

WEALTH CONSIDERED

(Continued from 1st page.)

wealth is a wrong to society. It is not right, normal, natural, or tolerable that society be wronged in order that a few may be made rich. When we go back and look over the history of the world, we see that great individual wealth always results in the poverty of the people. There is not a case in history of the destruction of a civilization in which the destruction has not come largely from social causes, the enormous wealth of the few and with it the inevitable accompaniment of the great poverty of the many. It was in the days of the Roman decay that the largest individual wealth was possessed. In the days of the national destruction, the people were richest, that is, the rich ones. While the empire was decaying there were millions of slaves and millions of people whose condition was but little better than slavery. It was the same with the Persian civilization and with the Egyptian civilization. The puritan revolution was caused by the enormous wealth of the baronial classes. Right along, all history is teaching us this lesson: large individual wealth inevitably results in social destruction. The system that permits the acquirement of large individual fortunes is inconsistent with the well-being of society.

The centralization of wealth is the centralization of power. The Rothschilds have power that so far transcends the power of the Czar that the latter is nothing but child's play compared with it, because they control not the destinies of one nation, but of many. The social well-being of Europe is in a large degree in the hands of those who have great fortunes. It is a menace against all progress that power should be centralized. The same law of progress that is against the centralization of political power in the hands of the few is infinitely stronger when it comes to placing the centralization of wealth in the hands of a few. The philosophy of history will teach us that this is a law of history. It is not a jealousy, not a mere personal grievance through a superficial idea of the problem of wealth, but it is a question of social well-being; a question of freedom. The whole well-being of the people depends upon it. Society must be so organized that the accumulation of wealth in the hands of a few shall become impossible. Civilization and great individual fortunes cannot continue; one of the two must meet with destruction. The two cannot go on together. Yet take the system of things in which we stand; two men may be side by side accumulating what we may call individual fortunes. The one may be making the work contribute to the social well-being; the other may make it destructive to the well-being of society. Looking at these two, run side by side, it may be apparent that they are doing the same thing. We can see no difference. We say Roswell Smith of the Century Company made a fortune, another man side by side with him built up a fortune too. What is the difference? It is difficult for us to get behind the apparent. We think we may be making a distinction without a difference. In Roswell Smith's work from the beginning, to the end every man was actually profited by the accumulating of that fortune. Only in a nominal sense was the fortune his. He built it up, that is true, but every man connected with it profited according to the upbuilding. There were instances in which he paid men three times, and at the end of the year it was found that the concern had profited beyond what they had actually expected to get, beyond what they had asked. This extended to the elevator boy, to every man in the establishment. It was a great fortune, but as a matter of fact, he personally shared only relatively in it. He managed it for the social well-being of this group of men. He was no more personally profited by it than the president of a college gets personal profit by the building up of the institution. Here is another man, too, who has built up a fortune side by side with him but with quite the opposite basis. It is difficult to understand. But all men recognize that Mr. Smith's work was good for society, good everywhere. We say in the last analysis, was not the fortune his? It was. If it is good that an individual shall do that for society then it is inevitably good that wealth shall be socially organized. The man who has power and will minister of it we say is rare, an exception. Then comes the old question, when we have good Czar—Very well so far as it goes. But the principle is wrong. It is infinitely better that the principle of democracy should be extended to the production and distribution of wealth. The Cumberland Paper Mills were built up slowly upon the idea of building up the social well-being. The manager was only as one of his employees, living with them on the same footing. We recognize that that is the true principle of society.

As a matter of fact wealth belongs to society. Wealth is produced by society. I am simply looking at the system in which we are all caught. There is no individual extrication except we change the system of things. How is money made by investment in real estate? The man produces nothing. He simply sells property after holding it for a few years. I am not condemning the man because he has done that. I am speaking of the system of things. Society produces that very money, has actually earned it. He did not earn it, he did not produce it. All wealth is produced by society, it is not produced individually. That system can only be a rational and just system which controls wealth and organizes wealth for the good of society. Individual wealth is inconsistent with the social well-being. It is not good for the man who has it. On the ground of justice and social well-being, it is wholly unjust, wholly wrong that individuals should profit by that which society produces. It is wholly wrong that the English landlords should live in idleness; it is certainly morally wrong. Suppose even the people lived comfortably, which they do not, it is wrong that a few should live in idleness. It is destructive to society, it takes from men the products of their toil. It robs the people of their actual liberties. It is politically destructive because it is morally wrong and unjust that a few should reap the toil of the many. The people are dependent upon wealth and this plunges them into economic despotism. Whether the despots be good or bad, the despotism is against all progress of society and above all against the question as to whether the person is good or bad. It is something more than a progress of Christianity.

