

Shelf/Accession No-

LC 77-38 (1/70)

Aldrich, Nelson Wilmarth, 1841-1915. Papers, 1777-1930. 58 ft. (ca. 42,500 items) U.S. Representative and Senator from Rhode Island, financier, and philanthropist. Correspondence, diaries and notebooks, material relating to tariff rates and legislation (1880-1915) and the National Monetary Commission (1907-12), financial papers, speech file, and printed matter, chiefly relating to Aldrich's career as U.S. Senator (1881-1911). Papers also include a group of biographer's research materials containing correspondence and notes of Nathaniel W.

(Continued on next card)

Aldrich, Nelson Wilmarth, 1841-1915. (Card 2) Stephenson and Jeannette P. Nichols, and some diaries and engagement books kept by Aldrich's wife, Abby Chapman Aldrich. Correspondents include Joshua M. Addeman, Edward B. Aldrich, William B. Allison, Abram Piatt Andrew, Henry B. Anthony, George E. Barnard, Jr., Robert W. Bonynge, Jonathan Bourne, Jr., Charles R. Brayton, Theodore E. Burton, Adin B. Capron, Jonathan Chace, William E. Chandler, LeBaron B. Colt, Samuel P. Colt, Charles A. Conant, George B. Cortelyou, Henry P. Davison, Elisha Dyer, Jr., Henry W.

(Continued on next card)

Aldrich, Nelson Wilmarth, 1841-1915. (Card 3) Gardner, Eugene Hale, John E. Kendrick, Philander C. Knox, Charles Warren Lippitt, Henry Cabot Lodge, Stephen B. Luce, Orville H. Platt, Aram J. Pothier, Theodore Roosevelt, John P. Sanborn, William Howard Taft, Henry M. Teller, Edward B. Vreeland, Paul M. Warburg, George Peabody Wetmore, William Whitman, and Nathan M. Wright.

Finding aid and index in the Library.

Information on literary rights available in the Library.

Gift of the Aldrich family, 1944; John D.

(Continued on next card)

Aldrich, Nelson Wilmarth, 1841-1915. (Card 4) Rockefeller, Jr., 1955-56; and the Seminary of Our Lady of Providence (Rhode Island), 1970.

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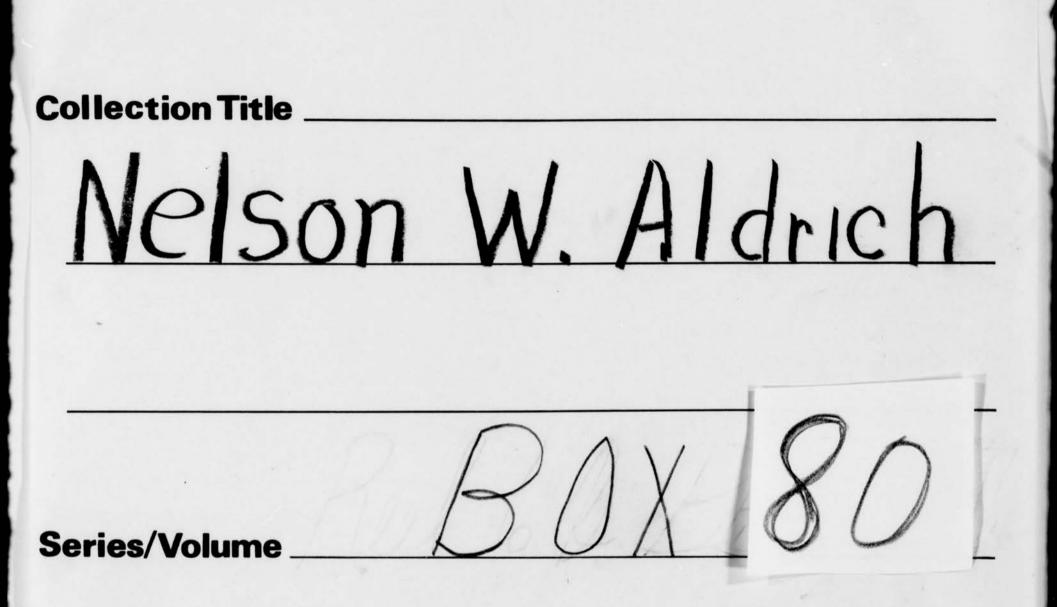
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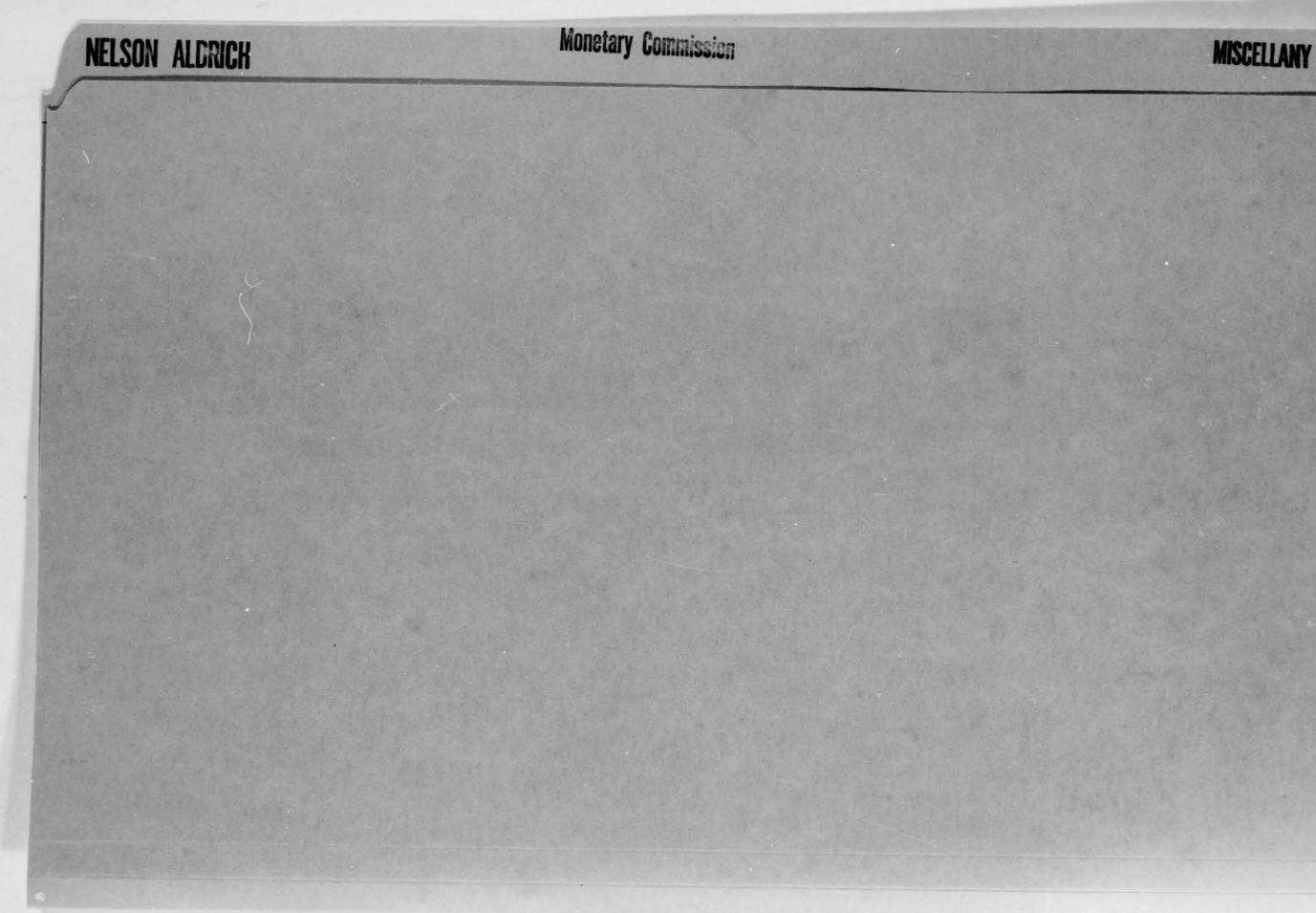


