

the United States, when the nation that had more gold than any other nation possessed suffered greater depression and disaster to business than any other nation suffered.

Can we, with safety, in the face of such a vindication of past wisdom repudiate knowledge that is so positively recorded? You can follow the record of usurers step by step. In 1816 they established the gold standard in England. In 1833 they made the Bank of England note legal tender. In 1844 the Bank of England was established. In 1855 the right of one of the Rothchilds, the first foreign money lender, to sit in the House of Commons, was questioned on the ground of a sixteen million pound loan to the British government. In 1854 all the laws against usury in England were abolished. In 1864 Lincoln was elected on a national currency platform. In 1865 came the disaster when Lincoln was assassinated. In 1873 the gold standard was established in the United States, and in 1894 Arthur Kitson warned humanity—and he is still alive to see his prediction come true. In his book "A Scientific Solution for the Money Questions," he said:—

Gold creates debts and then prevents men from settling them. It places mankind in perpetual bondage. It is a prison gate that only opens inwards. Its victims are permitted to enter but never to escape.

Not only are the factors of well-being and of progress rendered impotent by the gold standard but the factors of evil minister to its exploiters. Wars, State extravagance and political corruption all serve to build up this pyramid of irremedial debts which almost every nation is now adding to and upon which the gold octopus feeds.

Repudiation is inevitable. Let us clearly see this. It is not a threat. It is an inevitable result. It cannot be avoided. Nations must strangle this monster or it will strangle them. The gold debts of the world can never be redeemed.

In vain men toil, in vain they produce, so long as this tapeworm of society exists. All our surplus wealth which should go to form a national store, all our surplus creations we must sacrifice. In vain science prosecutes her voyage of discovery and art labours to convert the discordant and hostile elements of nature into a system of usefulness and harmony. In vain temples of learning are reared and libraries founded. All these institutions, all these achievements that have for their object the advancement of learning and the raising of labour to a higher state of efficiency serve but to strengthen this octopus and give it a firmer grasp and a stranglehold on society. The gold standard means inevitable war. Nations cannot possibly exist under it.

"The children born of it are fire and sword,
Red ruin and the breaking up of laws."

This question, this money question, is the supreme question of the hour. It is not a mere abstract question of economics. It does not merely concern statesmen and students of finance. It is the greatest moral, the greatest social question which mankind has ever had to consider. It concerns the lives, fortunes and happiness of every human being in society and all the generations yet unborn. It is the problem at the turn of the century, and our answer to it will determine the character of the drama we shall have to witness and upon which the curtain of the twentieth century is about to rise.

That curtain has been raised. The World War came. Eight million of men were killed and forty-five million others were mangled. The post-war period of prosperity is over, and riding under a debt of four hundred and

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