

THE WEALTH MAKERS.

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N. I. P. A.

If any man must fall for me to rise, Then seek I not to climb. Another's pain I choose not for my good. A golden chain To robe of honor, is too good a prize To tempt my hasty hand to do a wrong Unto a fellow man. This life hath too Sufficient, wrought by man's estate for; And who that hath a heart would dare prolong Or add a sorrow to a stricken soul That seeks a healing balm to make it whole? My bosom owns the brotherhood of man."

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The "sacred rights of property" has taken the place of "the divine right of kings," says W. S. Morgan. That's the whole thing in a nut-shell.

The farmers of Germany are urging the government to prohibit the private importation of grain. They ask the government to be the sole importer and to fix selling prices.

The Sugar Trust has issued orders to jobbers to stop selling foreign sugar. It don't even provide music, as Nebuchadnezzar did, when it promulgates a decree for the American people to grovel.

In Mexico one day in the year, beggars day, they wash beggars' feet in the principal churches. In the Protestant country the beggars haven't even one day of grace. The out-of-works must either tramp and beg, steal, starve, or suicide, all days in the year.

The Atlanta Constitution (Dem.) thinks the almost universal Democratic defeat in the spring elections showed that the people were keen and eager to put on record their protest against Clevelandism. Clevelandism it makes synonymous with goldbugism.

The Committee on the Unemployed, in England, has just reported that it has no remedy to suggest. Well, there is no remedy under the present system if charity falls short of need; and charity is but a drop in the bucket. However, so long as justice is refused charity is all that there is left.

Three suicides in Omaha in one day. One of them, Judge Sahler, a noted lobbyist, left behind him a note saying G. W. Holdredge the Burlington general manager, is the man responsible for his act. He had heretofore at every session of the Nebraska legislature handled lots of railroad money to corrupt the lawmakers. This year he was left out and poverty and debts faced him.

The supreme wisdom of the forces of oppression is becoming apparent in the complete capture of democratic governments, lawmaking bodies, courts, and the deceived majorities which make them. Our masters have allured us into placing them on the throne as our representatives, and when we say anything against them they are ready to call out the military and about that we are anarchists. We have held out our hands to be benighted and have assisted by senselessly voting against each other to neutralize our power.

We publish this week the first of a series of four lectures by Prof. Herron, which will attract much attention. They were delivered extempore before his class in Applied Christianity at Iowa College, and stenographically reported for THE WEALTH MAKERS. Prof. Herron is now lecturing on the Pacific coast. The San Francisco meeting of ministers, a few days ago, and the entire Pacific coast, in fact, is greatly exercised over his visit. A certain Dr. Brown in the minister's meeting referred to attacked Dr. Herron savagely, calling him an anarchist and socialist, and this attack upon him has been given the widest publicity.

THE INCOME TAX DECISION

On April 8, after nearly a month of waiting, the Supreme Court rendered a decision which practically kills the income tax law. By a divided court it is decided that the two most important provisions, respecting the tax on rents and on incomes drawn from state and municipal bonds, are unconstitutional. With landlords and bond-holders exempt (an unproductive, useless class), the tax will fall largely on manufacturers and business men, and when these unfairly selected rich classes carry up cases in their interest no doubt all that is now left of the law will be swept away.

Well, it is another indication that the rich will not allow laws to take from them what other laws have permitted them to take.

We are not surprised at the decision regarding the income tax law. Great Britain, where wealth is less worshiped, taxes incomes and has for many years. The United States taxed incomes from 1861 to 1868, and the income tax laws of that period were decided to be constitutional by the Supreme Court at that time. If constitutional then, an income tax is constitutional now. But the plutocrats are in power now, which makes the difference.

We are not expressing an opinion that this Supreme Court sustains the constitution and that the former court allowed it to be trampled on, or vice versa. But that one or the other has demonstrated the fallibility of the highest court is plain. And it should not be very hard to believe that a bench of lawyers, not elected by the people but appointed in perhaps every case to pay political debts, would be controlled by the class that elevated them to places above the people.

