

LETTER FROM DEBS.

SAYS THAT TAGGING IS DEGRADING TO LABOR.

Next Will Come the Branding Iron—He Pronounces the System an Invasion of the Liberties of Americans—Reduced to the Level of Cattle.

Chicago Daily Press: From time to time plutocratic employers of laboring men spring the question of the advisability of tagging their employes as Western ranchmen brand their steers. These plutocrats claim that the employment of vast herds of human cattle makes it necessary to tag and number them, that their business may be conducted more satisfactorily to themselves; and with an impudence that defies exaggeration they "round up" their cattle and submit to them the propriety of substituting tags and numbers for names. One of the strange features of this scheme of degradation is seen in the fact that the men whom the plutocratic employers propose to tag and number as if they were penitentiary convicts deem it prudent to discuss the subject as if it were a business proposition rather than a shrewdly devised scheme to ignore their manhood, destroy their individuality as men and citizens, and make labor unspeakably odious. That this is the case, advices from Milwaukee, Joliet and Chicago fully establish. In these localities, where corporations are engaged in iron and steel manufacturing enterprises, and a large number of workmen are employed, the proprietors have unblushingly proposed to tag the men, and the men are discussing the proposition; but so confident are the plutocrats that the men will consent to their own degradation that the tags have been ordered and are ready for use.

It is difficult to grasp the ineffable infamy of this degrading scheme.

If it were devised for convicts, galley slaves, criminals transported to penal colonies, it might be regarded as prudent; but that plutocratic employers should suggest the infamous practice for American workmen is to emulate the policy of the Russian despot, who tags and numbers the victims of his wrath whom he consigns to torture and to death in his Siberian mine.

The scheme of tagging and numbering workmen proposed by the Illinois Steel company and kindred corporations leaves little more to be done to reach the lowest depths of wage-slave degradation in the United States. The tagging and numbering infamy accomplished, the branding iron and the iron collar will be in order.

Will American workmen quietly submit to be tagged and numbered? Indeed, will they accept the degradation under any possible circumstances or conditions?

Confronted by propositions and preparations to degrade workmen to the level of beasts of burden, to the level of "dumb driven cattle," is it not time for American workmen to protest and resist to the death, if required, to maintain their liberty and their manhood, to rescue their home from being numbered as stalls for cattle, their wives from the degrading designation of "dams," and their children as the progeny of some sire known only by his tag and number?

If American workmen have not abdicated their manhood, if the fires of liberty and high aspirations are not totally extinguished, they will give corporations to understand that at any and every sacrifice they will resist this last and most infamous invasion of their rights and liberties, and that with their wives and children they will go down to honored graves rather than live the tagged and numbered slaves of corporations.

EUGENE V. DEBS.

