

WEALTH MAKERS



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

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ALL THIS IN AMERICA!

It has long been the boast of Independence Day orators that this is the land where all are free, the land where there are no kings, no princes, no privileged characters, no slaves. And too long we have believed this fiction. The usurer class is the only class that is independent in America today. There is not a consumer in the land who does not pay a direct or indirect usury (rent, net profit, or interest) tax. Between the producers and consumers we have an all powerful ruling class who fix the prices of labor and the prices of goods, the producers being compelled to accept vastly less for the sum total of their product than the consumers must pay for it. These men who stand between with despotic power are not the common merchants (they, to the extent that they serve the public, are producers), but the monopolists, those who have added house to house and mine field to field, and united mine and factory to factory and railroad to railroad and the money flat to gold only, till for millions and millions and millions of people there are no places left where they can independently work, where they can live and be free.

Under the present system of production and distribution all who work for others must earn their wages and a profit in addition for the employer class. And all who borrow must pay back for land, money, transportation, or other monopolized energies, in the aggregate an enormous sum each year more in value than they borrow. This makes it possible for the leading monopolist class to draw into their hands every decade or two about all the money which stands for the goods in the market, money which they have no use for; and so, with the people who produced and need the goods stripped of the money which in equity should have been in their hands, paid for the goods, there is no way to get rid of the goods, and prices fall and the wealth makers are thrown out of employment by the wealth takers, and millions of people suffer, and thousands starve and suicide.

All this occurring in "free America." And this is but one side of the picture. For the millions of willing workers who suffer want and who at this time are forced to accept charity or die, there are correlated thousands who live in all the costly magnificence and luxury of royalty, who need but to express a wish or utter a command, and all the workers of the world stoop to obey and sweat to serve them. For their incomes they give no equivalent. And as their accumulations in money begin to approach in the recurring usury cycle the value of the goods in the market, the market becomes dull, the demand falls off, it becomes unsafe to produce with falling prices, money can neither be safely loaned nor borrowed, and with credit collapsed millions are thrown out of work.

Thus the usurers, the monopolists of every sort who draw money in tribute from the wealth producers, we clearly see have caused the fearful, indescribable sufferings following the stoppage of work everywhere during the past year. Those who accumulate without work at the top, have caused all the crushing, grinding and suffering at the bottom.

Some weeks ago we gave a description of the luxurious appointments of a railroad magnate's New York palace, and reprinted from the New York Tribune a dress affair in which America's real rulers, wearing crowns and tiaras of diamonds, figured. From the same paper we have been clipping from day to day the charity column news, and give below, in the Tribune reporter's own language, extracts from the same. Remember, it is because the producing classes out of work or working for too low wages in the factory towns and cities cannot buy freely, that by diminished demand reduces the price of wheat and all farm products. And with farm products reduced and kept down in price the agricultural class can not buy the manufactured products which provide employment for the city workers.

Remember, there were at lowest estimates, endorsed by the religious papers of Chicago not less than 117,000 workers in that city at the beginning of the winter out of work and in suffering need with their families, which would mean about a half million in distress in

that city. New York being a larger city must have contained a greater number, and the other cities and factory towns and mining regions a number in enforced idleness and want in similar proportion to the population. But all cases of need given below are taken from New York city reports.

THE WEALTH MAKERS' TENEMENTS.

One who has not made a personal visit to the tenement-house districts on the East Side cannot know how great is the suffering there. It is doubtful even if the casual visitor would be able to sound the depths of distress. It is certain that no pen picture can adequately portray the wretchedness which exists there. Not until one has had at least three of his senses—sight, smell and hearing—appealed to by it can he realize what extreme poverty in a great city means. Whole families, comprising seven, eight, nine or ten members, and perhaps a boarder or two, are huddled together in two or three small rooms. One of the rooms contains a stove, a table, a few cooking utensils and a small sink, about eighteen inches long by twelve inches wide, into which water is forced by a pump. The drain is frequently leaky, and is never provided with a trap or any contrivance to prevent bad odors and disease germs from entering the apartment. A broken chair or two, a bed in the back room, which is almost invariably dark, complete the furnishings. The tenement looked better a few months ago, but some pawn tickets on the shelf tell why it is so bare now. The family were comparatively happy [Too strong an expression. In this sort of a home, such as millions are forced to live in all the time, it is at best, in the times when there is work, a wretched, joyless existence.—Editor WEALTH MAKERS] a few months ago, too. The father then had work, and the mother added something each week to their income. But both father and mother have now been idle for months. Their small savings have disappeared, their clothes, except the poorest and thinnest, are in pawn; even the wedding ring and the children's clothes have gone the way of the other articles. Now there is nothing more to sell. It is beg, steal or starve.

