

From A. K. Owen, Baldwinsville, N. Y.

I shall be pleased to assist in any way I can to promote the cause of the people—the producers.

No matter what is done, the producers of wealth will continue to suffer, and will be no more than slaves until they get possession absolutely of every description of currency which is used to exchange their own properties—their own services.

All currencies are based upon and given value by labor and by labor products, and these alone. Hence only those who labor to produce have a right to control such currency.

Bankers have robbed every people of everything they have produced in every country and every age, and just in proportion as bankers have become united and strong, have the people—the producers—been trodden under foot, disgraced and diseased; and just in proportion as the producers have been plundered and enslaved, nations have tottered and fallen. It is the exactions of bankers to-day which belittle every enterprise and befoul everybody—man, woman and child.

The cancer in society to-day—that ulcer which is eating out the hearts and souls of our men and women in every district of the civilized world—is the banker. More than all other causes combined, the banker and his methods are sapping the life blood from our people, from the bone and sinew of our nation. Christ drove the money changers from the temple; we should legislate them off the earth, and we will then be a contented and happy people.

37

NEW YORK, Dec. 13, 1892.

HERR MICHAEL FLURSCHEIM.

MY DEAR FRIEND: Pardon me for this tardy answer to your questions of Nov. 12th. But even now, my friend, I must ask you not to expect more than the quickest reply. I doubt if there is a person in this great metropolis who has more to do, *with so little to do with*, as I have; and I cannot do anything well owing to the pressure from all sides upon me.

Let me first say to you that for a year there have been about half a dozen persons in and about a dozen colonists who stay in the United States, organized to interfere in every way with my suggestions and to ridicule my plans; hoping to force me to give up integral co-operation and to allow them to use my lands, etc., for competitive life; only with this difference, that they wish to be on top in Sinaloa, instead of at the bottom, as they were in the United States. Therefore, I have to use strong language and to be much more narrow in my views than I otherwise would, so that strangers or new friends may not be misled by the presumptions of these miscreants. When persons are very ignorant and selfish they stand in the way of every right action and kind consideration. They refuse to enjoy without they can suffer and fight every inch of the way.

I will not compromise with those who are in direct opposition to me in carrying out a plan they should not have participated in except to execute; or will I treat with them until they have yielded their assumption that they have the right to come into my organization to destroy its purposes.

In regard to the railroad I cannot, in a letter or just now, write you enough to show you the labors, expenses and heartaches I have had with it since '81. The first concession was lost and renewed three times before it went overboard. I was not its concessionaire. My first concession was forfeited. It is the one, I expect, to which my maligners refer. In the first place you, as a business man, must know that such concessions of great value are not to be had without large and *continuous expenses*; and that colonists who cannot even feed themselves are not those who come in to put up money to obtain such privileges. You, also, must know that I am not a capitalist. The money must, therefore, come from some person or persons who advance it that they may receive a profit; hence, I am not entirely a free agent in disposing of such concessions. I tried with my first concession as I am trying now to interest capitalists to do what the colonists cannot do—that is to furnish the materials etc. How else would you or others have me do to be honest? I offer to you, to any one, the biggest possible inducements to take the first mortgage bonds. I beg you and other persons with a just consideration for the colonists to come in and assist Mr. Lovell and me to control this great trunk railroad in the interest of a new departure, and am ready to give you and others big and sure profits and you can use all or little to promote the colony just as you please; and by my plan, even after you and the others have gotten rich, from very small investments, the colonists will own the railroad and the "dear public" will pay for their labor and for your investments, and at the same time the public will get cheaper fares and freights than if the road was made and operated in the old way. If you or if any capitalist has a better plan, then why not act with us and come at once and put it into execution? If we are not all theorists who wish to do something for the people who work, then why let such an opportunity as this go into the hands of those who have money and not any interest in anything else or in anybody except themselves?

Even at this very writing, I and my one friend in this city are weighed down with expenses to keep this concession alive—weekly salaries to engineers, draughtsmen, government inspector, fees to lawyers, engravers, freights for machinery, money for supplies for the colonists, etc., etc., and this very week we have to buy and deposit \$10,000 of Mexican bonds to make good our concession.

Contorted ideas of rights! have those men who malign me concerning my acts with my own railroad concession. Wretched and misguided creatures! are those who do everything to pull down what I have raised to benefit them, and to discourage others to even give their labor for *nine dollars, in securities*, a day, with the almost sure prospect of owning everything their labor has constructed after it is in operation.

