

WEALTH MAKERS

OF THE WORLD

IN THE SWEAT OF THY FACE THOU EAT BREAD IF ANY WILL NOT WORK NEITHER LET HIM EAT

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A POPULIST FINANCIAL SYSTEM.

Our Exchanges are Asked to Consider This Plan in All Its Provisions.

BETTER THAN CARLISLE'S PLAN

The Secretary of the Treasury has published a plan to get rid of what greenbacks we have left, and bestow upon bankers alone the power to issue fiat money, money that has no intrinsic value in it, but which, being clothed with the power to make exchanges, they can loan to the people and draw from them for the use of mere pieces of paper an enormous amount of usury and wealth. His plan is unjust, unequal, unconstitutional. It would be class legislation of the worst sort. A better plan for providing safe, sound, sufficient currency must be found, and we propose the following:

Repeat all laws permitting private corporations to issue their notes for use as money. Enact a law providing that every state may make and deposit non-negotiable bonds in the United States Treasury in sums not to exceed in the aggregate twenty-five per cent of the actual value of its taxable property, and that for bonds so made and deposited as security, bearing an annual revenue to the government of one-half of one per cent, it shall be permitted to draw from the Treasury ninety per cent of their face value in coin or greenback dollars, which shall be full legal tender for all debts public and private.

By state laws that may be enacted such state bonds shall be in quantity duplicates of county bonds deposited with the state treasurers, county bonds to be issued to provide only what money each county needs, and to be limited also to twenty-five per cent of each county's taxable property, and made to bear to the state one per cent annual interest. For each deposit of county bonds with the State Treasurer the state shall deposit the same amount of state bonds in the United States Treasury, and the money which shall be advanced on such bonds shall be paid directly to the proper officials of the counties whose bonds are deposited as security with the state. The funds so provided and secured by bonds shall constitute the capital for county government banks which shall be in charge of regularly elected county (bank) officials whose bonds shall be approved in four times the sum the people may have on deposit at any one time. The presidents, cashiers and directors of these public banks shall be paid reasonable, fixed salaries.

The counties shall each provide their banking representatives the necessary safety deposit vaults, fire proof safes and other needed furniture, blank books, etc., to conduct the entire loan, deposit and exchange business of the people of the county,—furniture to also include a complete set of abstracts of titles of all real estate in the county.

The county government banks shall be by law required to receive all surplus cash which individuals may wish to deposit, and to pay back to depositors the full amount of their deposits, but no interest shall be paid on such deposits. Loans applied for shall be passed upon by a board of three bank directors, who must be agreed that the security is worth at least double the amount of the loan desired. Finding the security amply sufficient, loans shall be made on improved farms in size not exceeding 640 acres, up to half their selling value, at two per cent per annum. On homesteads in town (lots built on and owned by the parties living on them), mining towns excepted, loans limited to 33 per cent of their cash value shall be made at two per cent. On business property up to 33 per cent of its cash value loans at two per cent may be made, provided the owner does not possess more than a half block of such property. On warehouse receipts for grain and cotton stored in county, state or government warehouses, loans at two per cent may be made up to 50 per cent of their market value. Personal security for thirty, sixty and ninety days, or fractions thereof, may be taken when notes are signed by three parties of good repute, two of whom are established

in business in the community and possessed of ample property to collect the debt by law,—such loans to be discounted at one-half to one per cent. Above rates to be reduced to cost of conducting the business when found above it, as doubtless would be the case as soon as all money came to be deposited in the government banks and all loaning should be done by the people's banks.