"Stand by Your Colors"

(Continued from 1st page.)

sewing together of a monkey's head and a fish's tail to produce a mermaid. Last autumn the writer favored the nomination of Judge John S. Robinson for member of congress in the Third Congressional district. My reasons were these: First, I believed that his election under a combine was possible. Second, He endorsed the Omaha platform though he opposed the sub-treasury plan, and I consider such a man preferable to Meiklejohn. Well, Judge Robinson failed of nomination by the fraction of a vote. John M. Devine was fairly and honestly nominated. He had agreed to accept the nomination, and could not honorably withdraw. The Populist convention had taken a position from which the committee could not recede. If the so-called silver Democrats had not loved party more than silver they would have renominated Devine. But they met in convention and nominated Mr. Thomas, and when he declined they nominated Judge Hensley. The Democrats of the Third district elected Meiklejohn. Their excuse was that Mr. Devine was a protectionist. Granting this to be as alleged, it was then reduced to a choice between two protectionists, one a friend, the other a foe of silver. What would any true friend of silver do under these circumstances? What right had the Democratic party to force the Populist party into an attitude on the tariff question? I supported Judge Robinson, and a year before the convention urged Mr. Devine to refuse the nomination, which I felt certain would be tendered him. But when I beheld the conduct of the Democratic party I turned away disheartened.

There are progressive men in the Democratic party, but the party itself, as a party, has nothing in common with Populists. We have a distinct and well defined policy. Every man, woman and child in the land knows or ought to know what constitutes a Populist. But the Democratic party has been on both sides of every political question which has been before the American people during this century. In Maine in 1851 a Democratic house of representatives and a Democratic senate passed a prohibitory liquor law, and this law was approved by a Democratic governor. A Democratic chief justice declared prohibition constitutional. All this happened before the Republican party had a political existence. Yet in the Iowa campaigns of the past few years, we have heard all about the Democratic doctrine of "personal liberty." The Democrat Thomas Benton was so much of a hard money crank that they called him "Old Bullion." The Democrat George H. Pendleton, for an opposite reason, was called "Young Greenbacks." In fact a man can advocate anything, and call it "good Democratic doctrine;" for he will have no difficulty in finding precedents. I say this, freely admitting that the Democratic party contains men who are noble and true to the interests of the people, such men as John T. Morgan and Benjamin R. Tillman.

We have gained nothing by fusion, we will gain nothing by it. In the South we fused with Republicans till there we were classed as Republicans; in the North we fused with the Democrats till they classed us as Democrats, or what is worse, called us the tail of the Democratic kite. We never can succeed as a reform party except we stand upon principle. Beware of camp followers! Our Divine Master was plain spoken. He addressed a certain class of his disciples as follows: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled." Now, if there is nothing in this movement, but to get into office with the help of Democratic voters, or to unite with Democrats to beat Republicans, let us disband at once.

I never have advocated or believed in mechanical fusion as such. After the president had forced upon congress the repeat of the purchase clause of the Sherman act, it seemed highly important that we return as many silver men as possible, in order that the congressional elections might not be construed into an endorsement of the president's financial policy.

The resolutions I offered before the state committee were some of them copied from resolutions I introduced in the Cedar county convention one year ago. It is my opinion that we must exercise great care in everything, even the election of a school board. For example, there is a poison little text-book creeping into the curriculum of nearly every high school in the state. It is J. Lawrence Laughlin's Political Economy. Its author is the ablest advocate of the gold basis theory in the world today. Give me a child till he is past school age, and I care not who has him afterwards. Look out for your school board. Don't let any one tell you the office is non-partisan. You will hear the same thing about judges this fall, believe it not. If John Adams had appointed a federalist instead of John Marshall, for chief justice, would this country have been a nation today? I doubt it.

The writer has no hard words for those who do not agree with him. But, God being my helper, I shall adhere to my opinions. The Democratic silver fizzle in Iowa the other day shows how much silver has to hope from Democracy.

Stand by your colors, WILBUR F. BRYANT.

Elect Only Mature Populists

RUSHVILLE, Neb., May 6, 1895.

Editor WEALTH MAKERS: A turning point seems to have been lately and suddenly reached by Nebraska's new Populist governor, S. A. Holcomb. His recent appointment to offices of certain Democrats is significant and is quite naturally calling out some sharp criticisms from a good many Populists, and causing considerable speculation from all.

