

ANOTHER REVOLT.

Small Fixing Things Up to Follow Professor Bemis.

The fierce attack upon trusts made by Professor Albion W. Small of the University of Chicago has created a sensation.

He is a professor of sociology at the university of which John D. Rockefeller is the mainstay, yet he delivered an address on "The Value of Sociological Study to the Minister" before the Methodist preachers. In the course of his remarks he said:

"In this age of so called democracy we are getting into the thrall of the most relentless system of economic oligarchy that history thus far records.

"That capital from which most of us, directly or indirectly, get our bread and butter is becoming the most undemocratic, inhuman and atheistic of all the heathen divinities. It breeds children only to devour the bodies of some and the souls of others and to put out the spiritual eyesight of the rest.

"In spite of the historic campaigns for liberty, in spite of the achievements of Christianity, there has never been a time since Adam was born when the individual counted for so little or availed so little as today.

"Compared with any worthy conception of what society must become if life is to be tolerable, the socialistic indictments against our civilization are essentially sound. Mind, I do not say the remedies are sound. But the indictments are true."

An abstract proposition of these diagnoses expose with approximate truth the ghastly inequalities and injustices which our present social order sacrifices. "It is a literal and cardinal fact that our present economic system cries to heaven for rectification. It stifles human nature. It nullifies the purposes of God. The men who denounce present society have profound reason for their complaints. We are in the midst of the most bewildering labyrinth of social entanglements in which the human race has wandered up to date.

"If you will heed the symptoms from bank and office and factory and railroad headquarters and daily press, you have discovered that the very men who are making these combinations are beginning to be afraid of their own shadows. These very business men, who claim to have a monopoly of practical common sense, have involved themselves and all the rest of us in a grim tragedy of errors.

"They are already beginning to ask on the quiet how it is all to end. Whether they realize it or not, our vision of freedom is passing into eclipse of universal corporate compulsion in the interest of capital. The march of human progress is getting reducible to marking time in the lockstep of capital's chain gang.

"I have no doubt whatever that the vast majority of capitalists are good capitalists. They operate strictly within the rules of the game. Nevertheless capitalism is not a good game, and it is our business to see the reason why. The whole programme of our present civilization turns at last on the calculation of effects upon the accumulation of capital.

"We have turned moral values upside down. We are making men the means of making capital, whereas capital is only tolerable when it is simply the means of making men.

"It would be infinitely more for human weal if every dollar of wealth should be cleaned from the earth if we could have instead of it industry and honesty and justice and love and faith than to be led much further into this devil's dance of capitalism."

Another "Liberal" University.

The official announcement is made that Professor John R. Commons, the head of the department of sociology in Syracuse university, is to retire from the faculty.

It is said that Professor Commons does not get out voluntarily, but has been encouraged to do so by the university board of trustees. Recent facts verify this.

It has been learned that Professor Commons' retirement is really due to the fact that he is a free silver man. The main point of the contention between the professor and the trustees for several weeks has been the currency question. Professor Commons is a staunch free silver man, and it is said that his superiors insisted that they could not swallow the free silver theory nor allow it to be taught to the 1,300 or more undergraduates. Consequently, if the professor clung to the repudiated silver theories, it would be necessary for him to look for a new field of usefulness. The professor would not give in one inch, and his retirement is the result.

Municipal Ownership.

Mayor Jones of Toledo, in a letter to the New York Journal, says:

"The people care nothing for parties, they care everything for principle, and they believe in municipal ownership. The greatest obstacle in the way of good government here and everywhere, in municipalities, state and nation, and the one that is now the easiest for the people to overcome, is private ownership of public utilities.

"There is never any talk of corruption or scandal or dishonesty in connection with the management of our water-works, our natural gas plants, or, indeed, any of the publicly owned utilities.

"Nearly all of the defects in our municipal government can be traced to the corporations who own or are seeking to own or extend public franchises.

"There is no kind of doubt about your proposition that good gas can be made and sold at a profit in New York city for 50 cents. We never shall have honest municipal government until all of the public utilities are publicly owned."