80 CONT. - 81



Shelf/Accession No.

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ment 180 2-1 The central banks fix from time to time the rate of discount which governs their transactions. This bank rate under usua usual trade conditions is higher than the market rate. It is not thought desirable that the central banks should fix their rate of discount at a point which would enable them in ordinary times to enter into competition with the banks of discount and deposit for commercial business. The tendency of all modern legislation has been to limit the central banks strictly to the functions and powers belonging to banks of issue. The changes in the bank rates of the great European banks are fello ed with the keenest interest throughout the financial world. The money reports of these proportion institutions showing their stock of gold and the produ their gold holdings to their note issues and other liabilities are looked upon as furnishing a reliable index of existing business and banking conditions.

.1

An advance in the bank rate has been found to be the

most effective agency to check tendencies to over-expansion of

credit. In times of stress the joint stock banks usually co-

operate with the central banks in making the bank rate effective.

At times, however, the central banks have been obliged to borrow

money in the street or take other means to make the market rate

conform to the bank rate.

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S.

governments and are bound by an obligation which, if not ex-

pressed is nevertheless recognized, to sustain at all times the

public credit. I think that it may be said that these banks,

without exception, by the wisdom of their management and the

character and extent of their resources, have commanded univer-

sal confidence in their stability and solvency as the conserva-

tors of public and private interests. It is the wise policy of

these central banks to keep their assets, aside from their gold inliging form through investment reserves and government securifies, in short time commercial pa-frankle the manage maturely of hafes at the time in 1910 there are are maturely of hafes at the time in 1910 Their hveding 18 red and et the top in 1910 per of a recognized standard. These together form a satisfac- frame or y

tory basis for an note issues.

The joint stock bank, treal

Then Credit balances of other banks in the central bank are com-

Ttaken

o mate

sidered by these banks of part of their cash reserves, and the

The features of these foreign systems which have perhaps

1-1-

the greatest interest for us , aside from those that relate to

three

191

the organization and functions of the central banks are; -

(1), The methods by which panics are prevented or by which their

disastrous effects are averted in those countries. (2). Those that

fix either by law or custom a standard form and character of

commercial bills of exchange or acceptances which are available

for discount or rediscount at central banks and the banks of

discount and deposit. (3). Those that fix the terms and conditions

of note issue.

1 1

3-1 The effective methods by which panics are avoided and by which when serious excitements are allayed and public confidence restored in times when serious trouble is threatened are well understood. At such times the central banks as the responsible custodians of the gold reserves of the country are relied upon to strengthen these reserves and replenish them whenever necessary. The central banks control the movements of gold, to and secure the adequacy of their reserves. (1). By an advance in the bank rate. In the face of serious trouble this is imment for advance must be rapid and substantial in character. (2) By their holdings of foreign bills of frequent maturity. (3). By borrowing gold from or accepting assistance from other central banks. At times , other means are taken for encouraging gold imports and discouraging gold exports but the main reliances 3-2of the banks are upon the methods I have suggested and those methods have been found effective in all cases.

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-top joint stock banks whose cooperation is necessary in this scheme of relief replenish their own reserves, whenever

required measury in such emergencies by rediscounting commercial paper

at the central banks. With adequate gold reserves maintained,

the central banks and joint stock banks establish confidence

in business circles by discounting freely all legitimate

offerings of paper upon the credit or securities which are

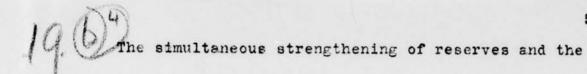
accepted in ordinary times. The rapid advance in the bank

rate in times of trouble is at once a restraint on speculative

ventures and a warning to all business representatives that they

avoid under expansion of their credit and should exercise the greatest care as to the nature of their new

engagements.



granting of liberal extension of credit to all deserving bor-

rowers have not failed for fifty years to produce the desired

result of establishing confidence and avoiding the disastrous

results of acute financial crises.