A good many laws now-a-days are made defective purposely. Some are so drawn, and some have unconstitutional features forced upon them by the conniving and corrupting power of lobbies, with the object to make sure that they will be thrown out in the courts if they cannot be defeated in congress or the legislatures. And, as the conflicting decisions show, the constitution itself is made use of to first support and afterward defeat a law of the people. What was accepted as constitutional and right when the people were in power thirty years ago, is declared by the same high estate authority to be unconstitutional and unlawful now, when the plutocracy is on top.

The constitution was honestly framed to defend the people—from whom? themselves? Is this a government of majorities, or is it a government of four or five gowned lawyers who cannot be dislodged from their seat of power and who declare a law constitutional at one time and unconstitutional at another?

The constitution is over a century old. It was framed under wholly different conditions. There were no monopolies in existence here then. A vast continent of free land and natural resources awaited occupancy, and with the constitutional guaranty of individual liberty oppression was impossible. But now there is no free land capable of supporting life within reach of the people. The natural resources and means of transportation and exchange are monopolized. The former liberty, or equal opportunities to use the land, no longer exist. And if that part of the constitution, that fundamental portion which was expressed in the first paragraph as the object of the whole, of the government we have inherited, the part which calls for justice and "the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity," is to be practically disregarded or overridden by the monopoly rights (so-called) of property, the constitution can be made to defend the rich while they increasingly exploit and enslave the poor. This is what is being done at present. The monopolists who exact tribute from the helpless masses are being protected by the government, the military and the courts,—this government which was founded by men who rebelled against and overcame on bloody battlefields the armies of a man who claimed a divine right to exact tribute from the workers! The private taxing power of monopolists today, by which wealth and resources and power are being so rapidly concentrated and slavish dependence extended, is vastly greater than the power which George III essayed to exercise upon our fathers.

But it is our opinion that the people will never regain their lost liberties, opportunities to labor and independence by the taxing method, by laws which tax incomes or inheritances that have been legally drawn from the people. If there is to be no interference with the private property titles and charters which constitute monopoly power, there cannot be a confiscation of the tribute which such legalized power commands. One law cannot take away what another law gives or secures. If private property constituting a monopoly, or power to command tribute, is lawful and right, a law which confiscates part of that tribute is wrong. But there are no such things as monopoly rights.

The point of attack must be where the unnatural, unequal, oppressive power begins. Nationalize and municipalize monopolies, and there will be no big incomes to tax, and at the same time there will be no enforced poverty.

If private property and individual struggle, leading to the monopolization of the means of living, are to be reckoned sacred and fundamental, income and inheritance laws cannot be built thereupon. The decision against the income tax

makes very clear the necessity of bringing the People's party into power that it may carry out its program regarding monopolies.

ANOTHER OMAHA SUICIDE

Manfred C. Battey, 54 years old, a civil war veteran, committed suicide in Omaha April 9th. He left several letters addressed to members of his family, and one to the coroner which reads as follows:

"I have done all I could and can get no work. My money is all gone and I have no home. I have searched the city and visited lodges, and although I have written testimonials from all of my employers they amount to nothing. I can get no work. I cannot be a beggar. I cannot become a tramp. I was willing to do anything honest and within my strength, but—well, I suppose there are hundreds and thousands just like me. I get only promises for the future and meantime I must starve. You know how hard I have tried to get work and you know if I could have borrowed \$40 on my pension papers for about two months this would not have happened, for I could have been working now. But no one would let me have it, although they were perfectly safe, and so it has come to this, that I must take my own life. Let the city do what it will with my body; it will rest in one place as well as in another. You will find my body in the loft of the barn back of these premises. An inquest is not necessary. I did it by my own act. So pull down the curtain the play is done."

This is suicide No. 2 of the three which occurred in Omaha in one day. Mr. Battey fought through the war to save the country whose laws have forced him to choose between beggary and suicide. Really, from his standpoint, was such a country worth saving? How long carter patriotism live in America under such a pressure? Will the masses of the people continue to respect laws which drive them to choose between beggary, suicide, and bomb-throwing?

