

sticks, weights and vessels which are the standard units of length, weight and capacity.

30. *Definition of the dollar.*—Just as Congress has declared that a certain length shall be a yard, so it has also declared that the unit of value shall be a dollar, of 23.22 grains of pure gold. The only definition for a dollar is that it is 23.22 grains of gold. All other so-called dollars are such because they are convertible into standard gold dollars. In this convertibility lies their value. They are not standard dollars, but representative dollars. Price is simply value expressed in terms of dollars. If I say this book is worth \$5, I mean that it is exchangeable for five times 23.22 grains of gold, or its equivalent.

If we speak of a person as being worth \$50,000, therefore, we mean that he has a legal title to property consisting of various forms of wealth having a total exchange value of fifty thousand times the exchange value of our unit of gold, or its equivalent. In order to realize this exchangeability, however, it is first necessary to convert the wealth into money, which is ordinarily very difficult to do at the market price, and then convert the money into goods desired, which is very easy to do.

31. *Exchangeability the sole utility of money.*—The desirability of money as a form of property is due solely to its ready exchangeability; for any other purpose it is inferior, producing no income, as do factories, stocks, bonds, etc., and requiring extra precautions against theft. Its loanability is simply another form of its exchangeability. The borrower purchases the income-yielding wealth and promises to divide the income with the lender.

32. *Gold not an ideal standard.*—Gold is very far