

# THE LUKEWARMS AND THE KINGS

(Juvenile Series.)

Once upon a time there was a great nation, comprising many millions of people, known as the Lukewarms, who occupied a land of great extent, fertility and vast natural resources.

The Lukewarms were very proud, and claimed to be the descendants and modern representatives of the Great White Race, and that there was, and had been for many centuries, reposed in their special keeping the Great Charter of Liberty, granted by one King John, which enumerated and established for all time the natural liberties of the people.

The Lukewarms kept the Great Charter in a burglar proof safe, upon which was a time lock which ran for a half century, so that twice in every century the Lukewarms were accustomed to open the safe and read before the assembled multitudes the Great Bill of Rights.

During the first century the Lukewarms were ruled over by a king whose name was George, who lived and held his Court on another continent thousands of miles away from the land of the Lukewarms, but during this century nothing unusual or extraordinary happened, and the Lukewarms greatly increased in numbers. When the time clock on the big safe ran down at the end of the first century the Lukewarms as usual opened it and read the Great Charter, and there they plainly read a chapter which they had long forgotten, which said that no taxes should be paid by the Lukewarms unless they or their representatives consented to it.

Now, King George, for a long time, had been collecting taxes upon tea without the consent of the Lukewarms and they were very fond of tea and drank a great deal of it. This made them very angry and they rose up in the night and disguised as Indians, got all of the king's tea and threw it into the ocean.

The Lukewarms then gathered together their armies, and made war on King George, and drove his officers and men from the country.

They also established a new government of their own, and declared that they should forever have all rights granted by the Great Charter, which should never be broken. They then replaced the Charter of Liberty in the safe, and set the time lock for another fifty years.

During the following fifty years the Lukewarms were governed by a king whose name was Virginus.

Now this king and his officers were kind and gentle people and had no great fault, except that they very much disliked to work, and wanted other people to labor for them in the fields. So King Virginus brought into the country from foreign lands large numbers of black men who were held in bondage, and compelled to work in the fields without pay upon pain of being beaten with whips.

It came to pass at the end of the third half century period when the clock had run down the Lukewarms again opened the safe and took out and read before the whole people the Great Charter of Liberty.

And behold they there read in the charter as plain as day, a chapter which said that no freeman shall be imprisoned or punished except by the judgment of twelve men of his own kind upon a fair trial.

Thereupon the assembled Lukewarms were very wroth, because they saw that millions of black men were being held in bondage without any trial or verdict of a jury and who were free men when they were taken and brought into the country.

In their great anger they raised armies, and made war upon all of those who held black men in bondage.

This war lasted five years, during which a million soldiers on both sides lost their lives, and the black men were released from bondage and the Lukewarms wrote in the charter that it should mean that all men should forever be free except when punished for crime.

They then returned the Great Charter, and the time lock was again set for fifty years.

During the following half century the Lukewarms were ruled over by a king whose name was Hogall.

Now Hogall was a cruel despot and a law unto himself, and he governed the Lukewarms through an assembly called the Council of Erfs, appointed by the king, which was composed of two members from each province, whom he believed to be duly qualified as enterprising railroad foremen. Hence it was each member was called an E. R. F.

And it came to pass that King Hogall had

caused all of the public roads to be called railroads, and had placed iron rails upon them so that the wagons of the people could not pass over them, and then he took the roads away from the people and claimed them as his own, and he charged the Lukewarms so much to travel or ship goods over the roads that it took all they could earn by hard work to pay Hogall.

The king also caused the Council of Erfs to pass a law called the "commerce act" by which all of the lands along the seashore and around the navigable lakes and other waters should be conveyed to his railroad minister, whose name was Corkup, so that the people could not build any wharves, or transport people or freight by water, or move from the water to the land or from the land to the water without first securing a permit from Corkup, and to stop the people from using the rivers he built low bridges wherever he could do so.

King Hogall then caused the Council of Erfs to pass another law called the "tariff act" by which he prohibited any of the people from importing goods or supplies from foreign countries without paying very high taxes to the king, and also passed another law, which was called the "coastwise trade law" by which the people were prevented from shipping freight, or carrying passengers from one port to another in Lukewarm land, in any foreign ship, or in any other ship except those owned by Hogall.

By these laws he fenced in the Lukewarms upon the land, and compelled them, in order to get supplies or to sell their goods, or farm products, to use his railroads, and pay any rate which he exacted.

Now, the Lukewarms were a very industrious people, and labored from early morn till late at night to earn enough money to pay the rates and tariffs fixed by the king, and they had little time to think about their own rights, and they did not, for a long time, understand that the Great Charter was being in any way violated.

