

pay it out, we could, under this assumed case, abolish the Treasury and greatly enlarge the compulsory powers of the War Department. This department could put the whole civilian population on a military basis and detail men for different kinds of work, and command men and women to do the different things which are necessary for the carrying on of the whole national economy, as it now commands soldiers and sailors to do whatever is necessary to carry on the work of the army and the navy. In that case we could get rid of the illusion sometimes created by the use of money. In such a case as this, no one would doubt that in order to greatly enlarge one kind of work, certain other kinds of work would have to be diminished in quantity. The wise commander would concentrate the largest number of men on the kind of work where the largest number was needed and the smallest number of men where the smallest number was needed. This is just as necessary in a money economy as in a moneyless economy.

Another objection is based on the proposition that money breeds money—that it is only when money circulates rapidly that there is wealth. This, however, puts the cart before the horse, or reverses the relation of cause and effect. While money is a labor-saving device and enables us to do business with less trouble than would be necessary if there were no money, that is literally the end of its usefulness. It neither breeds nor begets in any way. It is a tool by means of which we accomplish more than we could accomplish without it. It circulates in response to a need, but its circulation does not create the need—that is to say, it has no power either to increase or decrease the speed with which it moves from hand to hand or from pocket to pocket. It is purely passive and moves rapidly when there is need that it should move rapidly and slowly when there is need that it should move slowly.

The argument that we should spend money freely even for things we do not need in order to make prosperity is precisely like the position of the little girl who spent her missionary money