The condition of the unemployed is briefly this. They have been idle for months. They have got along thus far by spending their savings, pushing their small credit to the utmost, and by the help of their neighbors who have been a little more fortunate. Now their money is gone, their credit has failed, their friends are also out of work, or are working at reduced pay, their resources are exhausted. They are approaching the desperation point. Many of them have reached it already. They will reach it in great masses in a few weeks. Then there will be appalling scenes, unless charity, in great force, comes to their aid. This is the forecast of those who have worked among them for years, and who know whereof they speak.

The cases given below are from those relieved temporarily by the charity dispensed by The Tribune, one of the political dailies which helps mightily in making laws which favor the rich and oppress the poor.

SAD CASES AMONG THE APPLICANTS.

The first name called yesterday was that of an old woman who would have starved several weeks ago if her neighbors had not aided her. She is a widow with three small children. The children have the whooping cough and she is just recovering from a severe attack of pneumonia. She can get three half-days' work a week when she is well enough. She lives on the top floor in a tenement-house and her rent is overdue.

The next name was that of a lonely woman who is so badly afflicted with rheumatism that she can scarcely walk. She sits in a chair by her wash tub and manages to earn a little something every week.

One little boy attracted attention by pointing to a pair of shoes and saying: "I wish I could get those for Willie." He had come to get the portion of charity allotted to a woman whose husband died from typhoid fever a few weeks ago. She was obliged to beg money from her friends to get the body buried, and was able to succeed only after five days' effort. She has five little children. Willie is one of them.

There was one old soldier in the line, and his aged wife came with him to help him carry the basket. He is seventy-two years old, and picks up a few cents occasionally by sawing wood. He wore a G. A. R. hat (without the braud and initials). In spite of years and infirmity, he had a bearing in which something of the soldier remained. He is utterly destitute and unable to provide for himself and wife. His wife is crippled, and has to crawl on her knees about her house to do her work.

THEY HAD SEEN "BETTER DAYS."

There were several applicants of the class that "had seen better days." It is found by workers among the poor that the most hopeless people in hard times are those who seldom need charity. Those who are always destitute get more or less expert in obtaining the necessary

of life and in bearing privation. The people who are usually well-to-do are last to give up the search for work, but they are the first to succumb to poverty when their ordinary means of livelihood are taken away.

STARVATION WAGES FOR THE WOMEN.

"Our greatest sufferers" say the charity dispensers, "are not those who always beg, but those who never ask for relief. The hard-working washerwomen, scrubwomen, sewers on underworn, etc., work for starvation wages at best. These are examples of wages paid to them: Seventy-five cents a day for sewing wrappers; forty cents a day for sewing children's underwear; fifty cents a day for sewing men's gingham shirts; eighty cents a day for sewing children's calico dresses. Even these small earnings are now almost entirely cut off."

And all the Tribune asks to have done politically is to let the tariff alone, and perpetuate the above starvation wages. The tariff has nothing to do with it. It is usury, rent, net profits, unjust wages.

THOSE WHO HIDE THEIR NEED.

After wandering through the crowded streets and avenues of the thickly populated downtown east side in the forenoon yesterday a Tribune reporter found himself at last in the neighborhood of Tompkins Square. Groups of people were standing at different corners. If one drew near, one could see that they shivered and were despondent-looking. A few of them were questioned, but without answering a word they turned and walked away.

"You insulted those people," said one of the active workers in charity, who came up just then. "You probably spoke to them about the poor and the unemployed."

"And that is exactly why they went away," he returned. "These men are themselves in want, but they do not like it to be known. Of all classes of our fellow-citizens who are at this moment in dire need, these are the most to be pitied and the hardest to reach."

