

# The Commoner.

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## "Precursors of Socialism"

The Wall Street Journal says: "Mr. Rockefeller and Mr. Morgan may or may not know it, but they are regarded by many advanced socialists as the greatest advance agents of socialism in the world today. Instead of being violently antagonistic to these representatives of organized capital, many socialists regard the work which they are doing as being a necessary work of preparation for the final triumph of socialism. 'No other two men in the world today,' remarked a socialist not long ago, 'are performing so admirable a service as Rockefeller and Morgan. I have no feeling of hatred for them whatever. In fact, I believe that some day or other the world will be erecting monuments in their honor.'"

Mr. Rockefeller and Mr. Morgan may not be so blind as some would suspect. Indeed, not long ago, Mr. Morgan was quoted as saying that the men who, like Morgan, were engineering these great combination schemes, were "the precursors of socialism."

Perhaps Messrs. Morgan and Rockefeller do not care, however. Perhaps they take it for granted that no material change will be wrought during their lifetime, so they are building, regardless of the probability that the logical outcome of their system is the system against which they have inveighed so bitterly.

It is not likely, however, that the world will ever erect monuments in honor of men who prey upon the necessities of the people.

## Attacking Corruption

It is worthy of note that the public conscience is being aroused on the subject of corruption in politics. President Roosevelt's recommendation of legislation compelling the publication of campaign contributions was a blow at corruption for there would be but little corruption but for the funds contributed by the big corporations to secure administrative or legislative favors. Governor Durbin of Indiana, retiring from office, presented a scathing arraignment of the corruption in his state and Governor Adams of Colorado signaled his entrance upon the duties of his office by administering a rebuke to the corruptionists of his state. It is a wholesome sign and another proof that the American people can be trusted to deal with self-government. They may for a while permit evils to grow, but at last they rise in their might and secure reform.

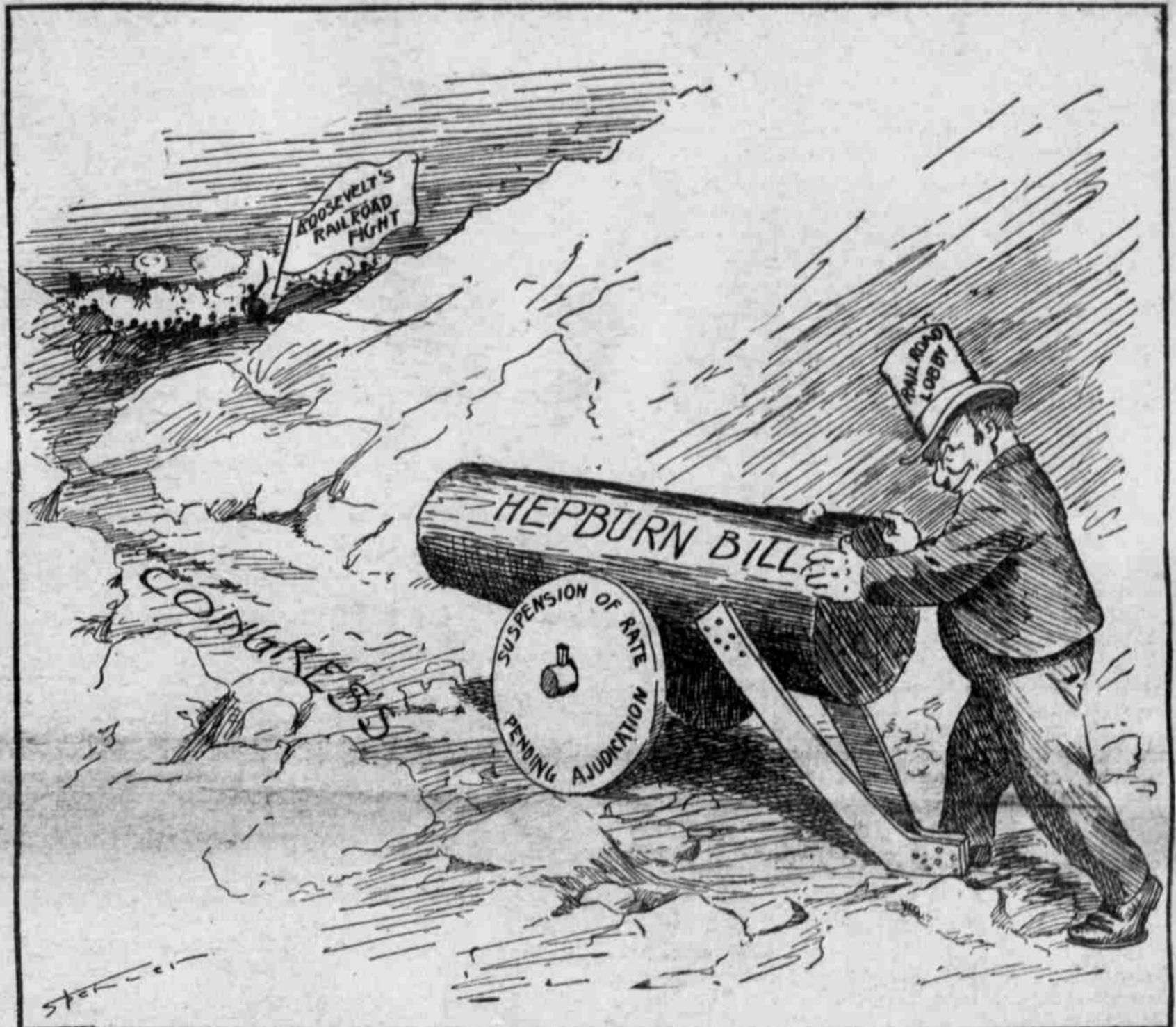
## Parry Cries "Socialism"

