

ordinary expenditure—local public works are dangled before constituencies, as the sure reward for voting the right ticket. The "Farmers' Sun" should not give space in its columns to correspondents who advocate inflation or unsound money in any shape, unless—like the *Globe*—it is prepared to show, editorially, the fallacies that underly all proposals alike. They all amount to this, that the sign is as good as the thing. Mr. Wells once had a picture of a baby being fed on milk tickets! It was unnecessary to explain what became of the baby. If you want a horse, you will scarcely be satisfied with the picture of a racer, even though it is stamped as issued by the Parliament of Canada! But custom makes such fools of men, that because they are in the habit of using paper money, they slide into the notion that the stamped paper is itself valuable. Hence in every generation the old craze reappears that Governments can make money. If they could, there would be no need of their contracting national debts or levying duties in order to get revenue, and they ought to supply every citizen with as much money as he required. There would then be a supply "equal to the wants of trade," as it is sometimes mildly put. But why should the Government take so much trouble? An Act of Parliament, declaring that every man's cheque must be accepted as legal tender, would be sufficient.

Some debtors take their stand on the hard fact that, when they contracted a debt of \$1,000, they could pay it with one thousand bushels of wheat, whereas now they must raise two thousand. But, wheat might have doubled in price, and then they could have paid their debt with 500 bushels, and their creditors would have been perfectly satisfied. The price of some articles, camphor for instance, has increased twenty-fold in the same time. How badly off creditors in Formosa must be! Every one must take the hard with the soft, and understand that the man who kicks against the laws of nature kicks against the Eternal. A bull charging a railway train in motion is not wise.

The fate of parties who have fooled with the currency question in the States is instructive. The Populist movement had earnest men behind it, but they dallied with proposals for unsound money, and the West rejected them before they accomplished anything. Let the Patron leaders beware. On this point, they must be, like Cæsar's wife, above suspicion, if they are to retain the confidence of the farmers of Canada. Even the proposal that the Government should do the banking of the country, and reap the profit of the business, is not to be tolerated. The Government has more to do already than it can handle. If it is to do our banking, why not also our mining, our shipping, our baking, and everything else?