

An Iowa Brother's Opinion

DES MOINES, IA., Nov. 14, 1894.

EDITOR WEALTH MAKERS:

DEAR SIR:—I notice that you are giving the subject of co-operation considerable attention and I am glad of it for if there is any method whereby reformers can successfully combine their efforts it will certainly prove to be a short cut out of present difficulties. One cannot however read the utterances of the hundreds of reformers who are commendably seeking to voice their opinions without feeling more or less discouragement at the evident confusion of ideas which prevails within our ranks. No doubt it is inevitable and will eventually work out for the best, but one cannot help thinking that a grand object lesson a successful co-operative association would furnish, and how much it would tend to unify our forces. With these ideas in mind allow me to submit the following, not in the least dictatorial, but merely as suggestions for the consideration of the reader:

That all our temporal concerns (and many of our spiritual) are embraced by the problems of production and wealth. That all should have free and equal opportunities to produce an abundance. That it is to the last degree desirable that in discussing these problems we should make the proper distinction between production and distribution, and keep them under their proper heads. That as land is the proper source of all production, until there is a radical change in our present system of land tenure, all reforms which do not include land reform can only be temporarily beneficial and must result sooner or later (by adding to the desirability of land occupancy) in augmenting and accentuating our present distressful condition. This however, may be inevitable (I think not), for it sometimes seems as if it were through our sufferings only that we can expect reform of any kind.

That such being true, about all we can hope for in the immediate future is some invention by which we can facilitate our exchanges (distribution) so that we naturally turn our attention to the money question.

That money being the chief instrument of distribution a just settlement of the money question may prove, at the same time, the solvent of nearly all such questions as are involved by railways, machinery, capital and labor, employes, etc., etc. (Exceptions noted further on.) Put money enough into circulation and many of the remedies proposed by socialists, or at least many socialists, will become objectless.

For these reasons I look to the establishment of a series of co-operative banks, with a central clearing house, and I regard these banks as the keystone of the whole structure termed "distributive effort." They are so now and probably always will be.

By the constitution of these banks they would be empowered to receive certain securities in pledge and issue certificates of deposit thereon. Although I have well defined ideas as to what those securities ought to be, I will not provoke discussion by any designation at present, suffice it to say that as a matter of course the success of our banking system would stand or fall by the character of those securities. I merely presume that the people have securities, and are capable of producing them by labor, and that they do not necessarily consist of loads of cabbages or a few bushels of potatoes. Labor produces all the wealth, and therefore all security.

The banking business would be conducted at cost and the certificates (issued in convenient denominations) circulate among co-operators and others everywhere at par. Why should they not, have they not dollar for dollar behind them, and they like "honest" metal money that gives nothing to the people in its production, and is foisted upon the people without giving value received?

I believe, in fact am confident, that such a system can be inaugurated without coming into conflict with present laws. Its effect would be to increase the circulating medium and thereby reduce interest charges. This I consider the natural way and the most desirable of liberating the mortgage slave. As every dollar calls for labor, that is, every dollar in circulation, we would eventually reach that point where the demand for labor and its products would become greater than the supply. Then and then only can labor expect to command full compensation for its services. The one objection (referred to before) would be the increased demand for land and the consequent barriers that would be placed in the way of production, enabling the landholder to dictate the terms of life itself.

To those who consider a free circulating medium insufficient to meet such monopolies as railways, mines, etc., etc., I would suggest that a tax, or subscription, be taken from all subscribers to the association and the proceeds be devoted to the purchase of mines, and to building railways or other plants requiring large sums of money and combined effort to construct and operate. Such undertakings to be operated at cost, needless to say. As there are some two million reformers in the country a small tax on each would build quite a little railway and go far in the way of buying mines and rolling mills, etc. The tax would entitle the one taxed to a certificate of deposit from the railway or other concern in contemplation and be receivable for freight or passage in the case of railways, or for products in the other cases. As soon as possible the railway, for instance, would take in these certificates and either destroy them or deposit them with the co-operative bank, receiving therefor bank certificates of deposit in certain safe percentage. Make these certificates up in a form that would meet the prejudices of the people, or perhaps I should say not meet them, and they would undoubtedly circulate at par and become a great convenience not only to co-operators, but to the whole community. The banks, mines, street railways, water works, light and other plants would each have a head of department who would be subject to the president of the co-operative association and his board of directors, the president and the directors in turn be immediately responsible to the members through the instrumentality of the "initiative and referendum." If there are reformers who would have all reform or none, who must have full freedom to produce as well as to distribute (and my sympathies go out to them), I would suggest that a committee be appointed by reformers throughout the country and furnished with funds to discover if possible a large body of suitable land where besides a fertile