190 9 moundials New much the larger hard all the domestic of the transferred exception funds exchanged between the different parts of the respective countries is caused on theorigh the cutial banks und then branches they transfer finds or for a small commission. There transfer much consist made by a notification of the branches, and a transfer on the books April. Digitized for FRASER

http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/ ederal Reserve Bank of St. Lou

This system successfully avoids the frequend = disarrangement of domestic exchanges and the great Cat & and delatory character The service from which have our The public alike suffer in This Country.

reserves can be replenished, their loaning power increased, by a

rediscount of their standard commercial paper by the central or-

ganization (in times of need.) The character of commercial paper accepted by

the central banks are permitted to accept for rediscount prac-٨

tically fixes a standard which, for obvious reasons, is usually

followed by the other banks in their unestments

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Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

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While there is a very general a greement as & The character of the defects of our monetany System there is fufartunated The such accord as to the ration of the neurodies to be applied. This is to magnified as it seems the established the from the experience of other nations that are eastily worther a.

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Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

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who were stude eight truchon Deleived that the for pation werment was annitize to delfated power that the Defferson idea that the States, onshit hearing Hamilton Vs Jeffer Josquick pome DState Accafform de noticisaes It is changing biffed a man lac our form and the change is proposed by the Saccesson Digitized http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

me protoch and regecting The principles (trainfugs) of Andrew faction and Thomas H. Pealon of Samlf Lilder and grover Clandward. It is not Aufmine shapes be mumersed noth the hangeenlater supotostance

In my oritaison of this Soresonment Central or so called Tudual Refere Load misinderstood, I have believed and an now those when more convinced that and that what that is proposed as a substitute that that an organization conening the whole the with not the form or put for the production of the contained of as in sup essential element in any comprehencine organization afour handing and monetary I had I contrained is the isene too notes with poris shietty build to note when an hved cash speemes.

In any criticism I make on Federal Doped want the mounstood, I have felerid) and an now more fimely convinces since I Hat have seen what is proposed as of Luckschite 3 E and with former shith eine that to heding carl reserves to those which all fill agree should show he exercised by puch an organization It is a central organization with great powers for fornickeif bu

The abologists for a plea of necessity rendered ther. iene macanans of exceptional Digitized for FRASER http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

Statutes at large, v.13 pp. 106-109

Section

... which notes shall express upon their face that they are secured by United States bonds, deposited with the treasurer of the United States by the written or engraved signatures of the treasurer and register, and by the imprint of the seal of the treasury; and shall also express upon their face the promise of the association receiving the same to pay on demand, attested by the signatures of the president or vice-president and cashier. ...

Section 26 That the bonds transferred to and deposited with the treasurer of the United States, as hereinbefore provided, by any banking association for the security of its circulating notes, shall be held exclusively for that purpose... ... Whenever the market or cash value of any bonds deposited with the treasurer of the United States, as aforesaid, shall be reduced below the amount of the circulation issued for the same, the comptroller of the currency is hereby authorized to demand and receive the amount of such depreciation in other United States bonds at cash value, or in money, from the association receiving said bills, to be deposited with the treasurer of the United States as long as such depreciation continues. ...

Section 31

... Every association in the cities hereinafter named shall, at all times, have on hand, in lawful money of the United States, an amount equal to at least twenty-five per centum of the aggregate amount of its notes in circulation, and of its deposits.

From Mr. Benton's Speech, in Senate, Jan. 13, 1842

(Cong. Globe, v.10, p.65)

(headout Tyles Es I The report which accompanies this plan is profuse in its recommendations, and in protestations of its safety and excellence; all the phrases of the bank parlor are here rehearsed, and set out to the best advantage, to delight and captivate us. Safe and solid-specie basis- sound and uniform currency- better than gold- convertible at the will of the holder- always good: such are the holyday phrases which accompany the plan, and recommend it to our favor. Why, sir, does the writer of the report not know that this is the very jargon of banking? that it is the cant of Change Alley, Cheapside, Threadheedle, and Wall street ? Does he not know that it is the slang upon which every Bank charter is obtained-- that it is the old worn out , used up, dead and gone, slang ? upon which every red dog, wild cat, owl creek, coon box, and Cairo, swindling shop which has disgraced our country, obtained their charters ? and that all these paid specie till they stopped ?

Statutes at large, v.13, p.106--Sec. 23

Section 23 And be it further enacted, That after any such association shall have caused its promise to pay such notes on demand to be signed by the president or vice-president and cashier thereof, in such manner as to make them obligatory promissory notes, payable on demand, at its place of busi-enness, such association is hereby authorized to issue and circulate the same as money; and the same shall be received a at par in all parts of the United States in payment of taxes, excises, public lands, and all other dues to the United States States, except for duties on imports; and also for all salaries and other debts and demands owing by the United States to individuals, corporations, and associations, within the United States, except interest on the public debt, and in redemption of the national currency. Section 32

... Each association organized in any of the cities named in the foregoing section shall select, subject to the approval of the comptroller of the currency, an association in the city of New York, at which it will redeem its circulating notes at par.... That nothing in this section shall relieve any association from its liability to redeem its circulating notes at its own counter, at par, in lawful money, on demand.

Condition of receives inder the bill shy charge

The banking systems of these countries consist of joint stock banks of discount and deposit, which do very much the larger part of the commercial business of their respective countries, and of a central bank in each country with adequate capital and resources and important duties and functions. Each country has also a variety of other financial institutions created for special purposes and with special functions. These include, among others, savings banks of several kinds, coöperative banks, and agricultural mortgage banks.

