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Yorkville Kendall Co Illinois Feb 15th 1897

Mr Albion W. Tourgee

Mayville N.Y. My Dear Sir I have been intending to write you for some time. It may be I did some time ago. I am writing so many letters I may forget to whom written unless answered.

I allways enjoy the reading of "By Shandes Notes" Have just read Feb 10, 1897 in Interocean, I like your criticisms of the so called "business men" under the new style name "National board of Trade".

I like that part too, wherein you say you are against the the retirement of the present paper currency by the issue of bonds and I against allowing the establishment of a system of banks to issue currency against their assets."

Nothing is as you say "more dangerous to every interest to the country Except bank speculation".

Allow me to ask Have we not had enough of Modern Banking as well as ancient Bank methods?

Why Can't we have some thing Stable, safe, Permanent and in the interest of the people? We think it Possible, But How is the all important matter to be solved?

This Matter Seems to me very Simple.

Our method is Government Money and Government Banks All of the people nearly aside from those doing the Banking under existing systems prefer the currency issued by the Government to any other. But the Bankers have somehow the cinch on the Congress and [illegible] allow nothing to be done Except as it will continue on [illegible] the National & Private Bankers.

It is certainly true too that our people dont want any more bonds issued. They want their debt paid & stop interest

If I wrote to you since issuing my latest Bill to the Congress for their Consideration I must have sent you a copy of it. Did you get it? Finer copy enclosed.

My Plan as you will see by careful perusal, is to retire finally — and soon — all present forms of Paper currency which are mostly, if not all Romsony notes, which are only good by reason of the actual money behind them in the United States Treasury. This actual money I would give out for the Paper currency of the Government. Except the old green backs, which would give a New form of Paper money by the Government at par, from the fact that they have been equal to all of them redeemed once and $100,000,000 nearly toward a second redemption. So says the Sec of the Treasury in his last annual report.

In thus retiring and destroying the present forms as we propose it to be, there will be the same amount of money in and for circulation, and that part of the Government's obligations cancelled, Liberating the $100,000,000 on more gold reserve, to pay so much more of the Government's Bonded debt to National Bank Associations to form their part of the gold coin to go into the Government Banks. Thus we get rid of "the end less chain", & will have so much debt paid with interest stopped.

Then again to retire the National bank notes, we propose the Government pay to all National bank associations whose charters expire within this century — twenty five per cent bonus, and these larger than fifty per cent bonus. This would take in the Government's Paper about $80,000,000. But if we paid all in full, it would be but about $200,000,000. —

This would we believe be a cheap way for the government to get out of its present Unprofitable Banking Right into a better Paying basis, which would not only be better for the government but all of its citizens, not even excepting the National Bankers themselves, for they would be the many gives for their notes ahead, besides if they renetered the Banking business with the Government, they would get a better paying business

For the capital they would have to put into the Business then now. and that never to be taxed. Besides they would be given their Place of business & Telegraphy without cost to them. and a Protection to their business in the limited number of banks, such as no Banker has very got had, that would in most instances insure a more profitable business than the now go as you please number of Nation. Stow if any — and the multitude of comparatively worthless Private banks.

Up to this Point then there would be even money for circulation. with almost all of Paper Money retired, That only for the Bonds to N. Banks would be in Paper of the Government, which I would require be absolute Money without Coin redemption, & if by the Government no one would ever want it redeemed, although in my bill I say it may be redeemed after all of the Government's debt is paid if the people so vote for it at a Presidential Election.

By the payment of a Bonus to the ~~Bond~~ holders of Treasury Notes & the gold & silver certificates of three per cent for the Coin in the Treasury for their redemption and destruction. The government will get beside the gold reserve, coin to pay its Bonded indebtedness Mostly. The revenues for imports to be gold as we have it, will very soon wipe out all of the government's debts, leaving it with this proposed Banking System and Protective Tariff System. that we hope our congress will give us Both that will furnish revenue for not only the support of the Government, this system of Banking, and Improved Postal Service too, with Telegraphy &c &c to keep up these services and extend them to other Towns and increase the Capital of the Banks as it will be needed with the growth of Population, and for the Making of Internal Improvements. the Nicaragua Canal, although the Banking System will not produce so much revenue as would at first seem. after paying the Expenses, Extensions &c, after giving One Half to Partners.

Yet it will all pay the people in the Security against Bank failures, of which there might be a few, but no losses as now by the National and all other forms of banks to Depositors,

The Congress is likely to make the same blunder that former congresses have done in the procrastinating of the passage of the bill that they passed & took effect Oct 1890. called the McKinley bill. The Nay's being the Wilson Democrat bill.

Neither one of which gave or would give revenue enough to run this government on the Basis of liberal wages to wage earners and a proper care of its Pensioners, who with age should be better provided for.

The reenactment of the Tariff Commission Bill of 1882 would be a better measure than the present committee will be likely to formulate, on that of the next congress, & this re enactment could be by a joint resolution in sub of 20 lines, and give the people immediate relief, before the Importers fill the country up with foreign goods, that will not be taken under two or three years. The Democrats are working for this very thing. Note this if you please.

Note that we give the Silver men an equal chance with the gold by allowing only the same numbers of dollars to be coined of each metal, and enough we think to begin with at twenty five millions of each a year the government 25 millions to of Copper, & otherwise fixed by another Act of Congress.

The Amount of money to be issued by the Government for its shares in Bank Capital, Buildings, Telegraphs, Bonuses copyright &c will all be needed by the time it is all called for and earned into circulation by wage earners for buildings &c, that will employ much of the surplus labor now idle for some years besides there will be many thousands of New Permanent Positions in these Banks & [illegible] fices.

I shall be glad to have you devote a Paper on this subject in Interview soon as any other Paper you may be writing for, & should it become a Law without change can remember those who may assist in its enactment in any way. The New Paper Publishers being given handsomely for their help as named in Bill Sec 3. Please [illegible] to a good [illegible] Naming any changes you would [illegible] in Bill. Yours truly James M Gale