

people realize that they themselves are responsible for the class of men who fill the Houses of Parliament, so soon will they commence to support men who have good business ideas and have the welfare of the country foremost in their minds rather than politicians whose only desire is to help their friends and fatten their purses.

WHERE IS THE GOLD?

PERHAPS the greatest problem before the world to-day is what shall be the medium of exchange. Shall it be gold, or silver, or both?

The silver men, so called, claim that there is not sufficient gold to enable business transactions to be fully and freely carried on, and that this makes gold dear. When gold is dear, under our present monetary situation, other goods are cheap. That is, with gold as the most universal standard, the situation is like a teetering board. Gold is on one end of the board and all other products, such as silver, wheat, cotton and wool, at the other end. When gold goes up (in price), all the other products go down (in price). If gold is scarce, more silver, or cotton, or more wheat, must be given in exchange for the same amount of gold.

Is there then enough gold to do the work and prevent it reaching an enormous price? Or, in other words, where is the gold?

There is a tendency at present, often remarked by the financial journals, for gold to accumulate in Europe. During the past few years all reading merchants will have noticed the steady efflux of gold in the European direction. In that continent it is being absorbed by the great national banks and the monarchical Governments of the different countries.

In the table below are given the specie reserves of the great European banks at the present time.—

	Gold.	Silver.	Total.
Bank of England...	\$187,500,000		\$187,500,000
Bank of France	410,445,000	\$249,910,000	670,355,000
Imperial Bank of Germany			272,730,000
Austro-Hungarian Bank...	96,450,000	67,591,000	164,041,000
Netherlands Bank	81,461,000	35,235,000	56,696,000
Belgian National Bank			72,070,000
Bank of Spain	40,021,000	62,119,000	102,140,000
Bank of Italy...	59,840,000	10,250,000	70,100,000
Imperial Bank of Russia...	274,075,000	55,005,000	329,170,000
Total	\$1,289,601,000	\$480,400,000	\$1,864,760,000

The above table is taken from an article on the subject in The Engineering and Mining Journal. The same journal points out that in addition to these sums, held to secure currency issues and for other emergencies, there are other hoards. The German Government has a war treasure of \$30,000,000 carefully guarded at Spandau. The Austro-Hungary treasuries contain \$90,000,000 in gold for Governmental use. Russia is said to hold another lump of over \$50,000,000.

The sum total of the gold thus taken out of circulation amounts to at least \$1,175,000,000—an almost fabulous sum. That such a sum can have been withdrawn from active circulation and put into strong boxes without affecting prices and values is a statement we would not like to make.

If the world's stock of wheat were hoarded up in that style, prices would be expected to advance. Similarly, when gold is withdrawn from circulation, the part left in circulation must be more valuable. The result is that it takes more wheat, or more wool, or more cotton, to buy the same amount of gold than be-

fore the hoarding began. This hoarding of gold has been very marked during the past five years, and during the same period prices have gone down very much. This gives considerable color to the argument that one state of facts is the result of the other.

This hoarding is due mainly to a fear of war in "the armed camp of Europe." Each nation is a rival of all other nations, and each one is afraid of being caught napping. Like the Warriors-Kings of old, they hope to have victory by having plenty of "war-treasure."

Bi-metallists claim that silver should be put on a fixed ratio of value with gold. Then gold would be no more valuable for hoarding than silver, and hence they would be stowed away more equally, leaving more gold in circulation and ensuring better prices. Whether this is true or false, is one of the great questions before the financial world of to-day.

ENCOURAGE DAIRYING.

MERCHANTS must necessarily exercise a considerable influence over their farmer customers. They meet them once or twice a week, and a certain amount of conversation ensues. Merchants also meet them in many other ways. This gives the merchants an influence which may be exercised for good.

For example, what Canada needs most to develop and strengthen her agriculture is more scientific farming. Perhaps there is nothing which has been more beneficial to the agricultural community of Canada than the introduction of dairying and cheese-making. Governments and newspapers have encouraged the building of butter and cheese factories, but much remains to be done. Merchants, through their conversation and by writing letters to their local papers, can carry on this good work. They can encourage the farmer to elevate himself and help him to double the value of his farm produce. By their influence they can aid materially in making the Canadian farmers a prosperous body.

It is gratifying to see that twenty new cheese or butter factories are building in Manitoba this season. These will be a grand help to the farmers of that province.

Merchants need not be unselfish to do this work. On the prosperity of their customers depends the volume of their business. Increase the farmer's revenue, and you increase his buying power. Thus, while merchants are helping the farmer and the country, they will be benefitting themselves.

IS THIS NOT A FRAUD?

Complaint is made of a practice pursued by some of the wholesale houses in the province of Quebec selling yarns at 8 and 10 ounces to the pound. One firm declines to sell under 12 ounces to the pound. In the cases complained of, a package of yarn marked 6 pounds will contain hardly more than 3 pounds actual weight.

GOLF BLOUSES.

The firms that have a supply of golf blouses ought to do well with them, as they are in good demand, both German and English makes, and the stock is scarce. There is expected to be a big import for next season.