The above plan, would make losses exceedingly small if adopted with all the safeguards, profits even at these rates, cut down to perhaps one per cent over labor cost, would much more than make good such possible losses. The tax-payers would thus be secured by the profits exceeding losses, and by ample bonds against the occasional dishonesty of an official of their own selecting. The state would be secured against any fraudulent or over-valuation of particular counties by a state board of tax rate or valuation equalizers and by the entire taxable property of each county, and the national government would be secured absolutely in its state loans by the state bonds deposited in the U. S. Treasury. There would be no more money called for (or bonds given) than the people with security judge they individually need to employ labor, and if money could be borrowed from county government banks at rates, say, not to exceed one per cent a year above the labor cost of loaning it, all private money lenders would be driven out of business and their money would either be turned into more labor-employing capital or directly deposited with the government and so would go into the circulation without enforcing usury tributes. The volume of money would not be greatly increased by the system we propose, because with government banks furnishing money at cost it would draw all money not for the present needed by individuals to their care for absolute security, and when deposits exceeded demands bonds could be paid off and cancelled. But an amount of perpetual state bonds drawing only one-half of one per cent a year and of county bonds drawing one per cent a year should be kept deposited and not paid off, to supply security to the government for whatever money can be used profitably as capital and is needed in excess of coin to make additional state charge would be some more than the labor cost of this machinery of credit, but it would not be a burden, for it would furnish an income that would reduce other taxation. There would be no interest tax, except the slight one going to the government.

Now are there any who will object to the above financial system. Yes, the bankers will object to it; all who own bank stock will call it frightful names. It is not in their special interest, as are the Baltimore and Carlisle plans. Were it to be enacted into law the money power would be destroyed and honest labor would be enthroned. It would provide capital at nearly labor cost for those who now must pay from five to a hundred per cent a year bonus for it. It would prevent panics and periods of commercial paralysis and enforced idleness and starvation. It is a just currency system that would bring to the masses unheard of prosperity, therefore the classes, the bankers especially, will view it with alarm and will frighten folk with their cries of, "Socialism!"

There are many of our old citizens who will remember many things that will illustrate the working of a co-operative colony. Many of them can call to mind the wool raised on the farm, carded, spun and woven into cloth by careful mothers and sisters, each member of the family doing his best to advance the interest and secure the comfort of the other members, each family producing for its own use and having absolute control of the primal necessities of life. But all this is changed. Today our best efforts are directed to producing for profit. Then the only object in view was to produce what the family needed at home. Now the question comes to us, what shall we do? The old Hebrew prophet gives us the most plausible answer to the question I can think of, viz: "Stand ye in the way and ask for the old paths, where is the good way."

Now this is the remedy. Get back to first principles. In other words, organ-

ize a co-operative colony on the Christian plan, all being "members one of another."

Now I know some very good people will raise serious objections to the movement, and if I had time, and space would admit, I might be able to satisfy them of the practicability of our plan of co-operation. But I want to inquire as to our fitness for the work in hand. Remembering our former education in the school of competition, do we fully realize that to succeed we must be born again? With us old things must pass away; and if we are to be the instruments in inspiring others in the principles of co-operation, I reiterate it, we must be born again. Self-denial is the keystone of the co-operative arch, and upon our capacity to exercise this virtue depends, not only our happiness as a family, but our perpetuity as a colony. I might cite you to a few instances of the benefits of self-denial. The patriotic women of '76 refused to indulge in the taxed tea of King George, although they idolized the fragrant beverage. And perhaps there are those living that can remember how the society of Friends (Quakers) refused to be partakers with human slavery by ignoring all its productions, using only the product of free labor. Now are we ready to separate ourselves from the world (competition) by a refusal to indulge in the luxuries produced by monopoly. Now do not understand me that this is a necessary test of fitness for membership in a colony. I only mention these facts to indicate the importance of this principle of self-denial in securing ultimate success as a colony devoted to the principles of co-operation.

With my constant prayers to "our Father in heaven," that His will may be done on earth as it is in heaven, I am fraternally yours, S. LITTLE.

IS IT ANTI-SOCIAL?

The Criticism of an Able Duluth Newspaper on the Debs Decision.

The decision convicting Debs may be good law—the court is the final judge in that matter. But it is very much to be regretted, for it is retrograde, and anti-social. If it stands it has done a serious harm.

For in holding that a man may be punished for ordering a strike it denies for the first time the right to strike, since a strike without leaders under present conditions is an absurdity.

And the right to strike is the sole defense of labor organizations, no matter how unfortunate strikes in general or in particular may be.

Workmen will organize and will strike at times because they must. It is necessary and it is their right, no matter what the law says.

Then if the law forbids them to do it by open methods they are bound to take secret methods.

If this decision stands every strike is a conspiracy and every labor organization stands on the same footing as the Mollie Maguire. It is an untenable position. It is a monstrous attitude toward society in which to place the men who are the foundation of the state.