Curses deep and terrible God pronounces on the land and money monopolists who reduce such people to starvation. Mrs. Frederic Vanderbilt, wife of one of the monopolists, is in charge of one of the charity dispensaries, but when plunderers offer gifts to keep the plundered from starving the whole thing is an abomination in the sight of heaven.

"NO RELIGION IN BUSINESS."

In the same street another family was visited. The tenement was on the second floor. Its general appearance was like the other. A young man lived there with his wife and two babies. "I have been out of work for two months," he said. "I am a tailor. In good times I made \$12, \$14 and \$16 a week. I was making \$12 a week two months ago. Then a man went to my employer and said, 'I will do Morgensen's work for \$5, then you will save \$7.' My employer came to me and said, 'Morgensen, I shall not want you any more.'"

"Why not," I said. "You never found my fault with my work?"

"No!" he said. "But Blumenstiel is going to do your work for \$5 a week. 'You will not turn me off.' I said, 'I must save \$7 a week,' said he. 'I thought you was a great man in the synagogue?' said I.

"There is no religion in business," was what he said, and he turned me off. "I owe \$10 for rent, and must have this tenement if I do not pay it by Saturday. The landlord has warned me."

This case above shows how the classes on top are benefited by having people in great need of employment. The greater the number out of work the lower wages can be crowded down and a larger share is thus given to employers and capitalists. The present stoppage of work is lifting the rich higher, into more absolute power, and crowding millions deeper down into slavery. The whole thing is a good financial investment.

SHOWING ONE SMALL SECTION.

The most discouraging report so far received is from the Sixteenth Precinct, which includes Cherry, Hamilton and Monroe sts. Of a population of 10,000, 4,000 are usually employed, and of this number 3,500 are now out of employment. In the Twenty-fourth Precinct, of 1,500 workers, 1,300 are out of employment.

One of the police captains reported at the mission house that a woman was starving. A visitor was immediately sent to her. She was found in bed nearly exhausted. She had a son eighteen years old, who said that he had been without work for nine months. The story which they told was found to be true. They had not had anything to eat for several days, and had had no fire for weeks. The neighbors said, when asked about the woman, "She is not sick; she has not enough to eat; she had nothing but bread and coffee

for weeks and weeks." Temporary assistance was given to the woman by the visitor. She had recovered sufficiently yesterday to go to the mission house for the groceries, and she kissed Miss Brown's hands to express her gratitude.

A MOTHER'S DESPERATE STRUGGLE.

It is surprising sometimes to find how hard and long the women will work to support their children. One woman who came with a basket for groceries has six children and a husband who is incompetent to work. She is janitress of a house, and besides taking general care of it attends to the furnaces. Besides this she takes in sewing. On days when she is not too much interrupted by calls upon her as janitress of the house, working from 8 o'clock in the morning to 2 o'clock next morning, she is able to make two dozen shirts, for which she is paid 35 cents a dozen.

If I forget the cause of the poor, if I prefer not justice for them above my chief joy, then let my right hand forget her cunning, and let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth. So help me God.

Not long ago the Youth's Companion publishers started a great movement to inculcate patriotism in the school children of America; and the national flag was hoisted upon the public school houses everywhere. Now think of our citizens having to send their children to school without their breakfast to be taught patriotism, reverence for the flag which stands for—what? How much is liberty to starve worth? What is the flag worth to those who when they work must accept the terms and prices of monopolists, and when thrown out of work must beg or starve? Read this report of New York teachers:

THE SCHOOL CHILDREN STARVING.

"It is surprising," said one of the teachers, "to see how ingenious some of the mothers are in using a few shreds and patches of cloth to make garments for their children. Some of them will get up pretty fair looking coats and dresses and trousers out of almost nothing."

"The children suffer in these hard times as well as the parents. Of course they do not have the worry that the older people have, and many of the fathers and mothers sacrifice a great deal for them. But there are few who attend this school who do not know what it is to be hungry and cold, and to cry in vain for food and fire. We have children come here every day without breakfast. We give them bread when we know they have had nothing to eat any morning. It is pathetic to see the little ones eating the dry bread as if it was a fine feast."