The central organization is, from a national standpoint, the most important element in each of these systems. The assignment of duties and recognized functions to these central banks, whether prescribed by statute or exacted by public opinion, has resulted from a process of evolution covering generations of practical experience. It has not been found possible to secure an effective credit organization in any country without this important factor. For my present purposes of comparison a mere outline of the characteristics and methods of these central institutions is sufficient.

It is conceded that and The methods employed the practices adopted in the great countries whose bremes conditions are analogous to ours shoned he carefully considered in the contractions of any plan for monetary reform for the limbed States The experience of these Communies covering Centures of discussion and experiment has shown that the more important demand problems ine the same in every commenced Contry hation . Most of the problems that confront in have been solved in these countries in a manner which has the approval alive O of economits barrier and all classes

posed to change the national banking law, and there is no relief

from the rigidity of reserves except through the power of sus-

pension improvidently given to the Federal Reserve Board.

The national banks now hold something over 12% of their net deposits in actual cash. The bill reduces the requirements for M cash holdings to about 6%. It is very evident that if 6% is to be accepted by the banks as an adequate basis for their trans-M M futur actions, a large expansion of credit will ensue. If, on the other hand, the 12 1/2% basis is to be maintained it is apparent that, with the withdrawals and restricted use of sums new profit-

ably employed, a considerable contraction would take place. It

is much easier to take individual cases for the purpose of com-

parison of conditions now and after the law goes fully into ef-

fect, than to work out a statement of results based upon hypo-

 $\Lambda^{\text{the notes}}$ can be kept in circulation indefinitely , as I believe

they can, and will be under ordinary circumstances, then there is

no reason why the loans should ever be paid or the currency re-

tired. It is apparent for the organization of the central bank

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If

These bysterfer black have a bestal The organization of these systems is familiar

The general plan of organization - mith ta central bank and the Otock bank doneg a large point of the Commercial burness - is the Same in all cometries It has not been possible & secure the necessary officienced in any system that did not any official open without a central include organization which is assigned infortant a limited and fine and infortant a limited and fine in a central includes functions and responsibilities. and strictly lauted in character.

The able of the second have the enter alie The Treasury, under existing law, is required to redeems the national redening national bank notes as the agent of the banks, and the Government takes as security for any failure of the banks to respond, United ' States bonds equal in amount to the total amount of notes issued Ger? re te, the banks. The issue itself being under governmental supermy vision, the amount of notes issued can never exceed the limit of United States bonds deposited. hurfexado The Government, having possession of the bonds, has a right to sell them at public or private sale to recoup itself for advances made for redemption purposes / In addition, the law requires the banks to deposit in the Treasury a redemption fund of 5% of outstanding notes. It was assumed when the act was passed, and in all subsequent legislation, that the bonds of the United at drive three States could be sold either at private or public sale at a price above par of the obligations, and this was undoubtedly true until up to within the last few weeks. The Government also, as the holder of national bank notes, would have a paramount lien upon all the assets of the bank for further security. I have also been reminded that the act of 1908 providingfor

the use of emergency currency under certain circumstances, au-

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Present condition

First contraction and hucutany indefinde and destruction inflation & reduction requiremand Reduction in preserves Cash reserves banks Morem Cuhal resine cit in reserve citie

To lodge in one man or even is a Why board the power to inflate the currency without limit is too monations Control business

See amount of reserves

Wilson---2.

radically. pp. 5 and 6.

It (the constitution) absolutely forbade the States to issue bills of credit, did not give the federal government itself power to do so, and was meant practically to prohibit the use of any currency which was not at least based directly upon gold and silver. p. 46.

Only a great commanding bank, everywhere known, whose notes really and always represented gold could supply paper worth its face value in all places or keep exchanges from chaos.

Such an agency of adjustment and control the Bank of the United States had proved itself to be. It had not only served its purpose as a fiscal agent of the government to the satisfaction of the Treasury, but had also steadied and facilitated every legitimate business transaction and rid the money market of its worst dangers. But many of the men to whom General Jackson was accustomed to listen believed, or affected to believe, that it had done much more: that its power was used to serve a party and to keep men who were no friends of the people or of popular rights in a position to manage and corrupt the whole politics of the nation. p. 47.

General Jackson had said that the Bank of the United States did not give the country a stable currency. The country had an opportunity to see for itself what service it had rendered when

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2 Ceneral

Len Senator Woodbury, in the Senate. Congressional Globe, Jan. 6, 1842. G

No doubt the exchange value of irredeemable bank paper, contrasted with specie, was large---particularly on such a currency as Wild Cat money. But there was no excessive exchange on specie or bank paper truly representing specie. The only real exchange that existed was the cost of transmitting specie. The great fallacy consisted in supposing the paper money of suspended banks of the same value as specie. Specie could be transported from New Orleans to New York for less than two per cent, and the cost of transmission was the only true basis for ascertaining the rate of exchanges.

of exchanges. # # # # But If it was a great panic the whole of the specie would be taken, and nothing left to redeem the ten millions outstanding. This Exchequer Institution would then be as complete a rag paper bank as any ever established on Owl Creek, or elsewhere. There was no fancy in this; it was all fact: it would have been the effect reiterated half a dozen times within the last half dozen years, if this plan had been in existence as a Government institution? p.98.

Roberty Senator Walker, in the Senate, Jan. 11, 1842. He would not vote for any Bank, or Government circulation, / that was not based, dollar for dollar, on specie. p.116.

charge

Contest for Sound Money, Hepburn. Page 415. Q

A general review of the monetary history of the entire period of our national existence shows that each generation had to learn for itself and at its own expense the evils of unsound money. The costly experiences of the preceding generation were generally forgotten, and legislators, following rather than leading the people, failed to correct the evils except after long and disastrous delays. So intolerable were the conditions at times that only the unlimited recuperative powers of our rapidly developing and expanding country prevented the overthrow of that (standard of value and honor which is recognized by the world as highest and best.

