

A Movement Against the Rockefeller Subsidy

A Washington dispatch printed in the New York Press follows: "Attempts by Rockefeller to subsidize and bribe American colleges, churches and even leaders in the missionary field with his 'tainted' money are to be resisted stubbornly. An extensive movement will be undertaken to awaken the consciences of all trustees against accepting gifts from the Standard Oil king. Thomas W. Phillips of Pennsylvania, himself a multi-millionaire, who made his money in honest industry and investment, will take the lead in this work. He intends to make an earnest appeal in the hope that right-minded people will 'draw the line.' Mr. Phillips has been for years an independent oil operator. He could write a book of what he knows about the Rockefeller ways and means. Mr. Phillips was a member of congress and is the author of the act creating the United States industrial commission and the law creating the bureau of corporations in the department of commerce and labor. He is a college trustee, has been a conspicuous figure in educational, religious and philanthropic work, and feels keenly what he designates as the 'American disgrace'—the acceptance recently of Rockefeller's gift of \$32,000,000 for educational purposes. Mr. Phillips also is deeply interested in the record of the bureau of corporations, and singularly this bureau's work has a vital bearing on the 'tainted money' discussion, for, as Mr. Phillips points out, that bureau has done much to collect the evidence showing the utter lawlessness of the Standard Oil trust. Mr. Phillips has been in Washington gathering the latest information concerning the government's cases against Standard Oil, and he speaks with positiveness against the evil of permitting the streams of education and religion to be poisoned by Rockefeller money. He said to the Press correspondent:

"It is speciously stated that there are no 'tainted dollars'; that all dollars are alike, and that institutions of benevolence are built by contributions from all persons without regard to the source from which they come. It is also asserted in apology for the acceptance of 'tainted dollars' that they have been contributed for religious and missionary purposes. But it must be borne in mind that no benevolent or religious society should solicit or receive them as such.

"General Booth of the Salvation Army, on his arrival in New York the other day, when asked the question in regard to taking 'tainted money,' is reported as saying that he 'would take tainted money from John D. Rockefeller or anybody else.' 'I would take anything and wash it in the tears of the widows and orphans.'

"But it must be remembered that tainted money already has been bathed in the tears of widows and orphans. Can he bathe it again in the same fount? It should be restored to those whose tears it caused to flow, and it cannot be washed in the tears of others. Such men as Booth should not encourage the practices of the men whose methods create the very poverty and distress he aims to cure. The general's error has been very forcibly stated by the New York Press, when it says:

"We wish to say to General Booth, in all sympathy for the work his organization is doing, that he could not fall into a worse error than he does by publicly soliciting subscriptions from Mr. Rockefeller. If he should get a few millions in this way, he would lose other millions by the disgust which will be felt throughout this country with an organization which goes into partnership with one of the biggest criminals of the age."

"We have an account of the gift of the widow's mite. No doubt much money was received in the Temple without inquiring in regard to the sources from which it came. But when Judas brought his thirty pieces of silver, saying, 'I have betrayed the innocent blood,' it was at once rejected as the price of blood, and appropriated for the purpose of buying a 'potters' field'—so that money donated for a benevolent or religious purpose which has been obtained in an illegal way, and known to be such, should not be received for the promotion of any moral or religious object. That already received should be returned, or might be used to bury the dead, but not to corrupt the living.

"Any church or moral institution receiving money obtained in a criminal or immoral way, and knowing the fact, must necessarily become particeps criminis, and will naturally be considered as persons receiving stolen goods. Those who knowingly receive and appropriate such money must in a measure indorse the criminal or illegal practices by which it was obtained. It must contaminate both the immediate and ultimate recipients with some of the evil of the giver and perpetuate the same in coming time. Common offend-

ers give, claiming no credit, but the great monopolist expects that they who receive the gift shall be silent as to his methods and give eulogy to his questionable acts. The Apostle said to Simon the Sorcerer, 'Thy money perish with thee because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.'

"The history of the Standard Oil company as shown by Hudson, Lloyd, Tarbell and others and as exhibited in the court proceedings and investigations of the various state, legislative and congressional committees as well as in the investigations conducted by the United States industrial commission, the interstate commerce commission and the bureau of corporations, and their findings, constitute the darkest page of commercial crime thus far written in the history of this country or of the world. Their offenses have become so great that more than 6,000 indictments, of which the aggregate fines would amount to \$150,000,000, already have been found against them in the courts of the country. The monstrous magnitude of their total offenses in the whole nation has cast a dark shadow of crime across the continent. These thousands of indictments already found against the Standard Oil trust are based only on transportation offenses and do not include the much greater and more numerous wrongs committed against the producers in the oil industry, to say nothing of the limitless extortion practiced on the consumers by the destruction of competition.

"The trust has sought to inculcate in the public mind the false idea that it has reduced the price of oil to the consumer, when the truth is the opposite; for all the great discoveries which cheapened oil were made by the competitors of the trust.

"All colleges or churches that contemplate soliciting or receiving contributions from Rockefeller or his \$43,000,000 education fund should obtain from the United States department of justice, and read carefully, the charge made by direction of the United States attorney general in November, 1906, and now pending, against John D. Rockefeller and the Standard Oil company in the United States court for the eastern district of Missouri, in which it is set forth that said Rockefeller and his associates, in or about the year 1870, and at all times since, have been engaged in a conspiracy to restrain and monopolize trade and commerce in petroleum, and that said trust did crush out and eliminate competition by rebates and secret preferential rates."