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I plan to do as much as others think I ought to do, it is not owing to my wish to have it thus—it is because too many are indifferent—too many are pulling to upset me in what I am trying to do for them and their children.

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Now, in regard to Alvin J. Wilber. He is one of the very best, purest and most earnest men God ever made—a scholar, a philosopher, an unpretentious, quiet, clean-mouthed, correct-lived, temperate man, whom I have never sat with except to feel better and improved from the high plane of action and thought which it was my privilege to enjoy while with him. Why, my dear friend Flurscheim. Alvin J. Wilber is one man in a million. He can trace his descent from William the Conqueror and he is every inch a man. I have never met an all-round man who is his equal. He is as true to purpose as the needle is to the pole. He could not do an intentional wrong to even his enemy. His every act and thought is from a noble standpoint. He never loses his perfect self-control. He can say more that is worth listening to in any five minutes and with less preparation than any one of us colonists can say in half an hour after a month's study. He is a master of expression. He never said a coarse word, probably, in his life. Alvin J. Wilber is a model man, a devoted husband, a painstaking father and a perfect co-operator. I would lose confidence in myself before I would in him. Every act which you quote against him is made by persons who know nothing of the circumstances governing the cases, or else they wilfully try to deceive you. Alvin J. Wilber always did the very best that could have been done at the time and with the means he had to do with; and he has worked harder for those who insult him than they have ever worked for themselves or for their God.

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THE ECLECTIC COLUMN.

BY A. K. OWEN.

CHESTER, PA., }
September 1, 1884. }

EDITOR CHESTER TIMES:

DEAR SIR: Since the crisis of September, 1873, whenever I have been at home during a campaign—for I hold that our elections should be preceded by economic discussions and not by political wrangles—I have in some manner endeavored to reach the public through the columns of our local papers, and I thank you for permitting me to use a space in your afternoon issues of this week.

I wish to publish the crystalized thoughts, or rather a selection from the writings of recognized students, philosophers and politicians, relating to money, to its uses and to its abuses.

Lucretia Motu's motto is "Truth for authority and not authority for truth," which is just the opposite to "Faith," "I will go it blind." "I do not wish to inquire whether it is right or wrong."

Mirabeau said: "The surest way of intimidating power was to force it to discuss publicly, the measures which it was seen to take. To this end it was necessary to denounce it openly. If it hesitated to reply, if it had recourse to evasion, it would be condemned; the nation would be warned and roused." And Lord Byron said: "But words are things, and a small drop of ink falling, like dew, upon a thought, produces that which makes thousands, perhaps millions, think."

Respectfully,
A. K. OWEN.

TOPOLOBAMPO COLONY.

The Founder Has Some Remarks About

THE PRESENT UNPLEASANTNESS.

The Daily News, Denver (Colo.,) July 22, 1894, publishes the following:

"General A. J. Streeter was seen at the Oxford hotel yesterday and asked concerning the Topolobampo colony and his mission to the City of Mexico. "At the present time," said he, "there are perhaps 250 or 300 people in the colony. The people are divided into two parties—those clinging to the owners' ideas and those who have felt the evil effects of the original plan and are in favor of something better. The Kansas Sinaloa Investment, which I represent, has expended \$90,000 in a canal, which I understand Owens has had entered in his own name by the Mexican government. One object of my visit to the City of Mexico is to see whether the report is true and to present proofs that Owens had nothing to do with the construction of the canal. By the way, I may say that Owens is now stranded in the city of London. We have got military possession of the canal pending the legal proceedings and we are confident of establishing all our claims."

"What will you ask besides the cancellation of former concessions?"

"We will ask for water concessions for another canal and that all machinery and supplies for the colonies be imported free of duty. I have 40,000 acres of land under the canal and the K. S. I. company has 40,000 acres. If the communists want to continue in the region they must pay for their land."

Speaking of the advantages at Topolobampo, General Streeter said the land costs \$2 an acre, clearing up the land costs \$2 more, planting in sugar costs \$3 an acre and irrigation costs \$3 per acre per year. The total outlay for each acre, employing Indian labor, is \$10 the first year, and from personal observations the visitor says one planting in sugar cane will insure a crop for twenty years. The crop is estimated at \$50 an acre during the period named.

"Cheap land, cheap labor and cheap taxes are the items that can make the colony successful," said General Streeter.

"The location is also unsurpassed for raising cotton and coffee. One of the rocks on which the Owens colony split was the rule requiring that \$3 should be the price of a day's work. This was suicidal, when Indian labor could be had at 25 cents a day. The new colony will be founded on individual ownership and individual enterprise."

