

# A PASTOR WHO WAS BEFRIENDED BY AN EMPEROR SAVED BY PE-RU-NA.



REV. H. STUEBENVOLL

Rev. H. Stuebenvoll, of Elkhorn, Wis., is pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Church of that place. Rev. Stuebenvoll is the possessor of two bibles presented to him by Emperor William of Germany. Upon the fly leaf of one of the bibles the Emperor has written in his own handwriting a text.

This honored pastor, in a recent letter to The Peruna Medicine Co., of Columbus, Ohio, says concerning their famous catarrh remedy, Peruna: **The Peruna Medicine Co., Columbus, Ohio.**

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W. N. U.—Omaha. No. 4—1903

# Commoner Comment.

**INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM.**  
The Chronicle (Chicago) has another opportunity to show its leaning toward capitalism and it has hastened to improve it. The people of that city having at the last election declared for the initiative and referendum and John Mayor Harrison and Judge Dunne having spoken in favor of the reform, the Chronicle at once proceeds to castigate them for taking sides with the people. "Political lunacy" is again called into service to describe the movement. Harrison is accused of "pandering" to it and Judge Dunne of "playing" to those who voted for it. It substitutes epithets for arguments and declamation for facts. Why? Because it cannot oppose either the initiative or the referendum without denying the capacity of the people for self-government. The initiative makes it possible for the people to compel the submission of a question and the referendum enables the people to pass upon a measure after the legislative body has acted—certainly no one can reasonably object to so democratic a reform.

What is the secret cause of the Chronicle's opposition? It is to be found in another column of the same issue in an editorial condemning municipal ownership of municipal franchises. It professes to see great dangers ahead if the people undertake to own and operate the natural monopolies now farmed out to private corporations. It seeks to scare the people into submission to the syndicates that corrupt city councils and prey upon the public.

Nothing better illustrates the attitude of most of the great dailies. They are either owned by big financiers, as the Chronicle is, or are controlled by managers who use their influence to defend all kinds of exploitation. If the Chronicle will publish the name of its principal stockholder and state the amount of stock he owns in corporations holding municipal franchises, and the amount he and his bank hold as security for loans, the people can tell whether the editorial advice given in that paper is disinterested or not. It is always questioned as to his interest in the case because the influence of interest is always recognized; why should financiers hide behind an impersonal newspaper corporation in order to advance their pecuniary interests? The opponents of the initiative and referendum may be divided into three classes, those who do not understand the subject, those who distrust the people, and those who have pecuniary interests adverse to the public—but the reform will yet triumph through the education of the first class.

On another page will be found the abstract of Attorney General Knox's anti-trust recommendations recently given to the public. While they go farther than he has gone before, they come far short of what was reasonably expected of the law officer of the government. He suggests that the least necessary reforms be made and that "it is not nearly so important to act quickly as to act wisely," assuming that it is impossible to do both. He recommends a more liberal policy: First, the prohibition of rebates and discriminations by railroads. This is good as far as it goes, but the legislation should be even broader and more stringent. Second, the prohibition of discriminations in prices for the purpose of destroying competition. This is worthy of trial, but does not go to the cause of the trouble. Mr. Knox is trying to cut off a few branches, but he does not lay the ax to the root of the trust tree. He does not declare the principle of private monopoly to be bad and undertake to make such a monopoly impossible. He would attempt to strike at some of the methods of the monopoly instead of seeking its entire extermination.

His third recommendation is so reasonable that it ought to meet with universal approval, namely, that all trust cases should be given precedence by the court and tried at once. Surely a case involving all the rights of all the people should be given a more speedy hearing than a case in which only a few persons are interested. The Commoner has already discussed this phase of the subject, saying in the issue of December 12, 1902: "He (the president) grossly exaggerates the work of the department of justice, when he says that it has done 'very much in securing the enforcement of the anti-trust law.' It could not well have done less. He suggests that it could have done 'more' if a special appropriation were made for the purpose. By all means, let the special appropriation be made, and while it is being made let the courts be instructed to give immediate attention to suits brought by the government for the violation of the anti-trust law. Let us obtain an offense by a corporation against an entire country should be given precedence over suits of minor importance."

The fourth recommendation is publicity and publicity is a more easily pointed out, is only valuable as an aid to other legislation. On the whole, his communication must be disappointing to those who expected vigorous action in the part of the administration, but there is some consolation in the fact that public opinion is forcing some action, even though the officer of the law advances with slow and hesitating steps.

Mr. Knox does not explain why he fails to enforce the criminal section of the existing law, but that is another matter.

Mrs. Hetty Green has been allowing an insurance company to pay the taxes on a piece of her real estate. Mrs. Green is not the only person who has accumulated wealth by this sort of thing.

The Cook county grand jury is investigating the coal situation. Of course Mr. Baer will look upon this as an altogether sacrilegious attack upon his divine rights.

While the anti-trust bills multiply the trusts keep right on with their robbery.

