

Mr. CHAMBERS. Tell me how to do it, and I will accomplish that.

Mr. NEGLEY. You cannot do it; and it is utterly useless to attempt to curb him in one direction when he squanders his money like water in every other imaginable way. That very thing shows the utter folly, the utter absurdity of trying by legislation to make a man keep money when he has a disposition to spend it. If you do not allow him to borrow money at a greater rate than six per cent. is there no way of whipping the devil around the stump? Is it not done every day?

JUDICIARY REPORT.

The hour having arrived for taking up the order of the day, being the report of the committee on the judiciary department,

On motion of Mr. STIRLING,

The order of the day was postponed until after the consideration of the matter pending.

LEGAL RATE OF INTEREST.

Mr. NEGLEY resumed: Why are there such men in the world as have been described by the gentleman from Kent? Why are there money lenders that have secret places with by-ways by which men can get to their offices to get money? Why has it been so for centuries? It is because the government has not placed money upon the proper level with other things. Allow a man to borrow money as he is allowed to buy a horse, and you destroy these obnoxious characters. You take up the evil by the root. At one fell swoop you destroy the entire class of money lenders, if you allow a man to go into the market and borrow money, as you allow him to go into the market and buy a peck of apples, a ham, or anything else.

What is money? It has a commercial value like anything else. A man who goes to the mines of California and digs out the precious metal, by the time that metal goes through all the processes and receives the stamp of the United States upon it, finds that it costs him one hundred cents to the dollar, just as much as it costs one hundred cents for the man to go into the field and plough his land and raise a bushel of wheat. At the same time that it is a commercial medium for the disposition of things between man and man, it has another character. It has a value in itself. It has a double character. It has an intrinsic value at the same time that it is used as a means of exchange. Hence it is that money is governed by the same laws which govern other things, the perpetual and unchanging laws of supply and demand.

If money in the community is abundant, if the supply is increased, the demand being the same, what is the result? The interest goes down. We are way behind England. We are way behind France. We are way behind

the German States. Has not the Bank of England a sliding scale? When money is abundant it goes down; just like the scale that operates of itself in the community. When any commodity is abundant, and the supply remains the same, the value of the article goes down. It is so every day in the streets of New York and Philadelphia and Baltimore. Why is it that you see money quoted at seven per cent. one day and seven and a half per cent. another? Not all the legislation in creation would affect these rates. You cannot trample the eternal laws of political economy under foot. It is utterly absurd and preposterous to attempt to hedge in and prevent the obtaining of more than six per cent. or seven per cent., or eight per cent., by any legal enactments.

What do you do in the present constitution? You license a set of men—this very class that the gentleman from Kent talks about—to take the paper which you will not allow me to negotiate myself, and hawk it about the streets, and sell it at six, eight and ten per cent.; whereas if you would allow me to do it myself, without any interference by statutory enactments, or constitutional prohibitions, I would go to my neighbor who has money, and I would make a contract with him to suit my own convenience. If he asks me more than I choose to give, it is no bargain. It is just upon the same principle as if I wanted to buy a horse, and you should make me apply to a licensed broker to buy that horse, under a constitutional provision that a man who sells horses shall not be allowed to ask more than so much for them. You might as well fix a maximum value upon every horse that is sold, and every carriage, and every bushel of wheat, and everything else that you get money for. You might as well say that a livery man shall not have more than a dollar and a half a day for his horse, or his buggy, as to say to me that I shall not have more than six dollars a year for the use of a hundred dollars. Is there any difference in principle? I hire my money to a man who gives me a certain reward for it. I hire my horse and buggy to a man who gives me a certain reward for it. What is the difference in the principle? There is none. It is governed by the same law. If there are many livery stables, and an abundance of horses and vehicles, I can hire at a low rate. If there is an abundance of money in the market, I can hire money at a low rate. If horses and carriages are scarce, and there is a great desire to ride, the rate increases. The demand being increased, and the supply remaining the same, they will command a higher price. Just so it is with money.

Our sister States are getting awake to this fact. Shall we go trudging along in this old beaten path, and force away the capital from our own State? I tell you that capital, like water, will seek its level. Wherever capital