

The Independent.

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THE APPEAL TO REASON

"Populist Edition" of Half a Million Copies Attacks The Independent in a Page Article

The "populist edition" of the Appeal to Reason has reached this office. It has also reached the homes of probably fifty thousand Nebraskans and the homes of 450,000 outside the state.

Primarily the object of this edition was to secure new subscribers to The Appeal. It was prepared especially to "appeal" to populists and entice them into the "kangaroo" camp. This term is not intended in an offensive way, but simply to call attention to the fact that there are two socialist parties: The S. L. P.'s, or "skunks," as The Appeal by inference calls them; and the social democrats or socialists, dubbed "kangaroos" by the S. L. P.'s.

The leading articles were specially prepared in order to not frighten the populists into whose hands the edition was placed. Wayland himself did a stunt telling "What Socialism Is," being a series of short paragraphs telling what would happen "under socialism." A. W. Ricker issued "A Call to Arms," an open letter to the "old populists who startled capitalism in 1892." And the whole office force joined in preparing a full page advertisement for The Independent under the reassuring title, "Socialists Not Purchasing Gold Bricks." In view of the socialist idea of intrinsic value and that gold is the "universal equivalent," a few bricks of that material might help them to destroy "capitalist production."

"Below," says this page ad, "we publish an extract from an editorial comment on our populist edition by the Nebraska Independent, a populist paper published at Lincoln, Neb. The Independent is the only paper of GENERAL CIRCULATION in the United States that still pretends to teach populism. The others have all died. It is difficult to account for the continued existence of this paper on any other ground, than that it has been necessary to the democracy, and has been sustained by them. Its make-up and general appearance is almost identical with that of Mr. Bryan's Commoner. The Independent through the last six years of its existence has exhausted its vitality in attacks on mid-road populists and socialists. Both of these organizations have interfered with the successful issue of the disgraceful surrender of populist leaders in the fusion of 1896. The Independent has never exhibited any affection for the straight populist or the socialist until the past few weeks, when there has been a studied effort to please both. Jo Parker's mid-road manifesto has been published in its columns, and now we have a bouquet thrown in our direction as follows:

Here's success to your populist edition, Mr. Wayland. May it do a world of good. If you can unite the warring factions in your party—and we fail to do so soon—you will get a big share of the populist vote. But if we quit fighting among ourselves—and it begins to look as if we may—the "scattered forces of populism" will be reformed in line of battle under our own banner.—Nebraska Independent.

"We acknowledge the good will implied in the above article, but the closing lines cannot be permitted to pass without comment. Now the editor knows full well that the people's party can never again become a factor in the politics of this nation, as a distinct party organization. The reason is obvious: its leaders sold out the movement to the democrats in '96 and none of these men would be trusted again. There is no use to argue that the logic of the situation made it necessary for the populists to nominate Bryan at St. Louis in 1896, for you know that Mr. Bryan and the populist leaders arranged months before so that the people's party would be placed in this humiliating position. Mr. Bryan so stated to the writer in 1897. We cannot but be distrustful of the good intentions of The Independent for we know that there is another deal on foot to arrange another logic of events." And following this is a harangue about W. R. Hearst

which lack of space forbids reproducing here.

The Appeal purposely misunderstands The Independent's position toward both socialists and mid-roads. The Independent has opposed socialism as preached by The Appeal—but it has never had any personal attacks on sincere socialists. It has opposed mid-roadism, and those honestly believing in it, because it believed some reform is better than none. And it has attacked the personality of some mid-roads because it knew them to be dishonest—or, to be more exact, it knew them to be dishonest in their mid-road movement.

