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THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

Wealth as a Political Power. BY W. A. McKEIGHAN.

RED CLOUD, April 14, 1890. EDITOR ALLIANCE.—In compliance with your request for short articles for your paper I will resume the subject of "wealth as a political power." In our "road land of freedom and equal rights" we have been taught to believe that the poor man is as great a political power as his rich neighbor. In theory this may be true, but when we see a few men controlling fabulous wealth, electing their agents to congress and shaping the legislation of states and controlling the national policy, we are led to believe that in practice this beautiful theory does not hold good.

The present political power of wealth in our government is rendered possible by its accumulation in the hands of a few men.

First, through the railway corporations controlling the transportation of the country.

Second, through the banks and money lenders controlling the currency of the country and exercising the power of contracting or expanding its volume whenever it is their interest to do so.

Third, by a vicious system of national taxation, which enables the protected manufacturing class to levy and collect tribute from the wealth producing classes.

Reference to the history of other nations fails to afford a single instance of the accumulation of great wealth in the hands of a few individuals as the result of the United States during the last twenty-five years. During these years the earnings of a great nation have been flowing into the coffers of a class of capitalists, that rival the titled nobility of Europe in the extent of their income. Extraordinary causes must exist to produce such abnormal results. They are found in the special legislation of the country, extending aid and protection to capital.

What are the facts in support of this proposition? In the first place the railways have been aided by the government in the grants of land to the extent of over two hundred million acres. They have also received the credit of the government to the extent of more than sixty millions of dollars. In addition the people in their corporate capacity have bonded their municipalities to an incredible extent to aid in their construction. So general has this become that there is scarcely a county, city, town or village in the west that is not mortgaged to the railway corporations. These corporations now ride rough shod over the rights of the people, and plunder and extort from them the last dollar that the public will bear.

"How long, oh Lord, how long?"

In the first place the national banks are the creditors of the government to an amount ten per cent greater than their circulation. In their character of public creditors they are exempt from taxation on their bonds, and receive interest upon their entire capital from the government. As banks they receive ninety per cent of their capital from currency to be employed in their business. Upon this they likewise receive a profit. It is difficult to imagine how protection to capital could be carried further than this. The power to issue currency delegated to banking corporations is a menace to the interests of the wealth producing classes.

In regard to the protected manufacturers it is sufficient to refer the reader to the laws on the national statute books to show the nature and extent of the protection extended to this class of capitalists. An examination of the census reports will show the effects of this system on the value of the farms of the country and on the profits of those engaged in agriculture. The present condition of the laboring classes of the country shows clearly the effects of this policy, wherein the powers of the government are invoked for the sole benefit of capital. The protection thus extended to these three classes of capitalists, we have the key to their rapid accumulation of wealth. I maintain that no other result (other things being equal) could be any possibility follow the present policy of the government. No effort of the people, no degree of economy, no amount of industry in their several avocations could have averted these results. The people are as powerless as though they were actually in a state of bondage. They cannot change these results while the present policy is continued. While the cause exists the evils must and will remain. The remedy must be thorough. It must go to the source of the evil, and tear it up root and branch.

In my opinion three things must be done, and done quickly. The first is for the people to rise above party and party prejudices and place the private corporations in their proper place as servants and not masters of the people, even though it should be necessary to take the control and management of their property and pay a reasonable compensation therefor. Let this become the recognized policy of the people and these corporations will be as careful to subservise the general interests as they are now regardless of the rights of the people.

The second thing that needs to be done is for the people to demand that the government provide for the free coinage of silver, making it a full legal tender for any and all debts, and that the present bank currency be retired and that a government legal tender currency be issued in its stead, an amount equal to the wants of the legitimate business of the country. Will the Alliance demand this (not by resolutions) but by their votes?

The third thing is for the people to demand that the government undo its mischievous legislation protecting capital employed in manufacturing, and leave the distribution of wealth to follow natural laws free from government meddling and interference. Protection disturbs trade, establishes monopolies, creates trusts and interferes with the operation of the national laws that otherwise would govern the creation and distribution of wealth. There is and can be no creative power in legislative enactments.

