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## EDITORIAL

### THAT TWENTIETH QUESTION.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**F**INALLY, the fourth question worth the while of the twenty questions that the "American Monetary Association" urges the study of, and an answer to, is this:

"Is it not true that money, liberty, justice, media of exchange, measures of value, work, system, security, civilization, World Peace, Brotherhood of Man, value, price, profit, interest, rents, slavery, theft, a fair wage, alms, murder, arson, suicide, infanticide, trusts, monopoly, graft, political economy, the Franchise and Democracy, are all idle words until one understands the philosophy of money?"

No; it is not true. The truth is that the philosophy of money results from the knowledge of all those things, and not the reverse.

He who does not know what "value," "price" and "profits" are, neither will he know what "money" is. Not knowing what "value," "price," "profits" and "money" are, the terms "medium of exchange," and "measure of value" will be unmeaning terms to him, or, worse than that, terms to which he attaches misleading meanings.

Furthermore, he who has no full grasp of all these terms is one to whom the word "civilization" is merely a declamatory word. And he who only declaims when he uses, or thinks of, the word "civilization," is one who knows not the "settings" of the terms "fair wages," "alms," "murder," "arson," "suicide," "infanticide," "trusts," "monopoly," "graft," "political economy," "the Franchise," "slavery," "interest," "verbs"—and so forth.

Upon a knowledge of these, in the order given, depends all "philosophy." They are the sunken piers upon which "Philosophy" is planted. And what is more, a Philosophy, being the summary of all the facts upon which it is planted, or from which it flows, excludes as ridiculous the raising of any one of these facts to the

dignity of “philosophy.”

The “philosophy of money” is a mare’s nest.

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