

WHO WILL PAY THE BILLS OF SOCIALISM?

Mr. E. L. Godkin of the *Evening Post*, New York, is the most pitiless opponent of socialism on the American press. Next to assailing Tammany Hall, his chief delight is in assailing the socialistic school, which, he intimates, is subject hallucinations of a sort with those of the demented man who makes up his mind to live in a spacious mansion when he no money to pay for anything but a hovel. Admitting that the socialist's plan is all very attractive, who will pay the bills he asks in the *Forum* for June:

"When a man is about to move into a larger house and change his whole manner of life, he is if sane, sure to ask himself what the change will cost, that is, what the increase in his expenditures it will make necessary. If sane, also, he follows this question by another, namely, Have I got the money? Now in reading these stories to which I have referred, of the social evolution through which modern communities are to pass shortly, I find absolutely no allusion to cost."

He insists that all previous social evolutions have meant an improvement in production and an increase in income, but the peculiarity of the socialistic programme is that "it is not to be a money-making, but a money spending evolution," in which "every-body is to live a great deal better than he has been in the habit of living, and to have far more fun." If labor were to receive all the profit on the capital of the entire country, he figures out that each family of five would receive six per cent, on \$5,000, or an increase in income of but \$300 a year. It is evident that he could on this make no material change in his style of living."

"The notion that there is a reservoir of wealth somewhere, either in the possession of the government or the rich, which might be made to diffuse through a smiling land, is a delusion which nearly all the writings of the ethical economists tend to spread, and it is probably the most mischievous delusion which has ever taken hold on the popular mind. It effects indirectly large numbers of persons who, if it were presented to them boldly and without drapery, would probably repudiate it. But it steals into their mind through sermons, speeches, pamphlets, Fabian essays and Bellamy utopias, and disposes of them, on humanitarian grounds, to great public extravagances, in buildings, in relief work, in pensions, in schools, in high state wages and philanthropic undertakings which promise at no distant day to land the modern world in bankruptcy. It will be very well if the century closes without witnessing this catastrophe in France or Italy, or both,—the two countries in which the democratic theory of the inexhaustibility of state funds has been carried farthest."

Mr. Godkin's main contention is, that in order to bring about this social revolution, it would be necessary to increase the wealth producing agencies without increasing the population. He says "I think on the whole it would not be an exaggeration to say that such an evolution as the ethical economists have planned could not be accomplished, even for a single year, without doubling the wealth of every country which it tried, while making no increase in the population. And this arrest of the growth of population is just as necessary as the increase in wealth. For it is the exertions of mankind in keeping up and increasing their numbers which have prevented the poor from profiting more by the recent improvements in production. Statistics show readily that, thus far, subsistence increases more rapidly than population, and this does much to cheer up the optimists and the revilers of Malthus. But to make a man of any use to civilization, he must in some manner be able to pay for his board. If wheat costs only ten cents a bushel, the man who has not, and cannot get the ten cents is clearly a bit of surplus population. He has to depend on someone else for his support, and thus is a burden to the community. Employing him at public expense does not change the situation for his neighbors are the public. If they really wanted the work done he would have something to exchange. If they do it in order to keep him from starvation, the demand for his labor is not legitimate and is only a thin disguise for charity."

If anybody tells you that Sislars Ice Cream isn't up to the standard Please go to his place and try it and see for yourself. Then if you find it not good tell it to some one else. 133 south 12 street. Phone 630.

TRAGEDY AVERTED.

The boys in the barn were performing an impromptu but highly realistic and blood-curdling drama of the border life in the far west, which they called the "Arizona Regulators." The Regulators had captured a horsethief and were preparing to hang him.

"Dick Deadshot," said the leader of the regulators, solemnly, "you've got jist five minutes to live! Say yer prayers!"

The boy who stood on the barrel with the rope around his neck temporarily forgot his part.

"I—I don't know how, Shorty," he said, with some irritation. "Gimme somethin' eaiser."

"You don't know how?" exclaimed the leader of the regulators, in a terrible voice.

"No, I don't."

"Can't yer say, Now I lay me?"

"No, I can't, honest."

"Fellers," said the leader of the regulators, in a tone of disgust, "cut de kid down. We'll stop de play right here. It wouldn't be right to hang a poor, igaer'nt, dog oned heathen."

HOBSON'S CHOICE.

The gentleman from the Far West sauntered into Delmonico's hashery, which is situated in the city of New York, and having been seated he was approached by a garcon.

"Got any bacon and cabbage?" he inquired.

The garcon shook his head.

"Got any corn pone and side meat?"

Another shake.

"Got ary pickled pork and soleratus biscuit?"

Another shake.

"Got any turuip greens and bulk shoulder?"

The garcon responded in the negative again, and the gentleman from the west, with a weary sigh, stretched his legs under the table.

"Well," he said resignedly, "bring me some champagne and terrapin, with the usual trimmin's."

Although the weather has not been favorable, the concerts at the Arena have been well attended this week. A noticeable feature is the fact that the crowd on the inside is increasing while that on the outside is decreasing. The State band is certainly growing in favor with the people of Lincoln, which is due to the fact that Director Irvine and others connected have labored zealously to make it a permanent organization of a high class. Messrs. Sutton & Hollowbush fulfill their part with credit and every one knows what that means. Turn out good people of Lincoln and help keep up this worthy organization.

The contract to supply the United States government with thirteen hundred and sixty-four dozen brooms for the Indian schools was lately awarded to Clinton R. Lee, of the Lee Broom and Duster Co. of this city, also Davenport, Iowa.

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