

ECONOMIC DISCUSSION

Were I to treat this subject exhaustively I should be compelled to occupy too much space. Yet I sometimes feel that such exhaustive consideration of the subject from my standpoint is necessary in order to a clearing of the way for the greater reforms so urgently needed by the people throughout the civilized world; not that my suggestions could have such wide effect, but the need is urgent for a wide discussion of every phase of the reform questions from every standpoint. My discussion will, therefore, be rather suggestive than complete; and I shall boil down my points as much as possible.

1. The chief cause of industrial distress and the killing struggle for existence among the millions today is the partial monopoly of the means of production and the complete monopoly of all the means of distribution, by the already wealthy.

2. The over-mastering power of monopoly is due, not alone to denial of silver free coinage, but to the existence of all of the wonderful and hitherto unknown improvements in machinery and transportation facilities, including the transmission of intelligence; and the control of all these by the wealthy.

For the first time in the history of the world, manual labor and muscle have taken a back seat and the machine has taken their place. This would be highly beneficial except for the fact that:

3. The already wealthy own the machine and thereby secure the chief and much largest advantage from modern improvements and inventions. This is a new factor in the industrial world. It was never so before. Improved machinery would be a great blessing to humanity if these were not so; and under a system of equal distribution, or just distribution, the world will yet enjoy great blessings from the use of all improvements in machinery and transportation.

4. Ownership of the machine results in wealth owing the labor of the artisan.

5. Whoever owns the labor of the producer owns him, for all practicable purposes.

6. The other factor in the problem is found in the control of legislative and administrative affairs by organized wealth whereby special privileges are obtained.

Illustration of both propositions: On June 17, 1899, L. M. Rockwood, an oil producer of Zelienople, Pa., was on the witness stand before the industrial commission engaged in the investigation of the Standard Oil company and among other things he said, substantially: In its war against independent oil refiners the Standard Oil Co. had an arrangement with the railroad companies whereby the general public paid \$1.90 per barrel freight on the oil, while the company paid only thirty-five cents. This saving to the company enabled it to make a profit of 400 per cent and so destroy competitors. In 15 years five trunk lines of railroad paid back to the company the sum of \$11,000,000 in rebates on freight charges.

He said, further, that all railroads in the country were practically in one trust and that they were in control of politics contributing millions to elect legislators and judges. He made the charge that a New York judge had been elevated to the court of appeals by the corporations through the use of a corruption fund, because of his action in a certain case between the railroad combination and the oil refiners.

Such combinations were not possible fifty years ago. Such opportunities for controlling courts did not exist in this country fifty years ago. Wealth has seized upon inventions and improvements and is using them with a mighty power to enslave labor and to pocket an unjust share of the production of labor.

7. The closing of the mints to silver was only one of the many monopolistic measures seized upon by wealth to establish its dominion, the more firmly. The evil of "demonetization," so called lies in its monopolistic feature. By lessening the supply of primary money it is easier for wealth to control the world's money; and this was the purpose of it.

8. To cut off free silver coinage was no greater evil than for governments as widely to confer money creating powers upon banks. A quarter of the world's money is paper, a third of it would under free coinage of silver and gold, be silver. To the extent of this one quarter, it is just as mischievous to delegate to the banks the power to create money as for the nation to shut out silver from the mints to that extent. It is simply a question of the bank control of the world's money.

9. The monopoly of the world's machinery and transportation systems by wealth is a far greater evil than the exclusion of silver from free coinage, because: 1. Such monopoly destroys competition and creates trusts and combines. 2. Such monopoly oppresses labor and causes strikes and turns millions out of employment. 3. Such monopoly regulates production and fixes prices, even more than the supply of money influences prices.

10. To restore silver to free coinage would raise prices no more than about 25 per cent.

11. Were silver restored to free coinage the rise in prices would increase the wealth of the millionaires; and the trust and combine would share in the increase and thereby their power would be increased.

12. So long as wealth owns and controls the inventions and improvements in machinery and transportation it will exact unjust profits from the toilers; and neither the free coinage of silver nor the increase of the money supply by other means will injure, much less destroy, trusts and combines or the power of monopoly, nor relieve in any appreciable degree the slavery of the toiler.

