

anticipation of future satisfaction to be obtained is quite pleasurable, but to say that the money rather than the anticipation is the source of the satisfaction is to fall into confusion of thought. The boy with the circus ticket in his hand is filled with joyous sensations whenever he gazes upon it. A railroad ticket to California conjures up the smell of orange groves and other delightful things. But neither of these things is the real source of the gratification. The miser is the boy who prefers to miss the circus rather than to give up the ticket.

17. *Credit, a postponed payment of money.*—There is a third stage of economic evolution beyond barter and money—the credit stage. Just as exchanges were limited and clumsy in the barter stage, necessitating the invention of money before men could specialize in production to any great extent, so the time arrived, in the Middle Ages perhaps (although the use of credit was not unknown in the ancient world), when money, even the most refined forms and systems of money, became too cumbersome.

In this last stage exchanges can be made without the use of money at all. A man may be able to buy and sell without possessing any money, or even any property. The consideration he gives may be merely a promise to pay money or its equivalent value at a future time. In this last stage exchange frees itself entirely from former limitations and under specialization of industry can extend until scarcely any man produces the thing he himself consumes. Everything is produced for the market, and the market does not fail so long as the machinery of credit is working smoothly. Unfortunately, credit is like fire, and its use is attended with risk, but nobody would think of foregoing the use of fire be-