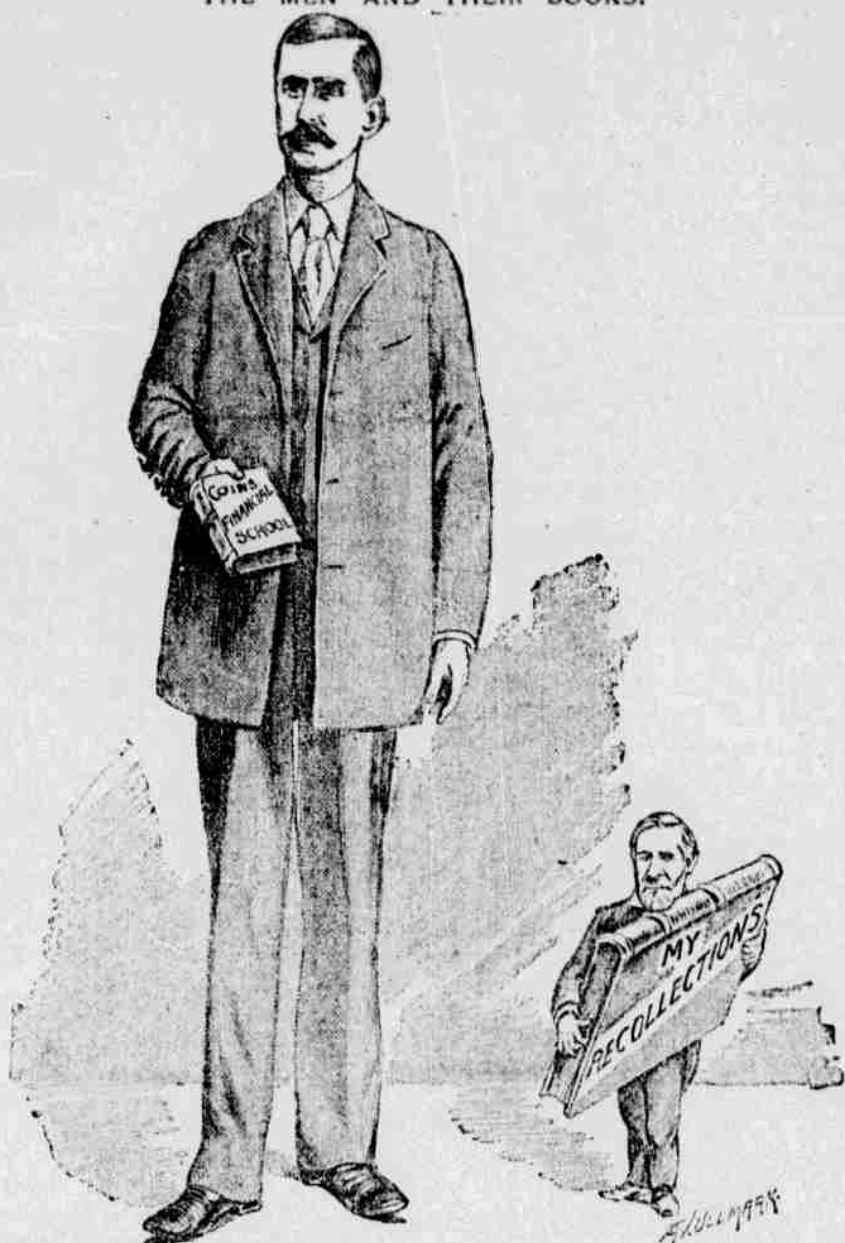
Augusta Friends By An Eye Witness. People's Party Paper: I was in Augusta on the 2d of October and saw some of the damnable work that was done by Mr. Black's friends to defeat Mr. Watson. The twenty-one-year-old negroes were divided into squads with a couple or more "heelers" in charge who would vote the slaves of Democracy in one ward, and then take them to another, vote them under another name, then move on to the next ward and continue the work indefinitely. For fear a mistake would be made, young Democrats stood near the polls with polling lists and the heeler would approach with his man; be given a name and vote him. The gang of twenty-one-year-old negroes, instead of leaving the polls would squat around and wait for the squad to be moved to the next ward. Electric cars were used to transport heelers and their men from ward to ward. When voting lagged at any precinct, some good Democrat would bring word that so and so must report immediately at the First, Second or such ward as was lagging. While the registration list was adhered to, any man with half a brain could see that a few ignorant negroes were used to poll Mr. Black's majority. I advise that Mr. Watson contest the election and do so as vigorously as possible. Sincerely,

JOHN A. SIBLEY.

A grand reception will be tendered to Eugene V. Debs next month at Chicago, on the occasion of his return from Woodstock jail. It will be under the auspices of the various labor unions, as a protest against judicial and corporate tyranny. Delegates from labor unions throughout the country will be present, to demonstrate to the world of greed and avarice that the heroic champion of labor has not been robbed of the love of his fellows by being incarcerated in the plutocratic bastille. Debs stands higher today in the hearts of the masses than any labor leader in America. All friends of humanity and justice delight to do him honor.

The people, and not the politicians, made the platform of the People's party.

THE MEN AND THEIR BOOKS.



HARVEY—I dedicate my book to the cause of the American people of this generation and of generations yet to come. SHERMAN—I ded' my book to myself that my pocketbook may be well filled.

THE PEOPLE'S CANDIDATES.

The Only Advocates of Honest Legislation for the People.

In the absence of any argument they can offer against the Coxeys bills, an occasional Republican or Democrat will say: "I'd be ashamed to vote for a hobo, horse jockey, a man with wheels in his head, etc." Gen. Coxe does own a stock farm where he raises fine blooded horses; he did conduct an army of poor men down to Washington to furnish congress with an object lesson, showing to what end their legislation was tending, (filling the country with tramps and pauperizing the farming and labor interests); he does believe that the poor people of this land have some rights that should be sacred even to congress, and that they should be furnished with steady employment at fair wages, and that they be exempt from paying further usury to the Shylocks who have already reduced them to a state of slavish beggary. Is there anything in all this to be ashamed of?

