

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 8, NO. 160.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1907.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

GULPING DOWN A CAMEL, ETC.

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IN the Senate of the United States, Senator Culberson of Texas offered a resolution directing the Secretary of the Treasury to inform the Senate what amount of the \$100,000,000 3 per cent. certificates, authorized by order of the President on the 18th of last November, have been issued, and to whom they have been awarded. On the same day the President issued orders to Gen. Funston to despatch a sufficient force to Goldfield “to control the situation there”—and no resolution was offered demanding an explanation from the Executive Department.

What the reason is for the demand of explanations upon the \$100,000,000 issue of treasury notes is obvious. First of all, the law under which the issue was ordered was the war law of 1898, which gave the Executive power to make such an issue in case of shortage in the funds needed TO DEFRAY PUBLIC EXPENSES; secondly, the \$100,000,000 partakes, in all essentials, of the feature of fiat money. The \$100,000,000 issue was, accordingly, an illegal act—not only does it savor of usurpation, seeing that the public expenses were in no danger, and that the loan was made to private establishments for private use, but also that the issue set a fiat money precedent that is fraught with danger to the land. The demand upon the Executive proceeded, accordingly, from the knowledge and belief that the Executive was violating the laws of the land.

So far so good. Now, then, just because the sensibilities of Senator Culberson were wounded in the matter of the illegal \$100,000,000 issue, the question comes, How is it neither he nor any other Senator has yet demanded an explanation from the Executive for ordering the Federal troops “to keep order” in Goldfield? The “order to be kept” is the enforcement by the bayonet of an egregious violation of the law of the land by the mine owners. Only Congress has the power to issue money. The Nevada gold mine owners have arrogated that power to themselves. They have

issued “money”—scrip, and they demand of their mining employes that they take the same in lieu of the authorized legal tender. The fiat of Government is a bad enough precedent for money; the fiat of private mining concerns is infinitely worse. The “disorder” at Goldfield begins and ends with the insistence on the part of the miners to be paid with legal money. The “order” that is to be established by the Federal troops is the ramming down the throats of the miners a money not known to, and condemned as illegal and criminal by the laws of the land!

Senator Culberson is straining at the gnat of the \$100,000,000 illegal issue, while he quietly gulps down the camel of Goldfield scrip. He strains at the sneak method of violating the federal monetary laws through the unauthorized issue of the \$100,000,000 treasury notes, and he calmly swallows down the brigand measure of trampling down the identical laws, and, by force of arms, upholding Congressional powers usurped by the Goldfield mine owners.

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Uploaded November 2009

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