However, during the latter part of the fourth half century the people began to murmur against the exactions of King Hogall, and some of them claimed that the rates and tariffs fixed by Hogall for transportation upon the roads was nothing more nor less than a tax which the king had no right to levy, except by consent of the people, or their own representatives.

And it came to pass that this fifty year period began to draw to a close, but the time lock upon the great safe had not run down, so that the people could not read the Charter. They met in a great assembly and demanded of King Hogall that the roads, rivers and water front should be restored to the people, for free navigation, and one of the elder men, speaking for the people, stated that he remembered when he was a boy to have distinctly read in the Great Charter that it should be unlawful to collect any taxes from the people without their consent, and that there was another chapter in the charter which stated that the property of the people should not be taken from them without payment being made in coin of the realm and that there was another chapter which said that the people should forever have the right to freely carry on commerce within their country and with foreign countries. That in his opinion all of these chapters of the Charter were being violated and that such was the opinion of many of the people.

King Hogall then addressed the people and stated that he would candidly state the facts in the case and would show them that he had not violated the Charter. He said that he knew that the Lukewarms were a very industrious people, and that for decades they had accumulated property and increased their wealth at the rate of about three per cent per year; that he had placed rails upon the public roads at a cost of about \$30,000 a mile, and had covered 200,000 miles with rails which greatly facilitated the movement of trade and commerce, and that the total cost was six billions of dollars, which he had borrowed from the people to pay for construction. That he was well aware that a return upon the investment based upon the same rate which the whole country was earning, would be three per cent upon six billions of dollars, or nearly two hundred million dollars a year, and that the rates which he charged, for all transportation, amounted to about two and a half billion dollars a year, of which one billion of dollars was net earnings, and he knew that the people were not really earning more than one

billion of dollars a year outside of rises in property values, an inflation caused by the increase of paper money and that he calculated that the true earnings were just enough to pay the net income of the railroads, but that he was rapidly reinvesting in railroads the surplus earnings, which otherwise would accumulate, and that in that way he would keep the money in circulation, would greatly improve the highways, and facilitate the movement of commerce, and at the same time would fix industry upon the Lukewarms as a constitutional habit. He also stated that he had caused a public board to be established which he had called the Interior Complainers and that he had provided by law that if any person thought that his rates or taxes were too high he could complain before the Interior Complainers, who were then directed to inquire into the matter in all parts of Lukewarm land for three years, and at the end of that time, if they found that such person had a ground of complaint, the matter should then be taken into the ordinary courts and that whenever the case was decided in one court it should be then appealed to another court and so on until all the courts passed on the case, and it should be litigated for seven years, in all parts of the land and that at the end of that time, if the complaining person were not dead, any excessive rate would doubtless be reduced, provided, of course, that the rates were not in the meantime increased by Hogall through the Erfs. He also stated that it was true that the Great Charter provided, as he remembered it, that the people should not be taxed without their consent but that the tariffs which he had levied as rates for transportation, were not taxes, but were merely voluntary contributions of the people because if they did not want to ship supplies over the roads, or travel upon them, they were not compelled to do so, and therefore the money paid by the people was a voluntary contribution and not a tax.

He further stated that even if the charter did provide that no "person's" property should be taken without compensation, it had no application to the railroad tariffs, or to the use of public roads; that if the public roads belonged to the whole people they did not belong to any "person" and therefore the provision that the property of a "person" should not be taken meant for any particular person and had no application to the whole people. He also explained that the Charter provision that commerce should be free applied only to the rights of his own railroads and never did apply to the people.

These explanations were satisfactory to many of the assembled people, but others were more than ever convinced that the Great Charter was being violated, but inasmuch as the time lock would not run down for some time the people dispersed. However there was much discontent among the Lukewarms and King Hogall lived in constant dread lest the people would blow up the safe and read the Great Charter and not wait for the time lock to run down. King Hogall employed many speakers to dissuade the people from discussing these things among themselves and he issued a decree through the Council of Erfs that all those who discussed or who complained of his system should be treated as agitators, and public enemies.—Castac Doll, in Pacific Monthly.

## Letters From the People

D. L. Strain, Shanon City, Iowa.—I was asked the other day who was the leading spirit in the Andrew Johnson impeachment proceedings and could not answer. Please give me the information. [Thaddeus Stevens proposed the impeachment and was chairman of the managers for the impeachment.]

C. W. Crossley, Corpus Christi, Texas.—My only excuse for sending you the enclosed and somewhat free translation of an article that appeared yesterday in the most influential German newspaper published in San Antonio and read very extensively in south and southwest Texas by the best German element, is that you might be interested to know that the Freie Presse, the paper named above is a strong republican organ. I desire to say that if our party will make the tariff the issue in 1908 it will win. "As a straw showing the relative attitude of the steel trust to the government is the recent threat made by the vice president of the trust, Mr.