Let us see how the above accords with the data I have at hand.

June 30th, 1894, as is the custom, Albert Law, chairman of the Board of resident directors of The Credit Foncier Company, made his annual report to the Secretary of Fomento, of which the following is an extract:

"..... As you will see by the accompanying lists, the Colony has two hundred and twenty actual residents, divided as follows: adult males 87, and 54 adult females, or 141 adults; 42 boys and 37 girls. The above are colonists loyal to Mr. A. K. Owen.

"A year ago, 140 colonists, men, women and children, being included in the number, openly joined a conspiracy headed by O. B. Hoffman, President of The Kansas Sinaloa Investment Company, and Michael Flurschelm of Germany, to overthrow the concessionaire and gain possession, for speculative purposes, of the lands under contract to the Colony. Being disappointed in the expectations held out to them by the leaders that in a few months Mr. Owen could be dispossessed of his concessions and his Company wrecked, 85 of those abandoned the place, a large part going to the Yaqui river, and others to other parts of Mexico and the United States. Those who remained on the lands (known as "The Plat") number, at the present time, 55, divided as follows:

ten, library, publishing-house, Saturday-evening dance, Monday-evening Lyceum, tin, harness, tool, and shoe shops, smithy, grist and saw mills, etc., etc. It is they alone who put up wind-mills for the people in the Fuer-te Valley; who take contracts to grind wheat and corn, to make articles in wood, to buy and bring machinery from the States, and to keep up official communications with the Government. It is they who have possession of the Ditch and who endeavor to keep it clean; and when the river gets extremely low, it is they who pump the water for themselves and for those on "The Plat," and they do this without charging a cent for the water; or for their services—but they do receive something, they receive the curses of those who live on "Los Mochis" only because of said water and said service. And let it, here, be known that these poor, deluded, misguided conspirators—the 17 men and their families, mentioned in the above report—are greatly to be pitied, for they were induced, by the speculators and their paid agents, to scatter each for himself upon individual plots, or farms, through a large area of thick chaparral mostly of cactus and mesquite, distant from each other and far away from the main Ditch; so that they had to cut miles and miles of roads to get to and from their farms, and to dig from 8 to 10 miles of laterals for water; whereas the 220 persons need but from 2 to 3 miles of laterals; because they had sense enough to settle themselves in a hamlet, where the water comes directly from the main ditch; and had it not been for the terrible and incessant attacks made upon the said loyal colonists, every day and night for over a year back, by these conspirators in and out of Sinaloa, The Topolobampo Colony, to-day, would be a pride and a joy to every one connected with it.

In regard to the \$90,000 which Mr. Streeter says The Kansas Sinaloa Investment Company expended on the much-talked-of Ditch, this is quite contrary to any figures or information that I have on the subject. In the first place, money was not paid for the work on the said Ditch, if we except a few hundred dollars paid for Indian labor. The Ditch was built entirely with "The Improvement Fund Scrip of The Credit Foncier Company," and this was paid out directly for the labor of the Credit Foncier Company's members—no other than whom ever worked on said Ditch—and for every shovel, plow, scraper, wagon, horse, mule, ox; and every dollar spent for provisions, Indian labor, etc., that was used in the construction of said Ditch, was gotten either directly with or from the sale of the said Improvement Fund Scrip, every dollar of which was issued for and in the name of The Credit Foncier Company; and at least four-fifths of which was taken by the actual members of The Credit Foncier Company; and if I know anything about the said Ditch, and how and by whom it was constructed and paid for, I would say that The Credit Foncier Company absolutely and in every particular constructed and paid for the said Ditch, and that The Kansas-Sinaloa Investment Company, so far as the said Ditch is concerned, was simply and only a Trustee, to receive money paid to it (and, with the exception of a very few instances, entirely by members of The Credit Foncier Company) for said "Ditch Scrip," to issue the said "Ditch Scrip" directly for labor of The Credit Foncier Company's colonists, for provisions, tools, animals, etc., to be used in the construction of the said Ditch, and to keep the accounts of all such transaction. In a word, The Kansas-Sinaloa Investment

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"Of loyal colonists there have been, during the year, 63 arrivals and 62 departures. A large number of the latter left with the intention of returning whenever the city site should be opened; others were discouraged by the unsettled state of affairs growing out of the conspiracy to wreck the Colony, which state of affairs has also prevented the coming of numbers of stockholders who contemplated joining the Colony this year."

