

must delay action in important negotiations every day unto they have read the telegraphic reports of the condition of the money market in Europe, which is liable to create a demand for gold, which affects the stock market even of New Zealand as sensibly as if a similar occurrence had taken place in our midst.

BOND-HOLDERS.

The output of gold is substantially consumed in the arts and every country is now beginning to realise the danger of the financial revolution which the bond-holding class have aided for power and plunder, and who hail with short-sighted satisfaction the enhanced value of their bonds, through the diminished supply of money, and who would now impress ignorant people with the belief that an independent financial policy for any country is impossible. We say, on the contrary, there is no necessity for international money for any purpose whatever; and, although no single nation can alter this defective system, as the law of the world, each community has it in its power to remedy within its own boundaries.

The bond-holders in England may think this in accordance with their own interests. England is now compelling the world outside the United Kingdom to pay to her interest on more than £10,000,000 of obligations in gold, at an appreciation of 50 per cent!

It is unnecessary to recapitulate former letters which shewed the enormous drain of wealth from New Zealand, and from the industry of the world by this vampire. We need only add that on whatever nominal low rate of interest new loans could be borrowed, the real rate of interest must be measured by the purchasing power of money, which is abnormally high and rising without the remotest possibility of change, except by universal revolution. Therefore, the cheapness would be chimerical.

GOLD-BASIS CURRENCY.

It may now be demonstrated that the gold or specie-basis system of currency is what Dr. Max Nordau would have called (had he included this subject) the greatest of "the Conventional Lies of our civilisation." That the convertible note, of which 55 per cent of the entire currency of the world consists, is an absurdity, a delusion, and a fraud, and that the system is governed by monopoly and dependent upon chance; that it is the football of politicians and the tool of capitalists and has given over to the millionaires the control of all the Governments of the world; and the industrial classes and labor are now paying a tax to these gold men of 50 per cent on every exchange.

We hear of such a satire upon nationality as the Barings having run the Government of the Argentine Republic; the Rothchilds financing Russia; and last year a European syndicate took charge of Austria to manipulate her public debt and place that country on a sound gold basis! And in America the gold men of Wall street, in conjunction with European gold syndicates, control both the president and the legislatures and have now so manipulated the currency of that great country that abnormal contraction is causing financial chaos by which the industrial and wealth-producing classes have been brought to a state of financial servitude embarrassment and mental condition such as was never before equalled—the farmers ruined—all legitimate trade arrested, the labouring classes reduced to pauperism—armies of unemployed marching and counter-marching in their misery, and social revolution and civil war imminent. The while the millionaires and gold men are reaping the enormous gains corresponding to the industrial losses by this financial fraud—the superstition of gold.

ECONOMIC COROLLARY.

Here is one of its consequences:—By the census bureau of mortgage statistics in America the total number of mortgages filed between 1880 and 1889 amounted to 9,517,747, the debts amounting to 12,094,577,793dol.; those for 1889, were 1,226,823—with debts amounting to 1,752,568,274dol. more—how many more to still vaster amounts must have been filed since

1889 to 1893? Thus America, once the country of home-owning farmers, is becoming one of mere renters and paupers.

By the returns for income tax the combined incomes of 119 millionaires in New York and Brooklyn, out of 1100 whose annual incomes reached 100 million dollars—reached the enormous total of 97,744,250dol. per annum. Of this return the above mortgage report is the corollary.

And what is the economic position of this vampire, gold, as a basis of currency? We know that the whole financial business and trade of England is carried on by 1 per cent of gold and 99 per cent of paper—credit; that £8,000,000,000 represent the London clearing house returns annually. With a base of 1 per cent to raise such a superstructure of credit is an inverted pyramid standing on its apex, and must obviously shew that the least of the various economic forces would cause an expansion or contraction acting in so small a base and which, of course, must affect the whole superstructure resting upon it.

Instances the crisis of 1857, which gave a startling proof how inadequate is the largest conceivable stock of gold to support the vast fabric of modern trade and industry—where at a period of unparalleled production of gold, the drain of a few millions from the Bank of England caused a great crisis, and millions of property were confiscated by it; thus teaching us that by the system of national money scientifically utilized, mankind may possess a lever of production and an efficient auxiliary of trade far surpassing gold and silver, and even making all nations wholly independent of those long canonized metals. Again, in America last year less than 100 million dollars were drawn from her to meet the demand of speculators, and embarrassed debtors in Europe and, as a consequence thousands of millions of property were sacrificed, confiscated in that country, by the loss of a few millions of international money, and America received more injury in 12 months from this gold which deserted her when needed at home than from all the financial calamities of the last twenty years.

ECONOMIC POINT OF VIEW.

Thus as a basis of currency, from an economic point of view, gold is the cause of all commercial and monetary panics and crises, of the destruction of wealth and of the instability of finance public and private, the sole gainers being the leviathan capitalists who direct and control its movements. From a national or from a social point of view it places the destinies not only of individuals and classes, but of nations in the hands of an irresponsible few, who are neither statesmen, philosophers, or men of genius, or even men of exceptional talent. They are gold men, money grubbers in soul, and that only.

HISTORICAL POINT OF VIEW.

Looked at from an historical point of view we find it has been the curse of the human race, and condemned economically, politically, and socially by every statesman, scientist, philosopher and historian. From the money-tablets found in the ruins of the most ancient and magnificent civilizations of Assyria of which no history remains—the "nummulites" of the oldest Egyptian dynasties; the paper money of China 2000 years, B.C.; the "Nunus" of Republican Rome; the iron money of Greece; the national money of Carthage; the copper roubles of Peter the Great, in Russia; down to the national bank note of England under William Pitt; the paper money of the early American colonies; and the green back of the civil war in 1862; all testify to the banishment of gold and international money as an unsafe foundation on which to rest the industry, and the political and social freedom of great nations. A symbolic national currency has been in all ages the power of every country, the bulwark of freedom and the safeguard against the monopoly of wealth.

Money composed of a so-called intrinsic material, whether mono-metallic or bi-metallic (by international convention at a ratio) is international money, and as such gives the millionaire capitalists the power to tax the exchanges and enslave the world through the control of the metals, creating monopolies of wealth and impoverishing the masses.