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**SUPPLY AND DEMAND.**

As a rule those who advocate a single gold standard refuse to take into consideration the laws of supply and demand as being an element in fixing values, and base their argument solely upon the commercial value of metals fixed by legislation. In this they become decidedly confused. They recognize only gold as a money metal, and base their values upon it, and instead of viewing both gold and silver as equivalent mediums of exchange, and on this account confound their statements in a manner that confuses rather than enlightens the ordinary seeker for knowledge. For instance it is stated that free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, means that the owners of silver will make a profit of 87 per cent, by taking silver bullion to the mint and having it coined into dollars. On the other hand, it is claimed that free silver coinage means a reduction of 45.4 per cent in the purchasing power of the dollar to one half. Now, if the latter statement be true, the former is untrue.

If the coinage of silver adds nothing to its purchasing power, then its owners can make no profit thereon as a business measure. If, on the other hand, free coinage raises the purchasing power of silver, so that silver owners make the profit of 87 per cent, it follows that the assertions of all writers that coinage governs bullion values is correct. Hence the charge that the Sherman act means a depreciated currency is unsound.

When the law declares that so many grains of gold or silver shall constitute a dollar and become legal tender, it is upon an enormous bill for their owners and creates for them an extremely unrealistic demand. Hence, market values are governed by coinage laws. Of course, if the coinage of a metal were fixed below what its bullion value was before the coinage law was passed, the law would be inoperative, for no one would wish to accept the commodity for which he has no possession. Thus, gold coins to legislation its high value to-day, no one who has studied the question, and who understands the law of supply and demand, will deny. The value conferred by law upon gold, is a monopolistic value, by which the holder has an exclusive privilege of selling debts. To illustrate this proposition more fully, let us suppose that the government could pass a law declaring that corn should not be used as an article of food and that wheat alone should be consumed as a bread-stuff. What would be the result? The demand for wheat would increase, and in consequence the price of wheat would advance, while the price of corn would go down to the level of the demand for it as a commodity other than a bread-stuff. The law of supply and demand would govern the price of each grain. From wheat having been declared the only bread-stuff, the demand for it would increase and consequently its price would advance, while the price of corn would have decreased the price would fall. Then to carry this proposition further, suppose this state of affairs to exist for twenty-three years, for instance from 1873 to the present time. The holders of wheat would be able to demand whatever price they chose, and the consumers of bread-stuffs would be forced to submit to their demands, while the holder of corn could only get what was offered for his grain, since its consumption is regulated by legislation. Thus, suppose the Democrats, Republicans and Progressives were all allowed to be used as an article of food, the price of corn would suddenly rise from an increase in the demand, while the price of wheat would fall, since the demand for it would be lessened.

When the same laws of supply and demand are applied to gold and silver as money metals, similar results will be witnessed. In 1873, by an act of congress, silver was demonetized, or in other words, was no longer recognized as a primary money metal. The demand for silver would rise from an increase in the demand, while the price of gold would fall, since the demand for it would be lessened.

Now suppose that the entire amount of silver shall be removed, and it shall be recognized as a primary money, what will be the result? The demand for silver will advance, while the demand for gold will be lessened. The price of both these metals will then be governed by the law of supply and demand. They will tend to regulate each other, and as the demand for one increases or diminishes its price will rise or fall. The final result will be that the two metals will circulate side by side, each governing the price of the other, and as the supply of silver in the world at the present time is some sixteen ounces to one of gold, it is the price the laws of supply and demand would dictate if it were recognized as a primary money, without any legislative restraint. Hence with legislative discrimination in favor of gold removed, the price of the two metals would speedily adjust itself in accordance with the supply and demand, resulting eventually in a most perfect system of bimetalism.

**THE "PATHOTIC" BANKS.**

The banks in the money centers of America are now the heaviest of treasurers, putting up their gold for legal tender notes, and thereby keeping the gold reserve intact and avoiding the necessity of another bond issue. This is kind of them; indeed it is patriotic just this time, on the eve of a presidential election. But what they are doing now is suggestive of what they might have done years ago, and naturally brings up some reminiscences of the past.

Take eleven years prior to the passage of the Sherman Act in 1890, says

the S. F. Examiner, the redeemability in gold of our \$446,000,000 of greenbacks had been maintained without friction or inconvenience to the government. The treasury had a legal right to pay its notes in either gold or silver, but the demands for redemption were so small that no embarrassment was caused by allowing the holders to choose the kind of coin they preferred.

The Sherman Act added a new element to the currency—about \$150,000,000 of notes issued in payment for silver bullion and redeemable in coin. It was expected by congress that these notes would be habitually redeemed in silver, and that the bullion for whose purchase they were issued would be coined for that purpose. But the Harrison administration decided that the bullion should be treated as junk, and that the notes should be paid in gold on demand. This policy increased the gold obligations of the government by about 40 per cent, while falling revenues and increasing expenditures were diminishing its ability to meet them.