We are ashamed of some things, however. We are ashamed that we have given so many of our votes in the past to perpetuate in office such men as John Sherman, who has become a multimillionaire by repeatedly selling his vote in the senate to the Wall street sharks in order that their pet schemes for controlling the currency, as well as the government itself, might be perpetuated. Certain it is, he has not become so wealthy on a \$5,000 salary, and that he voted for the sharks he does not deny, as the congressional record stands out against him too plainly.

The whole country is ashamed of Grover Cleveland and his administration, and yet the financial views of that gentleman are in perfect harmony with the golden calf idol (Sherman) set up and worshipped by the Republican party. And who is it who is not ashamed of Cal Brice, Mr. Coxe's opponent for the governorship of Ohio, in the methods by which he is conducting the campaign? No, we are not ashamed of Mr. Coxe and are not afraid to compare his record with any of the gold bugs. He stands today the only advocate of honest legislation for the people of the three candidates for governor of Ohio, and should have the support of every poor man in the state.—Press-Review, Payne, O.

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC OUT OF IT.

Huntington Announces that Road Will Fight Only for Protection.

C. P. Huntington says that the Southern Pacific railroad is out of politics, but "if any candidate announces that he intends to cinch the road, we will fight him and try to defeat him, but we will do it openly."

Concerning the action of the railroad commissioners in reducing local rates, Huntington declares his purpose to test the issue in the courts. He says:

"An arbitrary reduction in rates is an illegal assault on railroad property which the courts can not and will not permit. I will trust to the courts for protection, and throughout my life I have relied upon the cold, impassioned justice of our courts to such an extent that I have always tried to impress upon people the great need of intelligent, honest men for the judiciary."

From his first statement it may be fairly inferred that the Southern Pacific has been "in politics," and further that it has heretofore done its work secretly. A great deal of its secret work has been exposed, however.

Of course, the courts will not allow any such petty officials as the railroad commissioners to interfere with the rates of a mighty company that pays well for decisions in its favor. The Associate Press dispatch, from which we quote, makes Mr. Huntington say that he has always relied upon the "injustice" of the courts. We presume that this word is a slip on the part of the reporter or some printer, nevertheless it expresses the truth of the matter.

The idea of a man who has purchased as many court decisions as C. P. Huntington advising the people to elect an honest judiciary.

ECKELS IN ENGLAND.

Conferring with London Money Gamblers—Teaching Finance.

Eckels, Grover's controller of the treasury, better known as Grover's monkey, is over in Europe.

He doubtless received a free steamship pass from Wall street. The Britishers are certainly gaining valuable information from young Eckels.

The latest cable brings the news that Eckels is letting his light shine on the blasted Henglish.

He is reported as devoting much of his time telling the money gamblers of London how financial matters are conducted in the United States.

Eckels ought to know, if he is capable of retaining an impression, that he is telling these English bankers something about which they know a sight more than he does.

These men whom Eckels is enlightening upon American finance are the persons who evolved the present financial system and forced our congress and president to adopt it.

These English money lords know more about American financial affairs than our young controller. They know all about it. They originated it, brought it over here and planted it upon these shores. The idea of Eckels explaining to the money gamblers of England the American system of finances is too ridiculous for consideration. These money sharks will doubtless use Eckels for all there is in him. They will conclude a country that will accept Eckels as a financier is easily bamboozled, and will proceed to rob us of everything left.—Southern Mercury.

Senator Allen on the Silver Party. Senator Allen, of Nebraska, speaking at Battle, Mont., on Labor day, said:

"I think that the disposition to put a strictly silver party in the field is confined to the mining states, and I am very doubtful of the wisdom of the movement. Those who are urging it are making a great mistake. There are many silver men who believe the Populist party is simply a temporary growth and that it will soon disappear with slightly changed conditions. Therefore there are many who urge the organization of a straight silver party, but they are making a great mistake, in my judgment. The Populist party is as well founded, and for its numbers, as well organized, and as determined as any other political party, and it has come to stay. We will not be absorbed by any other political party, and we expect to open our doors sufficiently wide to admit all honest men who want to see a reform in our government. There is no doubt that there will be an overwhelming of the Omaha platform to some extent, but its cardinal principles will be maintained. I think that the so-called sub-treasury scheme will be eliminated. At least I hope and look for some revision of the minor details."

The bankers are said to be playing the same hokey game that Secretary Morton tried on the employees of the agricultural department. They have received advice from Wall street to pay out silver to farmers who receive checks in selling their produce. Thus it is hoped to create a sentiment against silver on account of its bulk. But the farmers are willing to take all the silver they can get, and only wish prices were better so that they could get more of it. Then, too, it is funny that these "honest men" bankers would pay their obligations in cheap dollars, when gold is so plentiful.

