

MANY men argue that finance should be let alone, by congress, that congress has no right to tinker with something that is controlled by natural laws of trade, commerce, supply and demand. Such argument is partly correct, but congress has already interfered with this natural law of finance, and now it behooves that same power to undo what it has already done for the financial protection of the millionaire and heads of corporations and monopolies. Now we say let congress remedy the evil it has committed by repealing the Sherman act, and substitute a law making silver equal with gold and free coinage of both silver and gold. What the country needs is an equal distribution of business and wealth, which can only be accomplished by the free coinage of both silver and gold and the repeal of the protective tariff that gives the heads of corporations and monopolies control of the circulating medium. Let the remedy be applied and our nation will prosper and labor have an equal show. Our mines will be worked and thousands of men now out of employment get work at fair wages and labor and capital shake hands across the chasm and all go long as merry as the marriage bells.

"CLEVELAND'S man Eckels," whose appointment as Comptroller of the Currency caused some surprise and criticism on account of his alleged lack of experience, is proving more of a surprise than was dreamed of. He has been in his place long enough now to show something of the sort of man he is. If he does not make things hum in his office it will be strange. He is one of the busiest, most direct and clean cut little men who has been tossed into the public service by the late political revolutions. There is nothing "striking" about his appearance—nothing impressive. He is both short and slender, weighing scarcely more than a hundred pounds, and has a little wizened face free from all signs of beard or mustache. It would be impossible to tell his age by looking at him. His movements are quick, and when he glances up there is a look of intelligence and penetration on his face. When he speaks there is a positiveness and a frankness in his manner that is refreshing. Some of the gentlemen throughout the country doing a steady banking business who had calculated on gaining something from Mr. Eckel's supposed inexperience have found him about as hard a customer to handle as they have struck.

The members of Mr. Cleveland's cabinet are wondering if they will be kept all summer in Washington. The President recently indulged in a few days' fishing at Broadwater Island, Virginia, but he has returned, and just now it looks as though he would not get away from the capital for any considerable length of time. He and his official advisers would all rejoice in a rest after the labors they have undergone in starting off the new administration. Secretary of State Gresham would like a chance to wield the rod and

fly. Fishing is his favorite amusement. If he gets a vacation he will also spend some time on his 160 acre farm, where he raises wheat, corn, and garden truck. Secretary of the Navy Herbert is likewise a fisherman. There is nothing he enjoys so much. Secretary of War Lamont hopes to go to Bear Harbor. It might almost be said of him that he has no amusements. He likes to drive a good horse, but he does not drink, or smoke or play cards or frequent clubs. Secretary of the Interior Hoke Smith enjoys riding horseback. Secretary of the Treasury Carlisle figures out the financial problems of the country over a game of solitaire. The problem of the cards assists his intellectual processes.

It is being generally predicted in Washington that the President will very shortly issue his proclamation calling Congress together in extra session. The dates set for the assembly in the minds of the guessers run all the way from July 1, to October 1. By far the larger number of those who discuss the matter predict the 15th of September or the 1st of October as the date that will be chosen. The reasons given for the issuance of the call at this time are many and sound. Of late the financial question has taken a position of equal prominence with the tariff. There are plenty of democrats who hold that some reform of our money system is of even more pressing importance than an immediate readjustment of the customs duties. President Cleveland is said to be one of them. By a portion of the party a repeal of the Sherman act and a return to the gold standard is favored. By others legislation somewhat more conservative and more favorable to the silver interest will be urged. There is but little doubt, however, that a satisfactory middle ground will be reached when Congress convenes.

The next few months will doubtless be hard times for the crooked gentry throughout the country who are indulging or attempting to indulge in little confidence games with the pension rolls. A vigorous crusade is to be inaugurated immediately against all pension frauds, and thorough investigation is to be made of all suspicious cases. The Pension Bureau is now almost completely reorganized as far as the subordinate officials are concerned, although a few changes among field officials yet remain to be made. Having, therefore, almost completed the laborious and absorbing undertaking of reorganizing the office, Commissioner Lochren will now turn his attention to other duties, not the least important of which is the carrying out of the administration's plan of making the pension roll a foil of honor and purging it of all cases found to be unworthy.

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