If anyone reading this about the children is overcome with the desire to curse bitterly the monopolists of America, who have brought all this to pass, we believe God must pass a light sentence upon such use of his name. But it is better to do something in the way of voting than to swear.

The Home Industrial School, at Fifth avenue, and Thirty-second street, where one of the distributions took place, has an average attendance of 135 children every school day. All of them come from poor homes, and a large proportion have frequently known what it meant to go to bed supperless and to go to school in the morning faint with hunger. In addition to the luncheon of bread which is always given to the little ones, it has been found necessary this winter to provide bread for breakfast in order to keep the pathetic spectacle of suffering children outside the schoolhouse doors. A milkman in the neighborhood of the school is now giving milk each day to the children, and most of the people have bread and milk luncheon every day. Besides this about twenty loaves of bread are carried home to the most needy families every day by the children. These additional charitable measures have been found to be absolutely necessary in some cases to prevent starvation. Yet even these measures have not been sufficient to prevent great distress, and the teachers of the school welcomed a chance to provide temporarily for fifty-seven worthy families through The Tribune Fund. The homes of all these people were visited by the teachers. Some of the poor families have been known to them and visited for years.

PICKED UP THE CRUMBS TO EAT.

Mrs. Forman told a Tribune reporter that in her many years experience with the poor she had never known distress to be so great as now. "Many children," she said, "come to school every morning hungry. They will ask to leave the schoolroom and will then sit down stairs into the kitchen and pick up the crumbs of bread that fall from the table when the cook is cutting the loaves. I should say that more than half of the fathers of the children are out of work. Not one of the one hundred families who received groceries today, has regular means of support at the present time."

"THE HUNGRY FAUCES HAUNT ME."

"The hungry faces of these children

haunt me," said Miss Stevens. "I hear many stories each day that would affect the hardest heart. They are true. I know, for I have personally investigated the cases."

The distribution at the school in Mott street was in charge of Miss H. E. Stevens, the principal, and Mrs. Mary Shepherd. The school is attended by about 450 children, all but twelve of whom are Italians. The building was given to the Children's Aid Society by the late John Jacob Astor as a memorial for his wife. "The distress among the Italians in this district," said Miss Stevens, "is something dreadful. That bright little girl in the front seat is the oldest of six children. Her father used to drive a wagon, but he has been out of work since last fall. She brought her baby sister to school barefooted until we gave it some shoes. 'There is no work to do,' she said, 'and we have been trusting till we can get trusted no more, and the tears rolled down her cheeks.'"

COULD NOT EAT WITHOUT THE CHILDREN.

One mother who is dying with consumption, came to the school for her groceries with only a thin calico dress on. She said that her husband could only get one or two days' work a week, for which he was paid the very smallest wages. They had only had 5 cents worth of coal in the house for two days and nothing to eat. The father used always to have plenty of work, and is a man who would do the utmost for his family.

"One day," said Mrs. Alleyn, "I kept two of his children after school for misbehavior. He came to the school house and asked me if they could not come home. 'I'll tell you, Mrs. Alleyn,' he said, 'I cannot sit down to eat without my children.'"

Another woman who is soon to become a mother fainted in the school when she came to tell the principal that her five small children were starving. "The great trouble," said Mrs. Alleyn, "is that there is no work. All of the fifty families who received groceries today belong to the self-supporting class."

In a basement in the rear of Third-st. a family was found without food or fire. The older children in this family have brought the younger children to school this winter barefooted. When their mother took the groceries tears came to her eyes, and she kissed the hands of those who gave them out.

Perhaps the most pitiful case there was that of a family whose mother died yesterday morning. The father has been out of work for a long time, and none of the children can earn any money. The oldest girl came to the school crying bitterly. She said: "My mother has died, but can I not get the food? We need it so badly."

No district of this city, perhaps, is so well-known as the abode of poverty and wretchedness as that between Broadway and the Bowery, beginning a few blocks above the City Hall and extending a considerable distance up town. The mere mention of Baxter-st., Mott-st. and Mulberry-st. calls up visions of full tenement houses densely populated, and streets and alleys swarming with men, women and children.

It is in this district that most of the worst cases of destitution are to be found, and these cases are simply appalling both in the intensity and the extent of the suffering.