Mr. Knox might try enforcing the criminal clause in the Sherman law pending the availability of that appropriation.

Having invested a quarter of a million in a senatorial ambition, Mr. Addicks naturally gives it considerable attention.

Mascagni doubtless believes now that the American people love trouble more than they do intermezzi.

The Commoner closes its second year with upwards of 135,000 subscribers on its lists.

# FAVORS NATIONAL CONTROL OF COAL MINES AND ROADS

Congressman John J. Jenkins, the chairman of the house judiciary committee, who introduced the resolution favoring government seizure of the coal mines and coal railroads, represents the Tenth district of Wisconsin, and has been continuously a member of congress since 1895. He lives at Chippewa Falls, Wis., and was a former county judge. He has been a Republican since the civil war.

One of the most radical propositions yet made to settle the coal problem was offered in the house of representatives Jan. 14, and it came from a source which seemed to entitle it to instant recognition. Representative Jenkins of Wisconsin, who is no tyro in legislation, but who, on the contrary, is chairman of the judiciary committee of the house, and who from that fact is presumed to be a good constitutional lawyer, offered a resolution which provides in brief that the gov-



CONGRESSMAN JOHN J. JENKINS, OF WISCONSIN

ernment should seize and operate not only the coal mines but the transportation companies which carry the product, and in this way distribute coal to the people.

Such a proposition coming from an obscure member of the house would not have attracted any more attention than dozens of others quite as radical. But a bill of this kind offered by the chairman of the judiciary committee acted upon the members of the house like a dash of cold water, and seemed to bring them to a realization of the fact that the country has reached a condition where ordinary constitutional methods must be succeeded by extraordinary and almost socialistic expedients.

Mr. Jenkins did not offer his resolution in an idle moment, but after carefully thinking it out. He is undoubtedly a good lawyer, and his position at the head of the great committee which is even now formulating the anti-trust legislation entitles him to more than the usual credit for his actions.

That his proposition is radical in the extreme everyone must concede, but it is also apparent that nothing but the presence of a great crisis could have induced him to father such a proposition. Mr. Jenkins has previously gone on record as asserting that the government could not regulate the trusts without a constitutional amendment.

Not only does Mr. Jenkins assume complete responsibility for his actions, but he justifies them by the gravity of the crisis which the country is now facing. He does not propose to supply the country with free coal, but he does believe that the time has come when, to prevent widespread famine and hardship, it has become necessary for the United States government to act an act of supreme sovereignty to give the people an opportunity to provide themselves with coal at a fair price.

What he is after is merely to use the power of the national government to see that all the coal possible to be mined is mined, and thereupon also to see that it is distributed on an equitable basis to all sections and all classes in the country.

"For some time we have been calling attention to a want of power on the part of the federal government to

deal with the many perplexing questions to exercise this attribute of sovereignty and relieve the distress not by buying coal for the people, but by providing that they can buy it.

"This is the first time in history this nation could justly exercise that right of control. Unquestionably the power exists, as certainly as the exigency is present.

"We cannot sit here idly and listen to the cries of pain and suffering from all parts of the country without doing something that will promptly bring substantial relief. The powerful monopolies sapping the life blood of the people to add to their wealth must allow conscience to control them, or in a short time a suffering people will be aroused so that no power will control them, for they are not going to suffer longer and submit to this continual robbery. They know that the coal question is but an index to what is coming.

"The greed of the monopolies is so great they overlook everything but the acquisition of wealth at the expense and suffering of a nation of people. Let the monopolies treat the people as fairly as they do the almighty dollar, and there will be no complaint.

"It is to be regretted that in an intelligent nation like this, controlled by Christian influences, where the people are the government, such a radical exercise of power is even deemed necessary. It is not a step in the direction of government ownership, it can only be justified by the exigency of the situation, and it can only remain in force until the cause for the condition is removed."

**The World's Lumber King.**  
Thomas B. Walker, who has been investigating Pacific coast forests for many years, says the Minneapolis Journal, has returned to Minneapolis after an absence of six months, the holder of enough timber lands to give him the title of lumber king of the world. Mr. Walker now owns the largest tracts of pine timber possessed by any person or firm in the country. In northeastern California he has purchased standing timber tracts which will last for manufacture sixty years. A 200-mile railroad will be built through the tract. Mr. Walker's time will be devoted to development of this timber land.

**A Story With a Moral.**  
Mrs. Laura J. Hosher of Anderson, Ind., has an odd suit on her hands. She gave her brother, George W. Overshiner, a remedy to cure him of the liquor habit. The remedy proved effective. Mr. Overshiner declares that he did not wish to be cured of the drink habit, was not aware that a cure was being administered to him and has sued his sister for \$5,000 for destroying his thirst.

**To Serve University Better.**  
Dr. William F. Warren has resigned from the presidency of Boston university. He has taken this action in the belief that he can better serve the university in his professorship in the theological school, a position which has been retained by him through all his years as president.