soil, and healthy climate we might find such minerals as are desirable. It is possible that such tracts of land exist and that we might be able to negotiate for their settlement. We might have to go to South America, Africa or Asia, but just think what the result might be. Given such a settlement, even a comparatively small one, with free opportunities to produce and distribute, what havoc it would play with present wasteful methods. Don't overlook the fact that a very large percentage of our present wealth is the output of machinery, so that with such conditions even labor at ten cents a day could not by any possibility compete with our wheels running all the time. The result would be to compel outsiders to adopt civilized methods or drop their products into our pockets at twenty-five cents on the dollar, or less, just what Europe is forcing us to do now, through her control of the means of distribution, money. Our wealth and our trade would be limited not by our opportunities to find a market at extortionate prices, not by the chances we might secure to strip our neighbor, but by our ability to produce wealth and distribute it on even terms with those who would not only have the means to buy but be glad to make the exchange.

In conclusion I would say that I deplore any attempt to originate religious societies, and while I believe I understand your position, certain remarks in your issue of the 8th are subject to misconception. I pretend to be a Christian and believe in always taking high ground, but I read of centuries of strife for religious freedom now happily ours, and you know we are all very jealous of it. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," will satisfy a Hottentot (if he is an honest man, and no doubt he is), and really is it not all inclusive? Did He not say so? What would churchianity do with a Christian who thinks not only Christ divine, but all men, and all things? Or one who considers the vicious atonement a most vicious doctrine. Yet such a man might honestly say that he believed in Christ (this doctrine of harmony or love), and charge the objectionable creeds to priestcraft pure and simple. We are not in pressing need of spiritual monopolies, the others will give us all we want to attend to for some time to come.

Another and final point, I do not think that small gatherings, colonies, at spots which must of necessity limit their productions to the extent that they are subject too much to outside influences, can hope for any large degree of success. Many also seem to think that socialism calls for sacrifice, in several ways, and to such ideas I charge many deterring influences. For one socialist, I refuse now and forever to share, except as my discretion either my money, my wife—such as they are—or the products of my labor. That which we may give in charity may furnish a bright and shining example of our spiritual graces, but who wants a charity, or who has a right to demand more than free and equal opportunities. They seem to confound present difficulties with the righteous conditions that should and will prevail, and while I am not sufficiently optimistic to suppose that we will ever attain such perfection that want will be unknown, such cases would be easily provided for, not in charity, but as we provide for pensioners, or those who have done their duty to society according to their gifts. I have seen a horse and an ass in harness together, but I didn't think the horse was getting fair play, and I know he didn't like it. No, sir, competition is the spirit of life and is the one great factor in all progression. Spiritual (mental and moral) equality we cannot enforce, but we can bring about, approximately at least, square dealing in temporal affairs, and we ought to have enough wit to know it were better for us, individually and collectively, to do so.

Possibly I have misunderstood you in the matter of religion and competition, but unfortunately there are too many to whom the above will apply.

Yours fraternally,
JAS. R. GREEN.

Then and Now

EDITOR WEALTH MAKERS:

As the results of the election are so overwhelmingly in favor of the Republicans, many who had looked and hoped for different results are asking, "What does it all mean? Why is it? and what will be the outcome?"

To the young in years who have cast their first ballots in favor of reform, who were imbued with enthusiasm for Mr. Bryan and the evident justice and truth of the principles of the Omaha platform, and to those who had cast many ballots in one or the other of the two old parties, but who were young in reform work, the outcome, for a time will be very disheartening; while to those who have spent the greater portion of a reasonably long life for the emancipation of their race, irrespective of sex, color or nationality, the outcome is stripped of all semblance of victory for the success of plutocracy.

