

harm. But put a dam across the stream and conditions change. The water begins to boil up back of the dam. Then you raise the dam higher and the water raises still. And after while the water back of that dam has such tremendous energy that no man made dam can hold it back and when the dam washes away some houses in the valley below may go with the tide.

Who is to blame? The man who dams the stream. He is the man to blame. And there is a stream of human thought—a current of public opinion. Let it have its way and it harms no one; but if you dare to obstruct it the water will rise behind the dam and after while no dam will hold the power accumulated there. In monarchies they build that dam so high that people in desperation rise and blow it out with shot and shell, but in our country the ballot is in the hands of the people and they can remove that dam whenever they get ready.

We asked you ten years ago to help us remove these obstructions and let the will of the people flow and be free. You refused then. We ask you now. You have a chance in this state to elect congressmen who will either be on the side of the people or against them; you have a chance to elect a legislature that will be either for the people or against them; you have a chance to elect your state ticket, and, my friends, beside the merit of these men, such as Woodson and Oglesby and others on the state ticket—besides their merits—I am interested that Missouri shall take her place in the democratic column and let the world know that in this contest between man and mammon Missouri is on the side of man and not on the side of mammon.

I beg you to study these questions and then be prepared to vote. Two years ago you didn't go to the polls. I can see a difference between the meetings this year and two years ago. Why, I was in a county yesterday where they had a ratification meeting two years ago and one of the men at the meeting told me of their experience.

He said after they got through their speaking the chairman proposed three cheers for the ticket. He said the chairman gave two cheers and he gave one and that made three. And then they adjourned.

Fifty-five thousand democrats stayed at home in this state last year. Don't do it this year. Come to the polls early and avoid the rush, and if you live any distance from the polls come the night before and camp there.

Now is your chance to indicate the trend of public opinion and I mistake my judgment of what is going on if this year Missouri doesn't take her place in the democratic column and then the Mysterious Stranger will wander no longer in republican ranks.

GOVERNOR VARDAMAN'S OPINION

The New Orleans Times-Democrat printed under date of Jackson, Miss., September 4, the following dispatch: Governor Vardaman today gave out an interview on the recent speech of Mr. Bryan on the occasion of his reception in New York, and especially as to Mr. Bryan's attitude on the question of railroad control by the government. The governor indorses Mr. Bryan's attitude on the subject, saying he would prefer private ownership with proper governmental control, but that if proper governmental control can not be had otherwise, then he favors the government's taking over the railroads altogether. The governor says:

"I think some of the gentlemen who are criticising Mr. Bryan's Madison Square Garden speech are engaged in making a great many large moun-

tains out of a few small molehills. In the first place, what Mr. Bryan said about government ownership of the railroads was not intended as a declaration of party policy. Mr. Bryan, like all other men who are interested in protecting the people from the rapacity and greed of the great corporations, particularly those corporations which control the highways of commerce, is looking about for the best way to accomplish that result. He realizes that up to this good time the government has been unsuccessful in its effort to regulate freight and passenger rates and hold them within reasonable bounds. He also recognizes the fact that unless the people, through the government, control these great corporations, that the corporations will ultimately own and control the government. They almost do it now. I would prefer private ownership of railroads with proper governmental supervision. But the first and paramount thing to be accomplished with me is the proper supervision of the railroads and the regulation of freight and passenger rates. The wealth producers of this country must be protected from this species of robbery. The most oppressive tax borne by the people today is the tribute which they are forced to pay the transportation companies. If this can not be done without governmental ownership, then I am in favor of the government owning the railroads. Governments are instituted for the good of the people, and unless they serve that end they are of no use. If the government can not protect the weak against the strong, and deal out everlasting justice between man and man, then government is a failure. I realize that government ownership of railroads means the concentration of power in both the state and national governments, and so long as the negro is a possible factor in politics in the south, an almost insuperable barrier to government ownership lies across our pathway. But in the change, the necessary change, the readjustment of the organic and statutory laws to the new conditions, it would be an easy matter to entirely eliminate the negro from politics. That ought to be done and will be done ultimately, regardless of the question of government supervision of railroads. I believe that most of the democrats are opposed to government ownership. I believe Mr. Bryan himself is opposed to government ownership if the proper supervision of railroads can be accomplished without it. In view of all this, I am driven to the conclusion that while some of the criticisms of Mr. Bryan may arise from an honest difference of opinion, and out of an honest desire for the success of the democratic party, yet a great deal of it, I fear, emanates from hearts who are really antagonistic to Mr. Bryan and much that he stands for in political and economic matters. I am afraid they are taking advantage of this opportunity to break him down. But they can not break Bryan down. He is made of unbreakable stuff. He stands upon the rock of eternal truth and everlasting honesty.

