

# PATHFINDER

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## THE BARTER ERA

A great many people seem to be counting on using scrip or something if they can't get money to do business with. We know that many cities have tried scrip, but the system has plenty of drawbacks. Now that the federal government is really going to put scrip on the map and establish industrial centers everywhere so that people who have no money can still exchange the products of their labor, the plan is going to have a genuine trial.

L. D. Waters tells the Pathfinder of an incident which illustrates very well what we must be prepared for if we go into scrip in a big way. He says: "A farmer in the South hired a hobo to work half a day for him, for the sum of \$1. After dinner the farmer informed the hobo that he had no money but would give him the equivalent. He gave him a fine coon hide and told him it was legal tender in that section for a dollar. The hobo, with some misgivings, accepted the coon-skin and went on his way. At the first crossroads store he went in and asked for a 10-cent sack of smoking tobacco and tendered his coonskin in payment. The storekeeper inspected the skin with a grunt of satisfaction and threw it under the counter. Then he counted out nine possum hides for change.

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