

FARMER AND WAGE EARNER IN POLITICS

(By William M. Blanding of St. Croix Falls, Wis.)

Should the farmer and wage-earner take a more active part in politics is the question that is forcing itself to the front in this crisis in the history of our country.

There are those who say the bankers are the only one competent to say what shall constitute money, how much shall be in circulation, who shall control its use, and incidentally who shall have it to use.

There are those who claim that railroad companies are the only ones who know what laws should be made to govern them in relation to their duties and wages to their employees, and rates charged and services rendered to the public generally; and there are those who think our cotton, woolen, tin, and hundreds of self-styled "industries" should make or dictate laws giving them bounties on their business and money invested therein and providing as they can absolutely control prices and amounts of their products and wages to employees.

In order to concentrate their power and influence and make them more effective in the halls of legislation and regulate the price and quantity of their products in the markets of this country they have within the last year or two formed gigantic combinations called trusts. The capital in these trust corporations is enormous, representing on paper over two thousand millions of dollars. Now when these trusts have got the laws as they want them; when these interested parties in their own individual interests control the price to be paid for everything made or done by them and wages capital is to pay for labor on railroads and in mines and manufacturing, what will become of the rest of the people? When one-tenth or less have control of the time, labor and manner of living of the other nine-tenths, the old time theory of the feudal ages will be put in practice with all the refinement of the "humanity" of the money power of the nineteenth century.

The feudal theory was: "Let the government take care of the rich and the rich will take care of the poor." "The same old argument that justified all kinds of human slavery and war on ignorant and half-barbarous peoples. Will there be any difference between the result of the theory and practice of the barons of the thirteenth and that of the bankers and hundreds of other trusts of the nineteenth century? When the barons had subdued the people of their respective territories and robbed them of all the property and independence they ever had they made war one on another and robbed and despoiled each other, using the people they had enslaved to fight the slaves and retainers of their neighbor barons. We wonder those times are called in history the "Dark Ages."

In the enlightenment of the nineteenth century to be followed by the darkness caused by "man's inhumanity to man," which makes countless millions mourn in all ages of the world? Are these soulless machines, the trusts, with their money-making greed and cruelty, to rule and ruin our country? It can only be done by the consent of our people, and the question now before us is, shall we consent to this ruthless outrage upon our honor, our homes, and our right to liberty, life and the pursuit of happiness? Money is power, and there are those who love money and its power more than ought else. "The love of money is the root of all evil," wrote Solomon the wise, and he knew thereof for he wrote, for the love of money and its power impelled the excessive taxation of the common people to support the privileged classes and was the culminating cause of the downfall of the Israelitish nation.

It is not money in and of itself, for the necessity for its use is universal, but the inordinate love of it and the unhalloved means to get its possession and the power it wields that is at the foundation of the evils that follow its selfish pursuit.

Now, who is to call a halt to this burdensome taxation to enrich the few which has caused the downfall of all the mighty and most enlightened ancient nations? Who shall say "thus far shalt thou come and no farther?" It is the farmer and wage-earner, who have always been the conservative element in our country's government—it is the intelligent, the liberty-loving, the home-making and the world-feeding farmer and mechanic. They cast three-fourths of the votes, they pay three-fourths of the taxes, they furnish three-fourths of the freight on our railroad and steamboat lines. They furnish three-fourths of our soldiers, and without them our cities would soon become ruins and our country and nation, like Egypt, Rome, and Greece, contain but relics of former greatness.

A few years ago the bankers, for political effect, commenced a senseless raid upon the credit of our nation. They claimed they had no confidence in our paper money, which money was backed up by the whole people of the country.

It is now amazing to see what effect this baseless claim set up traitors to the people, and aided by traitors in the government itself, had upon the business of the country and the far-reaching but really causeless panic that followed it.

Soon the bankers themselves lost confidence in their own security, and the banks began to fail, and bankers, like cannibals, to feast and eat each other. The stockholders of one railroad made war upon and ruined other stockholders and business confidence in the integrity of business became a byword and confusion and general ruin became imminent. Who stopped this warfare among business? It was the farmer and mechanic. Their old money voted

was a warning to the conspirators to hold their parabolic hand. The freedom of the American citizen was not yet to be confined and bound by the chains of feudal servitude. They sent the products of the soil, sown and reaped by "the sweat of the face" to foreign countries by the billions of dollars' worth and hurried back the lie upon the traitors and slanders who had said the greenbacks were without security though pledged by the whole people. They bought the products of the looms. They made a market possible for the products of the mines and furnaces. They filled the freight cars of the railroads and furnished loads for the steamships, and by their faith and wages rescued this country from the panic of the "want of confidence" conspirators, and so it must be again in the near future in regard to the present conspiracy. The banker trust is saying to the other trusts, "You must all support us. Help us to get laws so we can control the currency of the country, and then we will help you to control your separate interests." The railroads say to their employees, "Vote for laws to give us control of freight rates and we then can raise your wages." The hundreds of other trusts say the same thing to their employees, and they all say to the farmer and mechanic, "Help us to laws that will build us up and we will pay you higher prices for your products and your labor," and thus this new confidence game is played.