"Him do the toilers know to be their friend,

Him will they follow, faithful to the end,

Though every leaf were a tongue to cry, "Thou must,"

He will not say the unjust thing is just."

"He will not do the republican act of receiving stolen goods from corporations to buy his election and then denounce the thieves who gave him the money. Mr. Bryan will not mislead the people on any subject or about anything. As to what the democratic party in national convention will do with the question of government ownership of railroads, I have no idea that the national democratic convention will declare in favor of the

government ownership of railroads, and I do not think it ought to declare in favor of it. The country is not ready for it and at this time it is practically impossible. But the whole party should unite, as it was manifestly Mr. Bryan's purpose in saying what he did on this question, to urge the united party to a determined effort to control the trusts and enact laws which will protect the toilers and wealth producers of this nation from the insatiable greed of the corporations and the inordinately rich few. That is all that Mr. Bryan wants, and that is what should be done."

A NATION'S PLUNDER

In announcing the consummation of a deal whereby the steel trust is given possession of the iron lands on the Mesaba range controlled by the Great Northern railway, the Northern Pacific railway, James J. Hill and J. W. Longyear, E. H. Gary, chairman of the steel corporation's board of directors, states that "the price to be paid is \$1.65 a ton, delivered at the upper lake docks, with an increase of 3.4 per ton each succeeding year. The minimum of ore agreed to be mined is 750,000 tons for the year 1907, increased by 750,000 tons each year until it reaches 8,250,000 tons. Thereafter it continues on that basis."

The amount of ore involved is estimated by Mr. Gary at 750,000,000 tons. At the lowest estimate he places it at 700,000,000 tons. At the royalty to be paid, the owners of these iron lands will derive over a billion dollars for the right of mining the iron that they contain. And none of this wealth has been created by them. They merely have gotten title to it through the stupidity of the people combined with the craft and corruption of their public servants.

If the public's interest had been consulted the billion dollars that is to be paid into the pockets of Mr. Hill and his associates would go to the public. Not only is the public deprived of this princely revenue to which in justice it is entitled, but it must proceed to pay into the pockets of the men that have grabbed the Mesaba iron range the billion and more of money that the steel trust will collect and hand over to them.

It was only a few years ago that the Mesaba iron range belonged to the public domain. The lands have been frittered away and stolen. It is a shameful record—the public stripped through its fatuity and the craft of private interests and the lack of public spirit and breadth of view of American statesmen. It is part and parcel of a civilization that is based upon what Rockefeller is pleased to term "opportunity"—opportunity for the crafty and greedy to exploit and plunder the many.

And yet there are those that wonder that there is discontent in the United States and a rising wave of social unrest and radicalism. Would they marvel if an Attila or a Ghazan Khan should have descended upon the United States and through force have stripped the American people of the things which cunning and greed have possessed themselves of through the operation of law and privilege? Discontent! The wonder is that there is so little of it that there is only grumbling.—Milwaukee News.

THE VANISHING HUMAN VOICE

A few more years and our ears will no longer be charmed by the sweet tones of the tenor and the soprano. The present fashion of violent sport is having a most disastrous effect on the singing powers of the lutes and it is probable that our descendants will never be able to enjoy the operas of Verdi or Rossini owing to the dearth of singers.—La Republique Francaise.

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