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OPPRESSED BY TRUSTS

Wilson, N. C., March 3.—The people of the United States are oppressed by trusts. The men who furnish the raw material out of which trust goods are made are held up by the trusts and made to deliver the product of their toil at such figures as the trust beneficiaries fix.

The consumer who is forced to use the goods sold by trusts is required to pay whatever sum these manipulators of commerce charge.

These are the conditions. Is there no remedy? Is there no relief?

Appeal to the people does not appear to meet with such a response as to bring relief. Of course, the people have the power to end these practices of the men who control the great trusts that are fattening on the sufferings of the people, but they have not realized the real conditions and wrong that these pirates have done and are doing on the sea of commerce.

An appeal to the people to be effective must have in it an element of selfishness—the people must see that it pays to listen to those who cry out against the monopolists—and then their better natures can be aroused.

The men who control the great trusts that have by the throat the commerce of the nation, do not care for denunciation or the contempt of the people—they live beyond the "common herd"—surrounded by the tinsel of display and the cringing adulation of "sycophants" and "bootlicks." They care for only two things: imprisonment and loss of money.

Under a national administration that they bought and paid for, they need not fear imprisonment.

With federal judges, who were their well trained attorneys before they were elevated to the bench by a complaisant president (who talks with the people but places on the bench the subservient tools of monopoly) and with a congress presided over by Sherman and Cannon, they need lose no sleep for fear of loss of money through governmental intervention.

The trusts are in the saddle. The independent manufacturer and business man are (so far as national legislation or the work of the inferior federal courts are concerned) lambs in the midst of wolves.

Is there no escape for honest industry and independent business?

Is this great country to be the helpless victim of the less than one hundred men who, by combination, prey on business and destroy legitimate industry?

For at least four years to come we can expect nothing from the national government—except that all the power of the administration will be used to more firmly fasten monopoly on a people who have placed in power the trusts that put up the money with which to buy the election.

This being so, what can we do to free ourselves?

Can not independent business men, honest producers, manufacturers and consumers, by acting in concert, do something to break the strangle grip that monopoly has on the throat of independent business?

Manufacturers of goods that compete with the product of the trusts are afraid to increase their business because they live in constant fear of being crushed by the trusts.

Men who have money to invest are afraid to embark in the manufacture of any article that the trusts control.

Business men are intimidated, so that they are afraid to handle articles that compete with trust made goods.

If the people who are opposed to the domination of the trusts, will give the preference to goods manu-

factured by independent manufacturers, the independent factories will multiply with astonishing rapidity in the United States.

But the question arises now, are the people to know which are independent made goods and which are trust made goods? The trusts do not hesitate to buy up independent factories and run them under the name of independents and thereby fool the people. That is a popular method of these monopolists to deceive those people who are opposed to the monopolizing of the business of the nation in the hands of a few.

Let an anti-trust league be organized for the purpose of informing the people along this line, so that there will be no mistake made as to products of the different manufacturers. I would suggest that a central board of directors be elected of men whose names would carry conviction to the people of the United States. Let the anti-trust league be organized and a board of directors composed of such men as Folk of Missouri, LaFollette of Wisconsin, Aycock of North Carolina, Smith of Georgia, Tillman of South Carolina, Cummins of Iowa, and others of similar character, and to these men submit the question of whether or not any manufacturer who desires to become a member of the league is in any way connected with a trust. This board of directors could hear the evidence and, after a thorough examination, certify to such as the evidence showed were in no wise connected with a trust. A list of these independent manufacturers could then be published to the world, and people who believe that monopolies are prejudicial to the best interests of the nation, would have the information upon which they could rely in making their purchases.

If the people were put in possession of this information—and they could rely upon its genuineness and integrity—it is my opinion that there are enough people in the United States who do not "bow the knee to Bael" to make the monopolists feel their power, and that many independent factories would be established, and that many that are now struggling for existence would prosper.

If a market can be opened and maintained for the sale of goods manufactured by independent manufacturers, the old days of competition will return, and the oppressive measures of the trusts will cease to destroy. This end can not be attained by one manufacturer. There must be concert of action to secure and maintain an "open door" in the commercial world. The independent powers must form a defensive and offensive alliance for the protection of honest business and the driving from the sea of commerce the pirates that infest the coast of honest effort. The national government has been appealed to in vain. As at present controlled, it is in league with the pirates, and furnishes protection for its ships in their efforts to destroy the independent manufacturer. The state governments are unable to do much because of the protection that the federal government throws around these outlaws in the form of

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