The problem of furnishing a sound and stable medium for a country of such large area, of such diverse interests, developing at an unprecedented rate, presents unusual difficulties, and no precedent is furnished by any other country with kindred conditions and analagous experience. Principles remain the same, however, and the obstacles could have been overcome and all questions properly solved had not political ambitions and party advantage exercised such a controlling influence. The questions confronting us today are in many respects the same that have existed throughout our history, namely, the establishment of a coinage and currency system which will assure stability as to metallic money, security and flexibility to paper currency, etc.

Benton---4.

And, finally, because it is right in itself that we should take up the old continentals before we begin to make new ones. For these, and other reasons, I am bold to declare that if we must have a Congress paper-money. I prefer the paper of the Congress of 1776 to that of 1842.

Sir, the Senate must pardon me. It is not my custom to speak irreverently of official matters; but there are some things too light for argument---too grave for ridicule---and which it is difficult to treat in a becoming manner. This cabinet plan of a Federal Exchequer is one of those subjects; and to its strange and novel character, part tragic and part farcical, must be attributed my more than usually defective mode of speaking. I plead the subject itself for the imperfection of my mode of treating it.

Cushings Report --- 2.

said board of exchequer and each of its several agencies at all times so to limit the amount of certificates so issued that its gold and silver on hand shall be equal to the amount thereof outstanding. p.408.

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an quite they If the change in agrounds that the credit the the hears mun a beation of on this otherhand at I to Venum on 12 Ameans contraction by taking large sams from the channels of trade and looking them up in Reserve sants

wel dangeron policy of transferring Sort deposits from one dection to 1 another Seaa !

of government in the use of motuments - kere necessant differences in application and all been recognized the legislation of the different Countries

a the notes in the collation hearding. other hote, will be deposited in Jeth by gain on foreven

the Sefferson was of the opinion that the Control of over currency was lodged in the States and he advocatet getting the Concernet Nas in far suggested that are allempt showed he made to seene the consent of the States & transfer the power to the Jeneral Jonemment

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they could not duround on Som deports an of is the to formates of the scheme to more these about from place T place Digitized for FRASER http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/ Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

Chat Pale noshing comed be more repagnant to the fundamental formatiles of popular sometiment nothing no unstrumentation could be farther armoned from popular centrol

I may be saw that the President mitte sure & affont for a men who would wisch discharge their inpolant but grant This

The Commission at the outset of then examination of the question which they determined to make as Comprehensing as possible decided to fund take up Escentral fortune common tall and which much frininghethe haves Concentration frequences - Jacking here Establishment of a discout market 2redre ormeting frafen to create receiver 3 4 Report in central aughtertons Geate recence Digitized for FRASER

account of the unintelligent declarations of a party platform.

The bill can be made strong and efficacious by a few important

changes which I venture to suggest. Assuming, as-I-think-we-must,

there-ean-be-ne-measure- I venture to assume that any plan for

banking reform in the United States in order to be successful

must include provisions for an organization or association which

shall embrace the whole country, with a capital and resources

that will contain universal confidence, a certain portion of

its capital might be assigned to branches in districts for dis-

count purposes. It is immaterial by what name this organization should be called. It should be under the joint control of the

government and its shareholders. Its management should be given to men with expert knowledge and with a benure

of service which would make them independent of political or

local banking influences.

It might borrow an amount which would be equal or greater

than the amount of its deposits in the reserve bank , if it

should be desirable to increase its loaning power. It must be

evident, however, that if all the banks should borrow from the

reserve bank of any district to its full capacity, the reserves

of the national banks would be invested in commercial paper and

not available for use for reserve purposes at any time. It

might happen and probably would happen that the bank which should

not avail itself of the opportunity would find itself in this

condition; (1); This bank could not withdraw its deposits for any

The most important difference in the two plans proposed is found in their treatment of note issues. The Commission plan authorizes the National Reserve Association to issue its own notes, which must be always convertible into lawful money on demand, convertibility and safety being secured by a reserve of not less than 50% of its total liabilities, by limitations, and by a system of taxation, removing practically any possibility of failure or suspension. The Reserve Association is required to purchase the bonds of national banks and to relieve the Government from its responsibility for the redemption of ourstanding bank notes. All the efficient safeguards which the experiences of other commercial nations have found to be necessary to insure prompt redemption and ultimate security are provided by the terms

of the Commission plan. The bill authorizes the issue of United

reprodet tore One pean cames out me Thereny of sets foremand the the Repusal helit theory which sale is a Yailun und that monarchy Varation and gonforment public

Extracts from A History of the American People, by

G.

Woodrow Wilson.

Volume IV.

Mr. Jefferson, indeed, expressed the greatest alarm "at the prospect of seeing General Jackson President." "He is," he said, "one of the most unfit men I know of for the place. He has had very little respect for laws or constitutions, and is, in fact, an able military chief. His passions are terrible. He has been much tried since I knew him, but he is a dangerous man." And had Mr. Jefferson lived to witness the result, he would hardly have altered his judgment. He had stood, for all he was so full of democratic doctrine, for sonservative ways of political growth. General Jackson stood, it turned out, for personal government, party proscriptions, and the self-willed choices of personal power. p. 3.

Everywhere it was proclaimed that the people had come into possession of the government; that the domination of professional statesmen and politicians had been thrown off; that the rank and file were victors, and that to the victors belonged "the spoils of the enemy".

That was unquestionable GeneralJackson's creed. Men who understood him could play upon him. He had allowed ill-informedm men who believed it, and designing men who pretended to believe it, to persuade him that the government had not only been monopolized but also captured by the politicians and statesmen who had hitherto controlled it; and he meant to purify it very

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Jacked on

its check was withdrawn. It was no sconer discredited than the old inflation of bank issues came again, with wider range and ply play of force than ever. The "pet banks", as they were promptly dubbed, to which the deposits of the government had been transferred, were selected upon party principles, ---were one and all "Democratic" banks in the South and West, whose directors were of the President's party. There number was fixed by no law or principle, and began from the outset to be added to from time to time, as this, that, or the other influence of interest or persuasion obtained the patronage of the government for banks not at first favored with a place on the list. pp. 57 and 58.