THE QUESTION OF POLIOY

Just now there is a costly effort being made to get us to drop the transportation and land questions. The effort is being put forth not by the people, but by a few of the leaders of the Populist party who argue that it is policy to drop our Omaha demands and make an American Bi-metallic platform, to please the anti-Populist silver men. The American Bi-metallic League says silver is the issue, and that the silver men of all parties cannot unite in the Republican party, which is true; nor in the Democratic party, which is also true; nor in the Populist party, which may also be true. A few of our leaders hitherto, who have been standing on the Omaha platform, accept this whole statement and are anxious to get rid of every thing the anti-Populist silver men object to in our demands and principles.

We meet this whole business by saying that the Omaha platform demands none too much and that the free coinage of silver alone cannot draw a sufficient number of men out of the three parties, Republican, Democratic and Populist, to build up a stronger fourth or new party. No considerable percentage of the voters of either of the g. o. p. would leave their party to join a mere silver party. And the Populists have no demands to yield. Let us consider for a moment the transportation question. What is its magnitude. How many does it affect? Whom does it attract and repel?

The magnitude of the transportation question can hardly be over-estimated. In the first place the railroads have a capitalization, including watered stock, of over \$11,000,000,000, which is one-sixth of the estimated value of all the wealth, including real estate, in the whole United States. The railroads stand between all producers and all consumers with power to take tribute from all, and it is always "all the traffic will bear." The 26 railroad systems coming from the farthest points and running into Chicago are under one general managers' association. The railroads that run to and from the Pacific coast do not compete one with another. The whole coast region is completely at the mercy of the consolidated railroad system of that region and the people are robbed of all the profits in the enormous crops of grain and fruits which should make that country the richest portion of the world. The entire anthracite coal business by a combination of seven railroads which center in Pennsylvania, forces heavy monopoly tribute from nearly every family in the land. The soft coal business, so far as prices are concerned, is also now entirely controlled by the railroads and every home-maker and user of it pays monopoly prices for this fuel, a tribute which in the aggregate makes an enormous amount. The railroads are great drains which run off and concentrate a large part of the surplus wealth of the producing class of every part of this great country. There is no chance for anybody to be independent whose products must be transported to the market by rail, or who must consume what the railroads bring from other producers.

More than this. The railroads are in politics. They get what they ask for, usually, in Congress, and they are the chief, the controlling power in the state conventions of both the old parties. Through passes and other favors the railroads pack conventions, dictate nominations, and have come to practically own both the old parties and the courts. As a consequence we not only are ruled in the interest of the railroads, but the corrupt men they set over us serve other corporations and trusts, and it is very rarely that a law in the interest of the whole people has any chance to be passed.

The railroads by a system of robbing other oil-refiners and paying it in rebates to the Standard Oil company, destroyed almost all competition in the oil business and so built up that fabulously wealthy trust, which is now mightier than Congress and buys up an entire state legislature with governor thrown in whenever it has any great end to serve by so doing. It has just recently bought up the Pennsylvania legislature to head off a new pipeline competitor, and by adjusting the price of oil the people will pay all the bills.

Another thing. The big capitalists of this country, bankers, railroad stockholders, and the rest, are all tied up together. They are after percents, and their interests are tangled up and inseparable. The free coinage of silver alone, if it could be secured by a one-idea silver party, would leave the great strongholds of monopoly (the land, the railroads, telegraphs, lumber and coal monopolies, etc.) untouched. And the people, the common people, can see this. Therefore they will not be led into a party that plans to procure no considerable or permanent relief. The Omaha platform demands only what is just, reasonable, necessary—if our independence as American citizens is to be restored and defended. And we cannot, if we would, get the forces of plutocracy divided and fight one division of our oppressors at a time, by taking up by itself the small question of the free coinage of silver. Nor could we succeed in dividing and conquering them if we took up the vastly more important question of transportation, or that of government banks, or that of land monopoly. We have got the whole force to fight anyhow. And it is not, on the other hand, possible to think of the monopoly questions as separable. They cannot be settled one at a time successfully. The common life of each flows freely into all not outlawed, so that all must be outlawed or those left in existence will absorb the life, the oppressive power, of any that may be killed by fragmentary anti-monopoly legislation. Unless we decree death to all monopolies we waste our energies largely by opposing one or two.