13. It is just as important for our government to do its own banking business, issue all paper money and establish a system of banks for the people, to be owned and operated by the government as it is to open the mints to free silver. All these are necessary and it will need them all to destroy the money monopoly.

14. First in importance stands the demand for a purely democratic government wherein the people shall in fact rule. Hence the coming fight ought to be made for direct legislation. We must not go forth to battle unarmed. This weapon, direct legislation, would be a Krupp canon, a Krug-Jorgenson rifle,

a Gatling gun and a Maxim repeater all in one. With it we could batter down all opposition and set up the standard of true reform with certainty of victory.

15. But, lastly, when the enemy shall be defeated we must build our walls of defense upon a revolutionized industrial system, wherein the man, not the dollar, shall stand first in importance; wherein the weak cannot be crushed to death under the heel of the strong in the fierce struggle for existence; wherein the whole nation shall stand for a just distribution to all toilers of the wealth created by them; wherein the man, shall be lifted above the machine, not made its slave, wherein every line of business naturally monopolistic shall be operated by the whole people for the good of all.

W. L. HAND.
Kearney, Neb.

The Independent does not endorse all that its correspondents say, by any means. Its pages are an open forum for the discussion of economics and politics. It lets every man have his say. By means of honest argument we will at last arrive at the truth. The editor of the Independent denies the truth of No. 11, and the latter part of No. 12 in the above article. In what does the wealth of the of the vastly rich consist? Is it not almost wholly made of written contract to deliver "money" at some future time? From what source do they draw their enormous incomes? Is it not wholly from interest upon these promises to pay—bonds, mortgages, etc.—that that income is derived.

Who pays this interest? The producer in every case. Let the crops fail for two years and no interest will be paid by any one and no income will be gathered in by the wealthy. How do the producers pay this interest? By selling the product and buying money with them. Now if it requires only half as much products to buy the money to pay this interest, will not the remainder stay in the hands of the producer? That will not "increase the wealth of the millionaires," but reduce it one-half. That will increase the wealth of the producers and reduce the wealth of the millionaires. If prices are doubled it will only require one-half as much of the products of labor to pay the interest as it does now. The way to double prices is to double the volume of money in circulation by the free coinage of silver or issue paper money.

If the free coinage of silver would "increase the wealth of the millionaires," why do they all object to it? Are the millionaires so stupid that they do not know what is for their own interests? Or are they philanthropists who fight the free coinage of silver for the benefit of the poor and at their own loss? It will be well for Mr. Hand to read the "Appeal to the Clergy," by the economist Del Mar.

COLLEGE BOYS' CHANCE

With a view to encouraging graduate of colleges receiving aid from the United States to pursue post-graduate studies relating to agriculture, the secretary of agriculture has addressed the following letter to the presidents of all agricultural colleges:

United States Department of Agriculture, Office of the Secretary, Washington, D. C., June 27, 1899.—Dear Sir:—In my annual report to the president for 1898 I announced my intention of affording opportunities for graduates of agricultural colleges to pursue post-graduate studies in connection with work in the scientific divisions of this department as far as practicable. In pursuance of this policy I have made an arrangement with the civil service commission for the registration of the graduates of colleges receiving the benefits of grants of land or money from the United States, who may desire to enter the service of this department as "scientific aids" on the terms stated in the notice of the commission herewith enclosed.

It seems to me entirely appropriate that the national government should aid the institutions to which it has already so largely given financial support in the preparation of their graduates for posts of usefulness in this department or in the states from which they come, especially as investigators and teachers along scientific lines. I hope, therefore, that the effort which I am now making in this direction will be but a beginning of the opening up of opportunities for graduate study at the national capital to those of your graduates who are especially fitted to do high-grade scientific work. It will of course be understood that under present conditions the department can admit only a very limited number of scientific aids. Our purpose is to choose from the eligible registrants those persons who furnish the best evidence of having peculiarly good qualifications for aiding in the work of the department now in progress. In extending this notice will you kindly explain to your graduates the necessity of making a clear and full statement of their attainments and qualifications in special lines of science. Correspondence regarding application blanks and other matters connected with registration should be had promptly with the civil service commission.