The imperious old man must have looked back with not a little satisfaction upon the long series of personal triumphs he had won, against trained statesmen and old parties intrenched against him. # # # He moved straight and openly upon every object he desired, and his very directness seemed to add dignity and scope to the government over which he presided. He had created a party and put subtle revolution into affairs by sheer force of individual quality, and left his great place and office before either he or the men who loved and followed him were aware what mischief he had unwittingly done,---how the whole framework of settled politics had been shaken and loosened at every joint by his wilful supremacy. pp. 61 and 62.

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In defense of the grants of power by Congress to the Federal

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Reserve Board, it is asserted that similar powers are conferred p uphn the secretary of the treasury and the comptroller of thecurrency by existing law, and that the organization of the Interstate Commerce Commission and its power are analogous to those conferred by the bill on the Federal Board. The powers given to the secretary of the treasury and the comptroller of the cutrency are with reference to the operations of the Treasury itself, or in connection with the issue of national bank notes or the provisions of national banking law. It is not only the unquestioned right but the duty of Congress to supervise the issue and fix the condition under which national bank notes can be used as currency. It has properly adopted legislation to insure the safe and wise business management of banking institutions of its own creation, but in all

these cases, Congress has by law established the rules and imposed Digitized for FRASER http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/ Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis the conditions, and has left their enforcement to executive

und has not undertakent manage banky

officials. In the case of the power given the secretary of the

treasury to decide whether the public interest demanded an issue

of national bank notes in emergencies cited as a precedent for

the grants th the central board, all the conditions under which

national bank notes could be issued in emergencies were clearly

defined by Congress itself, and the secretary of the treasury was only

to ascertain whether the public interests at the time required the

the issue.

I am not sure whether the friends of the measure mean to

assert that the power of Congress over the business of banking is

co-extensive with the plenary power of Congress over interstate

commerce. The Interstate Commerce Commission have been given

power, by progressive legislation, to decide upon the reasonable-

ness of rates, to declare what in their opinion is a reasonable

rate in any particular case, to establish methods of accounting,

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to determine the character of reports, to make investigations

to ascertain the value of railroad properties and other similar

powers, but they have not as yet, in any case, been given actual

management of railroad properties nor been granted any of the

legislative powers conferred upon the Board by the bill, to be

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exercised at their discretion. The Interstate Commerce Commission

is very differently constituted from the proposed Board, -it has

no ex-officio members, the appointments are made for seven years,

and neither in composition nor its authorized functions, does it

furnish any precedent for the creation of the Federal Reserve

Board.

The Federal Reserve Banks, by section 4,

are given all the powers and privileges of national banks, ex-

cept so far as the same might be limited by the provisions of the

bill under consideration. Shareholders in national banks, by the

provisions of existing law, are liable for debts and obligations

of the banks to an amount equal to the amount of their stock.

It is uncertain whether the authors of the bill intended that this

additional liability should apply to shareholders in the Federal

Reserve banks. As it stands there is no exemption provided for,

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and it seems as though the subscribing banks would establish a lia-

bility equal to 40% of their capital stock by becoming share-

holders in the Federal Reserve Banks.

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Financial Questions -- Money Juggling.

Even the Filipinos, whom our rot-stuffed chumps have been led to think are unfit for self government, if they were situated as either class of the chumps above mentioned, would they not have the little sense necessary to get an inkling of the truth that cheaper money--not higher prices--is the cause of its taking for the purchase of necessities (ninety per cent of which are much more plentiful per capita than they ever were before, and therefore much cheaper than formerly) fully fifty per cent more money than formerly? Of course, to neither class of chumps--nor to anybody else--do old, fixed, money obligations call for more dollars than formerly. So the chumps--and others--who are getting no more money than formerly, are losing nothing in paying these obligations; while the chumps--and others--who are receiving more money than formerly, are really getting "prosperity"--as far as these payments are concerned. But how about the viotims who are obliged to accept the cheap money, dollar for dollar, in payment of obligations contracted prior to the course of crazy inflation? 9th--Would it not be well for the inflaters--Republicans especially

9th--Would it not be well for the inflaters--Republicans especially --to look up and read William McKinley's financial speech about the fleecing effect of cheapening the money by inflation? That speech was written twelve years ago, just prior to the presidential election, and was published in all the Republican and Democrat-republican papers of the country. It was written for the especial purpose (so McKinley claimed) of showing how inflation--whether brought about by free silver coinage or otherwise--would fleece the pensioners, the holders of lifeinsurance policies, and the savings-bank depositors; and the wage earners too, whese wages would not be raised to make up for the cheapness of the dollars they would receive under inflation.

After shedding crocodile tears over what would happen to the poor pensioners, and to other creditors, if the dollars should get cheapened under a Bryan administration--after all their tears and pitiful pleas, the opponents of inflation, themselves, commenced to inflate the money soon after the election of McKinley; and they have kept on inflating it ever since. Thus, knowingly and intentionally, they have been doing what they themselves--prior to McKinley's election--were claiming would be one of the most nefarious things a "great and glorious nation" could possibly do; and they have been doing it with no more sign of compunction, and with no greater manifestation of sympathy for their victims of cheap money, than is shown by the rattlesnake for the victims of its venomous fangs.

