

State Historical Society Box 153

# THE WEALTH MAKERS OF THE WORLD

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

## A WOMAN'S ELOQUENCE.

The Magnificent Address of a Colorado Populist.

### THERE ARE BUT TWO PARTIES.

The Two Winged Gold Party and The Populist Party—The Intrinsic Value Fallacy Shown up.

Colorado Women With the Populists

[From the Road.]

Mrs. Roberts is a relative of Mrs. Louise Forrest, the wellknown and enthusiastic Populist organizer of this city. She is a plain, modest, womanly woman, with a good face and a splendid voice, and, her first appearance before a Colorado audience was greeted with most tremendous applause. During her speech she found it almost impossible to proceed at times on account of the uproar and excitement, and when she had concluded people crowded around her and bestowed most earnest congratulations. Mrs. Roberts will be heard from often during the campaign. Her speech was as follows:

Fellow Citizens: In addressing you as such, you cannot appreciate how glad I am to-night to think that the time has arrived when public speakers in Colorado, can do away with the old stereotype introductory appeal: Ladies and gentlemen.

I have been called on this evening to address you on the silver question. It seems quite unnecessary to say that I fully appreciate how often that pile of straw has been thrashed and re-thrashed upon the rostrum. I shall not attempt to thrash over the old subject again tonight. I can assure you that I would have been better pleased had I been given some other subject, but no truth grows old with reiteration. Even a lie, well reiterated, often does good service for the truth.

In the limited time allotted me it will be impossible to go very deep into the subject assigned to me. It will be my aim to tell you something this evening calculated to set you reading. If it does, then I shall consider I have done well my part.

In discussing the silver question it would be well to go into its entire history. That cannot be done tonight, only a few points will be touched upon.

The principal one of which will be its money function.

To thoroughly understand the meaning of silver as money every one should make it his or her business to secure a copy of "The Seven Financial Conspiracies," and carefully read it. This little pamphlet can be secured in many places in the city and can always be found in the reading room of the Woman's Populist headquarters, in the Barclay block.

This little pamphlet gives a condensed history of all the financial legislation doled out to the people of this nation by the money power, from the beginning of the war of the rebellion up to that crowning epoch of sin and destruction marked by the call of "John" Cleveland and Grover Sherman's extra session of Congress.

### THE SILVER QUESTION

by many is supposed to be a local question with the silver states just, as iron and coal are the pet tariff protected product of Pennsylvania, as wooden nutmegs and sap boiler's sugar is the issue in Connecticut and Vermont.

This is an erroneous conclusion, and it pains me to read that Benjamin Harrison remarked in his Trinidad speech that "out here" the silver question is a prominent one. This expression demonstrates that even Harrison has not yet learned or does not care to learn that silver is a world wide question, and a question, ten fold better understood among the masses of the old world than by the people of Colorado.

In connection with this remark made by ex President Harrison I desire to call your attention to this fact that he favors the enlarged use of silver.

In this respect he only differs from the fat gentleman who now occupies

the presidential chair in this particular Harrison favors the enlarged use of silver and Cleveland favors the extended use of silver; but only General James B. Weaver and Populist bodies favor free and unlimited coinage of silver.

The platform of the People's party reads in so many plain words: "We demand the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at a ratio of 16 to 1." Could anything read plainer?

I am assured that it is the intention of the State Central committee to order that plank printed in our next State platform in red letters a foot high in order to assure the old parties that they mean just what they claim.

While disgressing please pardon me if I call your attention to one more fact. There are only two parties today in existence. One is the Populist party and stands for God, home, humanity and silver.

The other is the Gold party. This Gold party has two wings, one is the Democratic wing and the other is the Republican wing, and both wings flop to the music of human oppression, financial frauds, purchased legislation, polluted courts, corrupted legislators, and goldbug Cuckoo Congressmen and Senators.

To return to my subject. It is the cry of the money power that money must have intrinsic value and with great solemnity it prates about a gold dollar being worth a dollar because it contains intrinsic value.

Friends, when you go home tonight take your dictionary down and turn to intrinsic, and find what its definition is. You will find that it means: something of use to mankind—for instance, that material in this world of the greatest intrinsic value, is that which mankind could the least afford to part with.

Wheat has intrinsic value because it is needed to sustain life; so has corn intrinsic value, barley, coal, iron and the thousand and one other substances required by mankind to feed, clothe, shelter and warm the race.