The bankers seem to think that cheap dollars will hurt the farmer, but the farmer is willing to buy cheap dollars with which to pay his debts and taxes.

GOLD STANDARD PAY.

A COMPARISON OF WAGES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

In Many Trades Wages Are Higher in Silver Countries Than in All the Gold Standard Countries of Europe—Figures Deceptive.

One of the arguments, or rather assertions, upon which the advocates of the gold standard lay peculiar stress is the alleged low rate of wages in silver countries as compared with those of gold countries. We have often noticed that while this assertion is made with a great deal of emphasis, the relative rates of wages in the two classes of countries are never actually stated and contrasted. We know now why they are not. It is because they do not bear out the claim of the gold standard orators. We have before us the very tables so often referred to, but never quoted, by the gold monometallists, which show the weekly wages paid to the general trades in countries whose currencies are on the gold and those whose currencies are on the silver basis. We observe in these tables that such gold standard countries as Egypt and Turkey are omitted from the tables, doubtless because their wages were entirely too low to show up to advantage in a gold standard argument. Nevertheless, especially prepared as these tables were for a campaign of gold monometallism, they are utterly destructive of the argument based on the comparative wage rates. While these tables show that in a number of the general trades wages are higher in the gold standard than they are in the silver standard countries, they also show that in a number of others the wages in the latter countries are higher than they are in nearly all the gold standard countries of Europe, and that they compare favorably even with the wages paid in England and France. Thus the tables show that in Mexico, bricklayers receive \$10 per week, while in Germany they receive \$4.21 per week, in Belgium \$4.58 per week, in Holland \$4.89, in Italy \$4.20, in Spain \$3.80, in Austria \$5.74. In Mexico masons get \$10.80, and in Peru, also on a silver standard, they get \$14.76 per week. The same class of laborers in England get \$7.68 per week, in France \$5.33, in Germany \$4.67, in Belgium \$5.22, in Holland \$4.80, in Italy \$3, in Spain \$3.30, in Switzerland \$5.27. In Mexico the wages of a carpenter range from \$1.50 to \$4.75 per day. In Peru they are \$9 per week, and in Venezuela, which was on the silver standard when the table was prepared, they are \$9.84. In Germany carpenters get \$4.11 per week, in Belgium \$4.07, in Holland \$4.80, in Italy \$4, in Spain \$3.90. Brass founders in Mexico get \$7.11 per week, in Germany they get \$4.38, in Holland \$4, in Italy \$4, in Denmark \$4.82. In Mexico the wages of a cabinetmaker are \$10 per week, in Peru they are \$14.76 per week and in Venezuela they are \$14.45, both of these latter countries being classed in the table as silver countries. In Germany a cabinetmaker gets \$4.25 per week, in Denmark \$4.58, in Belgium \$5, in Holland \$4.80, in Italy \$3.40, in France \$6.14. Tinsmiths get \$7.50 per week in Mexico and \$14 per week in Venezuela. In Germany they get \$3.55, in Holland \$4, in Spain \$3, in Belgium \$4.40, in France \$5.50, in England \$6.50. Tailors get \$7.11 per week in Mexico and \$12.50 per week in Venezuela. In Germany they get \$3.41 per week, in Italy \$4, in Spain \$4.90, in Holland \$5, in France \$5.52. What is there in these figures to justify the claim that high wages go with the gold standard and low wages go with the silver standard? Reduce these wages all to their gold value, and it still appears that the earnings of the workmen in these despised silver countries are higher than they are in nearly all the great and enlightened gold standard countries of Europe. When among the "great enlightened" nations of Europe, despite the blessings of a gold standard, you find laborers working for from 29 to 39 cents per day, as the reports accompanying these tables show to be the case in Italy and Switzerland, when "skilled labor" can be had in the German textile industries for 48 cents per day, what excuse is there for all this howl about low wages in silver countries?—Memphis Commercial-Appal.

The idea of a man who has purchased as many court decisions as C. P. Huntington advising the people to elect an honest judiciary.

These men whom Eckels is enlightening upon American finance are the persons who evolved the present financial system and forced our congress and president to adopt it.

These English money lords know more about American financial affairs than our young controller. They know all about it. They originated it, brought it over here and planted it upon these shores. The idea of Eckels explaining to the money gamblers of England the American system of finances is too ridiculous for consideration. These money sharks will doubtless use Eckels for all there is in him. They will conclude a country that will accept Eckels as a financier is easily bamboozled, and will proceed to rob us of everything left.—Southern Mercury.

