

ye know that by this craft we have our wealth. Moreover, ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands. So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at naught; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth. And when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians."

The silversmith was profiting by the worship of idols; the making of images was the source of his income. He called together those who were engaged in the same occupation and when all were convinced that Paul's preaching would bring them financial injury they joined in a protest, but they did not give their real reason for opposing Christianity—namely, that it would cause them a money loss, but they pretended a fervent devotion to the goddess Diana. So, today, the beneficiaries of bad laws and bad governmental systems are defending their pecuniary interests with arguments that imply great devotion to the public welfare. Having satisfied themselves that the reforms demanded by the people will lessen their power to extort from, and to tyrannize over, the people, these monopolists and their defenders shout "Great is property! Great are the rights of property!" While the issue between the man and the dollar seems to be an acute one, yet in the last analysis there can be no issue between human rights and property rights, for nothing more surely undermines property rights than a disregard for human rights, and nothing brings greater security to property than a scrupulous regard for the natural rights of each human being. But we must always remember that human rights are paramount. In fact, everything depends upon the establishment of the true relation between the individual and dull, inanimate property.

The house and its foundation are indissolubly connected, and we can not think of one without the other. So, human rights and property rights are indissolubly connected. We can not think of the one without the other and as, in the building of a house, we must think of the foundation first and of the house as a superstructure, so in thinking of society we must necessarily think of human rights first and of property rights as resting upon human rights. He who talks of property rights as if they could exist without a regard for human rights, speaks as foolishly as one who would attempt to build a house without considering the foundation upon which it is to stand.

It is safe to say that no contest over property rights is likely to arise between those who feel that they are giving to society a service commensurate with the compensation which they are receiving. The controversy arises now and has always arisen between those who are conscious of enjoying what they have not earned or conscious of desiring to secure that to which they are not entitled, and the masses of the people who feel that they not only earn all that they receive, but something more. Those who are insisting upon legislation which will protect each citizen in the enjoyment of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are the real champions of property rights as well as the champions of human rights, and those who talk so loudly of defending property rights are, upon investigation, found to be the ones who are endangering property rights as well as assailing the natural rights of the individual.

Just now the trust magnates are hurling epithets at those who seek to destroy the trusts. They assume to be the special custodians of property rights, and charge anti-monopolists with communistic, socialistic and anarchistic designs upon "the thrifty and the successful." As a matter of fact the reformer has never been more grossly misrepresented than he is now by the monopolists. It is the trust magnate, not the opponents of the trust, who is striking at property rights. He trespasses upon the property rights of the small manufacturer and the retailer, and heartlessly drives him into bankruptcy. He trespasses upon the property rights of the consumers, who have a right to purchase what they need in a free market at a reasonable price. The monopolist simply appropriates the property of others. The trust magnate often trespasses the property rights of the employe, whose skill and muscle he utilizes. He encourages the employe to invest in a home and then he sacrifices that home if he engages in a war with his laborers or finds it profitable

to dismantle his plant. Even the property interests of the stockholders are not safe in the hands of the trust magnate, for he has been known to depress the market for the purpose of freezing out his associates or in order to buy more stock at a low price. Those who, believing that "a private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable," are laboring to restore competition and to protect the small producer, the consumer, the merchant and the skilled laborer—these, not the trust magnates, are the real defenders of property rights.

The railroad presidents are also very much concerned now lest their particular form of property will be injured by state laws, and they are quick to describe as demagogic all arguments that are intended to inform the public intelligence and to arouse the public conscience on the railroad question. What is the position taken by the railroad presidents? They deny the right of the people of the state acting through their legislature to fix the terms upon which the railroads shall do business in that state. They deny the right of congress to interfere with their privileges or the right of government to fix the rates, although they must know that in the fixing of railroad rates the magnate has made vigorous attacks upon "the rights of property."

Not only is the reformer the real defender of property rights, but he is the best friend of the very persons who abuse him. Just as that physician is the best one who points out to his patient the dangers of the disease from which he suffers and proposes the best remedy, no matter how severe, so those are the best friends of the rich who attempt to restrain excesses and to correct abuses.

Jefferson in his first inaugural address describes the right of election by the people as "a mild and safe corrective of abuses which are lopped off by the sword of revolution where peaceful remedies are unprovided." The reformer seeks by peaceful means to correct abuses which, if not reformed by legislation, are sure sooner or later to lead, first, to bitterness between the classes and finally to violence. Dickens in his "Tale of Two Cities" gives his readers a picture of the French revolution and points out that the horrors of the revolution were but the natural result of the cruelties which the masses previously suffered at the hands of the aristocracy. This is his language:

"Along the Paris streets, the death carts rumble, hollow and harsh. Six tumbrils carry the day's wine to La Guillotine. All the devouring and insatiate monsters imagined since imagination could record itself, are fused in the one realization, Guillotine. And yet there is not in France, with its rich variety of soil and climate, a blade, a leaf, a root, a sprig, a peppercorn, which will grow to maturity under conditions more certain than those that have produced this horror. Crush humanity out of shape once more, under similar hammers, and it will twist itself into the same tortured forms. Sow the same seed of rapacious license and oppression ever again, and it will surely yield the same fruit according to its kind.