Phelps County Has Adopted the Canvassing Plan.

LOOMI, Neb., March 10th, '94

Editor WEALTH MAKERS:

DEAR SIR:—As Secretary of Phelps County Independent Central Committee I write you that the Phelps County Central Committee adopted the plan for county canvassing work printed in your paper, at our last meeting. Our chairman, Mr. J. C. Gilbert, of Hayden is a live worker. You will please send as many sample copies of the following names:

.....

You will please send to these parties any other literature that you can. As you say, now is the time to work and work without ceasing. Yours for the right.

E. E. PAYNE.

If you can say anything in the line of garden seeds you are very particular if you find it described in the large advertisement of The Alliance Seed Co. on page 8. It speaks for itself. This is a reliable company and you can get just what they advertise by writing them stating where you have seen their "ad." Their prices are a wonder.

Notice the favor advertisement of A. Black & Co., of 316 N street Philadelphia, Penn. If you don't see what you want in this "ad" write them, for they have everything in stock.

Subscribe for THE WEALTH MAKERS

TAKE NOTICE exchanges, advertisers, subscribers, everybody. This is our first issue under our new name. This paper, hitherto known as THE ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT, is to be called in the future THE WEALTH MAKERS. Please address letters and all communications in future to The Wealth Makers Publishing Company, Lincoln, Neb.

Says the Paper Is Gaining Ground Rapidly.

WABASH, Neb., March 4, '94.

Editor WEALTH MAKERS:

Have just finished reading your last week's paper. It makes good Sunday reading. Your paper is gaining ground rapidly in this county, and so is our cause. Your editorials are masterly, clear cut and convincing. I am justly proud of our paper. You are doing a noble work, Brother Gibson. Go right forward, hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may.

Your editorial on "Proposed Political Prostitution" rings the bell, and ought to forever settle that question with all loyal Independents.

We have some William V. Allen men in our county who have always been ready and willing to mix parties and politics just so long as Democracy leads. In other words are Independents for what there is in it for Democracy. But we think if Messrs. Bryan, Broady, Calhoun & Co. expect or are counting on any aid or comfort from the Independent party this year of our Lord, they will be left holding the sack. The little Wilson bill and income tax that it was understood Grover was to veto if passed will not carry W. J. Bryan through another campaign. When does my subscription expire? I have some more names to send in soon. Yours for the right.

JOSEPH MCCAIG.

Glad we are to Change the Name.

DELTA, Neb., March 9, 1894.

Editor ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT:

I am glad you are about to change the name of our State paper. The present name is a poor exponent of the contents of the paper, and it is also unpopular in towns and cities. The name has a tendency to prejudice town and city people against it. Give it a name that will embrace the burning question of the day, and that is "Money." Call our State paper, The Western Financial Reformer. The name proposed in February 22nd number—"The Light of Freedom"—is a beautiful and attractive name; but the knowledge of money is the key that opens the door to that Light and Freedom. When the people shall acquire this knowledge they will vote in their own interest. Then the door is wide open, and we shall peacefully walk in and take possession, upset the present plutocratic reign, and run the government for the general welfare.

Fraternally Yours,
JAMES LIVINGSTON.

He Is Very Well Pleased With the Paper.

MADISON, Neb., March 2, '94.

Editor WEALTH MAKERS:

I received word that my subscription has expired, and am so well pleased with the issues of your paper that I don't see how I could get along without it, and will send you a club of subscribers for your paper. Hoping you will continue the good work on through each and every issue of your paper, and wishing you unbounded success, I remain,

Yours fraternally,
R. M. UPTON.

A Unique Name and Design.

Editor ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT:

I would suggest as a name for your Paper, The Tripod, surmounted by a level, with a field glass on top. The Tripod indicating a foot standing on each of the three planks of our platform. The Level and Glass to indicate a level head and a searching eye. Respectfully, C. CLARY, Edict Neb., Feb. 22, 1894.

To Hot Springs, Ark., and return \$22.35 via the Missouri Pacific route Feb. 13th. Call on P. H. Daniels, C. P. & T. A., 2301 O street, Lincoln, Neb.

Call on Geo. Natorman & Co. for carriages, wagons, binders, and all farm implements. We'll use you right.