

Alpena, S. Dak. March 7th 1891,

Albion, W. Tourgee esq,

Mayvill,

M. D.

Dear Sir,

Being a careful reader, and great admirer of the "Bystanders Notes," in The InterOcean, We would like a short dissertation on "The Greenback." We will admit we have a "soft side" for the old legal tender Government note, partly I presume, on account of the prosperous times we, as farmers, enjoyed during the decade when the greenback & fractional currency were our only medium of exchange. Although said currency was greatly depreciated and prices of all necessaries correspondingly high, yet it is notorious that the whole country prospered as never before or since, at least so far as we are able to judge.

At the beginning of said decade, about nine out of ten of the western farmers were in debt beyond their ability to pay, at the end of that time debts were few, and

most of us had added greatly to our comforts, and a few of the luxuries of life. The theory, that the people have suffered in any way, in consequence of that "irreducible" currency, is not true in practice, as we know from our own experience, (witness that bone of contention the "Surplus" in the U. S. Treasury) (another Theory, dwelt upon by the "honest" money advocates, that the depreciated currency so diminished ⁱⁿ value that the farmer gained nothing by the enhanced values of his products, is equally unsound in practice, from the fact that we did not spend all our income for the necessities of life, but we economized as to first pay our debts, and then, either surround ourselves with some of the comforts, or start a nestegg for a "rainy day", all of which we found it utterly impossible to do before the war, although practicing a far greater and forced economy.

Very Respectfully

C. L. Probasco,
Hibena, S. Dak.