All that prohibition ever has done or ever can do for the country is to effect the distribution of wealth and build up a privileged class; and in any country it must eventually fail. Your comments on the late meeting of Messrs. Leese, Nettleton and others, and their address to the republicans of Nebraska, were timely and to the point. If these gentlemen believe that all our organized farmers are to be directed to the accomplishment of one single reform, and that within the lines of a party such as they have so well described, they will discover their mistake when our votes are counted. Their will over a sick and dying party reminds one of a horde of hungry wolves in a grave yard, or the wail of an old maid over her dying pet cat, or the last call of an auctioneer, "going, going, gone." Their urgent calls for disincorporation suggest to us the urgent need of a speedy burial. The corpse will not be wanting unless the present congress makes haste to relieve the people.

"Vote for Measures Not for Men."

Some forty years ago I often saw the above remark from the father of our country in the newspapers; but modern political efforts have no use for any such sentiment or principle. Right measures, wise laws are necessary to secure and maintain that "general welfare" and liberty, the chief objects of all popular governments, while great leaders, parties or organizations or great institutions of learning, coming in at an amount to us as far as the general welfare and liberty, the independence, happiness and safety of the people or the government are concerned. This universal law was well understood by our fathers, the legislation of states and controlling the national policy, we are led to believe that in practice this beautiful theory does not hold good.

And probably they had but for the unimproving steam engine, and the equally unimproving "incorporation."

The evil results of the unwise and unconstitutional measures establishing these incorporations that own and control the public means of transportation, communication and exchange are plainly seen in the census reports.

Thus in 1860 the total public debt, not national but state, county, city, school district, etc., was \$94,774,421; per capita \$3.91; per male adult \$15.05; per farm \$46.36.

Same 1880, 89,117,585.546; per capita \$22.30; per male adult \$111.50; per farm \$278.77.

Railroad debt 1887, \$8,896,431,914; per capita \$148.27; per male adult \$741.35; per farm \$1,859.19.

Number of insane people in each million of population 1870, 1,834; 1870, 917; 1880, 765; 1880, 673. Number of homicides in 100,000 population, 1880, no record; 1870, 5.3; 1880, 3.1; 1880, 1.

Total number of suicides 1880, 2,511; 1870, 491.

The population had gone from 23,191,876 in 1850 to 59,155,783 in 1880.

Total number of persons in prison 1880, 39,253; 1880, 6,737.

The number of strikes and lockouts in 119 years from 1869 to 1880, 136. Same in 6 years 1881 to 1886 inclusive, 24,518.

Number of employees involved 1,483,066. Loss of employees, employers and "assistance" \$98,596,849.

Thirty-three states have enacted conspiracy laws in the past few years.

Number of farms over 500 acres and under 1,000, 1870, 15,873; 1880, 75,972; of 1,000 acres and over, 1870, 3,720; 1880, 25,578.

Number of millionaires in the country 1850, 2; 1880, from 5 to 10,000. In congress, prior to 1860, not one; 1880 in the senate, 25 or 30; in the house, unknown.

Annual income of a railroad president, 1880, (Vanderbilt) \$25,000,000, or \$65,000 per day.

Wages of a railroad section hand, \$1.15 per day of good weather, Sundays excepted.

This record shows that as a republican government, a government of by and for the people, ours has been an utter failure for the last thirty years. As a government of the bootlickers, by the bootlickers and for the bootlickers, a system of robbery of the many toilers for the benefit of a few idlers it has been the greatest success the world ever knew.

C. M. CLARK.

Cost of Corn Meal.