THE "SOUND CURRENCY" CLUB

This newspaper office acknowledges receipt of No. 6, of the "Reform Club's" "Sound Currency" series. It contains "a discussion," so-called, of the currency famine of 1893, by Representative John DeWitt Warner of New York. Pasted to the outer page of the pamphlet is the appearance of a type-written letter which advertises the contents of the pamphlet and invites editors receiving it to freely use its contents "either with or without credit, as you may prefer." The pamphlet contains a description of the clearing house certificates issued as money by the banks during the time of the panic, and in the outside letter, signed by the Sound Currency Committee of New York, we find this noteworthy paragraph:

It is safe to say that few have appreciated the extent to which in all parts of the country, not merely without assistance of law, but in defiance of it, local currency instantly developed; how great and urgent was the local relief afforded; or how promptly and thoroughly, the necessity being over, it disappeared."

Warner says, the circumstances which preceded the currency famine "are yet too recent to be free from controversy"—too recent to be freely lied about, say, rather—but he gives it out that we had ten years of prosperity from 1880 to 1890, and that beginning with 1890 "growing caution and watchfulness" led men "to dispose of surplus stock even at a sacrifice." This brought about a shrinkage of values, he says, and lessened margins, and increased the apprehension of creditors; and so, as a result of "caution and watchfulness," taken, the enormous loss, ruin and distress of 1893, '94 and '95 were caused.

This is the teaching of this goldbug, who contradicts himself in a previous paragraph, where he says, "ten years of prosperity had made general throughout the world that state of mind which prompts borrowers to new enterprises and induces lenders freely to extend credits."

He charges farther that the Sherman act had a bad effect:

"It was just at this time, too, that the agitation for cheap money reached its highest tide in congress and the Sherman act became a law. By this, instead of coinage at \$2,000,000 per month, bullion certificates at the rate of \$4,500,000 per month were added to our currency, already out of all proportion to the commercial wants of the people; while free coinage—that is, forced coinage of silver at a par of 16 to 1 of gold—was pressed on every hand, largely by those who confessed their aim to be partial repudiation. It may be questioned how far this last factor contributed to the gravity of the situation here; there can be no doubt that it increased it."

The italics in the above paragraph are ours. This goldbug goes on to tell us, first "how much currency the business of a country will absorb at any given moment it is hard to say"—but he boldly affirms, nevertheless, that "it is pretty generally agreed" (by the bankers, no doubt) that "the growing dullness of business had left our currency superabundant as far back as 1890." And the increase of silver coined, he says, forced gold out of the country.

Too much money—um—ah! Yes? Too much money! Too—much—money! Dreadful, wasn't it, that along with what this goldbug calls the "accumulation of raw material and manufactures greater than ever before in the world's history" we should have "too much money" to exchange our wealth with, and that such terrible times should be caused by our

surplus money. Say, you Republican hayseed, make a note of this, that panics and hard times are caused by having more money than you know what to do with.

What's that you say, Populists, that poor people never are at a loss to know how to use money, and that it makes all the difference in the world who holds the money of the country? Too much money in the hands of the rich, more than they want to use to purchase goods in the markets, is what makes prices fall and brings on the collapse of credit, panic periods and hard times? The rich no doubt have too much money, you say?

Well, the currency famine for the bankers themselves came, came as the result of breaking banks and a rush for deposits on the part of the people whose money the banks were loaning. And to meet their exigency the banks went to manufacturing private currency (clearing house certificates) contrary to the law. "In defiance" of the law, as Mr. Warner complacently affirms, they paid their cash obligations in unlawful paper of their own printing.