Mr. D. M. Parry, the ultra plutocrat who is at the head of the National Association of Manufacturers, denounces as "socialistic" the proposed enlargement of the scope of the Interstate Commerce law. It may be remarked in passing that Mr. Parry is a vice president of the Indianapolis Southern railroad and this might account for his views of railroad regulation, but he is perfectly consistent. Taking the position he does against the rights of employees it is not strange that he should take the side of the railroads against their patrons.

## Railroad Regulation

The Hepburn bill does not go as far as the president's recommendations. The democrats should insist that the republicans in congress support the president in every good movement and the movement for the regulation of railroad rates is a good one.

## BRING UP THE QUAKER GUN!



The President has called for a big gun. Will he be satisfied with this?

## THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

The expected has happened. Russia is now the scene of bloodshed because arbitrary power is deaf to the petitions of the people. The spirit of Patrick Henry is abroad in the land of the Czar and "give me liberty or give me death" thrills the world. A few weeks ago the Zemstro presented an argument in support of their demand for representative government but they were met with the reply that while some reforms would be inaugurated the autocracy would not consider the proposition to establish a legislature. Then came a workmen's strike—innocent enough in itself—but when the Czar (or some one for him) refused to see a deputation of laboring men and ordered the soldiers to fire upon the petitioners the cry for self government was the prompt response. The end can not be seen. Censorship may for awhile keep the actual facts from becoming known to the outside world, but there is but one solution, namely, constitutional government. The Czar might have made himself immortal by recognizing the justice of the demand of his people and conceding to them participation in their own government, but he was blind enough to refuse and now he hears curses upon the lips of those who recently ad-

ressed him as "Little Father." It was ever thus. That "governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed" is a self evident truth and a failure to recognize it whether here, or in the Philippines, or in Russia, means bloodshed, and more bloodshed. The American people without regard to party or creed will sympathize with the struggling masses of Russia and bid them Godspeed. Their progress will ascend with the progress of Father Gopon, who, like Hidalgo, the leader of the Mexican revolution, brings religious zeal to the support of the cause of freedom.

## Civil Service Reform

There is a growing disposition to put the police department in the cities under the civil service but it has thus far been impossible to prevent politics from entering into the appointments. The trouble is that an attempt is made to conceal the politics of the applicant whereas a sound and stable civil service must rest upon a recognition of the politics of the applicant and upon a fair division of appointments between the parties. When it is desired to place a department under