

## MR. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER'S CERTIFICATE OF CHARACTER

The Washington correspondent for the Columbus (Ohio) Press-Post sends to his newspaper, under date of July 24, an interesting dispatch. The Press-Post correspondent says: "Miss Ida Tarbell has made a mistake, it would seem, which the government is now rectifying. The commissioner of education of the department of the interior is sending out a series of sketches, entitled 'Educational Benefactors.' In one of the series is a sketch of John D. Rockefeller. His career is gently traced from the cradle to the present. Not a criticism, not a single harsh word, not one insinuation against his motives has crept into the sketch. It is said that Mr. Rockefeller's attorneys are preparing to republish the government's official eulogy of their client as a complete answer to all that has been uttered against him."

It is explained that while the tribute to Rockefeller is being sent out by the present commissioner of education it was written by a former commissioner.

Extracts from the government's tribute to the Standard Oil trust king follow:

"The family, the school and the church were the centers in which his character was formed. In his home, prudence and economy prevailed; the Christian virtues were cultivated.

"In the church he was careful to attend the services, not only upon the Sabbath, but midweek also, and he sought to stimulate others to fulfill religious obligations, especially to pay off a church debt.

"He early began to appreciate the efforts to secure cheap lighting—illumination. Crude petroleum was offensive to the smell. He saw what was needed, and out of his school chemistry he was aided in devising methods of purifying the crude oil, saying to one of his teachers: 'I think I can relieve this substance of its offensive smell.' His efforts were successful. Whale oil was disappearing from the market; the new substance was soon widely demanded by the trade; fabulous results followed his efforts.

"As his income increased he began to use it according to the fundamental principles upon which his character was based.

"He met his obligations faithfully and adopted the habit of living within his income.

Nothing was allowed to come within his observation which he did not question for some lesson for himself.

"He early found out that what he was to be must come out of his own ability and attainments and opportunities afforded him.

"His qualities were early manifested; he discriminated between the real and the false. He early became superintendent of his church Sunday school and remained in that responsibility thirty years. His fondness for children was very manifest. His own experience had taught him how it might be used.

"His methods of giving may be said to be discriminating.

"No effort is made here to trace the variety of his gifts. There has been a natural recognition of relations. A worthy teacher who married a minister receives, unannounced, annual gifts, together with a house for her residence. In a multitude of unseen ways like these has his aid been bestowed on worthy objects. Unostentatiously he pays the expenses of a reunion of his school associates.

"It is of interest that the training of the family is yielding results like those displayed in his own character. His son, a graduate of Brown university, is already walking in the ways of his father, and the whole household enlists in the plan of benefactions which he is working out and which is promising more than is already accomplished."

Such a tribute as this might well be expected from Mr. Rockefeller's paid attorneys. But, however partial a political party may be to the Rockefeller interests, such a tribute would hardly be expected in the form of a government publication.

If Mr. Rockefeller's character was formed in an atmosphere where "the Christian virtues were cultivated" is he true to himself and faithful to his early training when he "grinds the faces of the poor?"

If he "sought to stimulate others to fulfill religious obligations"—"especially to pay off a church debt"—why has he avoided the obligation men must assume in the brotherhood of man?

If he "discriminates between the real and the false" does he imagine that the people cannot

discriminate between the false and the real? Does he imagine that they will fail to place a proper estimate upon the Sabbath-day pretenses of one who during his week-day career preys upon the weak and helpless? Does he think the people cannot "discriminate between the real and the false," even though an effort is made in a government publication to bolster up the false?

Surely "his method of giving may be said to be discriminating?" Is it unfair to say that Rockefeller places his "benefactions" where they will do the most good—to Rockefeller? Is it unfair to say that his gifts are distributed with the view of making public opinion more tolerant of the infamous system through which he has obtained his enormous wealth?

Rockefeller is the foremost representative of the system that is preying upon the people and against which public sentiment is now being directed by patriotic teachers. Recently Rockefeller's attorneys have been kept busy in the effort to paint their client as a patriot in the acquirement of wealth and a philanthropist in its distribution. For the purpose of deceiving the public Rockefeller needs, just now, all the endorsements he can get. It is not at all surprising that his paid attorneys give him certificates of character; but it is an insult to the intelligence of the people, as well as an assumption of authority, for the republican administration to attempt, through the medium of a government publication, to give a certificate of high character to the arch conspirator among all those who conspire in restraint of trade; to the chief monopolist among those who seek to establish monopoly; to the most persistent and painstaking plunderer of the people.

How effective will be the republican administration's "campaign against monopoly" so long as fulsome praise, in the guise of government reports, is given to the greatest monopolist of them all?

What a shame that Rockefeller should be held up as a patron of education when in every county in the United States there are men and women who have given more of their time and, in proportion to their means, more money to the cause of education than Rockefeller has. In every community there are people who at great sacrifice are giving their time as unpaid school directors and patrons, but they are forgotten while the relatively small services of the oil king are magnified.

## YE BALLYDE OF YE PROFESSIONALLY PATRYOTIC INDIVIDUAL

(COMPOSED AND WRITTEN BY YE COMMONER'S MACHINE POETASTER)

He posed as one who loved the flag with patriotic zeal,

But his craft  
And his graft  
Were immense.

He loved to prate of interest he had in public weal,

But his craft  
And his graft  
Were immense.

He spouted during campaign times of "honor" and of "right;"

The "national integrity" he treasured day and night;

"Sound money" was his shibboleth, "protection" his delight,

But his craft  
And his graft  
Were immense.

He spoke at many banquets and he gave his speeches spice,

But his craft  
And his graft  
Were immense.

He drew a sanctimonious smile and spouted good advice,

But his craft  
And his graft  
Were immense.

With tearful eyes he moaned because the world was full of guile;

He had a holy horror for transactions dark and vile;

To hear him speak you'd never think with wrong he'd reconcile,

But his craft  
And his graft  
Were immense.

He sat within the senate with a very solemn mien,

But his craft  
And his graft  
Were immense.

He talked of honest politics—and bossed a big machine—

But his craft  
And his graft  
Were immense.

He drew a handsome salary—some sixty plunks a day—

And borrowed on some worthless junk in systematic way;

Then said it hurt when people said he didn't earn his pay,

But his craft  
And his graft  
Were immense.

He claimed to be beyond compare a patriotic man,

But his craft  
And his graft  
Were immense.

To hear him talk you'd think he'd put all scheming under ban,

But his craft  
And his graft  
Were immense.

For hours he could stand and spout about the golden rule;

He'd shine with quite an unctuous glow before a Sunday school;

And then he'd give huge chunks of cash the people to befool,

But his craft  
And his graft  
Were immense.

He talked of love he always bore his fellows in distress,

But his craft  
And his graft  
Were immense.

He talked of honest judges and a fearless public press,

But his craft  
And his graft  
Were immense.

He gave the judges passes, and the legislators, too;

The big page ads for papers were quite numerous to view,

His Christian zeal was always bubbling up and welling through,

But his craft  
And his graft  
Were immense.

He worked his huge financial schemes to gather golden pelf,

For his craft  
And his graft  
Were immense.

He prated of his virtue till he fair deceived himself,

With his craft  
And his graft  
So immense.

But it's dollars big to doughnuts when he reaches Peter's gate

He will find that more than dollars are required to pay the freight,

And he'll learn his money's useless to preserve him from his fate,

For his craft  
And his graft  
Will not work.