W. J. Deaver of Nebraska, writes: I would like to ask Bro. Wm. Hess why he doubts that the miners of Pennsylvania are paying 5 cents per pound for corn meal. What does he have to pay for it? I buy mine here in Nebraska at 10 cents per bushel, and sell out at 5 cents per bushel. I am stating this for a fact. Now tell me to give two grists for one toll? If I buy 100 pounds of oat meal I would have to sell 300 pounds of oats to pay for it. If I paid for it with oats, Corn is worth 12 cents per bushel and if I paid for it with corn it would take 40 bushels, or 2,400 pounds of corn. Then again, raw hides sell here for 2 cents per pound, and a pair of three-foot boots cost here \$28. You see it would take about 1,400 pounds of hides to pay for them or about 18 average cow hides. We pay \$16 for a plow, and the real cost of the plow, or all that there is in it that represents labor, is \$2.50. The ore in the earth and the timber in the tree are valued at about 25 cents; these allow American wages for putting up and \$2.50 will cover all the cost and we should have them for \$5 or \$6 instead of \$16. We are lots of us using old plows and old wagons, old harness and old implements of all kinds which we can't do a good job with, simply because we have to sell our grain for nothing and implement at a high price. Has become of our "natural law of supply and demand" which the old parties talk so much about? We supply the world here in the west with all the grain we can raise, but it seems as though the capital and money power that they can sell at a high rate price. They think it is better to starve a lot of us than to let us have good implements at living prices. I think Bro. Hess is napping.—Chicago Sentinel.

SOCIETY NOTES.

"Something that nobody else has had" is what engages the attention of the hostess who has issued invitations for a luncheon or dinner. Mrs. Jordan L. Mott, Jr., achieved a success in a novel luncheon she gave on Wednesday in honor of Mrs. George B. McClellan and Miss Mary McClellan. Everything from the table cloth and napkins to the most delicate of the most delicate of cakes was in the style of the First Empire. At each plate were placed large bunches of violets, the Napoleon flower. A general discussion of the life and character of the emperor followed, in which all present participated.—New York Journal.

William D. Clayton, a veteran of the civil war, who passed nineteen months in a Confederate prison, is likely to lose to-morrow his poor apartments at 418 West Sixteenth street from inability to pay rent. He is a sorter of ship's cargoes, an occupation seldom worth a dollar a day, and sometimes scarcely a dollar a week. These precarious wages are all the income he has, his eldest son having through an illness which confined him many weeks in a hospital, lost a place worth \$3 a week. Mrs.

Clayton died on January 9 with her new-born child. Both would have probably lived had nourishing food been more plentiful in the Clayton family. Mrs. Catherine Markey, Mrs. Clayton's mother, died on Friday from debility, due to lack of proper treatment and good food, as much as anything. Mr. Clayton has put his two little daughters in an institution, one sickly boy, whom his oldest son, having now nothing else to do, takes care of, makes three persons to provide for. Mr. Clayton's family bible shows that he belongs to a family that have been in this country over 150 years. He was in the Twelfth Massachusetts.—New York Sun.

Small dinners, musicals, readings, recitations and Patti and Tamagno at the Metropolitan have been the only social incidents of the week. People are arriving every day from Florida, although there are enough still left there to make a party of a few, a dealer, a Miss Cameron, Miss Catherine Cameron and Miss Flora Davis have returned from Washington, where they spent a very gay week at the Shoreham under the chaperonage of Mrs. Street, the mother of Mrs. L. P. Morton. On the arrival Miss Davis gave a daisy dinner, the table being decorated with marguerites, and the "daisies" who surrounded it even looking fresher and prettier than the flowers themselves.

Among them were Miss Harzons, Miss Lina Post, Miss Eleanor Duer, Miss Camilla Moss and Miss Jeanne Borrow, the guest of honor being Prince Yturbe of Mexico.—N. Y. Sun.

Yesterday afternoon one of the inmates of a lodging house at 15 Crescent place noticed an unpleasant odor from a little room in the building, which was called by a woman named Mary Mullosney, sixty years old. Officer Hogan of station 3 was notified and procuring a key he opened the door and found the dead body of the old woman lying on the floor. It was badly decomposed and had evidently been there several days. She had been missing, so the inmates of the house say, for two months. So far as can be ascertained she had no friends or relatives in the city or in the world. It is thought that she had fallen in the room and having no one to look after her, died of want and old age together.—Boston Post.

Like a vision of loveliness embodied Marie Halton the pretty vivandiere of the "Drum Major" company reclined in an easy chair in her dainty room in the Hotel Vendome when a Journal reporter called. She wore a scanty sleeveless dress of soft lavender color, which set off her trim figure to advantage, and looked supremely happy.

"I spend great sums in dress," she said. "My dresses consume more money than I care to say. Altho' a note 'How much would you average, say, in a month in dresses?'"