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AFTER THE CAMPAIGN.

Net Results of the Special Election in Georgia.

1. Mr. Black holds his two counties and we hold our nine. Considering that in each county a majority of the registrars were Democrats and that in most of the counties their conduct was strongly partisan, our holding of the nine counties demonstrates that our lines cannot be broken.

2. To hold his two counties Mr. Black had to register at least 1,200 fictitious and illegal voters in Richmond, and had to throw out at least 1,500 of our legal voters in Hancock, Jefferson, Columbia and Wilkinson.

The committee of Democrats headed by Jesse Thompson ought to be good authority on illegal registration in Augusta, and they filed a list of 1,200 with the registrars.

3. Mr. Black now stands elected by an illegal majority of about 1,500, whereas last November it was upwards of 7,000. Therefore our task on a contest is much lighter now than it was then.

4. The registration law gives us a record to go by; heretofore we had none.

5. We can get up the proofs of 1835 much more fully than we could have done those of 1894; for the reason that all the frauds of 1894 were committed upon one day, in the hurry-burly of an exciting election, while the frauds of 1895 were committed from day to day during the term of one month.

And they were committed under the eyes of men whom we had engaged to watch them. Our proofs are, therefore, ready.

6. We can get to congress just as quickly with this contest as we could have done with that of 1894 and get it decided just as early. We have lost absolutely nothing by giving Mr. Black another tilt—nor have our people lost anything.

7. By holding this special election we have familiarized ourselves with the workings of the registration law; and when the grand battle of 1896 opens we will be veterans instead of raw recruits. We have had some valuable experience with the law, and we will use it in 1896.

8. We have demonstrated beyond all dispute that the purpose of the Democratic party in Georgia is to get rid of the vote of the poor white man and the negro. This fact will not strengthen the Democrats.

9. We have demonstrated that the nine Populist counties belong to us of right, because after all the efforts of the Democratic registrars to cut down our lists to a minority standpoint, we still held our ground.

These are the net results of the election as we see them. All the advantages are with us, and we are in better trim for the contest before congress and in better trim for the great fight of 1896 than we were after the November election of 1894. T. E. W.

THE PEOPLE'S TICKET OF 1898

An Interesting Retic Picked Up in Columbus.

Sound Money: Mr. Fishback, chairman of the People's party of Franklin county, presented the office of Sound Money a photograph of the ticket used in the presidential election of 1828, in Ohio, the original of which is owned by Mr. David Herr, East Seventh street, Columbus, O. Strange as it may appear to our latter day Democratic leaders, it did not bear the name of "Democrat," but was known as the People's ticket. The following is an exact copy of the ticket, together with the names of the electors:

THE PEOPLE'S TICKET.

For President, ANDREW JACKSON.

For Vice President, JOHN C. CALHOUN.

Electors for Ohio:

Robert Lewis, Pike County.

Benjamin Jones, Wayne.

William Platt, Hamilton.

Joseph Hough, Butler.

John Devor, Darke.

Thomas Gillespie, Greene.

Robert Morrison, Adams.

Valentine Keffer, Pickaway.

Joseph Barker, Washington.

John McEvain, Franklin.

George Trout, Perry.

George Sharp, Belmont.

John Patterson, Jefferson.

George McCook, Columbiana.

William Rayen, Trumbull.

Hugh McFee, Richland.

A fac simile of the original will appear in our next week's issue. The Democrats of 1828 must have been tainted with populism to have adopted the motto: "Gratitude, Glory, Patriotism." It is in striking contrast with their motto of Gold, Greed and Plutocracy, for 1895.

The upward tendency of the market for silver is attracting close attention, both here and in Europe. The headquarters of the speculation in silver is in London, but its price among other influences has a distinct bearing upon the securities of several American railway systems, as well as those of the Mexican lines. The rise in silver, if continued, would affect the last mentioned properties in three separate ways. First in their gross earnings, as the predominant industry in Mexico is the mining of silver, which has been continued, despite the fall in its price, and would naturally be stimulated by an increase in the earnings of the roads which traverse the mining districts. Secondly, the roads would be benefited by a reduction in their operating expenses, about one-third of which are paid in gold. Thirdly, a high price for silver increases the capacity of the roads to meet their fixed charges, which are payable in gold.

It is now in order to ask the Rothschilds what they want next.

