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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

FILTHY MONEY.

At the present time when tight money and the causes thereof are on everyone's tongue, the banks could well afford to go a little further and make money for the time being even tighter than it is by destroying some of the filthy bills which are now in circulation. It is little short of disgraceful the way we are forced to handle unclean paper money. With money tight, it is only natural that a man should hang on to a bill as long as possible once he gets it into his possession. This is no excuse, however, for the banks allowing their bills to remain out until they become so germ infested and so worn out that they fall to pieces.

As a matter of fact, the real offender in regard to filthy money is the Dominion Government. It alone controls the issue of one and two dollar bills and these are allowed to continue in circulation until they literally fall to pieces. The banks have shown a far more commendable spirit in the question of clean money than has the Government. If for no other reason than for that of appearances, the Government and banks should redeem the filthy money and replace it with fresh bills. But more important than appearances is the question of health. In every epidemic which has swept over the country, it is noticeable that bank clerks handling money are the first to fall victims. It seems strange that when everything else has been subjected to a microscopic analysis in a search for microbes and disease germs that the public should be so supremely indifferent in regard to the filthy money which is paid out to them.

A few days ago an English woman discovered a process by which bank notes can be washed and thereby kept clean. This process also makes forgery impossible. In the United States the practice of "laundrying" money has been in force for some time but with only indifferent success. It is hoped, however, that the discovery in England will be adopted by our banks. In giving us clean money, they would be conferring a real service not only upon their employees, but upon all of us who handle the "filthy lucre."