MODERN EDUCATION.

It Falls to Instruct Upon Practical and Vital Questions.

The most important thing in our modern life is completely left out of the ordinary education and only lightly touched in any of our educational institutions. It is the subject of economics. When this subject is presented in our advanced colleges, it is treated in an abstract way—a "faraway" sort of way—without application to practical needs and with due regard for existing institutions. The philosophy of money, the principles involved in the transportation question and the many questions concerning land titles, land tenure, taxation, etc., are not taught. Yet these questions enter into the daily lives of us all, and they should be a part of the common school education of every American boy. One objection is that they are too difficult. They are not half as difficult as algebra or Greek. It seems that "the powers that be" wish a veil of mystery to shroud these questions, just as the Indian medicine man wishes to be protected in the monopoly of the incantation business. The people are made to believe that these questions are "too deep" for the ordinary mind, yet every college student and almost every schoolboy solves more difficult problems every day. I now have in mind a man who kept a fish stall in a market house who has become immensely wealthy by giving some plain, everyday business attention to the economics of street car transportation. And the people are foolish enough to allow the companies of this man to use the public streets, which belong to the people, and they pay 5 cent fares while the cost is less than 2 cents. Even school children are charged this exorbitant fare. The city has spent millions for a magnificent park, but the poor, even the children of the poor, must pay a tribute to the street car company in order to go to the park. The city would better have spent less for the park and owned the means for the people to get to it to enjoy it. But this need not be an expense, for a slight profit could be made at 2 cent fares.

The general study of economics would rapidly bring better conditions to the masses. The farmer is the original producer and consequently the foundation of society. He has to contend against two things—uncertain crops and unstable prices. A proper solution of the money question would render prices comparatively stable. Yet the average farmer is caught by "jingoism" and cares more about the American flag floating over distant islands than for his pressing and legitimate interests at home.

A proper solution of the railroad question would not force coal miners in Pennsylvania to starve while the farmers of Nebraska are burning their corn to keep warm. A rational arrangement of public transportation would bring producers and consumers closer together, to the great advantage of both. Yet the attention of voters is kept on questions of far less importance to them, and our educational institutions continue missing the mark by "pottering about" on branches of little practical everyday value.

We pride ourselves on our schools and colleges, on the universality of education in this country, on our newspapers and magazines and on the unusually high intelligence of our people as a whole, yet we do not apply the same to our most vital interests. Public utilities, such as transportation, the telegraph, banking, etc., are left to the management of private coteries, and, of course, the management is in the interest of these private coteries, and, locally, street car transportation, telephones and usually the water supply, gas, electric lights, etc., are left to private ownership and operation, of course, in the interest of the owners instead of the public, though the streets belong to the public. When will the people waken up to these facts and cease to waste the precious schooltime of youth on impractical subjects and put that time on subjects which involve the general good of all? When will voters cease to allow their attention to be occupied by "flapdoodle," to the neglect of the most vital public interests, a proper management of which would vastly improve the condition of all?—Dr. C. F. Taylor in Medical World.

Achin Tee Be Civilized.

From Greenland's icy mountains an Manila's coral strand the poor, benighted heathen call away ter beat the band. They're achin ter be civilized in every heathen land, an we've gotter have an army for the job. The heathen are a-caller ter our noble Christian race, America with all the rest hast got ter set a pace, an fer our surplus produce we must have a market place, an we've gotter have an army for the job. The heathen in the peaceful paths of freedom must be led. At present he's too volatyle an light as ter his head. The only way ter keep him down's ter fill him up with lead, an we've gotter have an army for the job. Then it's "rise up, William Riley, now, an come along with me." We're going ter bring 'em blosin' an ter set their pore souls free. They're only yellow niggers, an they'll soon be up a tree, but we've gotter have an army for the job!—Public

A Great Country.

