

and daisies beyond picking of the galley-slave, then they will appreciate how much deeper and more damnable are the crimes of the "System" such as that of Amalgamated and its ilk, than even national tragedies like the assassinations of Lincoln, Garfield, and McKinley, at each of which all the people held aloft their hands in horror.

Why is it that the millions of intelligent, able-bodied Americans, who could crush the tribe of Rockefeller as elephants crush snakes, rise with each sun and dig and delve and suffer that a Rogers may wallow in wealth and an Armour gain a greater income than the Rothschilds? Why are they so easily hoodwinked into imagining that the elaborate reports detailing the immense and growing wealth of the country represent their own well-being and affluence? Because the wise men of the "System" know human nature, know that most men and women accept unquestionably the conditions they find surrounding them. Each day it is pounded into the heads of the people through a hundred agencies that they are the greatest and most flourishing of peoples and that the laws and customs which regulate their lives and rights are the best in all the world. How shall the people know that these glowing rumors, these propitious tidings, are but the siren songs of the "System" under the spell of which they are despoiled of their savings?

Ask yourselves, my friends, how much you know about those familiar things which are part of your lives as are the sunshine, the grass, and the flowers—your Bible—your money your playing cards. Each is an institution so consecrated by custom that you accept it exactly for what it meant to your father as he took it from his own father a generation before. That the Holy Book is God's message to His children, the human race, we know because we have the words of our ancestors therefor; the stamped silver and gold we take for granted as we do shoes and clothes, because money is an essential factor in the social fabric and the form in which it comes to us seems as inevitable as the moon or our ten fingers; humanity has gone on for hundreds of years considering the knave of greater value than the ten-spot and the one-spot of higher worth than all the others, because it is content to believe that the rules that have been handed down apportioning these values are the best that could be devised. With a hundred other details and appurtenances of our daily life, it is the same—we accept unreasonably what we are told or what is given us, with no look forward or back, and, engaged with the thousand new toys and problems which fate, the conjurer, shakes out of his hat, we become bound by habit and blinded by precedent.

The love men have for the formulas and conventions of their daily lives is the "System's" opportunity for plunder, and it is this fundamental principle of humanity that makes my work so difficult. It would be as easy to instruct the masses that their playing-cards are all wrong and that the ace is really of lower value than the two-spot as it is to awaken them to the terrors of the conditions that are confronting them; to compel them to realize that a despotism of dollars is being organized among them; that the cherished institutions of generations are the instruments by which a few daring schemers are concentrating into their own hands the money of the nation, and that this concentration can have no other result than the abject slavery of the American people.

**Living Costs Twice as Much Now as in 1890**

In a recent issue the New York World published the following:

In the last bulletin issued by the bureau of labor it is shown that the living expenses of the average family during the period between 1890 and 1904 have increased from 25 to 50 per cent.

There has been no corresponding increase in wages. While the laborer works just as hard today for the same wages he earned fourteen years ago, the prices for all the actual necessities of life have increased so greatly that he must now pay out nearly 95 per cent of his entire income to protect himself and family from exposure and starvation.

No reason can be found for this state of things except the excuse of those who control the markets for the necessities of life that they need the money.

Beans and salt beef have gone up 15 per cent, salt pork and bacon 15.5 per cent, lard 10 per cent, butter 24 per cent, cornmeal 38 per cent, crackers 18.9 per cent, molasses 6 per cent, eggs 79.6 per cent, herring 58.9 per cent, salt 15 per cent, pepper 65.3 per cent and currants 30 per cent.

These are only a few of the articles which show an increase. Although the bureau of labor claims that articles classed under the general head of "Food" have increased in price only 7.2 per cent, the argument is a false one. The figures themselves are made to tell a false story.

While it is shown that flour has increased 36 per cent and eggs 79.6 per cent in price, nutmegs have decreased 55.7 per cent and prunes 44.6 per cent. Nevertheless they are all lumped in together under the head of "Food," and an average increase of 7 per cent is obtained. This is the merest sophistry.

We could get along very nicely without nutmeg or vinegar, but eggs and flour are pretty hard to do without even at skyrocket prices.

The Bulletin makes the following estimate of the increase in price of nine groups of commodities, taking the prices of 1890 as a basis of comparison.

Farm products	22.2
Food	11.1
Cloths and clothing	9.8
Fuel and lighting	32.6
Metals and implements	9.6
Lumber and building materials	22.4
Drugs	10.0
Household goods	11.7

Specifically these increases were as follows:

FARM PRODUCTS.	
Price Increased.	
Hogs, light	1.1
Flaxseed	2.9
Hogs, heavy	3.3
Hay	4.9
Barley	5.0
Oats	9.3
Sheep	11.1
Sheep, native	14.9
Cattle, steers, good to choice	16.9
Corn	22.1
Cattle	26.2
Rye	39.5
Hides	48.9
Wheat	54.9
Hops	94.8

Increase in Price of Food.	
Starch, pure corn	.4
Bread, loaf (Washington mkt.)	.6
Mutton	1.2
Bacon	6.1
Mackerel	6.2
Molasses, New Orleans open kettle prime	6.3
Tallow	7.1
Bacon	7.2
Beef	7.8
Lard	10.7
Bread, loaf, Vienna (N. Y. mkt.)	13.6
Flour, buckwheat	14.5
Salt, American	15.0
Beans	15.3

**Living Costs Twice as Much Now as in 1890**

Beef, salt	15.4
Pork, salt	15.5
Sugar, granulated	15.5
Salmon	17.1
Bread, loaf, home-made N Y mkt.	18.6
Bread, crackers, Boston X	18.9
Cheese, N. Y. State, full cream	19.0
Butter, creamery, extra N. Y. mkt.	20.4
Butter dairy N. Y. State	22.3
Butter, comy, Elgin (Elgin mkt.)	24.0
Sugar	24.7
Onions	25.0
Beef, salt, ham	25.8
Sugar	27.3
Cod	29.8

Currants	30.1
Flour, wheat, winter straights	36.5
Flour, wheat, spring patents	37.6
Meal, corn fine white	38.3
Flour, rye	38.7
Meal, corn, fine yellow	42.6
Milk, fresh	47.1
Herring	58.9
Pepper	65.3
Eggs	79.6
Decrease in Price of Food.	
Meat, hams, smoked	1.1
Tea Formosa, fine	4.9
Vinegar, cider, monarch	6.7
Crackers, soda	10.5
Raisins	10.0
Rice, domestic, choice	30.2

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