10. To restore silver to free coinage would raise prices no more than about 25 per cent.

11. Were silver restored to free coinage the rise in prices would increase the wealth of the millionaires; and the trust and combine would share in the increase and thereby their power would be increased.

12. So long as wealth owns and controls the inventions and improvements in machinery and transportation it will exact unjust profits from the toilers; and neither the free coinage of silver nor the increase of the money supply by other means will injure, much less destroy, trusts and combines or the power of monopoly, nor relieve in any appreciable degree the slavery of the toiler.

13. It is just as important for our government to do its own banking business, issue all paper money and establish a system of banks for the people, to be owned and operated by the government as it is to open the mints to free silver. All these are necessary and it will need them all to destroy the money monopoly.

14. First in importance stands the demand for a purely democratic government wherein the people shall in fact rule. Hence the coming fight ought to be made for direct legislation. We must not go forth to battle unarmed. This weapon, direct legislation, would be a Krupp canon, a Krug-Jorgenson rifle,

MERRITT MAY BE SENT BACK

A Possibility of the Superseding of General Otis.

PRESIDENT CONSIDERING IT.

The President's Recent Conference With the Former Commander at Manila Recalled—No Violation of Military Precedent Is Involved.

WASHINGTON, July 19.—The President is said to be considering the advisability of sending Major General Merritt to the Philippines to succeed General Otis in command there. The strong light thrown upon the conduct of the campaign by the statement of the correspondents, it is thought, establishes that General Otis has not comprehended the real situation in the Philippines and that the President should send another officer to conduct the campaign when the rainy season terminates. When General Otis was sent to the Philippines it was subordinate to General Merritt, one of the three major generals of the regular army, and a most accomplished soldier and skillful general. Public exigencies required Merritt to leave Manila to attend the sessions of the Paris peace conference, and thus General Otis was put in command.

P. Didn't McKinley order Dewey to go and hunt the Spanish fleet and sink it, and now you say he did it without orders. Didn't the president tell Dewey to stick to his post until he sent him reinforcements?

R. Oh, you are inconsistent on this point and would like to throw all the blame of this war on the administration when you know we were forced into war with the negroes. We didn't want to fight but we had to or be branded as cowards.

R. So you were forced into war with the Filipinos. I don't see who forced the administration into war with them. There is no act of congress that we know of that declared war against the negroes in the Philippines.

R. Oh, you don't talk with consistency. You would like to put all the blame of this war upon the republican party now when the war was forced on us, and we as a party can't help it and we wouldn't if we could.

P. That is just what we expected you would do, try to throw the blame of the war on the democrats. They didn't tell Dewey to hold his position. You administration fellows have an elephant on your hands and you don't know how to get rid of it and hold your job.

R. You people are always finding fault with what the republicans do. You blow about the big trusts like if we can't help it, when you know we are opposed to the trusts and expect to have a plan in our platform against them.

P. You say you are opposed to trusts. If that is so why don't you stop them? You have president, congress and courts and then you say you are opposed to trusts. Why don't you do something about it?

W. M. LAKIN.

WHAT FOOL POPS SAID.

Enclosed find P. O. order for \$1.00 to pay for subscription from May 10, '99.

My eyes are sore looking for property which I am now able to barely sight through the clouds of war, inspiring bonds and starving or

which gave our farmers an advance o

breadstuff and other circumstances, o

of which increased the circulation of

money just as the darned fool pop

always claimed, but the reaction will

come when we have to pay the war

bonds, principle and interest, and has

already set in since starving nations

are raising their own bread that has

brought wheat down to the old Cleaver

price, under the Marie Hanna ad-

ministration. God save the country or

it will go down like unto old Rome and

from the same cause—the enslaving of

the people through the corruption of the

money changers—you are able to giv

hot shot.

B. N. CLEAVELAND,
Fremont, Neb.

It will be well for Mr. Hand to read the "Appeal to the Clergy," by the economist Del Mar.