The Appeal may be as "distrustful of the good intentions of The Independent" as it chooses. That is a matter of indifference to The Independent. It is the "only paper of GENERAL CIRCULATION in the United States" that still teaches populism because it has steadfastly continued to teach populism and just as steadfastly refused to yield to the suggestions of the great advertising agencies to change its name and become a "farm journal." Not a dollar of democratic money ever helped to keep it alive, except the many dollars for subscriptions received individually from democrats. The Independent has worked in harmony with Bryan democrats, because Bryan democracy is a long step toward populism or because populism is real democracy. Whenever the democratic organization shows that it has forsaken the platforms of 1896 and 1900, then The Independent has done with further fusion or co-operation.

"Mr. Bryan so stated to the writer in 1897." What? That he and the populist leaders had arranged months before the St. Louis convention to place the people's party in a humiliating position. That is certainly a serious charge if true—and a damnable lie if it isn't. Who is the "writer" to whom Mr. Bryan stated this astounding thing? Where did he say it to the writer? The democratic convention was July 7, 1896, and the populist, July 22, 1896. Evidently—if the "writer" tells the truth—the populist leaders and Mr. Bryan made all arrangements to have Mr. Bryan nominated at Chicago.

This hemming and hawing and hinting about leaders selling out the populist movement has gone far enough without some reasonable proof. Let us have it. We may differ as to fundamental principles, or as to the best method of securing the reforms we ask, but let us stick to the truth in making statements of fact. The Independent calls upon The Appeal "writer" for a more specific and satisfactory statement of what Mr. Bryan "stated" to him in 1897—and until that is done, brands the whole thing as a malicious lie.

Bricks Without Straw

Editor Independent: Tom Reed said before he died that the people of this country should be especially happy because all were employed. I do not quote his language. I want you to inform your readers and the world of something they did not know before, and that is that the Israelites should also have been extremely happy when Pharaoh had them making bricks without straw, for they certainly were all employed, and at almost as good pay as our present workmen get. H. D. ALBRIGHT.

Watson, Pa.

Mr. George Kennan, whose writings on Siberia, Cuba, and the Martinique disaster, have made him known both as a brilliant descriptive writer and as a careful student of political and social conditions, has spent much time recently in studying the history of the extraordinary "hold up" of the state of Delaware by Mr. Addicks. In three articles, the first of which appears in the February magazine number of The Outlook, he will tell this story in all its details. The record of corruption, blackmailing, and chicanery as here related has no parallel in American political history.

Readers of The Independent should examine the advertisements in its columns. It will pay you to read them and take advantage of the bargains offered. Always mention The Independent.

PLUTOCRACY IS ORGANIZED

Already Prepared to Conduct the Next National Campaign Along the Same Old Lines of Deceit and Ridicule.

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC LEAGUE

Composed of Trust Companies and Their Officials, Bankers and Subsidized Magazines and Newspapers in All Parts of the Country.

ITS LITERATURE FREE TO EVERYONE.

This week we publish below the names of some of the members and promoters of The National Economic League taken from one of their letter heads. The correspondence originated over some articles appearing in The Coming Nation, of Rich Hill, Mo. It shows clearly the methods and thorough organization of the money power. Look over the list of officials and their connections. Do you think their object in promoting "The National Economic League" is to protect the interests of the plain people of the country? Do you want Grover Cleveland, trust attorney and other things, prominent member as he is, directing the political affairs of this country again? He is hand in glove with the money power and always was. Look over the list and you will find other names as much despised as his.

The object of The National Economic League and its methods are best told in the following letter brought to light by The Coming Nation. The same attacks and charges that are made in it against The Coming Nation are made against The Independent and every other publication that dares to assert its independence and refuses to bow the knee to mammon. Those that money won't buy they will maliciously misrepresent or destroy by any means possible.

"THE INJURY OF ONE IS THE CONCERN OF ALL." The Independent does not agree with The Coming Nation in many things but it concedes to its editor and the publishers sincerity of purpose and the right to publish the truth as they see it. The man who denies freedom to another cannot long preserve it for himself.