10th--As it naturally follows that the purchasing power of the dollar depreciates to correspond with the degree or amount of inflation, so it also follows that--while it does not require any more of the depreciated dollars to pay old debts--it requires a greater number for the purchase and the handling of merchandise. How, then, are the money stringencies to be remedied, or be warded off, by issuing the proposed elastic currency? Is it not evident that such financiering will further inflate and depreciate the already over-inflated and depreciated money? and to such an extent that all the money will have so cheapened in purchasing power as to require such a greater number of the cheaper dollars to purchase and handle any given amount of merchandise, that the money stringencies will occur just the same as before?

that the money stringencies will occur just the same as before? 11th--What decent country on the face of the earth--especially in time of peace--has been guilty of upsetting the purchasing power of its money; first inflating it by the issue of millions of rag money, then contracting it by withdrawing the same from circulation?--by the former course over-encouraging and stimulating importations, the manufacturing of goods, the raising of crops, speculation and gambling, and causing a merciless fleecing of all who have fixed sums due them in dollars; by the latter course blocking the wheels of business, and fleecing these who have fixed sums to pay in dollars?

[Continued on page 3]

Germany . B. Policy of the taule about note issues meaners of in excess of coner 1 When made when made conce of increasing frequency + larger and character of bills of exchange taken that mary he used as a basis V are all uncovered liveres required to have 1/2 in tim and 2/3 in bills QB latur at Bauli percentagi in hands of people Istal enculation gres silver notes What is public sentement in the regard internet is and banking circles NB-What steps are taken to protech gold resering Bank Statement; sonoh ohrwacceptances

http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/ Federal Reserve Bank of St. Lou more. The House committee assigned the amount of paper which would be available for rediscount as the bill now stands at about \$6,000,000. As the right to fix the character of loans available for rediscount is given to the Central Reserve Board, this amount is liable to be increased largely in any event, whether the amount available is 6,000,000 or 16,000,000, when we consider that we have at present but 3,000,000 of currency of all kinds. I think it is safe to describe the power given to

I look forward to the time, as the result of our labors, when bills drawn upon Chicago or New York and accepted by your

leading banks or merchants, shall have equal value and currency

in the markets of the world with sterling bills drawn upon London.

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removal by the Board without notice, and reports to it. His

salary is fixed by the Federal Reserve Board but paid by the

Federal Reserve bank. The branch offices of the Federal Reserve

banks are authorized and fixed and under the management of an

agent of the Federal Reserve Board. The number of branch offices

in the United States under the bill, if all the national banks

should become members, might be four hundred. The districts in

which Federal Reserve banks are to be located are determined and

may be changed and rearranged and new districts created by the

Federal Reserve Board.

The Board is authorized, through its agent, to classify

the banks in each district for voting purposes.

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the conduct of business of such savings departments. It may make and publish, at its discretion, lists of securities, papers, bonds, and other forms of investments, which the savings departments of national banks are **ppr**mitted to buy, and it need not be uniform throughout the United States and shall be adapted to the

business conditions of different sections of the country.

It has the power to authorize national banks to establish branches in foreign countries, and to fix the terms and con-

ditions under which the business of such branches shall be

transacted. The Board may, in its discretion, reject any ap-

plication for the establishment of such branches.

It is authorized to make regulations with re-

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It is authorized to exempt the savings de-

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partment of national banks from any and every restriction upon

classes and kinds of business laid down in the national banking

act. It may, within one year, prepare and publish rules for

banks to deposit in the Treasury of the United States a sum

equal to 5% of the Federal Reserve notes which may be issued to

them. It is authorized to make and promulgate the transfer of

notes at par among the Federal Reserve banks, and may, at its

discretion, exercise the powers of a clearing house for such

banks, or may designate a Federal Reserve bank to exercise these

functions. It may also require each such bank to exercise the

functions of a clearing house for its shareholding members.

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or State banks who are shareholders in the Federal Reserve bank, and the reserve requirements of the Federal Reserve banks, excepting reserve requirements which are made with reference to Federal Reserve notes. It is authorized to tax Federal Reserve banks, national banks, and State banks, who are members, upon the amounts by which the reserve requirements of the act may be per-

mitted to fall below the specified level.

It is given the power to add to the number of cities classified as reserve or central reserve cities under existing law, to reclassify reserve or central reserve cities, and to designate the banks therein situated as country banks at its discretion. In other words, it may require one bank in the city of New York to hold twelve or fifteen per cent reserves and

another twenty or twenty-five per cent, or it may suspend the

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whole or a portion of the reserves required from any of these.

It is authorized to suspend the officials of Reserve banks and to require the removal of said officials if incompetent, etc. It may suspend, for cause relating to violation of any of the provisions of the bill, the operations of any Federal Reserve bank and appoint a receiver therefor. It is authorized to determine each week, or as much oftener as required, the rate of discount to be charged in by each Federal Reserve bank for each User class of paper as fixed by the Board, and there is no requirement for any uniformity of rates, either as between districts or for the same class of paper. It is authorized to apportion the Government notes among the Federal banks, and to fix the rate of interest which shall be paid by the banks to the United States.

It may, at its discretion, require any of the Federal Reserve

The desire to promote selfish interests is quite as active

and controlling in corporations as in individuals and when we

consider that a Federal Reserve Bank can borrow money from the

Federal Reserve Board , paying 1/2 of 1 per cent per annum

for it, and can loan 2/3 of the amount for say from four to

six per cent , this fact , rather than the public interest,

is quite likely to control their applications for loans. The

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deposited by the Real back with the commercial paper,

Digitized for FRASER The can change at any time. This paper is deposited with http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/ Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

and of the regional bank that if the Board in control of the 10 former should believe that there was a legitimate demand for more money that their agent, the management of the Federal Reserve banks would see to it that the necessary applications were made. It is further claimed that even if applicat tions should be made and there were a disposition on the part of the Central Bank to grant them that there would be a practical limitation, growing out of the fact that the amount of the commercial paper that a Federal Reserve bank might have was was necessarily limited. To this it can be answered, that there is no limitation in the bill of the amount of commercial paper which a Federal Reserve bank may rediscount. The loans and discounts of all the banks in the United States amount in round numbers to \$15,000,000. The securities held by banks which could be used as a bureau for authorizing paper are about 5,000,000

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The greenbock entiment in both parties was strong enough to Lead-to the pas-

an m18- 2 sage of the act increasing the limit of United States notes from

382 to 400 millions, and the veto of this measure by General

Grant was an effective check to the first post-bellum attempt at

Secure

in circulation

to Mrough inflation by the increased use of Government money.