Now let us stop and consider these facts for a moment, or two, while we are on the subject of intrinsic value. The Shylock who sings so low and sweet about the dollar's worth of gold in the dollar fails to mention the fact that in Colorado during the year 1893 nearly \$10,000,000 worth of the stuff was produced at an actual cost of less than 22 cents on the dollar. Yes, friends, and in one day "Little Johnny Mine," hoisted over \$100,000 worth of gold out of its shaft at a cost of less than one cent on the dollar.

There, fellow citizens, is intrinsic value for you with a vengeance. How dishonest are they that claim there is a dollar's worth of gold in a gold dollar, when gold can be produced at such figures.

Is it not high time the people of the west began to return "the cheap and nasty dollar cry" the New England Shylocks so mercilessly greeted us with when their gold dollars bought the legislation that crucified silver as a money?

What gives gold its value? Legislation. Now you will ask where does intrinsic value come in? I'll tell you. Suppose by some accident all the silver in the world should be dropped into the middle of the Atlantic ocean, how would it affect our civilization? I am here to say tonight, that it is my honest opinion that the people would find some other metal to take its place on very short notice, and civilization would go right on just as usual.

Now suppose all the gold in the world should be dumped into the Pacific ocean. Would civilization stop? I think not.

Few bi-chloride of gold institutes might shut up temporarily but business would go right on just the same.

Now for an illustration of intrinsic value by comparison—mark well the point I am now about to make—suppose all the iron in the world should be destroyed. Would civilization turn backwards? I say, yes. The great bands of railway iron that gridiron this continent would disappear and cities and States would become as strangers, the telegraph wires would cease to click its news from all quarters of the world, and once more would we descend to the days of the ox-cart and pony express.

Our great ocean lines would disappear and once more would the shores of Ku-

rope fade away into trips of six and eight weeks.

(Would to heaven I could say that tonight). The father away from Europe we are the better we are off.

No one can picture the ruin that would follow the sudden extinction of iron. You can appreciate that fact without further examples.

Now for my conclusion I maintain that iron has greater intrinsic value than either gold or silver, and Webster's definition bears me out on the position I have taken. Legislation, my friends, and a mutual agreement among the people to recognize gold and silver as money is what gives gold and silver their value.

This monetary value is purely an agreement and that agreement was rudely cast aside and annulled when the Shylocks of this nation bought the legislation that constructed coin to mean only gold.

Prices of commodities of all kind including labor, are always regulated by the volume of money in circulation.

When this nation was covered up with bonded debts, national, state, county and municipal, we had for legal tender money, greenbacks, gold and silver. Then came the cunning treachery that struck down greenbacks at the command of that most infamous scoundrel, John Sherman, than whom no more inhuman or more traitorous ever lived or disgraced this earth. Judas Iscariot was a good man compared with Sherman.

I was about to say greenbacks were destroyed and these vast debts were made payable in coin. Prices went down to conform to the decreased volume of legal tender money.

Then came the crime of 1873, that made coin mean gold by demonetizing silver.

That act means more currency contraction and falling prices. In the late special session of Congress we witnessed the crowning of the infamy, and today we practically stand on a gold basis.

You all have seen prices go down. Wheat has reached the lowest prices in the history of this nation. Cotton, pork and all other products of the toiling millions have gone down, down, down, with the decline of silver.

There is one thing however, that has remained stationary and has failed to decline with silver, that thing, dear friends, is the mortgage or bond. The obligations our deluded people bound themselves to pay, remain up at the top notch and command today three times as much labor, pork, cotton wheat and products to pay as would have been required to have paid them the time the debts were made.

Usury is the curse of the age. It has built up in your and my time a civilization that will pay a poor girl 4 cents for making a shirt in a sweaters den, and a Chinaman 10 cents for spitting on it and ironing it.

But is there one here tonight who dare face me and say the time has not yet arrived for radical utterances?

Let me give an illustration of usury—by it I shall attempt to prove that the only way that cities can be sustained is by keeping prosperous the producing interests of the country. Let us take the national debt. At the close of the war by a system of bondage forced upon the people by the Shylocks, who refused to assist the noble Lincoln, we owed 2,000 million dollars, and since 1865 the people of this nation have been taxed to pay 12,000 million dollars in usury—discounts and premiums. While doing that the debt has been reduced only a little, a very little over one-half, leaving unpaid at this time in round numbers about 1,000 million dollars.

Now for the point. It will take more labor, more cotton, more wheat to pay that 1,000 million dollar debt today than it would have taken to have paid the original debt of 2,000 million when it was contracted, and this too in face of the fact that the national bank robbers have skinned the producers of this nation of 12,000 million dollars in usury. In the meantime and all, too, out of the war debt. How long can this republic exist at this rate?