"Oh, you mustn't ask me that. I would be positively ashamed to say. If I began to calculate it would appal me. I dare not do it."—New York Journal.

Utica, N. Y.—A young woman was found dead here to-day in St. Agnes' cemetery. There was an empty laudarium vial near the body. The name "Mary L. Eaglesfield" was on an envelope containing a cabinet photograph of the woman taken in Utica. A note was found worded as follows: "I have worked until I am tired out. I have no right anywhere on earth. Won't some charitable person bury me without going to a great expense? My brother is in Berlin, Wis. Can he write me to pay for my burial without taking my body to Binghamton. Bury me in the Potter's field—anywhere—only lay me to rest. I hope I will succeed in ending my life and not make a failure of it."—N. Y. Tribune.

Mr. Charles H. Marshall gave a rosbud dinner on Thursday evening at which were all the debutants of this winter, with men belonging to an older and sager set, such as Mr. Ridgway Moore, Mr. John Beresford, John Kingsford and other veterans in society's brigade.—N. Y. World.

Resolutions of Logan County Alliance.

GANDY, NEB., April 5, 1890. Whereas, The people of the country are oppressed by the stagnation in trade and the low price of all the products of labor, and believing that just legislation is the principal cause; therefore be it

Resolved, By the Logan County Farmers' Alliance: 1. That we demand a change in the monetary, tariff and revenue laws.

2. We are in favor of a national bureau of labor whose duty it shall be to adjust all differences between capital and labor.

3. We demand of the legislature of Nebraska a law making the penalty for usury a forfeiture of principal and interest.

4. We demand of congress the free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver, and that such coin be supplemented by an amount of currency sufficient to double the present prices of the products of the farm and the miners on their landed security at the same rates as now to national banks.

5. That we demand a law making all conspiracies for the control of the prices of products by gambling operations and trusts, a crime.

6. We demand of our next legislature an act reducing the rates of freight upon Nebraska roads to a figure not exceeding those in force in Iowa.

7. That no existing party has shown a disposition to legislate in accordance with the above resolutions, therefore, we believe the time has come when the organization of a new party of the laboring people is a pressing necessity.

W. A. MANFIELD, DR. BURKS, C. D. SHRADEK, Committee.

W. C. T. U. COLUMN.

Edited by Mrs. S. C. O. Upton, of Lincoln, Neb., of the Nebraska Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

The editor of THE ALLIANCE places the responsibility of this column in the care of the above editor.

The Non-Partisan Convention.

The State Convention of the Non-Partisan Prohibition Amendment League convened in Bohannon's hall on the afternoon of Wednesday, April 16.

About 500 delegates were in attendance, all enthusiastic in pushing the work of making Nebraska a prohibition state.

President C. A. Atkinson made an opening address explaining the object of the league.

He believed that when Nebraska swings into line with the four prohibition states surrounding it will be the beginning of the end of the rum power in the United States. He said: "Should we fail, and I don't believe we will, it will be heralded all over the country as a victory for high license. People will say, 'is satisfied with it.' He appealed to men not to permit this.

From the Western Brewer of Chicago the speaker quoted statistics on the condition of the liquor traffic in Kansas and Nebraska. In Kansas in 1880, 32,486 barrels of malt liquor were sold.

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REFERENCES:

Lincoln National Bank. J. W. Hartley, Alliance Business Agent.

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In Nebraska in the same year 40,903 barrels of liquor were sold. Kansas had 100,000. Nebraska the Slocomb high license law. In 1889 Kansas consumed 8,700 barrels of liquor; Nebraska 136,681. Kansas had prohibition; Nebraska Slocomb high license. Conclusions could be easily drawn.

E. B. Hutchins of Des Moines addressed a large audience on Wednesday evening. He said: "He came not for a display of oratory, but to bring from Iowa her cordial and sisterly greeting to Nebraska, and a hearty 'God speed' to the prohibition work upon which the people were just entering."

He then gave a history of Iowa's struggle for constitutional prohibition and the joy of the victors when it was won. After it had been swept from them by a decision of the court, they battled for statutory prohibition. This law had been repeatedly strengthened and although people said when Iowa elected a democratic governor that it meant the repeal of the prohibition law, he assured the audience that the legislature had adjourned the day previous and that the prohibition banner stood just where it had stood before. Also that it was not a lie to say that Iowa wished Nebraska to take the same stand.