"Hello, Mr. Workingman! What are you doing?" "Digging potatoes." "What are you going to do with them?" "I sort them into four piles." "What for?" "The big pile of fine potatoes you see over there I give to the landlady as rent for his permission to me to live on the earth; next to the biggest pile I give to the mortgagees as interest for the use of the implements to work with; the third pile I give in taxes for the privilege of living in the country." "And that pile of little ones, do you eat them?" "No, I feed them to the hogs to fatten them, and then give the hogs to the railroads for hauling the potatoes to the owners. This is a great country, though!"—Northern Vindicator

IN THE OLD SIXTH.

Names of Several Good Men Mentioned to Fill the Vacancy in that District.

Editor Independent: It is with some degree of pleasure that I respond to the request of my old friend and co-worker in the battle of reform, I. N. Harbaugh, of Dawes county.

When we go back a few years and recollect the hopeless canvass and sacrifice he made while we were greatly in the minority in this section of the state, for district judge, in the fall of '91. I think it rather obligates us to place in nomination for congressman to succeed W. L. Greene, the Hon. I. N. Harbaugh himself. It is this same sense of gratitude that prompts me to select or designate as my preference for this responsible position the Hon. Wm. Neville, of Lincoln county, a man who was the unanimous choice in the populist state convention two years ago, for judge of the supreme court, and again a leading candidate for the governorship last fall, but both times giving way and pleading harmony and united action of the reform forces of Nebraska. None question his ability to represent us in congress, and if there is such a thing as gratitude the people of the sixth district owe the judge this debt.

I hope to hear from other populist friends over the district through the Independent on this subject, and I know I voice the sentiment of our people in Cherry county when I say whoever will be chosen the standard-bearer can rest assured of a safe majority in this county.

S. G. Fairchild, mentioned as an available candidate for the position of congressman by Mr. Harbaugh, unfortunately for our people is, like Senator Allen, a resident of the third congressional district. M. F. Harrington, (who undoubtedly could have the support of the solid northwest) we have good reason to believe will not be a candidate. Judge Westover is wanted on the bench again and is a very good reason why the people of the congressional district might ask us to lay aside our selfishness and spare him for the good of all. At any rate let us have a free discussion (the editor permitting) as it will cause us to learn of the merits of our numerous strong men within the populist party of the district.

I favor Judge Neville as successor to Congressman Greene for three reasons other than already given: First, he is a man in whom our people have every confidence.

Second, he has a public record which cannot be assailed in any essential.

Third, he can poll as many votes in this section as any man in the district.

GEORGE H. REINKERT, Valentine, Nebr.

AN HONEST DOLLAR.

Editor Independent:

Under the above caption, in your issue of two weeks ago, I noticed an article from C. F. Cole, Blair, Nebr., in which Mr. Cole defines what he believes to be an "honest dollar." He says that to his mind an honest dollar is one which always contains the same number of grains of gold or silver as the case may be, and the same to be a full legal tender for all debts, public and private.

It seems to me that nothing is farther from the truth than this conception of an honest dollar. Nothing would please Plutocracy better than to get the people to believe this.

It is an economic truth that the pur-

chasing power of a given unit of money depends upon the quantity of money in circulation, along with the amount of business exchanges which take place. My friend Cole agrees with this proposition. Now to show the falsity of his honest dollar, let us suppose that the United States' government should stop the further issue of money of any kind whatsoever, but leave in circulation what money we have. As the present supply of money becomes wasted away, lost, destroyed or carried out of the country, and the business changes and population of the country increases, it is self evident to the thoughtful mind, that the purchasing or exchange power of each dollar will be greatly enhanced, although the dollars of gold or silver contain the same quantity of metal as before. Nothing can be more dishonest than a dollar of this kind. Plutocracy has been giving us just this kind of a dollar. Instead of our government coining and stamping money so that it shall keep pace with business exchanges and population, it has limited the output of money by stopping the coining of silver and restricting the issue of paper money to such a degree that we have a less number of dollars in circulation today than we had at the close of the rebellion. All this, notwithstanding the population of our country has doubled and the business of our country (the true test of the amount of money needed) has tripled. The result is that all prices average about one-third of what they were in the sixties. That is the wealth producers must sell three times as much of the products of their labor as formerly in order to secure a dollar with which to pay a debt.