Not a bad expedient if all could defy the law, or change the law to allow it. But why may banks pay their cash obligations in notes of their own printing and receive no punishment, when all other classes are adjudged criminals if they issue their own paper and force their creditors to accept it in liquidation of obligations? And why, when the people must furnish the security anyway, should we favor giving over to the bankers the sole right to issue paper currency and pay them high rates of interest for it, for our own credit, when we may just as well use our own credit and save the interest?

Warner winds up his "sound (?) money" document with about fifty kinds of clearing house certificates and money substitutes. Facsimiles of all this unlawful currency (not less than \$80,000,000) are given in the last pages of the pamphlet. Speaking for the bankers (they are the people, he thinks) Mr. Warner says farther relief for the currency famine came by the House passing the bill to repeal the Sherman act, (the Senate dead-locked over it for nine weeks thereafter), and he closes his goldbug document as follows:

"Such was the crisis of 1893, a situation brought about by the wanton interference of the government, with business not its own; aggravated by legislation which had to be broken before the people could help themselves; relieved by enterprise overriding and evading restrictive law."

The Philadelphia Times (Ind.) says: "The attitude of the Democratic organization before the country today is that of utter chaos, and the only problem for the leaders to solve is whether that once great party can be restored to respect and usefulness, or whether the sequel of its chaotic condition shall efface it from the history of American politics. Today the Democratic party has not a single hopeful state north of Mason and Dixon's line; it has not a single hopeful state in the west, and the southern states are all trembling in the throes of threatened revolution. If the Democrats were compelled to face a national contest at this time they would enter it without reasonable expectation of carrying any state outside of the south, with a loss of fully half the southern states more than probable." Yes, with the Democratic party going to smash, the Populists will not fail in the next election to displace and supersede it as one of the two great parties. Let the glorious uncompromising standards of Populism be flung to the breeze. Victory is in sight.

The Baltimore Sun (Dem.) commenting on the elections, which generally went Republican, Wisconsin being the only exception, thinks the free coinage sentiment of the South and West is "grossly over-estimated," and supports its opinion by calling attention to the fact that in Michigan, where the Democratic platform "unqualifiedly declares in favor of the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold with full legal-tender power at a ratio of 16 to 1, regardless of the position of any other nation with respect thereto," the "patriotic citizens" of Michigan "responded to the appeal by turning out and giving the party a complete and overwhelming defeat." We should say, rather, that when an old rotten party has lost the confidence of the people it cannot fool them with promises by placing one or more new planks in its platform. New wine must have new bottles.

The New York Reform Club is standing evidence that names do not necessarily fit natures. Since Satan took to posing as an angel of light all forms of evil dress themselves up in attractive appellations. The aforesaid Club is composed of goldbugs and is doing general missionary work for Shylock's descendants. It is spreading broadcast, in every city, village and hamlet, a series of pamphlets entitled "Sound Currency!" And it has addressed every editor in the nation a letter, saying he can use its goldbug lies and sophistical arguments as his own, not even giving the Club writers credit therefor.

The supreme court of the United States says in its April 8th decision that rents, public salaries and interest on bonds of every description are not subject to the income tax. The rich, with the help of the judges of their own selecting, are placing the constitution as a defense around their thrones of power. We can also see very clearly that having been successfully grasped by the rich monopolists as

an instrument of oppression, the difficulty of getting it amended will be insurmountable.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

HONEST MONEY, by Arthur I. Fonda. It is easy to see that there is great unrest and dissatisfaction concerning the present monetary system of the country. If nothing else, the number of books recently published on the financial question would prove it. The present trustee is a candid inquiry into the causes of the trouble and an attempt to present a solution of the difficulty. The book reveals a considerable sharp and critical analysis and close logical thinking. Nor is the author afraid to depart from beaten paths when he thinks truth points the way. Many conclusions of his do not coincide with those of the old political economy, but the old political economy is, in the minds of many, in a somewhat shattered condition. Mr. Fonda does not limit money, in his definition, to that which has intrinsic value. To him, whatever fulfills the uses of money is money. So paper money is real money as truly as are the metals.