Is it not high time we began to realize that the money question is the real issue before the American people today, and not the A. P. A. lilycut? Keep your eyes on the money question and keep out of religious strife. Religion is not the issue.

Gold is money, silver is money and I believe that both should be coined freely.

Now my friends, in conclusion I want to say that greenbacks are money, and we demand enough of them to raise the per capita circulation from \$5, where it is to-day, to \$50 per capita, where it belongs and where it was when the most of our vast bonded debts was made.

For myself I do not care whether gold is secured for the deficit in the United States treasury through the issuing of fraudulent bonds. What are bonds? Bonds are printed pieces of paper backed up by the wealth of the nation.

What are greenbacks? Greenbacks are pieces of paper backed up by the wealth of the nation.

What then is the difference between bonds and greenbacks?

The bonds draw interest and circulate in the pockets of the Shylocks and money changers.

Greenbacks do not draw interest and they circulate in the pockets of the common people.

As this government is run today the demands of the bankers are heeded, but the poor people are turned aside. This policy must be stopped. If it can't be stopped peaceably at the ballot box then bullets will stop it.

I am a believer in America and American institutions and believe the time has arrived for an American policy. An American financial system. An American industrial system.

I say down with English interference. England and the Rothschilds have gone plenty far enough. It is time to call a halt.

We stand on dangerous ground. Only the flash of the musket is needed to set the nation on fire.

I stand here tonight in the interest of a peaceful solution of our troubles at the ballot box, and pray God that the good sense and patriotism of Americans will see to it that the homes of the already poor and discouraged people are not ruthlessly destroyed in a religious war of some kind, fathered up by the Shylocks in order to draw the attention of the common people from the money question.

Do not be misled, the issue today is money, legal tender money. Feel in your pockets friends and deny it if you can.

Silver is money and from time immemorial has been recognized as such. We are going to get free silver or a free fight, mark the prediction.

American womanhood stands pledged everywhere to assist the masses in this fight against the classes and Colorado women will stand shoulder to shoulder with the Populists to whom they owe all for the blessed right to vote.

This silver fight has just begun. From now until the last Shylock is driven from the halls of Congress the conflict is going to be hot and furious.

### This Ought to Have Been Printed Last Week.

PENDER, Neb., Mar. 6, 1894.  
EDITOR ALLIANCE INDEPENDENT:  
I am an old reader of your paper, like it now better than ever, and thank God you are going to have a new name. The paper has certainly been handicapped. Now I predict you will spring upward like an unchained balloon.

Yours Faithfully,  
N. H. NYE.

### The National Committee.

Since establishing headquarters at Washington, D. C., the committee has arranged with the Census Office to send out to our workers all over the country a large lot of extra Census Bulletins, giving the mortgage indebtedness of the different states and other valuable information.

Whenever the committee can arrange with any of the Departments to send out valuable documents to the people, it will be done.

From now on, the committee will avail itself of every opportunity to supply the people with literature.

All communications relating to literature should be addressed to the secretary of the committee.  
J. H. TURNER,  
Feas. Av.

## OUR NATIONAL PERILS.

The Power of Wealth Concentration Considered.

### USURY IS DESTROYING LIBERTY

Some Startling Figures and Mathematical Proofs of the Dangerous Forces Confronting us.

Stirring Words by a Nebraskan.

[Read before the open meeting of the Whittierian literary society at Hastings, Neb.]

The American Republic in its greatness and grandeur, commands the admiration of the statesmen of the world. Its foundations were laid deep in prayer; deep in the conviction that a nation was yet to be built which should be the land of the free and the home of the brave. Its superstructure reaches the very heavens and its building is guided by the omnipotent hand of God. It recognizes no divine right of kings, but that all men are created equal, and are endowed by their Creator with the inalienable right of self-government.

Well may we point with pride to her glorious record—a record of the emancipation of the masses. The embodiment of strength, equity and justice—the glory of man; the hardwork of God. She bids defiance to the combined powers of the world. In her infancy she twice whipped the mistress of the seas. She has crushed out the most powerful and stubborn rebellion the world has ever known, and with characteristic Americanism re-united the factions until it is stronger than before the fracture. The glory of her Christianity and the search-light of her civilization have penetrated the depth of darkest heathendom. Our admiration knows no bounds; yet reason compels us to admit she is not yet perfect.

Today there is an enemy, more powerful than any nation, being fostered in the very bosom of our Republic, a force more deadly to freedom than poison is to life. Already this powerful organized tyranny has the American Republic by the throat. The magnificent structure already totters.

