

some Mammon-God has overstepped the bounds of legitimate speculation and then all the falsity and rottenness of the system at once becomes apparent; down comes the sham fabric carrying ruin and disaster in its train; panic follows upon confusion and it is then that the rich men button up their pockets and these Mammon-Gods issue their fiat—let all enterprise be stopped—and behold, it is so! But what does that mean? It means that hundreds of thousands, ay millions of industrious men and women are thrown out of work; it means that poor men go down like grass before the scythe; it means that debtors become the abject slaves of their creditors, and many and many a poor soul exclaims in the agony of his despair “O Death where is thy sting” and he seeks a refuge from the cares, the envyings and the bitterness of this money grubbing world in that haven where “The wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest.”

And all this misery and all this anguish is the outcome of an inadequate supply of gold and silver to meet the fiduciary paper in circulation.

It is estimated that the gold coin and bullion in the world amounts to £790,000,000 sterling, and that there is about the same amount of silver coin and bullion in sterling; and yet notwithstanding these vast sums of metallic money the gold and silver in the world are insufficient as a reserve for the quantity of fiduciary paper which mankind demands for the satisfaction of enterprise. And now mark the point—In face of this patent but painful fact—what is it that the gold monometallists propose to do? Why, sir, to cut down this already inadequate reserve of the precious metals by nearly one half, by a general demonetization of silver, and thus at one fell swoop, to double all the misery and suffering I have already depicted as resulting from a deficiency in the reserves of gold and silver to meet the fiduciary paper in circulation. I ask, sir, could there be greater folly or greater wickedness?

But the evil would not stop there. If gold monometallism became general, the market price of silver low as it is now would fall to less than half its present value, and then all the complicated works in and connected with the greater number of the silver mines throughout the world would be shut down, and hundreds of thousands of men would be thrown out of work. So far as British Columbia is concerned it is no exaggeration to say, that it would rob