The matter of values a ratio is clearly discussed, but when it comes to standard of value the thought is not so clear. How anything can be a standard of value when value is a ratio is not clearly explained. This is the rock against which all split in discussing financial and monetary questions. Foreign commerce is well handled as are many other parts of the book. The main feature of the book, however, is "A New Monetary System."

The author calls attention to the very important fact that in the evolution of money it has lost its character as a measure of value and now acts, almost wholly, as medium of exchange. Thus it happens that 95 per cent of all the business of the country is done on a credit or paper basis. Gold and silver, too, have thus lost their importance as money because of the loss of the function of measure of value. The plan here proposed is to have the standard of value based on a large number of commodities, and that long time debts should not be paid in quantities but in values. Then for medium of exchange he would have a paper currency issued by the government to conform to this standard of value. The money to be loaned by the government on approved securities, the rate of interest to be variable, decreasing when prices fall and increasing when prices rise. The matter of interest, though, it seems to us is vital and until that question is settled no true solution of the money question can be arrived at.

It is altogether a very suggestive readable book. Published by Macmillan & Co., 66 Fifth ave. N. Y. Price \$1.00.

THE AIMS OF LITERARY STUDY, by Hiram Corson.

This beautiful little book is a gem in thought and exquisite literary expression. It breathes pure lofty sentiments that will do much to invite the young writer, especially, to higher aspirations. We wish that the opening section on "What Does, What Knows and What Is" could be put into the hands of every young man and young woman. Prof. Corson writes of course as an authority in literary matters, but he has a keen spiritual insight that all masters in expression even do not possess.

He brings out vividly what most of us overlook, namely, how strongly the spiritual, and not the intellectual, enters into literature. It is great spirit, great essential being, that makes a genius. Behind and controlling intellect is spirit. "It is the spiritual sensitiveness of the few which has moved the mass of mankind." The book is handsomely bound and in every way well gotten up. In fact Macmillan & Co. are noted for the excellent "get up" of their books.

TALES FROM THE AEGEAN by Demetrios Bikelas; translated by Leonard E. Optycke.

McClurg has been publishing a unique series of fiction, dealing with lands not familiarly known to American readers. The book before us is an excellent example of the success of this undertaking. We are accustomed to think that real Greece fell passed away when Ancient Greece fell from her high estate. But not so. For some of the most heroic chapters in the modern struggle for liberty have been written in the land of Socrates and Aeschylus. Demetrios Bikelas is eminent for his literary work outside of his stories which form the minor part of his writing. He has performed a marked service into modern Greek. The tales before us are delightful in tone, natural, keen in insight, and pervaded in some cases by a delicate humor. They are instinct, also, with real Greek life.

These books are elegant specimens of fine taste in binding and general make-up. We can heartily recommend these tales.

Published by A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago. Price \$1.00.

Macmillan will publish shortly select passages from ancient writers illustrative of the history of Greek sculpture by Mr. H. Stuart Jones. Also The Students Edition of Chaucer, by Skeat. The next volume of Mrs. Garnett's translation of Turgenieff will be on The Eve. J. M. Dent in England and Macmillan & Co. in America are about to publish an edition of Balzac's works edited by Mr. George Saintsbury.

CONTEMPORARY OPINION

The single standard goldbugs have started a new propaganda, evidently intending to offset the effect of the one recently begun by the silver men. This takes the form of offering to furnish free of charge to newspapers that will circulate them as extras or supplements any number of papers they may wish. This does not include just one issue, but the goldbugs will furnish these supplements at irregular periods, each number containing entirely different matter. The offer comes from the committee on sound currency of the reform club of New York, of which such eminent goldbugs as Horace White, John DeWitt Warner, Chas. S. Fairchild and Everett P. Wheeler, are members. Of course, they are entirely disinterested, and are simply desirous of spending their money furnishing newspaper supplements for the purpose of assisting that the people are properly enlightened. Being bankers they are very desirous that the people be properly enlightened.—Lincoln (Rep.) News.

The new silver party will accept our