This fiendish, silent power controls the metropolitan press of the nation, and thus indirectly controls our legislatures and our congress and therefore makes our laws. It controls our courts and therefore interprets those laws for its selfish advancement. It owns our railway, steamship and telegraph lines, and thus controls our commerce. It owns our factories and our mines, and therefore controls the price of labor and of all other commodities. It holds a mortgage—death grip—on the most of the homes and the farms in America. It demands more tribute money than did ever the Roman conquerors from their victims—and we pay it without a murmur! Yes this monster; this organized greed; this concentrated capital; these trusts; these millions of wealth in the hands of the few, threaten the very existence of our Republic.

There are in the city of New York alone 1,163 millionaires. Nearly all of these are multi-millionaires. Many are worth from 10 to 20 millions apiece and several are worth 50, 60, 70 and as high as 150 millions. In the nation there are known to be 4,047 millionaires and it is fair to suppose that they will average worth at least three million dollars. This makes those 4,047 persons worth \$13,144,000,000. But to be sure and be conservative enough we will say they are worth in round numbers but \$1,000,000,000. Our tongues readily speak the figures, but our minds are utterly unable to comprehend them. We may have some conception of a million dollars but our minds stagger when we try to comprehend the reality of \$10,000,000,000. We cannot comprehend it, but we can make some comparisons. The entire wealth of the United States, including corporations, bonds, real estate and personal property, was in 1860 but \$14,152,000,000.

That is, these 4,047 people now own nearly as much as did the entire 3,000,000 people of the United States. In 33 years 4,047 men have come into possession of nearly as much as was then the entire wealth of the nation. And yet some politicians tell us the wealth of the nation is not accumulating in the hands of the few.

Suppose those 4,047 persons had their wealth in cash and began buying up farms, city realty, railroads, manufacturing and personal property of every description, when would their purchasing power end? They could buy out every dollar worth of wealth in Nebraska, together with all of Kansas, and all of Colorado, all of South and North Dakota, all of Ohio, Indiana, Indian Territory and Texas, all of Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Idaho, Wyoming and Montana, Oregon and Washington, and California. Yes they would own every dollar of property of whatever description from the Gulf to Canada, and from the Missouri river to the Pacific ocean, and still have billions left for—spending money. I might add several of the southern states to the list to make half of the states of this so called free republic. I say "so called" for it is a question whether we are a free people if 4,047 individuals are worth the told wealth of half of the Union.

Those select few could give to each of the 13,000,000 families of the United States, a present of \$700.00 and still have enough left, which if loaned at only .01 per cent interest, would keep them and their posterity rolling in luxury from now to eternity.

Those select few own over a quarter of the entire wealth of this nation today; and we have not taken into consideration the much greater number who have perhaps not a million, but whose hundreds and tens of thousands draw interest just the same.

There has never been enough gold coined in the United States, all told, to pay a fair rate of interest on this combined capital, for a single year. Those select few of the 4,047, whose post offices names and addresses are known could by an investment of only eight cents on the dollar of their capital stock buy up the combined capital stock of all the banks of America.

If their wealth is bringing in 6 per cent interest, they are sitting idle, and are clearing \$600,000,000 per year, or nearly \$2,000,000 per day. As this interest money (whether paid in interest, rents or profits) must be produced by labor in some form, the American people must do some pretty hard rustling to earn this each year, for those lords. This monied aristocracy is an expensive luxury; they come high, but I suppose we must have them.

Let's see. At \$1.50 per day—and laborers are working on the streets of Pittsburgh, at 50 cents—there must be just 400,000,000 days of labor performed each year to satisfy the greed of these millionaire potentates. Allowing 300 work days to the year, it will take over 1,333,000 American laboring men working ten hours per day, every day in the year, and every year to satisfy the greed of this select few—if it does satisfy their greed. That means that 1,333,000 American laborers are in reality slaves to the aristocracy. Then to think that these lords do not give a cent in return, directly or indirectly, still retain their great wealth, and yet have the fruits of the labor of 1,333,000 American workmen each year for absolutely nothing!

But who are those who annually donate their labor for the support of this aristocracy? Every man who labors, whether by the day or on a salary, is donating his prorate of the unearned \$600,000,000 of greed money.

Do they really donate a share of their labor, you ask in all sincerity? Listen to the piteous cry of 2,000,000 American laborers, able and willing to work, who have been out of employment these cold winter months. While they were at work they secured about enough to feed and clothe themselves and their families. Way, the black slaves of the South received the same wages—but they were never turned out in the cold of winter to starve.

Who else help support these monied

(Continued on page 2.)