

THE CURSE OF TRADE.

"The farmers are kicking," said a storekeeper the other day, as he wrapped up a couple of pounds of codfish, "but they have no greater reason for it than the merchants have. The credit system is the curse of trade, and the ruin of many a man that deserves a better fate. Nearly half of what I sell over my counters goes on my books. The interest on the amount I have on my books is greater than the profit on the goods I am selling. There are too many people out of money who seem to think that the storekeeper owes them a living."

The storekeeper is right. The credit system is the curse of trade, and one of the shackles which hangs like a great weight on the necks of the producers. It increases the price of products without conferring benefits. It takes from Mr. Good Pay to meet the debts of Mr. Bad Pay.

There is a remedy for the accursed credit system, and that remedy is, abolish all laws for the collection of debts. With these laws abolished it would not be safe to trust, and if a man should trust another he would do it from personal grounds and with his eyes wide open.

By abolishing these laws the expense of the courts and the fees of the legal servants would be decreased and labor would be released of a burden which is oppressing it at present. The whole world would be better for it.

Let every man take the consequences of his own voluntary acts. Let the state keep its hands off of individual rights. This is what is meant by good government economically administered. Paternal government means that the state should look out for and protect the individual.

That is the form of government which soon runs down at the heel. It aims to keep up the individual when in the order of things the individual must keep the government up. At present the people are oppressed by too much paternalism, and they must rise to the occasion and eradicate it. Simplification should be the cry! Our greatest need is simpler forms of taxation, simpler systems, simpler laws, simpler government, and we would then have better times, better conditions, better men. It can come in no other way. The law for the collection of debts is one of the complications which must be exterminated. Common sense dictates it; intelligence demands it; twenty-century civilization insures it. The new democracy is the implement with which it will be accomplished.

The credit system is the system handed down to us from the ages of the masters and slaves.—*Ex.*

THE NAMES OF COINS.

The florin, one of the most famous of modern coins, originated in Florence. Some say that it gave the name to the city, while others assert that it was so called because it had on it a fleur-de-lis, from the Italian florone, or "flower," for the same reason that an English silver piece is called a "crown," or certain gold pieces in France indifferently a "Napoleon" or a "Louis," or the \$10 gold piece in America an "eagle."

For several hundred years, and down to these pieces is, like the American dollar,

divided into 100 parts, called kopeck in Russia, pfennig in Germany, kreutzer in Austria, cent in Holland, and in Italy, France and Spain by the word meaning hundredth.

The word shilling is of German derivation, like penny, which comes from the German "pfennig." The word "crown" comes from the image placed on the coin. The name franc was given by King John, who first coined these pieces in 1360.

They bore the motto "Le Roi Frank" (King of the Franks), and were of two kinds, one representing the king on horseback, the other on foot.

The franc was formerly also called livre (pound), though the connection with any special weight is not evident. The name of the German coin, mark, meaning a recent date, money was coined at from twenty-five to thirty different cities in France, that had inherited the privilege. Now all French money is coined at the Paris mint.

Few French gold pieces are, however, in circulation, except those bearing the head of Napoleon III., and silver pieces of the same coinage are almost as common. French silver coins wear admirably, and pieces of the reign of Charles X., Louis XVIII. and Napoleon I. are very common.

The standard coins on the Continent are:—In France, the franc; in Spain, the peseta; in Italy, the lire; in Holland and Austria, the florin; in Germany, the mark; in Russia, the ruble.

Belgium and Switzerland use the French name for the piece of 20 tons. Each of weight of 8 ounces, was formerly in general use in Europe.

The name of the Italian coin that corresponds with the franc (lira) also means pound. The coin now present use in Spain have their names from other sources. The five-peseta piece, which corresponds with the American dollar, is called escudo (shield).

"Peseta," the name of the small coin representing the monetary standard, means simply "little piece." "Ruble" is from the word meaning "to cut," and was so called because originally the coin was made with an ornamental edge.

Few persons have ever troubled themselves to think of the derivation of the word dollar. It is from the word thal (valley), and came into use in this way about 300 years ago. There is a little silver mining city in Northern Bohemia called Joachimsthal, or Joachim's Valley.

The reigning duke of the region authorized this city in the sixteenth century to coin a silver piece, which was called "Joachimsthaler." The word "joachim" was soon dropped, and the name "thaler" only retained.

The piece went into general use in Germany and Denmark, where the orthography was changed to "daler," whence it came into English; and was adopted by the Americans with still further changes in the spelling. The Mexican dollar is generally called "piastre" in France, and the name is sometimes applied to the United States dollar.

The appellation is incorrect in either case, for the word plaster or piastre has for the last fifty years been only applied with correctness to a small silver coin used in Turkey or Egypt, which is worth from 5c to 8c.

THIRTY YEARS HENCE.

Who are going to be "the leading underwriters" thirty years from now? A few among the younger of those now entitled to that appellation will be living then and still at work successfully and with honor. But the great majority will have passed away. Young fellows of to-day, small clerks, office boys, will be in the places of these men. But what particular young fellows? We haven't the prophetic gift and cannot designate them by name. But we can tell something about them. The boys who are going to be eminent in insurance thirty years hence are cheerful workers, who put their souls into their daily tasks, who do thoroughly what is set them to do, who want to give good measure for their salaries and would rather it should over-run than fall short. They do not grudge the hours they spend in the office; they are not looking at their watches at half-past ten to see if it isn't most time for lunch; they don't spend the last hour or half-hour of the afternoon in getting ready to quit. These boys are not content with simply knowing their own routine of duty; they want to know its relations to all of the rest of the work; they are eager to learn; they realize that there is a good deal in insurance, whether it be fire or life or whatever it is that they are engaged in, and they intend to compass all of it they can. Young Jones has to copy certain things into a book, and he does it nicely. If he is a young Jones who is going to get ahead, he wants to know why those things have to be copied; and he finds out; and he keeps on wanting to know, and he keeps on finding out. The lads whom we have in mind as marked for a future of importance are not, necessarily because they are diligent and faithful and studious, little prigs, conscious patterns of deportment, carrying the gravity of age in their demeanor; no, they are boys and they have lots of fun. But we don't believe that they play pool for drinks, and we know they don't smoke cigarettes. Moreover, they don't spend their salaries until they get them. There is a good deal more to be said on this subject, but it is well not to say it all at once; long sermons are apt to be drowsy. We like these coming underwriters, bright and fresh and wholesome young chaps. It is a pity that they have got to become old and gray and wrinkled, and lose some of their teeth and hair and sprightliness, and have to travel for their health, and, sometimes, when they are bilious or rheumatic, complain that there are too many insurance journals. But such is life.—*Insurance.*

M. A. Sagour, a Montreal artist, has obtained one of the chief prizes out of 316 competitors at the chief art academy in Paris.

Thirty barrels of smuggled whiskey have been seized at Rimouski. There is as yet no trace of the schooner which resisted capture last week.

The Canadian Pacific officials deny the alleged blockade of low grade Manitoba grain at Montreal. They say that there are only 30,000 bushels of grain in the elevators.