"The government further charges that 'the Standard Oil Trust has declared and paid cash dividends amounting to more than \$500,000,000, and that their profits in each and every year and in the aggregate greatly exceeded in amount the said dividends.'

"In addition to this their accumulated property and plants amount to many hundred millions of dollars. After using nearly 300 pages of type to recite 'the combinations and conspiracies against the laws and in derogation of the common rights of all the people of the United States' committed by John D. Rockefeller and his associates, the United States attorney says that to set forth all of the places and instances 'would render this bill unduly voluminous.'

"President Gates of the General Education Board is quoted as saying that 'the board aims to be better acquainted with every college in the United States than is any member of its own board of trustees.' An eminent lawyer speaking in favor of the jury system, instead of one judge, once said: 'It takes a very smart man to know more than twelve men.' But here is a single board appointed by Rockefeller that claims to know more of every college in the United States than any member of its own board. Does this imply that the colleges will have to come to this board for knowledge of what they are to teach as well as for money supply?"

"In a strong editorial under the title 'Rockefeller Bribery,' the New York Press says: 'Another big gift is said to be forthcoming from John D. Rockefeller. * * * Rockefeller's millions are bribes offered to public opinion, and this is the most insidious form of bribery. * * * We say without qualification, and shall din it into the public's ears until the evil is appreciated, that every man who makes himself a party to the bribery of public opinion by John D. Rockefeller is an enemy to the republic and deserves the detestation of his fellows.'

"Can any college afford to take orders or money from such a source? A monopoly or trust is the segregating for the benefit of one or a few of that which was formerly the common right of all. The fundamental principles of our government forbid the granting of such privileges; yet this power has

been usurped and used to practice extortion on the whole people.

"Take, for instance, the industry in which the Standard Oil company accumulated its vast wealth, sometimes depressing the price of oil and buying large producing properties, then advancing the price and assessing the world to pay for the same. Thus they have made the people who are wholly dependent on the oil industry serfs. Their profits reaped from this serfdom have been governed only by their greed, and their accumulation of wealth and enormous dividends have startled the world.

"If educational institutions and benevolent and Christian organizations solicit or receive tainted dollars which are contributed from this source, they are mistaken; such institutions must remember that the people will live and the Standard Oil company will die. Right will prevail. Furthermore, the informed will not bequeath money to nor educate their children in schools where moral culture may be handicapped by such gifts.

"Should a foreign missionary society solicit or be sustained by such funds as John D. Rockefeller recently contributed to the Congregational Missionary society to civilize, moralize and Christianize pagan nations, if such money has been accumulated by methods in direct violation of the fundamental principles of Christian morality which missions are intended to propagate? Can the Gospel propagated by illicit money be effective to purify the present life and give hope of life beyond?"

"The contributions of men like Rockefeller are but a pittance of the great mass of gifts to the cause of religion and education. The people are strongly opposed to the evil methods by which in recent times many of the large fortunes have been built up; and they are rapidly learning not to give their honest dollars to supplement the dollars which they feel have been illicitly obtained. Consequently these large contributions are drying up the very sources of benevolence; for it is from these millions of small gifts from the hands of honest men and women that the great works of religious and educational endeavor are sustained. It is clear that this illicit money is injuring instead of aiding the causes to which it is given.

"Institutions receiving the funds of the monopolists naturally enter into a species of bargain by which they in a measure bind themselves to keep silence as to the offenses of the giver. This has already been demonstrated in some institutions to which they have given large donations. Educational and religious organizations instead of sanctioning and sharing in wealth accumulated by oppression and injustice should use all the weight of their influence to condemn and abolish these commercial and industrial wrongs and stand for the fullest economic, commercial and religious liberty for the people.

"We should be warned by the fate of past civilizations which have perished from the earth when they permitted the destruction of justice, liberty and equality. This result was largely brought about by the abuses arising from the inordinate and unjust accumulation of wealth concentrated in the hands of a few at the expense of the many. The moral and civil codes of all peoples, to say nothing of religion, require the return of dollars unlawfully obtained to the rightful owners.

"Philanthropy is one of the noblest traits of man. Fortunes won by honest means will be respected, but money obtained by unjust methods will not be respected, and its possessors cannot repay in acts of benevolence by returning in part to a few that which they have wrongfully taken from the many."

THE SAGE FOUNDATION

The New York Press differentiates between the Rockefeller subsidy and the Sage foundation in this way:

This newspaper offers its congratulations to Mrs. Russell Sage upon her \$10,000,000 endowment for the improvement of social and living conditions in the United States—

First, because the gift is made for an object to which, although billions have been spent in this country upon charity, education and religion, our philanthropists have not devoted themselves sufficiently. Mrs. Sage says "it will be within the scope of such a foundation to investigate and study the causes of adverse social conditions, including ignorance, poverty and vice; to suggest how these conditions can be remedied or ameliorated, and to put in operation any appropriate means to that end."

Second, for the reason that the Sage millions, even if tainted with avarice, do not require a re-