"The man who says prohibition does not prohibit in Iowa," said the speaker, "does not know what he is talking about. I might say a great deal worse, but I care to say, Altho'."

"Say he lies," shouted some one in the audience, and the speaker said he supposed he did.

That there were 160 saloons in Des Moines, the speaker denied emphatically. There were one. He read a number of opinions from district judges, all tending to show that prohibition does prohibit and that the country is prosperous under the law. That there were violations of the law was not to be denied, but all the criminal laws which are prohibitory are violated and yet they are not repealed.

Mr. Hutchins is an ex-commissioner of statistics in Iowa and no one is better qualified to know the workings of the prohibitory law there.

He quoted a large amount of statistics showing how the city of Des Moines had prospered and grown under prohibition and read statements from many Iowa judges, all testifying to the general effectiveness of the law to suppress saloons and lessen the evils resulting from them. The chief point made and established by overwhelming evidence was that the law was not injurious to the business interests of Iowa, but tended to the general prosperity, lessened taxes, and build up legitimate trade.

In closing he emphasized the work of the children and the women in the campaign and closed with a beautiful figure speech in which prohibition was described as a temple reared by many willing workers on which should be the inscription, "National Constitutional Prohibition."

On Thursday evening Gen. A. B. Campbell of Kansas made a most eloquent speech to an audience which packed the hall to its utmost capacity. His testimony as to the results of prohibition in Kansas was strongly in favor of that measure, and he spoke from abundance of knowledge, as did the speaker of the previous evening, telling the audience most eloquently and positively that Kansas did not want the question resubmitted, but wanted Nebraska to unite with her to drive every saloon from the state. The liquor traffic, how low resubmission there, but no others.

In addition to resolutions setting forth the well-known principles of the league, the following was passed: That Nebraska is a life and death struggle between license and prohibition as methods of dealing with the liquor traffic, the results of which will be felt throughout the country; and

Whereas, The Non-Partisan Prohibition Amendment League is organizing for victory in this campaign regardless of party or religious affiliations; and

Whereas, The legitimate expenses of such a campaign require a large amount of money; therefore be it

Resolved, That all churches, W. C. T. U., I. O. G. T., Y. M. C. A. organizations, red, blue and yellow ribbon clubs, temperance societies and prohibition clubs throughout the United States be earnestly requested to set apart Sunday, May 18, 1890, as "Nebraska prohibitory amendment day," and the same be observed with appropriate services, and that collections be then taken and forwarded to J. M. Stewart, treasurer of the Non-Partisan Prohibition Amendment League, Lincoln, Neb., to be used under the direction of the League in the pending campaign.

Gentle and Effective.

A new notion in the way of temperance reform is going on in Berwick, Pa. Most of the men in the place are employed in the car shops of a great manufacturing company. Recently the president of the company called the hotel keepers and other licensed liquor sellers together and proposed to pay them the amount they would make by the sale of liquor for one year, on condition that they would not apply for licenses nor sell liquor. They assented and the amount to be paid was fixed by agreement at about six thousand dollars. The company believe they can afford that sum to have the taverns and restaurants kept on temperance principles, and mention the name of the workmen will be several times six thousand dollars.

Combination and organization is the most essential requisite for a successful war on the liquor traffic.—EX.

The Chicago Champion is calling on the friends of the liquor traffic to help to the front with their money to help defeat the Amendment in Nebraska, and says that even though it should cost \$100,000 it would be worth ten times more to the trade of the United States than it would cost.

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Your name neatly printed on one hundred visiting cards with your photograph in one corner for one dollar. These photos are neatly finished and as good as any cabinet size picture you can get, and one hundred of them cost you less than the price of one dozen cabinets that you get of any one else. Orders requested to set apart Sunday, May 18, 1890, as "Nebraska prohibitory amendment day," and the same be observed with appropriate services, and that collections be then taken and forwarded to J. M. Stewart, treasurer of the Non-Partisan Prohibition Amendment League, Lincoln, Neb., to be used under the direction of the League in the pending campaign.

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