

apprenticeships, reducing by perhaps fifty per cent the number of recruits to the manual professions that would otherwise make good the losses caused by death and old age. And at the same time they are reducing the output. There has been, too, in recent years a great increase in the ranks of unproductive workers, bond salesmen, solicitors for investments, realtors, etc., all contributing as factors to the stabilization of prices.

We have had a widely extended housing shortage. In consequence the cost of building mounted. The "falling dollar" again, of course. Only it happens that here the explanation lies nearer at hand. Labor unions in the building trades hampered building operations by excessive wage demands. Worse than that, they put into effect oppressive regulations to which employing builders must conform or go out of business. In some trades, too, five days constitute the week's work.

To sum up; high prices are caused by combinations in trade, exorbitant tariffs, patent rights, re-sale agreements, styles, demands for goods of which there is a market shortage, decreased production on the part of producers for the purpose of keeping up prices, taxes on production, land speculation, restriction of output by trade and labor organization, strikes, bonuses for financing industries, and last but not least, stock jobbing. Every little concern is now capitalized and its stock floated and sold to the public. If you want lower prices the manipulators will tell you that then your dividends will be less, and what the holders of stock want are dividends. These represent prospective earnings at present prices. It may be said that conditions making for high prices set in motion by the war have been continued under peace conditions and there is yet no sign of an arresting tendency.

That there is something that looks very like a conspirators' agreement among the organs of public opinion, banking and financial circles, to lay all the blame for high prices on a "fallen dollar," is obvious. When did the dollar fall and from what great height has it fallen? Who precipitated it? How comes it that a "falling dollar" falls so unequally? That it blesses the milk distributors in cities and leaves untouched the four cent milk of the farmers? That it rebounds so lightly on the white collar workers and falls so heavily in favor of the workers in the building trades with their powerful and compact organizations? The theory of a "falling dollar" whose descent is so eccentric is open to grave suspicion.

The dollar, facing all of which it stands accused, can point to what has happened along the road it has travelled since 1913 and retort, "Thou canst not say I did it." There is too much in favor of its innocence and integrity. The responsibility for what has occurred, the influences and tendencies which the dollar must reflect, lie elsewhere. It stands acquitted.

Strength and Activity

By J. L. BJORNER

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IT is a sad sign of weakness, when time after time we have been told in the press that "what we need is a strong and active government." Let it be said at once that this is not the voice of the people, fortunately, but just a journalistic expression of the day. God forbid that we should have "a strong and active government." What the country—our country as well as all other countries—needs is a strong and active people; then the activity and strength of the government will automatically be that of the people, and will be neither too strong nor too weak.

The people will become strong and active when they have the right to live their own life without law-made monopolies for individuals or groups, together with equal right for all to elect the government—that is, home rule. And they must also have the right to make mistakes. A self-ruling people, whose industries are not weakened by monopoly and restrictions will always be a strong and active people, and its government the respected servant of the state.

The director of the government of Greenland, K. Oldendow, recently made a speech about Greenland. The Greenlanders, he said, were a strong and active people, like all other esquimaux. Ordinarily, when the white man came into contact with the esquimaux, this hardy tribe deteriorated. But not those in Greenland. The Danish Government took the fate of the Greenlanders in its hand. The Greenlanders were permitted to keep the earnings of their own work; and they were not only permitted, but helped to keep their own language—also when it was in print. The Greenlanders were well situated economically; and because there is in Greenland no land monopoly there is no unemployment. They were well taken care of. The Danish-Greenland government acted as a mild, enlightened, absolute power. And yet—the Greenlanders did not thrive. It seemed that their development had come to a standstill. They became stunted under the Danish, humane dictatorship.

Then, half a century ago, the Danish-Greenland colony-managers gathered to discuss what could be done to help the Greenlanders. A clever man said: "What the Greenlanders need is to have some responsibility or co-responsibility in the ruling of their own affairs." This was done—and behold! Almost instantly the advantages of self-responsibility could be seen. The Greenlanders again came to life and became the happy, strong and active people they had been before.

It is consequently not enough for a people—as Henry George says—to be well governed. The people themselves must govern their own fate, good or bad. Only that gives strength and activity.