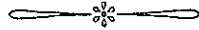


# A Symposium on Money.



**T**HE subject of Money or Currency is, to the perception of an increasing number of thoughtful persons, one urgently needing to be discussed and considered by the people at large. The private and arbitrary management of the supply of the means with which to carry on the varied operations of modern social life is seen to be one of the chief causes of the periodical crises with which we are all familiar. With the object, then, of drawing public attention to the subject, it has been arranged that papers shall be contributed by four writers, who, while they may differ on points of detail, are in general agreement that the only effective cure for the present unsatisfactory, nay dangerous, method of regulating the supply of money or currency is to place it entirely under State control. Each writer, is however, responsible only for the opinions or proposals set out in his own article.

Mr. H. F. Edger opens the subject with a paper entitled: "What is Money, and for

what Purposes is it Needed?" in which he discusses the different forms of money or currency now in use, and examines the actual and the true basis for money.

Mr. Flürscheim follows with an article on "A Perfect Money, and its Effects," in which he explains how our present currency, though being based in the last resort on a limited stock of precious metals, is bound to continually increase the gap between productive power and purchasing money, and how an elastic currency based on productive power would allow the full expansion of the latter by making purchasing power keep abreast of it.

The other two papers will appear in our next issue, viz., one "A State Bank for New Zealand: What is it, and what will it do?" by Mr. W. Sievwright, of Gisborne, and one by Mr. William Rout, of Cambridge, on the question of "Foreign Loans and the Financing of Public Works," after which further contributions will be welcome.—THE EDITOR.

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## WHAT IS MONEY, AND FOR WHAT PURPOSES IS IT NEEDED?

By H. F. EDGER.

There are various opinions as to what should be included under the term Money. Some consider that only gold and silver deserve that appellation. Others would add bank notes, whilst others, again, maintain that only what is "legal tender" should be spoken of as money; and that if a wider meaning be intended, the word "currency" should be used. I have preferred to use the word "money," extending its meaning to include what some would call currency; as

it seems to me that whatever serves the purposes of money should be included in the definition of the term. What are those purposes?

First, as the medium of exchange.

In very early days, when there was no money, goods were exchanged directly. Those were the days of barter. At a later time, when barter was found to be inconvenient, various substances came into use to represent the value of the goods temporarily,