The question raised by the governor's action is: What does he mean? Is he a Populist, a Demo-Populist, a Democrat-Independent, or what? His proceedings in question are certainly out of line with the principles and policy of the People's party and can not fail to excite grave doubt in the minds of watchful and consistent Populists that Mr. Holcomb is what he was taken for by the party which nominated him at Grand Island last summer.

It is not denied that he is an able and good man. The Populist party, we are pleased to say, contains a large number of such men, and it is desirable that all able and good men shall (if not already) become members thereof. But being an "able," "smart" and good and great man in the ordinary sense of these terms and

or should not, constitute all the requisites to recommend the man or men whom the party should select to high or low official positions. Of course the nominee should be competent, by all means fully competent, be honorable and honest, and a member in good standing of the party nominating him. But in addition to these qualifications another should be exacted, otherwise the party, any party, and especially a new party, will go on ad infinitum with experiences such as now confronts the People's party of Nebraska through Governor Holcomb.

That other indispensable qualification demanded is maturity of conversion, maturity of membership in the party; or, as certain speakers pertinently expressed it, "Put no man in nomination, for, in office, until he, as a convert, is dry behind the ears."

The People's party offers most excellent opportunities for successful exploiting by professional office-seekers and unprincipled "smart," "brilliant," "tonguey" fellows, political debauchees, adventurers and gamblers of every grade and hue. Such types generally fill the offices under old party reign and bid fair ere long to do the same thing under the new "reform" party unless a "new leaf" is promptly turned in the matter of making selections and nominations at its future conventions of the several grades.

The writer was a delegate to and in the convention which nominated Mr. Holcomb for governor, and he had an impression that a mistake was being committed by nominating him, because it is his conviction that it is unwise, impolitic and unjust to take, day almost smother, as is too often done, any man from either of the old parties, i. e., fresh and untried converts, no matter how many may be their other good points—and in doing so shamelessly and shamefully ignore other men who possess equal ability and fitness, unquestioned and unquestionable party integrity, besides the fact of long and faithful service, not only as veterans but frequently as originators and primal movers in the party, men without whose sagacity, wisdom, unselfishness, persistent labors and unstinted sacrifices the said party could not have been born.

This the Independent party did at Grand Island. It came near doing, or attempted to do, the same thing at the Omaha national convention in 1892. It has done it repeatedly, and so long as it continues to practice such gross injustice, such reprehensible wantonness and folly, it deserves to be disappointed, defeated and disgraced—and the chances are that it will be.

Some say: "One man is as good as another for official timber if he has been a convert but twenty-four hours." Another says he "would not run a time card against a convert in the People's party in the matter of making selections for office."

On the same principle green and unseasoned timber is just as safe and suitable for wagons as dry and seasoned timber. Conversions are to be earnestly desired and all converts are entitled to the most respectful and considerate treatment and should receive no other, but the party can not afford to show an odious and invidious partiality by choosing fresh converts and refusing veterans. Set it down that the man who looks at this question in any other sense is not the man in whom to confide our trust either as a leader or a counselor.

Set it down also that he who will ask or intrigue for an office before he gets his seat in the new party decently warm is not the man we should nominate. Remember always that a good many of the "intellectual giants" and political Solomon could not "see" anything in the People's party until it had grown, in spite of their opposition and ridicule, to controlling magnitude and power.

Let the People's party absorb the old parties as soon as possible, meanwhile taking watchful care that some of the "converts" do not get into office and do us more harm as "friends" than they could as enemies. L. P. CUMMINS.

The Wealthmakers Must Co-operate

RUSHVILLE, Neb., May 7, 1895.

Editor WEALTH MAKERS: Now as to co-operation among the laboring people. I believe the workers must come to where they will co-operate one with another, and leave the drones without their support. The drones and the plunderers are organized for their own interest, for offensive and defensive warfare, and they stick together. Labor must learn from them to do the same and to shake the non-producers from their backs.

I believe the Farmers Alliance should cut loose from all middle-men at once, and that it is one of the main things to do. Then and not till then will the Alliance succeed, and people be eager to join it. If your society can help us to realize this state of things it will be mutually beneficial.

To sum up, I believe that all wealth producers and useful members of society should co-operate and keep to themselves what is produced. The unproductive class, such as bankers, lawyers, needless middlemen, etc., should be forced by failure of supplies into the productive ranks. Respectfully yours, W. F. WASHINGTON.

