high authority, it is only law that is to blame—that the silver money for want of which the great army of idlers is being swollen every hour, is just as good as it ever was because our Congress has not yet exactly patterned after England and Germany by declaring it merchandise. But it has not had the courage to go the other way and declare that we must have our own financial system in accordance with our foundation, our traditions and our customs; hence there is uncertainty

among silver producers as to the future, with the crushing present condition upon them that their only markets will not pay enough to enable them to produce any more.

If this is not the darkest hour in the history of the nation since the shot at Sumter that reverberated around the world, there is something of greater consequence immediately ahead of us than even the wisest can tell us of. We can at last say that the inevitable result of demonetization is widespread ruin and that this is brought before our ocular as well as our mental vision, without subjecting ourselves to the charge of being calamity shriekers or of borrowing trouble from harassing sources.

LET VIOLATORS BE PUNISHED.

Fish Commissioner Musser, in an article on the unlawful destruction of his "charges" by giant powder and other means, deplors such a condition of things and then makes the mistake of saying that the prosecution of offenders is left altogether in the hands of the several county commissioners. Such prosecution, except as witnesses or agents of the Territory, is not left in their hands at all, let alone exclusively; the prosecution for any offense under our laws, whether it be blowing up mining property or blowing up fish, the murder of men or the wanton slaughter of game, all go the same way, through the hands of officers appointed or elected for that purpose and game commissioners are not of them any more than other interested people are. The law quoted making it the duty of such officers to see that such laws are enforced, does not exclude others from doing likewise by any means; in fact, it is the duty of any citizen knowing of a violation of said laws or of any law whatever to give information to the proper officers, and not to do so is itself in some cases a crime.

Mr. Musser goes on to say that the territorial commissioner has "no authority to set traps to catch offenders or to prosecute them when detected." In a certain sense this is correct, as the territorial officer presumably has "other fish to fry" and is certainly not paid for being on the lookout or working up cases against offenders; but he is not bound to be inactive in the presence of guilt and has as much right to detect if he feels inclined and as much right to prosecute after detection as any other citizen has, which means all the right in the world. Our legal regulations are not so rigid that any person may not aid in upholding the laws, and those spoken of are aimed against such offenses as need more or less concert of action on the part of the community to expose and punish.

The fish commissioner for the Territory has been a painstaking and thoroughly efficient officer. The pay of the office is small, but this has not prevented him from magnifying his calling in a spirit of genuine patriotism. Fish food is one of the necessities of mankind, and he that supplies us with better and cheaper fish must needs be more interested in his work than are those usually who labor

merely for what there is in it financially. The evil of which he speaks has abated very little if at all by reason of law; in fact, we are willing to believe some of the statements we hear that in many localities the law is a dead letter and is all but openly defied. Certainly it is a very bad and careless violation that is ever coupled with a conviction, and meantime in every county is a man drawing pay for being on the lookout and bringing offenders to justice. This does not mean that they are to rest supinely in the places where fish and game are only found dead and wait for some one to come and give them information; but to occasionally take the field themselves and establish outriggers here and there. The contempt with which our game laws are set at defiance, or rather the coldbloodedness with which they are ignored, is such as to justify all well-disposed persons in setting snares or otherwise in order that if the evil cannot be overcome it may be curtailed, or falling in this that it be not allowed to grow. Those who know what rare and health-giving sport this Territory provides among its caverns and along its streams, will join with us in saying that the subject herein spoken of has been neglected quite too much and will assist in creating a feeling against game law violations where such feeling is not already prevalent.

EVER-PRESENT DANGERS.

Under the caption of "Things to be Avoided" the San Francisco *Chronicle* has a thoughtful article which might be read with profit by numbers of people in a great many places. It being shown that science has traced most of the diseases that flesh is heir to to the invisible but industrious microbes that infest the air and water, that wiggle unseen in the dust and flourish in most liquids but chiefly in milk and beer, humanity is thereby afflicted with a nameless terror and does not know where to look for protection from it. As to milk and water, a limited number of persons who are their own masters can take certain precautions, but the vast majority are at the mercy of those who serve them, or who in one way or another provide for their entertainment. Then the average man is notoriously a careless and improvident being. If he is menaced by a mad dog or a swiftly approaching railroad train he gets out of the way if he is able; but let death insidiously approach him in the food he is about to eat or the beverage he is about to imbibe, though he is aware of the danger he is unwilling to take the slightest trouble necessary to avoid it.

We are shown that science, preternaturally active in this age of splendid achievements, is continually finding out some new peril without in every case being able to determine its nature or attribute it directly to the terrible microbes. Fish, salted or preserved in oil, are said to distill a poison whose nature, in spite of earnest investigation, remains unknown. A certain quantity of this is found at the bottom of every box of sardines and increases with age. The Russian government