The bankers will have confidence when they can dictate the amount of money to be in circulation. And who shall circulate it? The railroad stockholders will be firm when they can dictate what roads shall be built, what rates shall be paid for freight and passage, and wages to their employees. And so with the other trusts, each is to be protected by laws dictated by itself and for its own advantage.

And these trusts, less than a hundredth part of the people, say to the ninety-nine hundredths, "You don't need to bother yourselves about money, you don't need much anyway. Leave that to us. Let us make the laws, you only need to obey them. We will fix the price of your labor and all you have to sell, and also of all you have to buy. Have confidence in our superior wisdom and be happy."

This is the monumental confidence game now being played on the American people for the years 1899 and 1900. "The same old 'want of confidence' in the government and people game" of 1893, now asking the people to place the entire government into their hands. These are the real issues at present before the American people and they must meet them. Now, is it true that those who pay three-fourths of the taxes don't know how these taxes should be expended? That those who furnish the wealth and the labor of the country don't know how that wealth should be used and that labor paid? That the agriculturists whose surplus products from the soil have in the last two years saved the country from the "want of confidence" hypocrites are to be again put under the iron heel of these same pharisaical monopolists who are asking to have full confidence placed in them. That the money the farmer gets for his toll and the wage-earner for his labor must be doled out by a combination of bankers on their own individual security because, forsooth, the government with the whole people behind it is not security enough to make that money sound and good. "Is an insult to the intelligence of the people. It is the rant of Benedict Arnold's who would sell the liberties of their countrymen for gold. So too of the other trusts. They are formed to benefit the few who are members. The increased profits and huge salaries of officers must be paid by consumers of their products, for these trusts are to limit production, stop competition, and raise prices.

The millions to make richer these millionaire trusts must be drawn from the people. Ten dollars each taken from 70,000,000 consumers makes the trusts \$700,000,000 richer. Continue this a few years and the great mass of the people will be as dependent upon these serpent trusts that they have warmed into life as even the ancient peoples upon their lords or the vilest slaves upon their masters. This combination of trusts must be voted down or soon the wars of feudal times will again "fill the earth with violence and blood."

Gold Standard Manifesto.
The committee appointed by the central council of the National Sound Money League at its recent meeting in New York to draw up resolutions setting forth the purposes of the league and report later, has drawn up the following:

"That the National Sound Money League demands that a declaratory act of congress be passed making all bonds, notes, or other obligations of the United States payable in the lawful unit of value, which is by statute a dollar made of gold; also an act of legislation, giving the holder of any note or coin of the United States the right to demand redemption under suitable provision in respect to subsidiary coins of less than one dollar each, in said unit of value, or dollar made of gold or its multiples in other gold coin.

"That so long as the government continues to refuse its note to circulate as money, the league favors legislation establishing a separate bureau of issue and redemption at the treasury department, in which shall be held a separate reserve of gold coin in amount sufficient to ensure the prompt redemption of all the demand obligations of the government."

ODDS AND ENDS.

Andrew Carnegie has bought the Queen mines, near Marquette, Mich. Ice manufacturers of Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky are in session at Columbus, O.

The British trustees have sold the Crescent brewery, Aurora, Ind., to some person unknown.

The Empire Steel and Iron company has bought the two Henry Clay furnaces in Pennsylvania.

The private bank of L. P. Hunner & McKinzie, Alma, Wis., has succumbed, with little cash in the vault.

Louisville and Cincinnati grain dealers have gone to Chicago to attempt to get dealers into the southern combine.

The Interstate commerce commission will, April 23, be at Knoxville, Tenn., to hear complaints against the Southern railway.

The Albatross, a new type of torpedo boat destroyer, built in London, made thirty-three knots on her trial trip.

Charles Otto, age 60, Green Bay, Wis., was killed by Al Vincent, aged 22, being struck over the head with a board. Family feud was the cause.

Karl Leckman, the alleged assassin of Mrs. Hustler, South Charleston, Ill., has been taken to Washington Court House to escape mob violence.

