

Whether, for instance, circulation should be confined to government issues or whether the right of issue should be granted to the chartered banks. If the latter is advisable, upon what terms and conditions should it be granted. Economists state that the increase of the gold supply has a bearing on the cost of living and it is further stated that currency inflation, that is, the issue of paper money in excess of the amount of gold reserve, influences the cost of living.

More complex even than these problems is the elimination of the Babel of standards and units of value in vogue in different countries by inducing all such countries to adopt a common uniform and scientific basis. This would aid in the settlement of international indebtedness, remove some of the difficulties confronting those who travel in foreign parts and generally add to the efficiency and effectiveness of world progress. The unit of value in Great Britain is the pound ($\$4.86\frac{2}{3}$), in France it is the franc (about 20c). Illustrating this divergence in units of value, it is told of a New York gentleman who had a son at school in Paris, that his London banker cabled that the son desired to draw for a thousand. The New Yorker replied, "If its those little French things, pay it, if its pounds send him home."

Unfortunately there is little prospect of arriving at an agreement to unify international currencies. Nevertheless it becomes one of the duties of officers in the Comptroller's Branch to collect data, statistics and evidence on this and other important monetary subjects and to bring all such facts and considerations to the notice of the head of the department.

The point to be mainly considered in connection with the functions of the Currency Branch is that it supplies the people with an agency, which, though often turned to evil purposes, renders a great service in

the course of advancing civilization. Through the agency of money the means are afforded for the exchange of all the commodities of the world and for their transportation and distribution, and by its means wealth is extracted from the sea and the land. That this wealth is not more equitably divided is not the fault of the Currency Branch, nor is the inequality chargeable to the institution of money in itself, but is due to the ignorance and rapacity of man and to the imperfections in many of our complicated social and political systems and institutions.

EFFICIENCY IN A FOREST SERVICE.

The Report of the Thirteenth Annual Convention of the Canadian Forestry Convention, held in Ottawa some months ago, has just reached *The Civilian*. Glancing over it, we note that one of the most important of the speakers was Mr. Gifford Pinchot, the President of the American Conservation Commission. His address was entitled, "The Groundwork of a Forest Service." Dealing with the "fundamental principles necessary for successful work in organizing and in maintaining a forest service," Mr. Pinchot made the following statement:

"When the forest service was first created, all the appointees who had charge of the National forests—forest reserves they were called then—were appointed politically. The question was laid before the then Secretary of the Interior, at the time when the first appropriation was made for employing these men, whether or not he would create a non-partisan body following the merit system, or whether he would deal with it according to the old method. And his reply to the men who urged upon him the great chance he had to create a high-grade body of men was that he had no doubt he could get perfectly good Republicans