

Jake Sharp did no more than hundreds of others have done, when he bribed the New York Board of Aldermen to sell him the Broadway railway franchise. But he died in disgrace with prison doors yawning wide to receive him. "Bill" Tweed, the inventor of graft and loot in New York, who was at one time a greater power in that city than any individual has ever been since, died a convict and those, who with him, made up the "Tammany ring," with a single exception were forced to spend the rest of their days in foreign countries or join the "Boss" in a local prison. For doing the bidding of the ring Judge Barnard was impeached and died in disgrace notwithstanding his wealth, his family connections and his recognized position in the society of New York. There is no member of "the System" so powerful as was W. M. Tweed, when in his glory, yet when brought face to face with a few of his crimes he went down to oblivion. And so it will be with those who Mr. Lawson charges with high crimes, if these crimes are susceptible of proof.

The vast majority the people of the United States are honest, decent folk, who will not stand for the methods of high finance as described by Thomas W. Lawson. Besides it is from this decent class that the victims of the methods of the so called "System," have been drawn and outraged decency, if Mr. Lawson's forthcoming revelations are any worse than those already published, will be the undoing of "the System." Once convinced that there is even the semblance of truth in Broker Lawson's published statements, these people will be as hysterical in demanding the trial and punishment of those concerned, as they were eager to buy the gallons and barrels of water which they purchased in the guise of stocks of various names. They will forget that they bought these stocks, realizing that their value was fictitious, but the speculative craze was so strong upon them that they expected to realize before the crash could come. That it came before they expected and that they lost their good dollars to those on the inside is the real reason of the wide reading. Mr. Lawson's exposures are having. Once this large class is convinced that they were merely used as puppets by "the System" for the purpose of obtaining their loose cash, there will be a hue cry the like of which has never before been heard.

None of those against whom the Boston

broker and stock manipulator has preferred serious charges have made any reply directly. Indirectly the character of Lawson has been assailed and he is held up to the public scorn as an imprincipled stock jobber, whose only object is to make dollars and notoriety for himself—that he is dishonest and independent of "the System" has floated questionable companies. While this may, in a measure affect the credibility of the witness it is no answer to Lawson's charges against others, who stand much higher in the financial world than he ever did. Lawson may be all that is said about him by his enemies, but his charges of money greed against prominent men remain unanswered and there is a growing belief among the great mass of people that Lawson has been retailing more fact than fiction in his highly flavored epistles in Everybody's Magazine. But whether his effusions are all fact or all fiction they have served the purpose of pointing out to the shorn lambs of Wall Street whose name is legion and who are located everywhere, from the Arctic circle to the equator that questionable methods have been employed in the flotation of many great companies. Worse than this, the men who got the lamb's first shearing were on hand to also clip the next crop as soon as it grew. So great has been the money greed of these financiers that they not only sold gold bricks to their victims but were sufficiently immodest to proclaim the swindle from the house tops and buy back the stock they had disposed of at a fictitious value at somewhere near its real worth. In this way they appropriated to themselves the good money of thousands, who were bitten with the speculative craze and saw millions in the mirrored lake created by the votaries of the system. Highway robbery is a gentlemanly occupation as compared with the methods of modern high finance as described by Lawson.

Most serious of Lawson's charges are those which affect the life insurance companies. There are hundreds of thousands of men, and women too, in the United States and Canada who pay premiums on insurance, which are held in trust for them. The accumulations of a large life insurance company are enormous as the income far exceeds the expenditure. In no other business is there so much money held in reserve, and so important are these monies to a large percentage of the people that laws have been passed with the object of safeguarding