

The Act is fatally defective inasmuch as no provision whatever is made for a report being laid before the Governor-General from either the Judge who sentenced the convict, the Superintendent of the Penitentiary where he is confined, or from other officials or reputable persons to whom his career is known. Inclined as we are to take a very merciful, even charitable view of a criminal who has drawn on himself a sentence to the Penitentiary, we regard it as highly dangerous to well disposed citizens to turn loose on society, a class of men such as are incarcerated at St. Vincent de Paul, Kingston, and other places. It is true the new Act provides that a Ticket of Leave becomes forfeited if the holder fails to notify the police of his place of residence, or neglects to report himself once a month to the local chief of police, or sheriff of whatever locality he may be in, or becomes an object of suspicion to the police, or commits any offence against the laws. The working of a similar system in the United Kingdom, inspires grave fears that the community will not have reason to appreciate Ticket of Leave convicts being added to the population. It is known that some of the most dastardly crimes committed in the old country, crimes endangering the life of victims, have been the deeds of this class of men. Their being required to report themselves every month to the police causes their antecedents to become generally known, they go about with the brand of Cain upon them, they are known to be under police surveillance, the consequence being that they are in a far worse position to secure employment than a man who has duly served out his sentence. A Ticket of Leave then is too generally a millstone round a man's neck which prevents his rising into any position where he can earn an honest living. Prisoners in old country penitentiaries have refused a Ticket of Leave offered as a reward of good conduct, because they dreaded to face the world with the certainty of being perpetually watched by the police, and their records as ex-convicts thus becoming widely known. Some years ago, a lady took a girl into her service who had a Ticket of Leave on the urgent appeal of the Prison Matron who believed the girl had been unjustly convicted, as proved to be the case by the real culprit confessing. The girl was found to be scrupulously honest, modest, truthful and in all respects worthy of confidence. The local police got to know of her having a Ticket of Leave. In spite of protests they dogged her movements so persistently, and talked so freely of her record, that the poor hounded creature begged to be sent back to the Penitentiary to escape this terrible persecution. To help a prisoner to gain once more a respectable position by honest labour is an act of the highest humanity, of Christian charity. But this end is not attained; it is very liable to be frustrated by the Ticket of Leave system, which, by compelling a man to report himself every month to the police for the rest of his life fills him with despair, excites his antagonism to society by its manifest cruelty if he

is sincerely worthy of freedom and marks him for his whole life as a pariah to be shunned. The system is neither mercy to convicts, nor justice to the innocent on whom criminals prey, but is, and has proven to be, a lessening of the terrors of the law to evil-doers.

A PARTLY CONVERTED SILVERITE.

Representative Sibley of Pennsylvania, who was talked of three years ago as the free silver candidate for the Presidency, admits that he and his associates were mistaken in their predictions of what would happen if the mints were not opened to the free coinage of silver. The country is highly prosperous, and he did not suppose it would be if the gold-bugs carried the election. But he thinks the event has justified the theories of the bi-metallists. They said the country needed more money, and it has got it, only it has got it from the increased gold supplies instead of from silver. Who, asks Mr. Sibley, could have anticipated the production of the Klondyke and the increased yield of South Africa?

This is a very lame apology. The Klondyke has added a very small percentage to the world's stock of gold, and if five thousand persons have spent \$2,000 each in reaching the Klondyke and working its deposits, and have got \$15,000,000 of metal out of the frozen soil, the net addition to the world's wealth is only one-third of that sum. The probabilities of South Africa were nearly as well known in 1896 as they are now.

There has been an increase of prosperity and an increase of the supply of money, and just now it appears that the increased supply of money has not kept pace with the increased demand for it. But Mr. Sibley and several persons of much sounder financial notions than he invert the cause and effect. A revival of business was due shortly after 1896 in any event, but it would have been indefinitely postponed by the introduction of cheap dollars, and it was greatly promoted by a political decision adverse to this destructive experiment. With the assurance that prices would not be violently and arbitrarily changed by Act of Congress came confidence in the future, evidenced by purchases and investments. These created a greater use of money. This was met first and chiefly by a larger use of banking facilities, more deposits, more loans, more checks. But with more trading going on there was more occasion for currency to have in the pocket or in the till, and this has been met in part by new supplies of gold and lately by some small increase in bank currency. It would have been adequately met if the banks had been free to issue notes, for what was wanted was not a larger amount of wealth locked up in bullion, but more instruments for the exchange of credits.

An increased supply of money cannot be depended on to make business good, but if business is good it may be depended on, in the absence of bad legislation, to provide itself with cars enough for the transportation of merchandise, and dollars enough for the exchange of ownership.—"Financial Review."