Soon after the passage of the Sherman Act the banks seem to have decided that the time had come for a systematic and prolonged "object lesson" that would not only scare the country into stopping silver purchases, but would induce the government to curtail the gold standard. Up to that time the great bulk of the customs revenues had been paid in gold. The first Sherman notes were issued in August, 1890. At the end of that month there were only 3,939,000 of them in circulation, and the total amount had been gathered up and paid into the custom-house at New York for duties. At the end of the next month there were \$8,000,000 in Sherman notes outstanding, of which \$1,734,404 had been paid for customs at New York. In the month of October, 1890, the notes paid in gold at New York had fallen from 95 to 85.6 per cent, and the proportion paid in Sherman notes had risen from nothing to 11 per cent. The next month the payments in Sherman notes increased to 15.5 per cent, while those in gold declined to 81.1. In June, 1893, not a single cent was paid in gold, while 35 per cent of the total payments were in Sherman notes.

This object-lesson was successful. With the help of the closing of the Indian stock market, the demands on the treasury for the redemption of both greenbacks and Sherman notes in gold, in securing the stoppage of silver purchases. But there still remained the definite adoption of the gold standard and the retirement of greenbacks. The Sherman note agreement, having served its turn, was promptly dropped. The customs payments in such notes at New York fell to 17.7 per cent in September, 1895, or less than one-half as much when there were \$1,285,000,000 of them in circulation, as in the very first month of the law, when only \$3,939,000 of them had been issued. It was the turn of greenbacks to serve as the object lesson. In February, 1894, (the month of the first bond issue), they constituted 61 per cent of the customs payments at New York; November of the same year (the month of the second bond issue), 55 per cent; in February, 1895 (the month of the syndicate loan), 63.1 per cent, and in September of the same year, 73 per cent; and still continue to be the dominant force in the gold which importers had ceased to pay into the treasury, the bankers were rapidly drawing out.

In February, 1894, the month of the first bond issue, they drew \$19,163,354 by putting in greenbacks and treasury notes to the amount of \$1,285,000,000. They exported \$1,068,335 and stacked together \$18,000,000 away.

In November, 1894, the month of the second bond issue, they drew \$7,799,747, all of which they kept, importing \$1,285,000,000 of gold. They stacked their appetites and during the next two months they had depleted the treasury of \$37,024,950 of the gold they had just loaned it.

They sent \$34,122,928 to this Europe and kept the remainder in their hands. They sent the Democrats, Republicans and Progressives to the treasury by buying \$23,316,400 of bonds at 104, the same bonds selling in the market from 119 to 124 as soon as they were offered to the public.

**IT IS NO PHANTOM.**

Nothing so moves the demagogue as silver agitator and fanatic to francophile. The subject lesson of the Mexican dollar. It is the best teacher of the demagogue. It paralyzes all his sophisticated arguments, and leaves him nothing but his spouter and frothy rage—Oregonian.

Really, we had not heard of any "demagogue agitator" viewing the depreciated Mexican dollar as a phantom or phosor to disturb his tranquility and cause them to feel any uneasiness concerning the final result in case the mints of the United States are opened to the unlimited coinage of silver. The "silver agitator" if he knows anything at all, knows nothing of the value of silver. It is the best teacher of the demagogue. It paralyzes all his sophisticated arguments, and leaves him nothing but his spouter and frothy rage—Oregonian.

Were the United States a weak government, both in population and wealth, as Mexico is, any action it might take with reference to the standard of coinage would be of little effect upon the condition of finance in other nations. But when it is considered that the United States has one-twentieth the population and one-eighth the money metal of the entire world, it cannot be denied that whatever it does in the matter of coinage will have an influence in determining the value of money metals throughout the universe. Of the \$1,333,000,000 of metallic money distributed among the civilized nations, the stock held in the United States is \$1,285,000,000. According to the report of the director of the United States mint, based on a ratio of about 15 to 1, the money metals were distributed among the different countries as follows a year ago:

Country	Value
United States	\$1,285,000,000
United Kingdom	400,000,000
France	300,000,000
Germany	250,000,000
Spain	150,000,000
Italy	100,000,000
Belgium	50,000,000
Sweden	50,000,000
Denmark	50,000,000
Netherlands	50,000,000
Austria-Hungary	50,000,000
Portugal	50,000,000
Switzerland	50,000,000
Russia	50,000,000
Turkey	50,000,000
Australia	50,000,000
China	50,000,000
Japan	50,000,000
India	50,000,000
South Africa	50,000,000
Canada	50,000,000
Mexico	50,000,000
Central America	50,000,000
South America	50,000,000
Caribbean	50,000,000
Poland	50,000,000
Prussia	50,000,000
Germany	50,000,000
France	50,000,000
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South Africa	50,000,000
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