In the open labor organizations have made steady progress toward better methods and have steadily left behind violence and sneak warfare. Forbid them to take such action as they think necessary, except on pain of imprisonment, and you compel them to fight in the dark and invite them to use the weapon of darkness.

In the open they have worked forward until the trades assembly in Duluth invites the newspapers to report its proceedings—it has nothing to conceal. A growing sense of responsibility is the natural consequence and fairness is bred by the practice. Declare that their associations are outlaw and they have no resource but to do as outlaws do, to become irresponsible and lawless as the Sugar trust or Standard Oil itself.

It may be good law; but it is false socially, and if it is not reversed by the higher court it will be reversed by the highest court of all—that makes the laws.—Duluth Commonwealth.

One Hope Left.

The second was disappointed. "The other fellows have agreed to our terms," he faltered. The pugilist was obviously disconcerted, but his buoyant, courageous nature at once asserted itself. "There is yet a chance," he exclaimed, joyfully "the governor of the state, you know." Thus despair was eventually compelled to take flight.

Holiday Rates via the Burlington Route.

December 22, 23, 24, 25 and 31st, and also on January 1st, tickets to points within 200 miles will be on sale at rate of fare and a third. Minimum rate 50 cents.

Tickets and information at B. & M. depot or city office, corner 10th & O St.

A knowledge of Double Entry Book-keeping is the very foundation of business success. You can employ your leisure moments at home in acquiring knowledge of this valuable science and qualify yourself for a good position. THE NATIONAL SCHOOL OF BOOK-KEEPING, 232 Union Trust Building, St. Louis, Mo. have pupils in all parts of the country. You should write for particulars.

THE DENVER MEETING.

Visitors from Over the Sea Speak for International Union.

PLATFORM VIRTUALLY POPULIST.

Headquarters Removed to Indianapolis—Gompers Retires and McBride of the Miners' Union Made President.

The Action of Woods Donounced.

The American Federation of Labor, at its annual convention at Denver, just held, elected John McBride, president of the United Mine Workers, president of the A. F. of L., in place of Samuel Gompers, who has for twelve years been at the head of the great organization. McBride is the man who led the great miners' strike of last spring, which called out 180,000 miners, and 50,000 or more other associated or dependent workmen. He is a stronger, more aggressive leader than Gompers, a man of courage and judgment, devoted to the interest of organized labor, and a man who sets his face like a flint against lawless violence.

In the convention were two elements, the socialists and the "pure and simple," struggling for supremacy. T. J. Morgan of Chicago being one of the chief leaders of the former element, and McGuire of Philadelphia of the latter. The conflict between these two parties was not a decisive one. The defeat of Mr. Gompers was a victory for the radicals, and the defeat of the preamble committing the A. F. of L. to independent political action, was a check upon the Morgan-led party.

Burns, Benn and Holmes were brought over from England and took part in the proceedings of the convention. Governor Waite, T. M. Patterson (editor of the News) and Rev. Myron Reed of Denver, also Rosewater of Omaha, and others, addressed the convention. The platform adopted, as near as we can make out from the somewhat confusing telegraphic reports, is as follows:

1. Compulsory education.
2. Direct legislation through the referendum.
3. A legal eight-hour work day.
4. State inspectors for shops and factories.
5. Liability of employers for injury to health, body, or life.
6. The abolition of contract system in all public works.
7. The abolition of the sweating system.
8. The municipal ownership of street cars, water works, gas and electric plants for public distribution of light, heat and power.
9. The nationalization of telegraphs, telephone, railroads and mines.

The abolition of the monopoly system of landholding and the substituting thereof a title of occupancy and use only. Resolutions were adopted denouncing the sentence of Judge Woods, imprisoning Debs and other officers of the American Railway Union for leading the strike of last summer, and pledging them financial aid and support.

The headquarters of the federation, by vote, was removed from New York to Indianapolis.

At the opening session of a new chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, recently formed in Los Angeles, Cal., with Mrs. Jessie Benton Fremont as president, tea was brewed in camp kettles that are felicitously believed to have been used by Washington and Lafayette in the Revolutionary war.

Will You Do Your Part?

Look on page 2 for our clubbing rates with

- The Nonconformist,
- The Representative and
- The Prairie Farmer.