Lieutenant Colonel Brown, British military attaché at Peking, China, has been arrested for not removing his hat when a religious procession passed him. He was quickly released.

Perry S. Heath, first assistant postmaster general, has arrived at San Juan, Porto Rico.

The Ohio Central Fuel company, it is reported, will dissolve, because of the anti-trust decision.

It is said that rolling mills to cost over \$1,000,000 will be built at Hanover, N. M.

Southern manufacturers of wide print cloth goods met at Spartanburg, S. C., to form a combine.

The Lake Carriers' association has agreed on a demurrage of 5 cents a ton for each twenty-four hours after the first thirty-six hours.

A Sheffield engineering firm has given an American firm a large order for heavy machinery. British contractors being unable to make fast time.

Berlin reports that Emperor William is planning the formation of a separate province for Berlin, abolishing self-government and substituting royal officials, because of the growth of socialism.

It has been stated that John Walter of the London Times left as a legacy to his daughter one of the advertising columns of the Thunderer. It brought the lady \$150 a day—enough to keep her from absolute want.

One of the out-of-the-way wars of the world is in progress between Persia and the Arabs of the Lingah, on the northeast coast of the Persian gulf. In the last battle reported the Arabs lost 120 men and the Persians four.

Kaiser Wilhelm is usually called a Hohenzollern, but, as a matter of fact, the real name has been lengthened by the addition of Hohen. He is a descendant of the count of Zollern, Thassau by name, who founded the line about the year 800.

The family of William Penn has not died out. One of his descendants by the closest collateral branch is S. Cameron Marriot of New York, member of the United States commission to the Paris exposition, who is the great-great-nephew of the first Pennsylvanian.

"See here, Boston Pete," said the magistrate severely, "this is a pretty grave. The officer says that in trying to hold this man up you knocked him down." "Such an evident contradiction, your honor," replied the culprit, "is unworthy of judicial investigation."

Nearly all the historic wars that have taken place in Europe since the days of the first Crusade may be attributed to the existence of the Salic law, and even in the present century sanguinary struggles have taken place on its account. Great Britain and Russia are the only two countries where it has never secured any foothold and neither the one nor the other has ever had any reason for regret, since the sovereigns who have contributed most largely to the glory of the country have been women.

"Croesus Row" in New York is now complete, as Howard Gould has joined the millionaire colony. The young capitalist has purchased the south corner of Seventy-third street and Fifth avenue, opposite Central park, at the not to be despised figure \$450,000, where he will erect a palace for his bride, Catharine Clemons, the actress, whom he wedded last October. This will bring the cost of his house close to the million mark and will be one in a half mile stretch of palaces the equal of which cannot be found anywhere else in the world.

The women patrons of the street cars of Chicago have formed a "Woman's Municipal Ownership League," the object of which is to advocate municipal ownership of the street railways. The organization has had thousands of cards printed for distribution in the cars, as follows: "Gentlemen, stand up and give the woman seats! You can vote for municipal ownership and stop this thing; they cannot!"

The island of Ferro is one of the largest in the Canary group and it has received its name on account of its ironbound soil, through which no river or stream flows. In the midst of the island there grows a tree known as the raining tree, the leaves of which are long and narrow. It continues in constant verdure summer and winter, and the branches are covered with a cloud which is never dispelled, but, revolving itself into moisture, causes to fall from its leaves a very clear water in such abundance that cisterns placed at its foot to receive it are never empty.

REPUBLICAN PARTY AND MONEY POWER

(By Hazen M. Pingree, Governor of Michigan, in New York Independent.)

In the Independent's letter inviting me to contribute to its columns, the following sentence from my recent address at Toledo, O., is quoted:

"I have no hesitation in saying that the leadership of the republican party is now within the control of the bondholders." This sentence should be read with the context. Immediately following the above were these sentences:

"This does not mean that the republican party is the party of the monopolists, by any means. It simply means that the course of the party is dictated too much by commercial greed."

"Men like your Ohio boss, who rules from Cleveland, have wielded a sceptre which does not belong to the republican party. It is foreign to its history and to its principles. I hope you will tear that sceptre from his grasp and dash it to pieces here in Toledo tomorrow."

"Trusts, corporations and money must not rule our party. It was created as a party of the entire people. It was such in Lincoln's time. But it is slipping away from its original principles. Its leadership is largely in the hands of corporate wealth."

"I do not condemn corporations and rich men, but I would keep them within their proper sphere. The republican party is not their property, to use as they see fit."

"Money getting is not the sole aim in life. It should not be the principal object. It is not safe to intrust the government of the country to the influence of Wall street. This is a common statement, I know. But it has a serious meaning."