A HORRIBLE OUTRAGE

LESS THAN 1,500,000 PEOPLE PAY \$13,000,000 TAXES.

A Call to Arms—Great Excitement—Civil War Probable! Arm! Arm! and Defend Your Rights—Who Will Volunteer?

We heard the other day of a nation to which the foregoing figures fully apply. Less than 1,500,000 people, men, women and children, are taxed for \$13,000,000 annually, and no one can tell what they get in return!

It must be Russia! Can we stand idly by and see our fellow beings, even though they know no more of English than John Norrish does of French, robbed, plundered, impoverished in that terrible fashion? They are human and, after their own way, Christians. It is our duty to defend them. Recruiting quarters will be opened in the office of the Representative, and volunteers enrolled to march on Moscow and put an end to this tyranny.

"Hold on, Mr. Donnelly," cried our foreman, "you have got the wrong pig by the ear. It isn't Russia at all. It is true that Russia collects her taxes with the cat-o'-nine tails, applied to the soles of the farmers' bare feet; and we have not quite got to that yet; but we're getting there! Now we simply take away the farm for one-tenth its value."

"Well, what country is it? I certainly saw those statistics somewhere."

"Certainly; you saw them in our state auditor's report. The country referred to is Minnesota! Only thirty of forty years ago immigrants swarmed over our fat fields, lying broad and open, the magnificent gift of God; and they took them as a free gift; and now three-fourths of them are mortgaged, and the value of their products has decreased one-half; and in the midst of an unexampled abundance, which neither bin nor cellar nor crib can hold, the people are in sore straits of sorrow, excepting the money-lenders and the few who are out of debt. They have tried everything. They tried the Republican party for thirty years, and the Democratic party for eight years; and they followed the Howling Dervishes—the dancing Judases—into the mud of the Dismal Swamp, and they can't go any further in that direction!"

"Well, foreman," said a typo, "will we print that call for volunteers?"

"Call for volunteers! The very men you are trying to help would be the first to hang you. The theory of this Republic is: 'Every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost!' And the devil seems to have corralled the whole nation."

No; no; they will gather around the shores of the Dismal Swamp and howl for the macadamized highway that ought to cross its dreadful depths:—howl for promises, howl for lies, howl for disappointments, howl for destruction, howl for shame and poverty and misery.—Representative.

QUESTION OF LANDLORDISM.

The Land Question Is an Important One.

Lord Scully, who owns 100,000 acres of Illinois land, a whole county in Kansas, besides other large tracts in Kansas and Nebraska (42,000 acres in Nuckolls county and 30,000 in Gage), has decided to become a citizen of this country and will settle in New York city. He does this because of the tendency in several states (where Populists are numerous) to deal with alien landlords. He will thus, through citizenship, retain his lordly tribute and secure protection. If rent to foreigners, tribute to an alien power, is a bad thing, a dangerous thing, which might lead gradually to complete subjection to foreign ownership of the whole country, what better is it to support landlords at home? That is what 52 per cent of our own people are now doing. Fifty-two per cent of our people are renters, according to the census of 1890, and no doubt tens of thousands of families have lost their homes through mortgage foreclosures since then.

If rent is all right, a good thing, Scully, the rack renter, is all right, Ireland is all right, and America under the present and increasing tribute to landlords is and will be all right.

Scully never did a day's work in America. He bought his Illinois land at \$1.25 per acre and paid for much of it in soldiers' land warrants, so that it cost him not to exceed 50 and 75 cents an acre. Without putting on any improvements he has rented it for an increasing sum and now gets \$1 to \$1 an acre in excess of taxes. Renters build their own hovels and live like dogs in kennels. In Nebraska and Kansas the same general plan is pursued. He bought his land of the government and paid for it in scrip. Wild land he first rented out for a series of years, charging the renter the first year the taxes, the second year the taxes and 25 cents an acre, the third year the taxes and 50 cents an acre. After that his agent made such terms as he could. In all cases renters have to make their own improvements, which they can take away with them or sell to renters who take their places. Of course only the most temporary, cheap improvements are made. The renters live in hovels instead of houses. The roads are not worked, the country is not improved; each renter cares only to get present returns and is not a citizen who takes an interest in the country.

But this is what landlordism leads to. Let us not forget that the land question is a fundamental and overshadowing question.—Wealthmakers.

"Keep off the grass" has come to be a slogan in the rallies of the populists. The funny scribbles have dropped the phrase, and now it is rapidly marching into history to live as long as courage and patriotism inspire the soldiers of freedom.