While the opponents of resumption and the friends of further

inflation and of the ffee coinage of silver included members of

both political parties, they were not strong enough in the early

stages to induce either of the great parties to openly espouse

their cause in national platforms. It is true that the demo-

cratic platform of 1868 contained a clause advocating the payment

of Government bonds in United States notes. The democratic plat-

form of 1872 was emphatic in its pronouncement for in favor of a return to specie payments and a traintanne of the public credit and denonneed reproduction in any form

The failure to secure the support of either of the great

parties to their peculiar views on monetary questions led to

the formation, successively, of the greenback and people's or

populist parties .

of 40 follows

Its authors adopted suggestions



Wieder hopenene eities no distificto not less them if no maximum All national banks super Subscribe 20 3 of Capital . any mucher of braydows not exceeded for 2.500,000 of bank capital or given by dec 5136 generalae & auting powers of dispond & deposit Monsprollen of the Cing the longer independ officer but placed under the direction of the Secretary as Chairmong the Revene Board 5 2 a 11 12. 1

Lahan Juden Than one central Bank ystem with ample Capilpl and resources whose function the puties the remains and function the puties hot alway, change in law all cars t under obligation to Luctan Jublic and prirate credit. They By change in the discout rate they control the cultily and the more in cooperation with the put tooty outry tendencing in cooperation with the put tooty outry tendencing to over expansion of credit. Shrough their branches they in any county In case of threatened or real trouble, the Central bank increases, its gold Supply and reverney by meany which are I have referred unfaling. This wored usually be done with the support and cooperation of the other Great banks, ace actuations are enabled to healter su are neart institutions adopt the Fante policy of sin allons on shoughtenap of second and the and of tensions of credit and) to see deserving for one colit and

European banking systems as they exit including Central taules hole iseno The mather policy confing note in to one central mele moder Stand with has the approval of Economits Kow and the people Stortgaland Referman Belgin toccalico Recent Serman 4 anna lis all choses approved

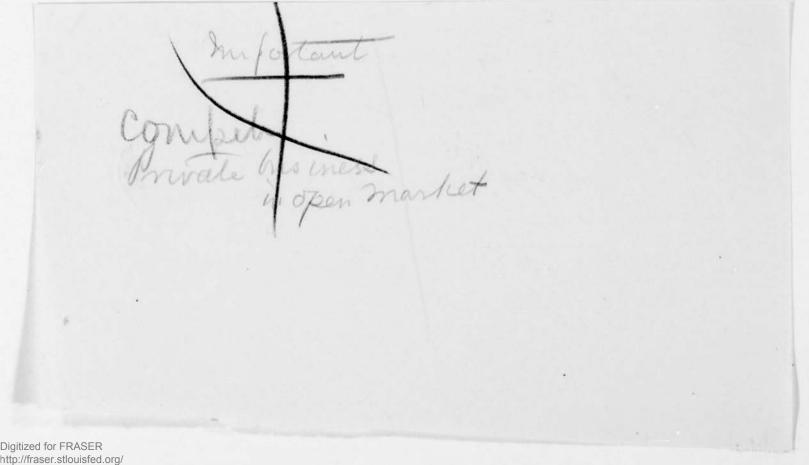
The concentration of reserves with angle power to control movements of society and to om sapples A V of standard plant To fir rate of discoul for - to draw good / to replenish it is control more threads thread banky Control more ments 5 omd a realizable Eperent overlexpansion Rate of of England a barometer I gate shones it the purform

Hey have different characteries

Outside of the minted States they have in all the commercial hation, welfer more have and the monetary thanking welfer more that the adjuster and me that the which would the adjuster and applies tom gridter of which would have remedy brall of of the defects in gratem thank referred to to for Eystern. Sound econopic principles and wire methody of admistration are not affected by geographicat hundain It is of course true that difference

An a source of satisfactor & every Know the while an her times in the history of every station whent's deucadoran Inditer, the voice of hose clausing the south alone had potency as legistation and that fices but then has been a stern soone or later to vant, unnulatility of the lows which Jorene but the experiment, with Jalse doctrines have proven very oppiers Horfilche only to State Cont + Speculars

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Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

Mr. Cushing's Currency Report to the House. Niles' National Register, February 26, 1842.

4. That it is no part of the proper business of the federal government to carry on (directly or indirectly) the business of discounting notes or bills, or otherwise lending money, or to furnish funds to be so lent. p.407.

3. It makes and can make no excessive issues, and cannot suspend cash payments. For every paper eagle on the wing, it has a gold eagle in hand. p.407.

Be it enacted, etc., That there shall be, and hereby is created and established in the treasury department at the seat of government of the United States, a board to be called the Exchequer Board of the United States, to be composed of the secretary of the treasury for the time being, and the treasurer of the United States for the time being, and one commissioner, to be appointed by the president of the United States, with the advice and consent of the senate; the said commissioner to be appointed for four years; and neither he nor the treasurer of the United States shall be removed from office, except for physical disability, incompetency, or neelect or violation of duty; and, in case of any such removal, it shall be the duty of the president to lay the reasons thereof before the senate; and the said commissioner shall receive a salary of three thousand dollars; and the secretary of the treasury shall preside over the board.

And it shall be the duty of the

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Sec. 6.

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but they cannot do the things which experses ha ghown to make much closen annechon behran thangs that Expressione has shown comes be accomplish through a Shong central angourgetin which commanded the confidure of all the performe In Europe and being amat he he successfully Greept through one and organization Concerning the aput They can bushend have exact have aquetion Small mosts Descrimator agonut Lin baim of white sections