The above official statement shows the number of loyal colonists and the number of conspirators actually in the Colony; but The Credit Foncier Company has an organization of over 5,000 persons in the United States, while The Kansas-Sinaloa Investment Company, which was created by and for and of members of The Credit Foncier Company, does not, probably, have a membership of 500, and not more than 200 of these were ever connected with the conspiracy to destroy the cooperative Colony and to substitute competition, speculation, rum, gambling and prostitution in its place.

But it must be added, here, that the 220 loyal colonists are living mostly on what is known as "The Engineer Farm," directly at the end of the Great Ditch; i. e., where the water first comes upon the surface of the land, and it is they alone who are making any efforts to establish themselves in permanent homes and industries; they alone have any organization for home life, school, kindergar-

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Again, and this is worth remembering, for it is the financial lesson of this age and so strange and so simple that even so bright and wide-awake a business-man as Mr. Streeter is said to be, does not seem in the least to comprehend its true significance: The Credit Foncier Company's Ditch was built on The Guernsey Market-House Plan of Payments, and the use of its waters will redeem every dollar of "Ditch Scrip" which was issued for its construction. Hence, it does not stand indebted to any Company or to any individual for one cent of money, and it is ready and most willing to redeem its scrip, with interest added, just as fast as the same can be presented. The Guernsey Market-House Plan of Payment is not to issue "Notes" payable in gold or something which it has not got, but it is a plan that makes sure that the construction is completed which is begun, and then to return service for service; an abundance of which it makes sure to have on demand; and if other persons, besides Mr. Streeter, would only get this lesson of payments once into their heads, they would see that it is the "Open Sesame" to any public work which the people may really

Continued on second page.

Foncler Company, that the president and directors of The Kansas-Sinaloa Investment Company have not yet seemed to realize that the said Ditch and its chattels are paid for, and that The Credit Foncler Company on their account only owes water uses, and not money; and that it has the water of the Fuerte River to make good the redemption of all the "Ditch Scrip" that was issued in the name and for The Credit Foncler Company. And it is with pride that The Topolobampo Colonists present to the world a real "watered stock" which has actual and commendable merit—a "watered stock" that is worth more than its face value in gold to all men and women who would go to work to clear lands, plant, and irrigate, and not talk so much about things of which they know so little.

In regard to my having had the surveys made for the said Ditch, having brought the map of the same to this capital and having had the same approved and filed in my own name, Mr. Streeter is quite correct. I believe that I am the concessionaire for establishing a model colony at Topolobampo and on "Los Mochis," and for all such water rights as may be useful to said colonists; and the Fomento Department has never given me any authority to transfer any of my rights, in said district, as concessionaire, to any company, so far as I am aware—I certainly have not asked said Department for such authority. I hold the said Ditch and water rights in my own name, not however for myself or for any money consideration as the public are led to infer, but for The Topolobampo Colonists who settle on the Mochis and on the other lands owned or controlled by me; and I have not collected a cent of revenue from said Ditch, at any time, or asked for a cent for said water rights, or have I the remotest idea to do so; but I do intend, and that most positively, to prevent the said Ditch—which was constructed absolutely by the cooperative labor of The Credit Foncler Company, and solely for cooperative purposes—from being seized by a gang of miserable plotting speculators who, instilled themselves partly into The Credit Foncler Company and partly into the trustee company of The Credit Foncler Company, after they saw that we were going to get the great Ditch out, with the preconceived plan of sowing discord and disorder into the Colony, so as to destroy The Credit Foncler Company, to scatter its colonists, and then, to turn the Topolobampo district into a private speculation—into a medley of saloons, dives, "joints," gambling halls and land sales—and in this way to destroy or seize everything that the concessionaire has built up during 22 years of labor, and after an expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars, in bringing Topolobampo prominently before the world.

A. K. OWEN.

GENERAL MEXICAN NEWS.

SONORA.

Don Juan P. Camou, a merchant of Guaymas, has presented to the Ayuntamiento of Nogales, Sonora, a piece of ground 122 metres long by 92 wide for a cemetery in that town.

The rain-fall in Sonora this season is the most copious known for years. The principal industries benefitted are the grazing and mining, as agriculturists depend mainly upon irrigation for needed moisture.

There has not been for many years so great an extent of cotton planted in the Guaymas valley. If there is a good season 50,000 quintals ought to be harvested. There has also been a large acreage planted to corn and beans.

Notwithstanding the low price of wheat at harvest, \$3 a fanega (166 lbs.)