Remember, friends, that we have to depend on you, your personal work, to put our papers in the hands of the voters. Times are hard, but there is no reason why every one of our subscribers should not send us in at least one new name. You could do it by a little personal work, couldn't you? Then our list would be doubled.

Friends, do your duty. Have we not among all our thousands of readers, 500 who will make some friend or neighbor who will appreciate it, a Christmas present of a year's subscription to THE WEALTH MAKERS? The good you would do them and others directly and indirectly would last through the ages. Who will be the first to respond?

SOME FACTS ABOUT TRUSTS.

Methods Used to Crush Competition Standard Oil Trust.

In 1869 the Standard Oil trust, the first of its kind, was organized. It was a combination among the refiners of crude petroleum in Pennsylvania and Ohio. This scheme was attended with such astonishing pecuniary success that it was in the course of a few years applied to almost every kind of industry, says The Trade Unionist. The proprietors of various mills said to each other:

"We are now spending large sums of money in the race for business in advertising, in sending out drummers, and so on. If we will only pool our property, and put it under one control, we shall save all this expense; we can also dismiss many agents and employes, and one superintendent or cashier will do all the work that is now done by twenty; and we can charge what we please for our products, for we shall then have no competition. In short, let us quit trying to cut each other's throats, and let us begin to fight the public." This reasoning resulted in a trust, and with the results of trusts we are familiar.

As soon as the trusts are formed the prices of the goods are marked up, and as every increase in price means a decrease in consumption, the production of goods is not so great as it was. Therefore certain mills are closed, or are run on shorter time, and workmen are told that their services are no longer needed. The profits derived from this proceeding are phenomenal. Thus, on the establishment of the Standard Oil trust, though the railways were carrying the products of this monopoly nominally at the same rates imposed on other refiners, they paid the Standard Oil trust \$10,000,000 in eighteen months in rebates that were agreed on. The result was that its competitors were ruined, and idle factories, old pipe lines no longer used, and business wrecks throughout the country give evidence of enormous economic waste. The most marvellous thing was that by its agreement with the railways the trust not only secured and received a rebate on its own shipments, but also on all shipments of oil made by other producers. A few years ago the Cotton Seed Oil trust by a single stroke of the pen reduced the price of cotton seed from \$7 to \$4 a ton, thus realizing two million dollars per annum on that item alone; the loss being sustained by the planters who raised the seed.

It would be of little use to put down competition unless it could be kept down. To accomplish the result, the trusts resort to measures which are very effective. If a number of men, say in the south or west, conclude to begin the manufacture of some article of necessary consumption, it will not be long before they receive a letter reading somewhat as follows:

"We notice with regret that you propose to start a factory in your place for the purpose of making the commodities which we are now producing in a manner acceptable to dealers. You are no doubt aware of the fact that for many years we have supplied your market with articles of that kind. This we have done at the lowest possible cost of production. Our duty to our customers as well as to ourselves forbids that we shall sit idly by and let our trade be taken out of our hands. We therefore think it proper to advise you that if you persist in your purpose we shall sell the articles that we manufacture in your town and country at much less than you can make them for. Hoping that you will receive this communication in the same friendly spirit by which it is dictated, we remain, etc."

This letter is signed by some well-known manufacturing firm, and means what it says. On inquiry the promoters find that while they can start their factory with a capital of \$100,000, it will take a million more to fight the battle with monopoly; therefore they usually desist. Occasionally a very rich man may start an opposition factory; but in that case there is no guaranty that if he comes out safely from the conflict with an established trust it will not very soon disappear in the capacious bosom of that trust, with a participation of the extra 25 per cent that the trust levies on the consumer.

It has sometimes been said that the effect of the trusts is to bring down prices, owing to the greater cheapness with which goods can be manufactured on a large scale, and that the proof of this lies in the fact that refined oil is now sold for less than it was before the Standard Oil trust was formed. In this statement there is no truth whatever. It would be strange if these trusts should forego the very objects for which they were created. The truth is that the price of oil has gone down because the Standard Oil trust was never able to corner the entire production, and has therefore always been subject to the law of competition; and because of the extraordinary development of the oil industry in Russia, which has reduced prices the world over.

