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“Now that the Rebellion is overthrown, and we know pretty nearly the amount of our National debt, the more gold and silver we mine we make the payment of that debt so much easier.”—*Abraham Lincoln, April 14, 1865.*

“Their Prosperity Is the Prosperity of the Nation”

A FEW HOURS before Lincoln was assassinated, he sent to the miners in the West the message printed above, which, like all of Lincoln's utterances, reads like an inspired message to posterity. Lincoln was not an economist, nor yet a banker. He knew a shinplaster for what it was worth as paper and as a temporary I O U to make-shift through a period of poverty. His message continued:

“Now I am going to encourage that in every possible way. We shall have hundreds of thousands of disbanded soldiers, and many have feared that their return home in such great numbers might paralyze industry by furnishing, suddenly, a greater supply of labor than there will be demand for. I am going to try to attract them to the hidden wealth of our mountain ranges, where there is room enough for all. Immigration, which even the War has not stopped, will land upon our shores hundreds of thousands more per year from overcrowded Europe. I intend to point them to the gold and silver that wait for them in the West.

“Tell the miners for me that I shall promote their interests to the utmost of my ability; because their prosperity is the prosperity of the nation; and,” said he, his

eye kindling with enthusiasm, “we shall prove, in a very few years, that we are indeed the treasury of the world.”

Our statesmen today would do well to ponder upon Lincoln's financial policy, and his clear conception of what constitutes money and the solid basis of finance. His words constitute a recommendation of the McFadden Bill now asking the action of Congress, and designed for the stimulation of our gold production. If our Government will now take this means to artificially stimulate a waning gold production which has been artificially diminished by the vast issues of paper money, and will take steps to see that the gold so won is not converted into jewelry, and thus hoarded so as to be useless to our finances, it will be working in the most efficient way toward a return to sound conditions, stable instead of chaotic prices, a firmer basing of commodities and wages on the law of supply and demand, and the quieting of industrial unrest. So long as we do not clearly see that a healthy condition of our finances and the world's finances depends on *less paper and more gold and silver*, we shall be treading a confused path on which the clear sight of Lincoln would not have allowed him for a moment to venture.*

*The quotation is from “Lincoln's Yarns and Stories,” by A. K. McClure, and was called to our attention by Mr. H. K. Jackson, of Cleveland.