Gold is generally exported when trade balance· are adverse, and returns only when trade balances are reversed, unless, indeed, credit or extensions of time or substitution of forms of debt are resorted to, such as issues of public bonds or other securities, which are a means of replenishing public coffers. Money is also displaced at different seasons for the moving of crops and other purposes. And it is thus that circulating operations are preformed and maintained throughout the world, and within their cycle evolve the agis of gold and the variations of price.

Through the growing importance of trade, in the world at large, methods of business are constantly undergoing modifications, and, as I have stated before, these are rapidly merging into a huge system of credit, wherein gold and silver are becoming of secondary importance. In the great commercial centres of the world the proportion of gold now used is already infinitessimally small outside of banks and national treasuries, because the present age shows a marked preference for cheques and paper money in internal transactions—just as bank bills of exchange are preferred and more convenient in the adjustment of foreign accounts.

The incalculable amount of paper money, cheques and bills of exchange in present use brings with it the conviction that the day is not far distant when metallic money shall be but a comparatively small proportion of the world's currency, for whatever may be the present gold supply, and whatever may be added to it from new productions will be retained in the great treasuries of the world, to be used only when required for settlement of international accounts. It follows that gold is seldom effected by its own abundance or scarcity, because it finds its level somewhere sooner or later.

As the production of silver doubled during the present decade, and its value declined to about half of the legal ratio, it will be necessary to find another ratio, and general recoinage on a new basis must be resorted to. And the loss thus occasioned must be borne by each nation, according to their present issues—a far more dignified proceeding than experimenting on a currency of fictitious value and of a nature to create unparalled disturbance throughout the world.

PRODUCTION AND THE VALUE OF COMMODITIES.

The immediate determining cause of fluctuations in the price of commodities is Demand and Supply, and we all know that production varies in quality and quantity, according to conditions of soil and climate, labor and machinery.

But as labor is the chief factor of production it follows that the cost of labor determines, to a great extent, the price of commodities, hence, where prices of labor or commodities are at variance, that of commodities must return to its natural level or production becomes impossible, because unprofitable, and therefore must cease.

And again, men's aptitudes are not alike, neither are their opportunities, therefore, they cannot produce alike. Some men have the faculty to acquire, some to conserve, others have neither quality. Some more fortunate become comfortable, and, therefore, comparatively rich; some become very wealthy, whilst others are born and fated to be poor.

> "Some men were born for great things,
> Some were born for small;
> Some—it is not recorded
> Why they were born at all."

Could we really say, therefore, that, as fortunes are not alike, wealth is unfairly distributed? As there are more rich than poor, should we not conclude that fickle fortune has her favorites, that like a capricious fairy she casts her smiles and distributes her gifts at random, regardless of want or merit? In lotteries the big lot devolves to only one and the smaller lots revert to a comparative few......