The letter from The National Economic League was addressed to the cashier of a bank in Missouri and was as follows:

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13 ASTOR PLACE, NEW YORK,

Mr. Bank,

Cashier,

..... Mo.

My DEAR SIR:—Your interesting letter of January 15th, addressed to the Hon. S. B. Dutcher, Treasurer of the National Economic League and President of the Hamilton Trust Co., has been referred to me. Allow me to thank you, for Mr. Dutcher and the League, for your kind interest in the work you are trying to do.

I am familiar with the Socialist paper called *The Coming Nation*, and have already received copies, in which they attack and ridicule the National Economic League.

The National Economic League has been organized by thoughtful, careful men, good citizens, for the express purpose of counteracting such incendiary and "narcotic" publications as *The Coming Nation*. The business men of the country do not know that there are thousands of vile sheets like this that are kept alive by exciting the passions of the working people.

The National Economic League believes that the greatest danger that threatens capital today in all lines of productive industry comes from socialism and class-hatred. The bitter feeling against wealth and industry is gaining great headway by the influence of the Socialist press and Yellow Journalism. Anti-Trust legislation by both parties and the exactions of the Labor Unions.

Conservative men of all professions concede that OUR social and commercial interests are in great danger of being overthrown.

To counteract these evil influences, which, if not checked, will bring national disaster, the National Economic League has organized an impartial non-political movement, to be under the direct supervision of representative men in the Manufacturing world, Labor Leaders, Commerce, College, Agriculture, Church, Law, Transportation, Newspapers, Magazines, etc.

Recognizing the fact that education is the most potent factor in overcoming these evils that threaten Capital, the League, as a part of its plans, will establish a National Correspondence School.

Through the National Correspondence School, enrollment officers for membership will be established in factories, workshops, mines, mills, etc., throughout the United States, and by an Educational Correspondence it will be the aim of the League to teach the workingman that Socialism and class-hatred are disastrous to his interests, and only by harmony and co-operation between Capital and Labor can the United States maintain its Commercial supremacy.

The League will also, at an early date, issue an illustrated publication printed in various languages, to be devoted to the investigation, discussion and study of these questions, with the object of overcoming the vicious influence of the Socialist press. ("This is an age of illustrations, and pictures tell a story to every human thou h.")

All publications of the League will be sent free to the leaders of thought, prominent Labor men, Ministers, Employers and workmen throughout the United States.

The Press Committee of the League will send to newspapers throughout the country these publications and carefully prepared articles. Already over 400 important papers have agreed to publish same.

Through these sources the League can reach the masses with facts and figures touching their interests, and opposing socialist ideas, to teach them that if we are to continue to lead in the world's industries and keep American Labor and Capital remuneratively employed, it must be through the organization of industry into large units and directed by the best talent.

Surely the effectiveness of educational work was clearly and forcefully shown in the National Campaign of 1892, when the issue was the Gold Standard as against the Silver 16 to 1. The margin of victory by the Republican party was very small, and it narrowly escaped defeat.

Only by the literature that was sent out by the Republican party and auxiliary organizations, educating them to the danger in the election of Bryan, was the country saved from that disaster.

I take pleasure in enclosing a prospectus of the League, which may give you better information as to its aims and purposes. I also enclose a partial list of the men prominent in commercial and professional life, who not only endorse the League and support it by financial aid, but have consented to be members of the Board of Editorial Associates, and will contribute articles on vital social questions of the day, relating particularly to Socialism, Capital and Labor, the Trusts, Co-Operation, Taxation and other topics which have a bearing upon good government.

The League's work is supported entirely by voluntary subscriptions from public spirited citizens. It is not an organization for pay or profit. All we desire to do is to pay the actual and legitimate expenses, such as printing, postage, clerical assistance, etc., and the expenses are kept down to the very lowest possible amount.

I enclose subscription blanks, such as are being filled out and sent to us by individuals, banks, business organizations and others who believe the work of the League should be sustained. It would be very gratifying