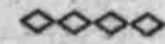
"Six tumbrils roll along the streets. Change these back again to what they were, thou powerful enchanter, Time, and they shall be seen to be the carriages of absolute monarchs, the equipages of feudal nobles, the toilettes of flaring Jezebels, the churches that are not my Father's house but dens of thieves, the huts of millions of starving peasants."

The French aristocrats who showed their contempt for human rights were very solicitous about property rights, and yet they were in fact the deadliest enemies of property and property rights, because their wantonness provoked the attacks which followed.

The situation in this country today is not what it was in France prior to the revolution. The extremes of society are not so far apart nor have the evils now complained of been carried so far. And yet no one who has studied the situation can be blind to the fact that the arrogance of our financiers, and greed of our railroad magnates and the avarice of our monopolists are creating a gulf between productive wealth and predatory wealth—between the very poor and the very rich. The longer remedial legislation is delayed the wider the gulf grows, and the wider the gulf, the greater the danger. The longer a needed reform is delayed the more radical the remedy is likely to be and the more

danger that the spirit of retaliation will make itself manifest.

It is time to call a halt. It is time to displace the corporate influences that now have such a powerful hold upon politics, and to return to a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people," in which the property of the poor as well as the property of the rich, the life of the obscure as well as the life of the conspicuous, and the liberty of all shall be protected by law. They are the best friends of both human and property rights who labor most earnestly and most intelligently to correct injustice in government wherever found; they are the most dangerous enemies of property rights as well as of human rights who either turn the instrumentalities of government to private gain or who, for pecuniary advantage, resist needed remedial legislation.

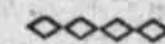


#### SHERMAN ANTI-TRUST LAW NOT AMENDED

The Houston (Texas) Post, referring to the prosecution of the Standard Oil trust resulting in the \$29,240,000 fine, refers to "the Elkins law of 1903, which amended the Sherman anti-trust law of 1890 and repealed the imprisonment provisions of the interstate commerce law." The Elkins law did amend the anti-rebate law by doing away with the imprisonment feature. It did not, however, amend or relate in any degree to the Sherman anti-trust law of 1890. The Sherman anti-trust law has never been amended.

The Commoner refers to this fact because it has been noticed from communications received in this office that there is a widespread impression that the Elkins law which did away with the imprisonment feature abolished the criminal clause of the Sherman anti-trust law. Democratic newspapers everywhere ought to impress upon their readers the fact that the Sherman anti-trust law remains upon the statute books just as it was enacted, just as it has been sustained by the United States supreme court—and it should be emphasized, too, that the criminal clause of that great law remains unenforced by the republican administration.

The only effort to enforce this clause was in the beef trust cases and then when the beef trust magnates were at the very threshold of the penitentiary it developed that someone in authority had taken the precaution to give them an "immunity bath."



#### THIS IS TOO MUCH

The Pittsburg Dispatch says: "Mr. Watterson, entertaining as he is, has never been an infallible prophet, and it will be a pretty general opinion that he is bent upon maintaining his reputation."

The Dispatch might have said that Mr. Watterson is not, invariably, a graceful writer, a genial companion, a courteous gentleman, a devoted friend and a merciful foe; and the friends of the talented editor of the Courier-Journal would have borne it calmly. But when the Dispatch attacks Mr. Watterson in that particular role where he so delights to shine then in the name of the prophets living—and in the name of the prophets dead—we protest.



#### BUT WHY DON'T HE GO?

The New York World is making frantic appeals to Governor Hughes urging the removal of Mr. Kelsey, New York's superintendent of insurance. The World, as The Commoner recalls it, sought in vain to have Governor Hughes act on the Kelsey matter during the special session of the legislature, and now the World devotes practically its entire editorial page to a statement of charges against Kelsey. The World summarizes these charges in this description of the present day insurance situation: "No reorganization of insurance department; failure to enforce the law; smaller dividends now than under Hyde, McCurdy and McCall; no apportionment of assets; false bookkeeping permitted; bonuses, prizes and rewards illegally paid; the 'Nylie' still exists; discrimination against old policyholders; robbery of small policyholders; wrongdoing concealed; lying advertisements; information refused; parasite banks continue; traction, gas and Union Pacific stock still held; Illinois Central stock to help Harriman; payment for votes; industrial insurance neglected; surplus not yet apportioned; mutuality not secured; and Edward H. Harriman not yet disqualified."

Referring to the insurance investigation, the World says: "But what practical good has