ESTERHASY SAYS THE FORGERY TOOK THE PLACE OF MISSING EVIDENCE.

PARIS, July 19.—The Matin publishes a statement from Count Ferdinand Waisin Esterhazy, in which he says that he wrote the bordereau by order of Colonel Sandher, and that it was sent to the house of Colonel Schwartzkoppen, then military attache at the German embassy in Paris, whence it was returned to the war office. Colonel Schwartzkoppen, being at the time in Berlin, never saw the bordereau, which was forged in order to supply material proof of the guilt of Dreyfus.

The statement contains the assertion that secret agents in Berlin, whose testimony it was impossible to use, had demonstrated that leakages had occurred in the war office, and the fact that treason existed was undeniable and everything indicated Dreyfus as the traitor.

All the war ministers, the statement

further says, know the facts and

thought the forgery of the bordereau necessary. The evidence implicating

Dreyfus were the words of Colonel

Schwartzkoppen's mouth. General

Mercier, General DeBoisdeffre and

General Gonzo knew that the bordereau was forged and that Dreyfus was illegally but justly convicted.

DEATH TO HIGH PRICES.

ALL DAY, 102 S. 11th St., Lincoln, Neb.

Only plow factory in the U. S. selling direct to the farmer.

DEAD IN AN OHIO COLLISION.

Three Men Killed on the Norfolk & Western.—The Cause Not Known.

PORSCHE, Ohio, July 19.—A head-on collision between passenger train No. 3 and a through freight occurred on the Norfolk & Western railway today at Haverhill. The dead are George Sloan, Coal Grove, freight engineer; George Egbert, Portsmouth, passenger fireman; — Perlinger, Keno, flagman.

The wreck occurred in a heavy fog on a short curve west of Haverhill. Both trains were running at high speed. The two engines, twenty freight cars and the baggage and express cars were wrecked. The cause of the accident has not been determined.

An Aron to Cecil Rhodes.

CAPETOWN, July 19.—Cecil Rhodes, formerly premier of Cape Colony, arrived here to-day. He was welcomed by a reception committee of influential citizens, and cheered as he passed through the streets. Many of the buildings of Capetown were decorated with bunting, and in front of the town hall a big arch had been erected bearing the words: "Welcome, Great Pioneer. Capetown-Cairo."

ALLOWED MINES FREE SPEECH.

FORT SCOTT, Kan., July 19.—The federal court to-day refused to dissolve the Mine Workers' union. At the request of the coal companies it issued an injunction against the union's executive board to restrain it from interfering with the strikers, but granted the miners the right of speech and arguments to induce men to join them.

ONLY THE ENGINEERS WERE KILLED.

BALTIMORE, July 19.—A mixed train on the Curtis bay branch of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad was derailed to-day at Stonehouse Cove, near this city. Engineer Raway was killed and Fireman Shad slightly injured. None of the passengers were injured.

A MINES TRUST.

NEW YORK, July 19.—A mines trust combination with a capital of \$10,000,000 is forming in this city. The promoters of the combine are mostly Southern financiers.

KRUEGER FOR CONCESSION.

The African War Cloud, It Is Thought, Is Blowing Over.

LONDON, July 19.—The general trend of news from South Africa points to a peaceful settlement of existing difficulties there.

PRETORIA, July 19.—The volksraad resumed a discussion of the franchise bill at its session to-day. The trend of the debate favored seven years' retrospective and prospective franchise. Replying to a question, President Krueger reviewed the Bloemfontein conference and said that the proposals of Sir Alfred Miller of Cape Colony and the British high commission of South Africa were too wide, but that alterations from nine to seven years was only a slight difference and for reasons of honesty he recommended the alteration, which would meet the English objections. The country, he added, would not be endangered thereby, but would gain the applause of the world.

A GROWTH OF 2,000 IN THE MACCABEES.

PONT HUON, Mich., July 19.—The eighth biennial review of the supreme tent, Knights of the Macabees, opened this morning with 85 delegates in attendance. The report of the supreme commander shows a net increase in membership during the biennial period of 43,453.

HIS WIFE SUSPECTED.

ELK RIVER, Pa., July 12.—Clarence A