A People's Country.

(Continued from 1st page.)

or not will be determined at this session of parliament. "We have adopted what we call the co-operative contract system on all public works. That is, work to be done by the government is divided by the engineer into small contracts, which are numbered and any one desiring to work is assigned to one of them. By this means a first class workman makes larger wages while a poor workman makes less. Eight hours constitutes a day on all public works. Our factories and business houses are of course run by private firms. Yes, we have strikes occasionally and how to prevent them is the most knotty problem we have yet had to solve. We passed a compulsory arbitration law at the last session but whether that will solve the problem it is too soon yet to decide. We have an excellent public school system with compulsory attendance for all children under fifteen. They are exclusively secular, no religion of whatsoever nature is allowed to be taught in them. All business houses are obliged to remain closed during Sunday and all labor must cease. One is, however allowed to do whatever else he pleases whether it be to attend church, attend a place of amusement, or play games of any nature. Besides this we have a law, which is strictly enforced, compelling the city and town governments to select one day out of the six others on which all business is sus-



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"Strange to say the Liberals are the protective tariff party in our country, while the Conservatives want free trade. This is due to the fact that the Conservative party is largely made up of the owners of sheep ranges, who export the most of their products and consequently want to buy abroad at lower rates. Any one who desires to leave his district before an election may deposit his ballot, sealed in an envelope, with the proper officer who shall turn it over to the election officers on election day, when it shall be cast and counted with the others. No ship is allowed to leave port without a full crew as required by law, and the berths must be of sufficient width to be comfortable. We also have a woman's suffrage law which went into effect at the last election. It proved very satisfactory.

We now have the most perfect criminal code in the world, and justice as administered by our courts is quick and certain. "At the next session I think we will adopt a system of consols, something similar to the French system, which will keep money home, instead of going to England for all our money. Our surplus this year will be more than 380,000 pounds, which is remarkable, considering that all other nations are having such deficits.

"Like your country, we have but few Liberal papers, the larger papers find more money in supporting the monopolistic party. The general tendency of our legislation is toward single tax. Mr. Willis left Sunday for San Francisco where he will take passage for home.—Seattle Call.

New Democratic Paper for Chicago. Chicago, May 6.—Martin J. Russell, collector of customs, and H. W. Seymour, former managing editor of the Chicago Herald, announce that within thirty days they will start a new democratic paper in Chicago. Mr. Seymour will be the publisher and Mr. Russell the editor-in-chief. In politics the paper will be independent-democratic and will be against free-travel. The name has not been decided on.

Life Sentence for Blixt. Minneapolis, May 6.—Claus A. Blixt this morning pleaded guilty to the murder of Catherine Gling, and was sentenced to the penitentiary for life.

Lady Kimberly Is Dead. London, May 6.—Lady Kimberly, wife of the secretary of state for foreign affairs, is dead. She was a daughter of Richard Hobart, third earl of Clare, a title which is now extinct, and was married to the earl of Kimberly in 1847.

Bilbao Socialists in Jail. Madrid, May 6.—The police have arrested all the members of the socialist committee in Bilbao, who have been put in jail pending inquiries in regard to their agitation and incitement to violence in the district.

Small Steamer Burned at Oswego. Oswego, N. Y., May 6.—The small passenger steamer Guide burned and sank at her dock here last night. She was owned by Emma B. Newman, of Cape Vincent, and was valued at \$8,000.

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At State Fair 1894, my corn won 1st in State on white, 2nd on yellow; Sweepstakes in La. county. Have won 1st or 2nd place 3 years in succession. I will sell in lots of 5 bushels or over at \$1.10 per bushel—the Armstrong's white or Sam's yellow. Sacked F. O. B. cars at Greenwood. Send stamps for sample. J. M. ARMSTRONG, Greenwood, Neb.

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In "Money Found," an exceedingly valuable and instructive book published by Charles H. Kerr & Company of Chicago, and for sale at the office of this paper at 25 cents, Hon. Thos. E. Hill proposes that the government open its own bank in every large town or county seat in the United States, pay 3 per cent on long time deposits, receive deposits subject to check without interest, and loan money at the uniform rate of 4 per cent to every one offering security worth double the amount of the loan.

This plan is not an expense to the government, but a source of large revenue. It secures the government amply, which the Baltimore plan does not.

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In a word, the Baltimore plan is in the interest of the bankers, the Hill Banking System is in the interest of the people. Consider them both, and ask your congressman to vote for the one you believe in.

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