This so-called landslide is but one of the many evidences of the great unrest that sits like an incubus on the minds and hearts of the toiling and idle millions.

Two years ago this same unrest swept the Republicans out of power, for the people saw that the vaunted McKinley bill did not raise wages, did not correct the evils that caused the strikes and lock-outs of the last years of the Harrison administration; that as usual they had been duped and deceived, and they sought a change.

When the present administration came into power, they found a depleted treasury and all the preparation made for an issuance of gold bonds to save or keep up the gold reserve of \$100,000,000, to redeem the greenbacks. As the people objected to the issue of bonds they were taught a lesson. The English creditors and Wall street ordered the banks to contract their loans, told Grover C. to call an extra session to repeal the purchasing clause of the Sherman law, and effected by their deep-laid schemes just what they desired.

The great scare made depositors wild, and their scramble sent to the wall hundreds of banks that went down as quickly as the sickle of death takes humanity in seasons of plagues.

Factories, forges, mills and all forms of labor were stopped, idle hands multiplied everywhere, and desolation reigned supreme.

Promised prosperity, as a result of the

repeal of the purchasing clause of the Sherman law, did not come, and the honest reduction of the McKinley bill in the house was so mutilated in the senate and so ridiculed that its good features were ignored; and the bad times made, and continued by the McKinley bill, and the combined efforts of the Republicans and Democrats in favor of a gold standard (that has absolutely made us the slaves of the English creditor class) were overlooked. These facts gave the Republicans the opportunity to lay all blame for present distress on the present administration, when facts prove that they have been the chief support of the president in carrying out the program marked out for them by our English masters.

The present distress, short memories of the people, and unblinking venality of the Republican party has enabled them to carry on a campaign of money, intimidation and fraud (the latter includes all forms of lying), and the despairing multitudes impoverished, idle, and discouraged, like drowning persons, catch at straws.

Knowing the sad plight of the people and the danger of losing their plutocratic grip, no means however corrupt have been left unused to enable them to again secure control of the government.

In Hastings, open bribery in the First ward with the Russian voters was the order of the day. Adams county Populists and Bryan democrats were true to each other and their principles. We made a clean, open, honest campaign, and yet with less people Hastings and the county cast a larger vote than ever, and the Republican bribers alone know where it came from.

Now for the parallel and for reasons why there is no cause for discouragement. "Large bodies move slowly" and great reforms take long years to reach their high plane of justice and equity.

In 1787, or thereabouts, Thomas Clarkson began his investigations regarding the wickedness of West Indian slavery in the British colonies. Some time in 1795 or 1796 William Wilberforce joined him in the anti-slavery crusade for its abolition, and they and their coadjutors labored for nearly forty years to secure West India emancipation.

Benjamin Lundy commenced his work against American slavery in 1826 or 1827. Garrison started the Boston Liberator in 1831. In 1834, by resolution in convention, the Garrisonians affirmed that if slavery was not abolished peacefully it would go out in blood. We predict, and it is the united opinion of the highest literary, scientific, and moral minds of the age; that declare the like truth regarding the present industrial slavery and plutocratic rule.

Thirty years and more brought us to the bloody period when chattel slavery sank to rise no more.

The auction block has been superseded by starvation, Juggernaut, the slaveholding oligarchy by the corporation, banking, trusts, and money combine, the single Judge Taney by the plutocratic judiciary.

A free government, on American principles, where secularism has abolished church and state, that advocates free religion, free speech, and a free people, is relegated to the rule of bondholders (and that English), for bondholders, and by bondholders (or their tools).

When Garrison and Lundy began their career "Cotton was King." The oligarchy (democratic) had control of the government for nearly fifty years; it declared who should be president; it parcelled out the rich foreign offices and those at home; it made the church declare its divine origin and be silent as to its sins, and when the few abolitionists bearded the infamy in its own den, it grew wild with rage. It set the northern press and church against the few true, noble men and women who believed with Wesley that slavery was the "sum of all villainies." It offered \$20,000 for the head of Garrison; it inaugurated the reign of mob law, the rifling of the mails, and the open murder of anti-slavery men and women.