Many men have been broken up by this doing business on a constantly falling market. This is a dishonest dollar.

An honest dollar is the dollar which has the same purchasing power at all times. An absolutely honest dollar is perhaps unattainable, but we can approximate it. How? By causing our circulating medium to keep pace with the business of the country, and in no other way. If we could only get the common people, the wealth producers, (not the wealth absorbers) to understand this, the money question would be settled in short order.

It is easy to understand how the man with his millions invested in interest-bearing bonds is selfishly interested in the dollar which has an increased purchasing power, since his income will purchase that much more of this world's goods and give him greater power over his fellow-men.

It is strange how the people of this country take training. Of late years if a man can find work at any price they call it prosperity, and the poor deluded workman joyfully takes up the cry of prosperity, although he could not begin to support a small family on the pittance which he receives. And the people are beginning to believe that we are prosperous, with hundreds of thousands of people toiling their lives away with absolutely no prospect of anything more in life than a struggle for bread. And the people are beginning to believe that this is prosperity. May a merciful Father awaken the people to a sense of their condition. G. H. WALTERS, Lincoln, Nebr.

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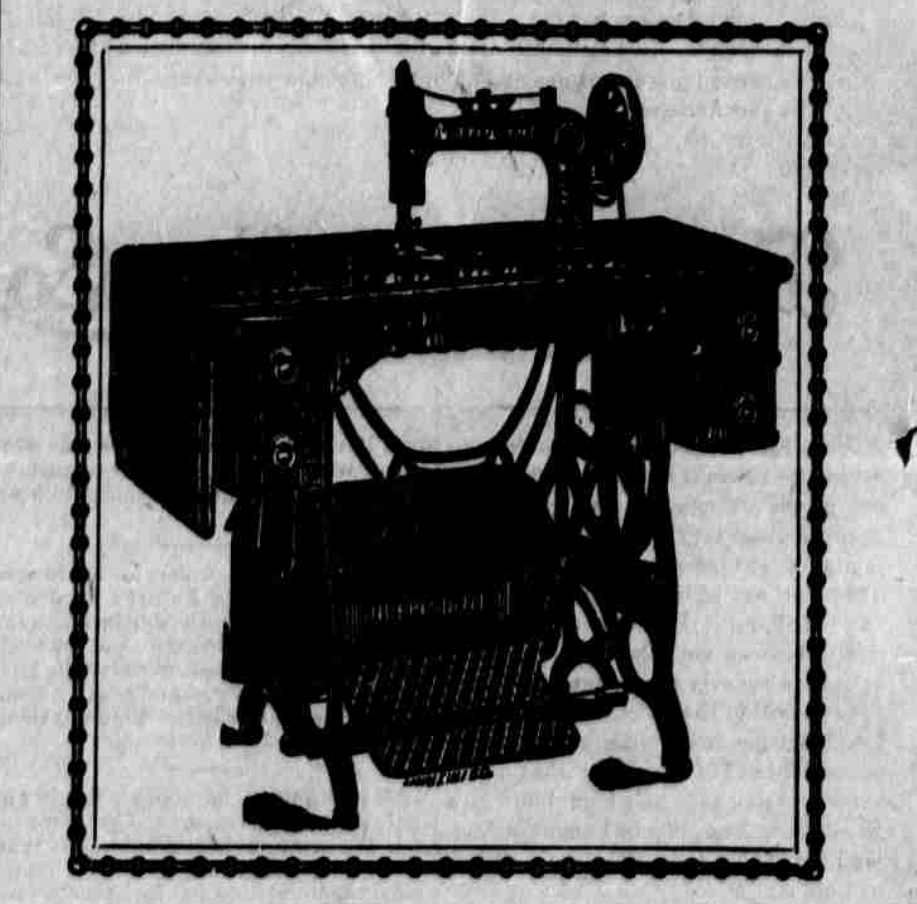
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