But the evil does not stop here. Lord Coke pointed out an evil effect arising out of monopolies from the fact that the public are defrauded by having goods of an inferior quality imposed on them. Those who have the absolute power to fix whatever price they please on the commodities that they sell may freely indulge that privilege without reference to

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quality. The result of our monopolies has been that goods of greatly inferior quality have usurped the market of the country, and have placed a stigma on our products abroad, turning out in some cases, as in the lucifer matches, which have been put on the market for years by the match trust, articles so deplorably bad that nothing like them can be found elsewhere in the whole world.

Judge Cooley, whose opinion has always been listened to with respect, says: "A few things may be said of trusts without danger of mistake. They are things to be feared. They antagonize a leading and most valuable principle of industrial life in their attempt not to curb competition merely, but to put an end to it. The course of the leading trusts of the country has been such as to emphasize the fear of them. . . . When we witness the utterly heartless manner in which trusts sometimes have closed manufacturing and turned men willing to be industrious into the streets, in order that they may increase profits already reasonably large, we cannot help asking ourselves whether the trust as we see it is not a public enemy."

While the trusts are thus making inferior articles of consumption, and selling them at extortionate rates, they frequently declare that there is an "over-production," shut down their mills, turn their workmen out of employment, and wait until the needs of the public require the payment of the coveted prices; the phrase "overproduction" having with them a technical meaning, which, being interpreted, signifies that the trusts are not making as much money as they want to make.

Aladdin and His Lamp Outdone.

The following is a copy of a dispatch that was sent out from the city of New York on Thanksgiving day:

"Orders were issued today from the headquarters of the American Sugar Refinery, in Wall street, to shut down all the refineries of the company in Boston, New York and Philadelphia. Fifty thousand operators will be thrown out of work."

We have often been told by politicians and preachers that rich men are necessary to give poor men work. If this theory is true, these fifty thousand men have the right to demand the American Sugar Refinery to take them back on living wages and to employ them on turning them off whenever it feels like stopping the output and raising the price of sugar.

But this is not the main thought suggested by the above item. The startling thing about it is the demonstration of the power and truth of magic. We have been taught to discredit the story of Aladdin and his wonderful lamp. This hero of the imagination, by rubbing his fingers on a certain lamp, could call up a slave to serve him. But in the light of the developments of modern commerce, the story seems reasonable. In fact, Aladdin's lamp and its miraculous feats cannot hold a candle to the writing pen of a millionaire. Here in New York we have a man at the head of the sugar industry, whose pen, rubbed a few times over a common sheet of paper, can instantly have fifty thousand slaves do his bidding. Verily there are things under heaven and on earth not dreamt of in Horatio's philosophy.—Western Laborer.

Mr. Bellamy Speaks.

The New Republic one week ago criticized the proposition of Mr. Taubeneck to reduce the demands of the People's party to the money question, with a view to gaining the vote of the pure and simple free silverites. A "marked" copy of the paper was sent to Mr. Edward Bellamy, and the following vigorous letter in response to it has been received:

MR. BELLAMY'S LETTER.

CHICOPEE FALLS, MASS., Dec. 10, '94. Editor of the New Republic.

DEAR SIR:—A copy of your paper for the 6th inst. has been sent me with a marked article, condemning the idea of committing the People's party to a one-plank silver money platform in place of the Omaha declaration. I agree entirely with you as to the unprincipled and suicidal folly of such a plan. It would be as wicked as it would be fruitless. Far from limiting and reducing our demands, we must, as you well say, extend and emphasize them. We must demand the democratizing of our industrial and commercial system by its collective ownership and management in the public interest. Economic equality, as the only adequate basis of political and social equality, must be avowed as our goal.

Fraternally yours,
EDWARD BELLAMY.

Co-operators Champions of Morals.

NEBRASKA CITY, Dec. 16, 1894.

BROTHER GIBSON—I did not get the notice of the meeting called for Saturday and Sunday next, consequently I have not time to enter into details on the subject proposed, but I will say this much at least.

Let it be distinctly understood that we are the champions of morals! And that the only object we have in view is to plant a mission station in the center of this world of competition, that threatens to entirely blot out of existence that Divine teaching that admonishes us to love our neighbor as ourselves.

And when we consider how few there be that understand what that means, does not the idea of mission stations all over this land commend itself to every thoughtful student of sociology? In taking a backward glance at the past