In time it repealed the Missouri compromise, so that it could spread its pall of death over all the heritage of freedom. It prated of "popular sovereignty." The "little giant" of Illinois, S. A. Douglas, "didn't care whether slavery was voted up or down" (he wanted to be president); they enacted the fugitive slave law and (like the Republicans of today who think they have silenced the populists) thought they had utterly killed and routed the abolitionists.

But they had not; they were only hastening their own doom. The Republicans are doing the same, for what will they do? what dare they do? Will they restore the McKinley bill? Will they dare to repeal the income tax? Dare they attempt to change the ratio of silver? Will they dare to ignore the agitation of silver? No! they dare do none of these things, and if they do, their Judge Taney decisions will raise up an army of John Browns that will cut the gordian knot of their vested rights (vested wrongs) and hasten in a way through a revolution of force what we trust and pray will be affected by peaceful evolution.

GEORGE LYNN.

If afflicted with scalp diseases, hair falling out and premature baldness, do not use grease or alcoholic preparations, but apply Hall's Hair Renewer.

A Priest Crazy in Hotel.
OMAHA, Neb., Nov. 12.—Father Schraffe, a priest, suddenly became demented at a local hotel yesterday, and with a revolver kept all persons out of his room, declaring that he was the emperor of Germany. This morning he was persuaded by Police Sergeant Ormsby to accompany him to a hospital and was disarmed.

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THE SITUATION.

Over our country a glorious light
Silently, slowly is breaking;
Might and old Error are meeting with right,
Souls from their slumbers are waking.
A sound, and the heart of the Nation today
Throbs high as its echoes grow clearer;
'Tis the low tread of victory still far away,
Yet 'tis coming, its footsteps grow nearer.
But monopoly's legions are boastful and strong,
Why brave them? 'Twere safer to falter!
Mute be your voices on every wrong;
Bow down at monopoly's altar.
Servant of God! at the altar stand
With the eye All-seeing o'er you,
Turning ever with reverent hand
The sacred word before you—
Tell men to live nobly, to toil and to trust,
Upholding and blessing each other;
But say not if monopoly be sinful or just,
It perchance might offend a rich brother.
Speak out of the heathen in lands far away
But of those in our own land never—
Speak of all sins except those of today
That's staining our country forever.
Statemen stand in the nation's hall,
Words of fire from their lips flow;
Thrilling and cheering the hearts of all,
'Till each soul is with liberty glowing,
Dare not the anger of favorites to brave
By uttering great truths and holy;
Speak not a word for the down-trodden slave,
The millions around you how lowly!
Sensitive ears the truth might greet,
None might ever receive it;
You might lose office and power is sweet;
Brave statement! 'Twere better to dodge it!
ELMER E. WILLEY.
St. Louis, July 2, 1894.

We want you to notice every new "ad" in our columns. They are put there especially for your benefit.

TALK OF MORE BONDS.

An intimation from New York of another \$50,000,000 issue.
NEW YORK, Nov. 2.—After the close of business yesterday it was announced that the government will ask the bankers for another loan of \$50,000,000. Gold bonds for that amount, bearing 5 per cent interest will be issued within a few days at a price which will net investors about 3 per cent annually.

Receiver for Two Broken Banks.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 12.—The comptroller of the currency has appointed Henry E. Lewis receiver of the Buffalo County National bank of Kearney, Neb., which suspended October 11. He is also receiver of the First National bank of Kearney, which failed October 10.

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Almost perpetual sunshine, and the elevation of about 7,000 feet dispels all malaria, nor are such pests as chinch bugs, weevil, etc., found there. Flowing artesian wells are secured at a depth, on an average, of about 100 feet, and at a cost of about \$25.00 each. Such is the flow that they are being utilized for irrigating the yards, garden and vegetable crops. The pressure is sufficient to carry the water, which is pure, all through the farmers' dwellings.

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