**A Mixed Population.**  
British Guiana is the most cosmopolitan of British colonies, the population consisting of an admixture of Dutch, French, British and American colonists, East Indian coolies and the aborigines of the country.

# THE LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Latest Quotations from South Omaha and Kansas City.

**SOUTH OMAHA.**  
**CATTLE.**—There was only a small run of cattle, and besides that the quality was rather inferior. Packers, though, took hold in good shape, and the market ruled active from start to finish, everything being disposed of in good season.

"The quality of the cornfed steers on sale was poorer than on any previous day of the week, and in fact there was nothing offered that could be called good. The market, though, could be quoted generally about steady, although buyers were not particularly anxious for the kinds that were offered.

"The cow market was quite brisk and the prices paid were a little stronger. The demand seemed to be active for canners and cutters, as well as for the best grades, and the cattle began moving toward the scales at an early hour. The big bulk of the receipts consisted of cow stuff, but the supply was too large to meet the demand and the pens were cleared in good season.

Bulls, veal calves and stags were all easy to dispose of at yesterday's prices. There was not much change in the stocker and feeder situation. Supplies were very light and so also was the demand. Country buyers are all looking for the cattle of good quality, so that the market ruled fairly to good yearlings. The market yesterday took quite a big drop on the common kinds, and the few that arrived the following day were again extremely slow sale at still lower prices.

**HOGS.**—There was not a large run of hogs and as reports from other points were favorable to the selling interests prices improved. The advance was a general thing amounting to 50c. The bulk of the medium weight hogs sold from \$5.45 to \$6.55 and choice heavy hogs sold mostly from \$5.55 to \$6.65. The light weights went from \$5.45 down. Trading was not very brisk owing to the fact that buyers were a little slow about bidding the full strength of the market, but as supplies were limited it did not take long for the bulk of the offerings to change hands.

**SHEEP.**—Quotations: Choice lambs, \$5.80 to \$5.75; fair to good lambs, \$5.60 to \$5.40; choice native lambs, \$5.70 to \$5.60; choice yearlings, \$1.20 to \$1.00; fair to good yearlings, \$1.00 to \$1.10; choice wethers, \$1.50 to \$1.40; fair to good, \$1.30 to \$1.45; choice ewes, \$1.90 to \$1.85; fair to good, \$1.60 to \$1.50; feeder lambs, \$1.00 to \$1.05; feeder yearlings, \$1.00 to \$1.05; feeder wethers, \$1.50 to \$1.55; feeder ewes, \$1.50 to \$1.55.

# GET NO COAL FROM FRANCE.

That Country Expresses a Desire to Secure Some Here.

PARIS—United States Consul Gowdy says it is not likely that any French coal will be shipped to the United States as a result of the action of the American congress in placing coal on the free list. The French mines are unable to meet the demands of the home market. Many factories and railroad are compelled to bring in Welsh and Belgian coal of inferior grades. Coal sells normally at above the present American rate, so that there is not sufficient inducement for French producers to seek an American market.

Owing to a heavy demand, the local consulate has been gathering statistics on American coal, several French railroads having expressed a desire to secure some of the American better grades of coal.

# NAVY RUNS SHORT OF FUEL.

Supply of Coal at Some Stations is Exhausted.

WASHINGTON—Shortage of coal is causing some concern in the navy. The various navy yards are appealing to the bureau of equipment for fuel.

Arrangements were made for the shipment of coal from the depot at New London, Conn., to the New York navy yard, where the fuel supply is practically exhausted.

Through the foresight of Rear Admiral Bradford, the coal famine thus far has not affected the navy, iron-clad contracts having been closed before the strike for the delivery of coal to the navy at normal prices. Unless relief comes soon, however the contractors may be unable to supply the increased demand that is existing throughout the naval stations of the country.

# France to Try for Pole.

PARIS—Dr. Jean Charcot has announced plans for an Arctic trip, under the auspices of the Academy of Science and the Ministry of Public Instruction. A ship is now under construction at St. Halo.

The party will leave France on May 15 for Spitzbergen and then proceed to St. Josephland. The expedition will be exclusively French.

Lieutenant Bergen will probably be a member of the party, which will also comprise several scientists. Dr. Charcot says France has hitherto left Arctic exploration to foreigners, but he hopes to revive the French interest.

# Cuban Veterans Threaten.

HAVANA—An anonymous manifesto was issued here saying the liberating army of Cuba will not wait longer than March 4 for the payment of the soldiers, but will unite and occupy every town from Point Maysi to Cape San Antonio, peacefully. General Gomez and the other generals have expressed themselves as being perfectly satisfied with the attitude of the government regarding the payment of the army.

# Rosebery Attacks Alliance.

LONDON—In the course of a spirited attack on the government's general policy, Lord Rosebery, speaking at Plymouth, referred to Venezuela. He reminded his audience that when the liberal government had the same kind of debt collecting to do in Nicaragua it first consulted Washington and then settled the business in a couple of days. Venezuela must have had motives in entering into an alliance with Germany.