

SOUND CURRENCY.

There is manifestly nothing more vital to our supremacy as a nation and to the beneficent purposes of our government than sound and stable currency. Its exposure to degradation should at once arouse to activity most enlightened statesmanship; and the danger of depreciation in the purchasing power of wages paid to toil should furnish the strongest incentive to prompt conservative precaution in dealing with our present embarrassing situation as related to this subject. We will be wise if we temper our confidence and faith in our national strength and resources with the frank concession that even these will not permit us to defy with impunity the inexorable laws of finance and trade. At the same time, in our efforts to adjust the differences of opinion, we should be free from intolerance or passion, and our judgments should be unmoved by alluring phrases and unweaved by selfish interests. I am confident that such approach to the subject will result in prudent, effective remedial legislation. In the meantime, as far as the executive branch of the government can intervene, none of the powers with which it is invested will be withheld, when their exercise is deemed necessary to maintain our national credit or avert financial disaster.

AGAINST PATERNALISM.

Closely related to the exaggerated confidence in our country's greatness which tends to a disregard of the rules of national safety, another danger confronts us not less serious. I refer to the prevalence of the popular disposition to expect from the operation of the government special and direct individual advantages. The verdict of our voters, which condemned the injury of maintaining protection for protection's sake, enjoins upon the people's servants the duty of exposing and destroying the brood of kindred evils which are an unwholesome progeny of paternalism. This is the bane of republican institutions and the constant peril of a government by the people. It degrades to purposes of wily craft the pliancy of rule our fathers established and bequeathed to us as an object of our love and veneration. It perverts the patriotic sentiment of our countrymen and tempts them to a pitiful calculation of sordid gain to be derived from their government's maintenance. It undermines the self-reliance of our people, and substitutes in its place dependence upon governmental favoritism. It stifles the spirit of true Americanism and stupefies every ennobling trait of American citizenship. The lessons of paternalism ought to be unlearned and a better lesson taught, that while the people should practically and cheerfully support their government, its functions do not include the support of the people. The acceptance of this principle leads to the refusal of bounties and subsidies which are a burden on the labor and thrift of a portion of our citizens, to aid ill-advised or languishing enterprises in which they have no concern. It leads also to a challenge of the wild, reckless pension expenditure, which overleaps the bounds of grateful recognition of

patriotic services and prostitutes to vicious uses the people's prompt and generous impulse to aid those disabled in their country's defense.

Every thoughtful American must realize the importance of checking at its beginning any tendency in public or private station to regard

FRUGALITY AND ECONOMY

as virtues which we may safely outrun. The toleration of this idea results in the waste of the people's money by their chosen servants, and encourages prodigality and extravagance in the home life of our countrymen. Under our scheme of government, waste of public money is a crime against the citizen; and the contempt of our people for economy and frugality in their personal affairs, deplorably saps the strength and sturdiness of our national character. It is the plain dictate of honesty and good government, that public expenditures should be permitted by public necessity and that this should be measured by the rules of strict economy; and it is equally clear that frugality among the people is the best guaranty of a contented, strong support of free institutions.

One mode of misappropriation of public funds is avoided when the appointments to office, instead of being the reward of partisan activity, are awarded to those whose efficiency promises a fair return of work for the compensation paid them. To secure fitness and competency of appointees to office, and remove from political action the demoralizing madness for spoils,

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM

has found a place in our public policy and laws. The benefits already gained through this instrumentality and the further usefulness it promises, entitle it to the hearty support and encouragement of all who desire to see our public service well performed, or who hope for elevation of the political sentiment and purification of political methods.

TRUSTS UNFAIR.

The existence of immense aggregations of kindred enterprises, combinations of business interests, formed for the purpose of limiting the production and fixing the prices, is inconsistent with the fair field which ought to be open to every independent activity. The legitimate strife in business should not be superseded by enforced concession to the demands of combinations that have power to destroy; nor should the people to be served lose the benefit of cheapness which usually results from a wholesome competition. These aggregations and combinations frequently constitute conspiracies against the interests of the people and in all their phases they are unnatural and opposed to our American sense of fairness. To the extent that they can be restrained by federal power, the general government should relieve our citizens from their interference and exactions. Loyalty to the principles upon which our government rests, positively demands that equality before the law which it guarantees that every citizen should be justly and in good faith conceded in all parts of the land. The enjoyment of this right follows the badge of citizenship wherever found and unimpaired by race or color; it appeals

for recognition to American manliness and fairness.

INDIAN RELATIONS.

Our relations with the Indians located within our borders impose upon us responsibilities we cannot escape. Humanity and consistency require us to treat them with forbearance, and in our dealings with them to honestly and considerately regard their rights and interests. Every effort should be made to lead them, through the paths of civilization and education, to self-supporting and independent citizenship. In the meantime as the nation's wards they should be promptly defended against the cupidity of designing men and shielded from every influence or temptations that retards their advancement.

TARIFF REFORM.

The people of the United States have decreed on this day, that the control of their government in its legislative executive branches shall be given the political party pledged in most positive terms to the accomplishment of tariff reform. They have thus determined in favor of a more just and equitable system of federal taxation. The agents they have chosen to carry out their purpose were bound by their promises, not less than by the command of their masters to devote themselves unremittingly to this service. While there should be no surrender of principle our task must be undertaken wisely and without vindictiveness. Our mission is not the punishment but rectification wrongs. In lifting the burdens from the daily life of our people, we reduce inordinate unequal advantages long enjoyed, this is but a necessary incident of our return to right and justice. If we exact from unwilling minds acquiescence in the theory of honest distribution of the governmental beneficence treasured up for all, we but insist upon the principle which underlies our free institutions. When we tear aside the delusions and misconceptions which have blinded our countrymen to their condition under vicious tariff laws, we but show them how far they have been led away from the paths of contentment and prosperity. When we proclaim that the necessity for revenue to support the government furnishes the only justification for taxing the people, we announce a truth so plain that its denial would seem to indicate the extent to which our judgment may be influenced by familiarity with the perversions of the taxing power. And when we seek to reinstate the self-confident business enterprise of our citizens by discrediting abject dependence upon governmental favor, we strive to stimulate those elements of the American character which support the hope of American achievement. The anxiety for the redemption of the pledges which my party has made and the solicitude for a complete justification of the trust the people have reposed in us, constrain me to remind those with whom I am to co-operate, that we can succeed in doing the work which has been specially set before us only by the most sincere, harmonious and disinterested effort. Even if insuperable obstacles and opposition prevent the consummation of our task we shall hardly be excused; and if failure can be traced to