Haberdasher

UNDER HOTEL ITURBIDE

THE - NEW - LINE

OF GOODS FOR
FALL AND WINTER

JUST OPENED

LOOK AT THE

\$35 SUITS \$35

MEXICAN

CENTRAL

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SUNDAY EXCURSIONS

{ MEXICO CITY TO TULA }

AND RETURN.

TICKETS ARE GOOD

FROM SATURDAY TO MONDAY

INCLUSIVE.

First Class . . . \$3 00
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Third " . . . 1 50

TICKET OFFICES:

PLAZUELA DE GUARDIOLA
AND BUENAVISTA.

Grand Monthly Ordinary Drawing

OF THE

LOTERIA

— DE LA —

RESPONSABILIDAD PUBLICA.

The Mexican International Improvement Company, organized with a capital of \$2,000,000, and composed of Mexican and foreign capitalists, having obtained the concession of this Lottery, will operate it on a much larger scale, and therefore presents the following scheme of prizes which, for the number and value thereof, excels that of any other that has ever before been offered the public. The price of our tickets will be found cheaper, considering the value of the prizes, than any other Lottery Company

THE NEXT MONTHLY DRAWING

Will Take Place at the

Pabellon Morisco in the Alameda
in the City of Mexico,

Thursday, August 23, 1894, at 11 A. M.

Capital Prize \$60,000

TWENTIETH CENTURY.

A Reader Tells What it May and May Not Bring.

I have confidence that the twentieth century will inaugurate and perfect, in the United States, PUBLIC TRUSTS. These will improve upon and take the place of PRIVATE TRUSTS. Every citizen will be a member of a City, State, National and International trust. In this way every citizen will become his or her own employer. He and she will control his and her own services, or products. Every head of a family will have his or her own private home free from tax, rent, mortgage and lien. He and she will work in his or her own shop, or upon his, or her own land. Everyone, between the ages of 20 and 40, will become a producer, or will render helpful service to his or her Public Trust, or Trusts. The City Trusts, State Trusts, National Trust and International Trust, each in its own separate, distinct, and corporate name, will issue its own money in payment for services and materials to construct its own public buildings, carriers, and conveniences; and will become the banker, hauler, builder, manufacturer, buyer, seller, and employer of, and for, and by its own citizens. Every citizen will be interested to the extent of one share in everything that is made, or done, or operated by his, or her Trusts. In this way every discovery in science and chemistry, and application of useful invention will directly benefit each and every citizen because every such thing will be owned, and managed by the Public Trusts, and, therefore, by and for the whole people. Master and servant, private employer and wage-slave will be relegated to the past. Superior intelligence, experienced management skill, talent, and specialty will be largely rewarded and advanced. Mediocrity will be assisted to do its best, and will be paid for what it does. Rivalry between man and man, not competition between privileged and incorporated men and man will be in vogue. Legalizing vice by means of license will not be permitted. The encouragement of wrong doing by virtue of secret penance will not be allowed. Liberty will be distinguished and separated from license. "Vested Rights" by private persons, in properties and revenues which are made valuable and created by the whole people will not be sustained. "The right of Eminent Domain" will not be used except by the Public Trusts for and by the whole people. The exploitation of men and woman by man will be ended. There will be no religion higher than truth. Man becoming better and kinder his gods, angels and ideals will become better and kinder. Man becoming better acquainted with himself will acknowledge his own helplessness and dependency and will seek to develop the divinity that is within himself by establishing correct and enlightened relations of intercourse with his fellow man everywhere and at all times and in all things. Man will become to know that by cooperating with his fellow man that he can make his Heaven or his Hell here on earth, and now. Man will become to understand that all his miseries and disadvantages are owing to his ignorance of himself—of his weakness, of his forces and of his divinity. Man will learn that in looking for a godhead

other than in himself is love's labor lost.

Equity, and not equality will rule. Inter-dependence, not independence will be the order. Private use of public revenues will stop. Private monopoly of public things will cease. Private copartnerships, firms, syndicates, and corporations will belong to the dead past. Justice will reign. Honesty will be seen to be the best policy. Charity will no longer be needed. Integral cooperation, not cooperation-on-the-half shell will be encouraged. Plenty, peace, and good-fellowship will prevail. To advance and protect the public welfare will be the first and highest duty of every citizen. The religion of society will be to do the greatest good to the individual man and woman. The Public Trust will be the harbinger of truth and kindness in every day intercourse. Universal culture will follow proper environments. Public Trusts will be the ways and means to realize economic-industrialism. Economical-industrialism will teach man his duty to man; and then, and only then, will it be seen by all that "God is love."

A. K. OWEN.

Mexico, Jan 1st, 1901.