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Shoveling Out Public Money.

Millions of dollars—just how many millions nobody has been able, or willing, to confess—are to be handed over to a few rich ship owners by the republican congress without return in service to the government.

This ship subsidy bill is denounced by some of its democratic opponents in the senate as class legislation.

That is a mild characterization. It is worse than class legislation, worse than group legislation. It is ring legislation—a plain steal of public money for the benefit of a handful of men whose only real claim to the loot is that they want it.

This raid on the treasury is made by Senator Hanna and his accomplices under the pretence that its purpose is to "build up the American merchant marine."

Experience in our own and other countries goes to show that the merchant marine cannot be built up by the bounty system.

But even if it be true that, with the United States treasury to draw on without limit, ships can be multiplied, why should these ships be owned by private persons?

If the public is to pay for the ships, why shouldn't the public own them? Mr. Hanna will be horrified at the suggestion. To his enlightened and conservative mind, government-owned merchant ships would mean "socialism."

But it is not socialism, in Mr. Hanna's view, to buy ships with the people's money and then give them to his friends.

And he is right. That is not socialism. It is robbery.

There is every indication that in spite of the thorough exposure made of this ship subsidy outrage by the democratic senators, it will be passed by the republican congress.

Every wage-earner in the United States will be taxed to supply the millions bestowed under the bill upon such deserving objects of charity as J. Pierpont Morgan.

The wage earners of the United States number about fifteen million men, women, and boys and girls of ten years of age and over. Their average earnings are \$400 a year, and on the average each wage-earner supports two dependents. That is to say, three persons must live on \$33.33 a month. About a quarter of the workingman's wages goes for rent and about half for food and fuel. That leaves him about \$8.30 a month for clothing, medicine, recreation and a savings bank account.

Professor Robert E. Ely, secretary of the League for Political Education, in considering these figures, taken from the federal census, justly says that "the terms of our economic problem cannot be solved by thrift alone"—meaning that the poor in the mass cannot lift themselves out of poverty by saving, since on the average they don't earn enough to enable them to save anything.

And yet this republican congress, led by Mr. Hanna, who lately has been aiming to figure as a special friend of the workingman, proposes to take the scarce pennies from the pockets of the working men, women and children and put them, to the amount of many millions of dollars, into the pockets of a few men who are in the transportation business—men for the most part already enormously rich.

It is a scheme of pillage at which the whole country would rise in indignant astonishment had not the whole country become used under the protective system to seeing everything taxed in order to enrich somebody.—New York Journal.

The Beef Trust.

The Kansas City Journal, a republican newspaper, in its issue of April 16, contained an article relating to the exactions of the beef trust, from which article the following facts and figures are taken:

On year ago export steers sold in the Kansas City market for from \$5.15 to \$5.40 per 100 pounds; yesterday they sold from \$6.75 to \$7. A year ago cows sold for \$4.35 to \$4.65; yesterday they brought from \$4.75 to \$5.25. Hogs were selling a year ago for from \$6 to \$6.12 1/2; yesterday they sold for from \$6.75 to \$7.15.

These are the rises which have taken place in an entire year. DURING THE SAME TIME THE BEEF TRUST HAS RAISED THE WHOLESALE PRICE OF BEEF FROM ABOUT \$6.50 PER 100 POUNDS TO \$10.50 PER 100 POUNDS, AND HAS INCREASED THE PRICES OF ALL ITS OTHER PRODUCTS—PROVISIONS OF ALL KINDS INCLUDED—PROPORTIONATELY.

While the amount it has had to pay for beef steers has increased from \$1.40 to \$1.60 per 100 pounds, IT HAS RAISED THE PRICE OF BEEF \$4 PER 100 POUNDS. It has increased the price of beef from \$7.25 per 100 pounds to \$10.50 per 100 pounds since the latter part of February. During the same time the price of beef steers in the Kansas City market has increased from \$5.60 to \$7, the latter of which figures was the top price yesterday. While the price of beef steers has been increased only \$1.40 per 100 pounds, the beef trust instead of bearing its fair share of the burden imposed upon the whole people, has increased the wholesale price of beef to the butchers of Kansas City \$3.25 per 100 pounds. It appears, therefore, that the packers have increased prices a great deal more rapidly than the condition of the market has justified.

There is still A FURTHER CIRCUMSTANCE to be taken into consideration in drawing an indictment against the beef trust. This is the fact that last summer and fall, when thousands upon thousands of head of all kinds of live stock were being rushed into the Kansas City market, they were buying it at very low prices, AND STORING IT AWAY IN THEIR REFRIGERATORS. They have since been able to take out this refrigerator meat and place it upon the market AT THE SAME PRICE THAT MEAT MORE RECENTLY KILLED BRINGS, AND HAVE THUS MADE IMMENSE PROFITS UPON THE TRANSACTION. These large quantities in their refrigerators would have held down prices to a certain extent IF THE TRUST HAD NOT BEEN BENT UPON MAKING MORE THAN A FAIR PROFIT.

In considering the packers' profits, the fact must never be forgotten either that they are able to UTILIZE EVERY PART OF THE ANIMAL. It is estimated that it costs about \$9.50 or \$10 per 100 pounds to "dress out" a steer that cost yesterday's top price in this market \$7. This is a liberal estimate. By this it is meant that the packer expends \$9.50 or \$10 per 100 pounds in buying the animal and preparing all its good parts for market. But in this estimate is not counted the liver, horns, bones, hides, etc. Both hearts and liver, which were formerly given away, are now being sold to the butchers for 6 and 8 cents per pound, respectively. The bones are converted into fertilizer. Hides sell for \$6 per 100 pounds. The horns are sold to be made into knife handles and many other articles. Upon the above calculation, therefore, the packer, at present prices, is making from 50 cents to \$1 upon every 100 pounds of beef that he "dresses out," and has the receipts from the offal besides to add to his concern's dividends.

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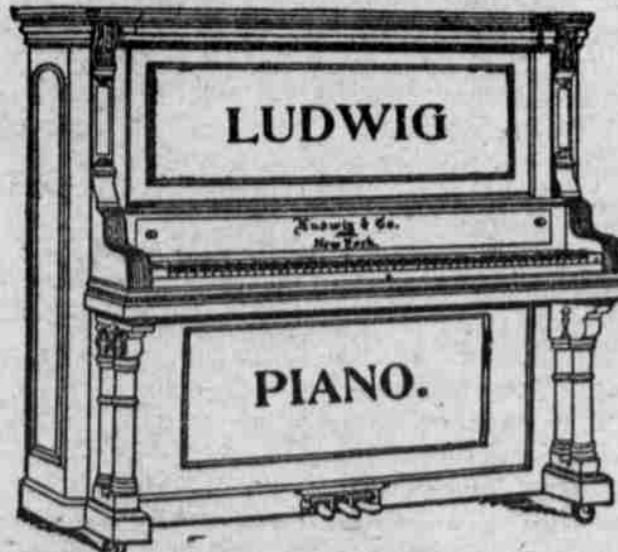
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