loan that amount; I want to loan it in large sums. The lowest sum I will let is $10,000. Then I get my interest easily, and do not have to go around and collect it, $1,000 from A, $1,000 from B, and $1,000 from C. I collect my interest easily, and therefore I can afford to charge less."

It is plain, as the friends of this measure have argued, and as was argued especially by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. Negley,) that if you allow money to go into the market, like any other commodity, to be regulated by the law of supply and demand, you will have interest at less than seven per cent., and even at less than six per cent. oftener than you will have it above. That is the experience in New York. The experience there is that more money is loaned in New York city to-day at five per cent. on good investments than at seven per cent., although seven per cent. is the legal rate. When you allow money to go into the market, as soon as the market is supplied the rate of interest goes down; but if you keep money out of the market, by a forced rate of interest, you force it into other States, and it becomes scarce, and the rate of interest goes up; and you force the poor friend of my friend from Howard right into the hands of the Shylock by the very provision intended to keep him out.

The gentleman from Kent stated another proposition which is not good upon its face at all. He spoke of the value of the bonds of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad company as being an argument to show that money is only worth six per cent. Does not everybody know that a while ago, before the crisis, they could be bought for sixty or seventy per cent., so that the interest was seven or eight per cent.? It was because the credit of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad company was involved, although they paid their interest of six per cent. annually. Look at our city sixes, with the city property pledged to the payment of it. Persons can invest there and have ample security. But suppose a poor man comes up, and wants a small amount upon security in Howard county, to pay the interest semi-annually, or even if he is to be trusted and has property, will he not be charged for contingencies? Certainly he will; and money will range higher on that account.

I say therefore that instead of aiding the poor man, as the gentleman from Howard supposes, by refusing to allow seven per cent. to be taken, we are legislating against the poor man. And if we allow seven per cent., it will be legislating in his favor. Our experience under the law confining it to six per cent. in this constitution, has shown that it has worked against the poor man ever since it has been in the constitution. So long as you make it a prohibitory law upon the statute book, you will find that honest men owning property will not go into the market and lend to A, B and C, because they can invest their money in stocks or otherwise, and derive a more certain or a larger amount of interest than the rate of interest fixed by law. The poor man who wants money must go to the men who are willing to evade the law if you will pay them for it; and they fall into the hands of the Shylocks. But if you change the law, honest men can go into the market with their funds as money lenders, and you will find money more plenty, and poor men can get it at a less rate of interest.

Again, I deny that all the favor is toward the money lender, even at the highest rate of interest. A poor man has the sheriff ready to come into his house to levy an execution upon his property, and sacrifice all the little means he has, and unless he can get money his property will be sacrificed, and he will be turned loose upon the world. He goes out and tries to borrow money at six per cent. Money is worth more and he cannot get it. Honest men with money to lend can do better by it; and he is thrown into the hands of other men. And even if they do charge him ten or twelve per cent., I say that it is to that man's advantage to save his little property at ten or twelve per cent. rather than to allow it to be sacrificed.

Again, there are men that want money to invest. They are engaged in a great enterprise. Money is worth twelve or fifteen per cent. on the street to-day. But they know that by engaging in this enterprise, and obtaining the loan of money, they can make fifty per cent. Is there any hardship in taking twelve or fifteen per cent. from that man? You are doing him an actual favor by loaning him the money at that price, from which he can realize double or treble the amount of interest you charge him.

I have had a little experience in lending money on mortgage. I know from my own experience, and I think it is the experience of every gentleman who has lived in a commercial community and engaged in money transactions, or who has been in a condition to observe them, that money will range according to its value, whatever laws you make to prevent it. Money will bring its value. I know in my own experience, with my own clients and others, that when money is worth twelve or fifteen per cent. on mortgage, it will bring twelve or fifteen per cent.

Mr. Sands. How do they get it?

Mr. Daniel. I will tell you. A comes up and wants to borrow $1000, on mortgage. B has the money to loan. But B says, "I cannot lend you that money unless you will give me twelve per cent." "Very well," says A. Then B takes out a year's interest, $60, and hands over to A $940, and takes his note for $1000 with interest at six per cent.

Mr. Miller. Would it not invalidate the contract, if these facts are proven in a court of justice?

Mr. Daniel. No sir; it would only invali-