

stitute so vast a multitude, who people a realm whose wealth has been the theme of poets, statesmen and economists for ages; who have no more sufficient reason for being subject to Great Britain than have the inhabitants of the demon-star Algol; whose customs, habits, traditions, religion, hopes and destiny are as separate and distinct as in the case of any other two races on earth; and who are separated from those who hold them in bondage and tribute by more than a third of the globe's span—have these people no rights of their own which in their helplessness the world will aid them to maintain? And if they must give up their monetary system at the caprice of England now, why not hereafter have to give up everything else and let the remainder of the world's people be treated to the spectacle of a mighty race made naught, denationalized and emasculated by another under the blasphemous pretense of Christianity and signaled by the black flag of piratical greed?

But if it is as much as the world can stand for the caudal appendage to become the animal itself, as in the case of the actual dependency becoming the master of the whole situation, why should we of the freer and more favored West be compelled to pay tribute too? We can get along very well within ourselves if an emergency requiring such a condition of things were to arise—something that is altogether unlikely and undesirable. But when British methods go to the extent of neutralizing one-half of the world's money, why follow in the English wake to that extent? We have too much soil, too many resources, too grand a system of agriculture, too many budding and full-grown interests and are altogether too widespread in our characteristics to admit of our getting along with a financial policy which excludes elasticity and promotes constriction. With a gold standard—what we have now practically renched through following the British lead—maintained, our methods, our practices, our plans, our natures themselves would have to change, because neither can broaden out and maintain breadth while environed by cramping circumstances. As between a condition of inflation represented by paper money and meaning uncertainty and instability with the volume increasing by what it feeds on, and contraction, represented by the destruction or withdrawal of one of the metallic moneys recognized and upheld by the practices and precepts of ages of civilization as well as our own charter, let us choose neither. The safe middle ground is—all the real money a nation can produce from its soil in the form of the two recognized precious metals at a fixed, unvarying ratio. We believe the extreme measure just precipitated upon us will eventuate that very thing; in the meantime we must be patient and wait.

A HALE and hearty old lady of ninety-four years, residing on Long Island, had the misfortune a few days ago to fall and break her leg. Upon being carried to her bed she mournfully exclaimed, "Well, I suppose now that I shall be a cripple for life."

THE ANARCHISTS PARDONED.

Governor Altgeld of Illinois did a wise, just and humane thing when he pardoned from the penitentiary the men confined there because of their assumed connection with the Haymarket riot at Chicago a few years ago. Neebe, Fielden and Schwabe may not be the ideal of good citizenship, may in fact in some respects be subjects for surveillance by the authorities, but that does not matter. The governor decided the case upon the proper ground that they did not have a fair trial and were thus improperly convicted, which is a fact, though it comes too late to be of service to Spier, and Parsons, who were hanged although not participating in the riot at all.

There is no question that the atmosphere of Chicago at the time of the trial of the anarchists was charged with dangerous resentment and very few if any were free from its influence. At a distance those who watched closely and were impartial could see that the defendants were actually being hounded to conviction and that the impelling reason therefor was not that they were murderers but that they were anarchists—something which the law does not forbid but is justified in watching and even circumscribing, but nothing more. The feeling ran high, and the condition of society was such that it was not safe to try a person at such time on any kind of charge. Man is only one remove from a wild beast, and when inflamed and his restraint is wholly thrown off, a tiger in the jungle is less to be dreaded.

The News believed at the time and said so that with the possible exception of two of the eight men prosecuted, Lingg and Engel—and the former of these committed suicide in his cell—imprisonment for various terms should be the limit of the punishment imposed; but the reign of terror which reached even to the court and held the jury firmly, went out as far as the executive office, so that Governor Oglesby, who admitted that all should not be punished capitally and commuted the sentences of two to life imprisonment, would go no further in the direction of mercy—a mercy which the sequel shows would only have been justice. It is not the time to adjudicate or determine as to right or wrong when the people are all hot-blooded.

QUESTIONS OF FINANCE.

A correspondent asks the following questions:

- I. What does the postal system cost the United States per year?
- II. What was the national debt of the United States at the close of 1892?
- III. How much interest is paid yearly on the debt?
- IV. What per cent is paid (average)?

The answer to the first question cannot be given with accuracy because our correspondent does not ask as to any particular year. It will doubtless serve his purpose, however, to be informed, from figures kindly furnished by Postmaster Nash, that the cost of the service is constantly increasing, though at a rate that is almost equalled

by the increase in the postal revenue; and that the total expense and liabilities for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1888, amounted to about 56½ million of dollars; for 1889, 62½ millions; for 1890, nearly 68 millions; for 1892, 77½ millions; against a revenue from the service for the same period ranging from three to six millions per annum less than the sums named.

The second, third and fourth questions can be answered all at once from figures supplied by the Deseret National Bank. The public debt was reduced \$10,388,288 during 1892, and at the close of business on December 31 of that year the outstanding bonds, not including those of the Pacific railroads, were as follows:

Bonds on which 4½ per cent interest is paid, \$25,364,500; bonds on which 4 per cent is paid, \$559,592,400; there are also certificates outstanding which can be changed to bonds, aggregating \$76,180; making the total, \$585,083,080. It will be seen from the foregoing that on the great bulk of this debt only 4 per cent interest is paid, the 4½ per cent bonds having been nearly all redeemed.

DUTY, OR COMFORT?

Senator Dolph of Oregon wishes it understood that to his way of thinking September is quite early enough for the proposed special session of Congress. This view he takes less with a regard to statesmanship and the country's needs than to personal comfort; his declaration on the subject being to the effect that if the date of the session be prior to September 30 he will not attend, as he does not propose to subject himself to the dangers of the Washington climate in midsummer.

This recalls the constantly prominent fact that members of Congress have come to look upon the high office they hold as a sinecure or one of honor and profit rather than of trust and responsibility. The list of those who attend the sessions irregularly and in some cases scarcely at all would by its length astonish the public. Formal leaves of absence are as common as blackberries, and actual absence without the formal asking for permission is quite as much the rule as the exception. There is usually a quorum present, of course; out on the roll of either house there will be many few names that have been responded to at every roll call and have been registered as voting on every measure. Senator Dolph's presence or absence may not make much difference to the success and effectiveness of the session spoken of; neither may the presence or absence of a great many who are supposed to make up the full quota of the national legislature. The work of law-making is admittedly performed by a comparatively few men, and perhaps it is better and more expeditious that it is so. But that is not now the question; we are not arguing as to the improvement that might be made in the existing laws on the subject, but rather as to the notorious disregard and violation of those laws. How do the people of Oregon feel about their senator's refusal to represent them in July, August or early September? Did they concede to Mr.