"I do not say these things to excite a popular clamor against wealth. The owners of large amounts of property are entitled to their possessions, most of them. The laws of the land protect them, and rightly, too."

"But I do say that they have no right to rule politics. It is an illegal use of their wealth. They ought not to be permitted to guide the republican party to make it a party of commercial greed."

"The majority of the party is not with them. It is the duty of the party to send them to the rear. It will do so unless they do something for American humanity and quit using the government for selfish commercial purposes."

"Talk like this will be met with cries of 'treason to the party' from the bondholders who now lead the party, and from their agents and their subsidized press."

"I care nothing for that. The great majority of republicans, the farmers, artisans, mechanics, clerks, business men and men of brains and common sense, endorse such sentiments. They are the voters. They are the ones who are suffering from the evil effects of these great combines and monopolies."

In an address delivered by me at the banquet of the Michigan club, of Detroit, on February 22, last, I spoke as follows:

"The republican party was formed to make men free and equal. Its votes came from the farmer and his sons; from the villages and the country districts of the various states. They did not come from the overcrowded portions of our great cities, where the voters were controlled by bosses. Republican majorities came from the states that afterward furnished patriotic soldiers. So long as the great questions growing out of the civil war remained unsettled the republican party was controlled by men chosen to represent the people."

"But in time these questions disappeared and other questions demanded attention. Problems of trade and finance, and questions of administration came up. Meantime wealth increased and capital and labor drifted into conflict. Gradually the men of wealth dropped into the republican party. Corporations found their interests well cared for by the men who were chosen to the legislative bodies as republicans."

"Now this has been going on so long and so steadily that it has become notorious. Old republicans have been held in line because they could do nothing else. Some leaders of the democratic party have made it almost impossible by their acts for prudent and thoughtful business men to join it."

"All the men who had schemes, and all the corporations who wanted privileges joined the republican party, expecting that party to bear their burdens and to serve them. This has been going on for years, but it cannot last forever, gentlemen."

"I deem it a valuable service to the party to speak a word of warning at this time. For it is time that corporations, combines, trusts and multi-millionaires were requested to leave the front seats, at least, and let the men who can speak for the great body of voters, the men who believe in the republicanism of Abraham Lincoln, have room and part in the conduct of public affairs. I do not even suggest that men be ignored and humiliated simply because they are rich, but the legislative and executive offices of this nation cannot much longer be filled by men whose claims are based solely upon their devotion to corporate interests."

"The chief point I wish to make at this time is that the rank and file of the republican party will not stay with us hereafter, unless we choose our leaders without consulting those who control the corporations, trusts and combines of the country, their attorneys, agents and servants. Our leaders must be men who are proof against all corrupting influences and the temptations which come with political ambition. When the republican party returns to the leadership of such men, I will have no fear for its future."

I have thought that perhaps the persistent ignoring, by most of the leaders of the republican party, of the very serious problems created by the organization of trusts—which have multiplied to an almost fearful extent during the past twelve months—was due to the fact that those leaders did not fully realize the immense importance of the problems to the people. I believe also that these leaders do not appreciate how deeply the people of the country feel upon the matter and how much earnest thinking they are doing at the present time.

It is not necessary to go far from my own home, however, in order to discover the real attitude of at least one multi-millionaire leader of the party upon this important question. Senator McMillan, whose long service in the United States senate entitles him to rank as one of the leaders of the republican party, in an open letter to the senate of Michigan, writes as follows, in referring to trusts: "By judicious combinations among the industries, production has been cheapened, while at the same time steady work and better wages have been assured."

No more frank and positive endorsement of trusts could be made than this. That Senator McMillan correctly represents the leadership of the party can only be assumed by the silence of the leaders upon this subject.

It is even a question whether any of Senator McMillan's deductions are correct. It may be true that production has been cheapened for the time being, but it is also proper to inquire whether the result of monopoly will not eventually result in cheapening the product. If one concern possesses a monopoly in the manufacture of an article, what assurance have we that the article will steadily improve in grade and excellence? Does not experience prove the contrary?

Senator McMillan alleges that steady work and better wages are assured by "judicious combinations." He need only refer to his home city of Detroit, where the closing of a factory, which has been absorbed by the tobacco trust, will throw over two hundred families out of employment. It has not even been demonstrated that the organization of trusts assures better wages. We cannot know this until the holders of the watered stocks and bonds of the trusts begin to demand dividends and interest.

But this problem of "trusts" involves a question of vastly greater importance than the success of business enterprise or the accumulation of enormous wealth by financiers. It involves the national character. I have not time to enter into a full discussion of this phase of the problem, but will only ask these questions: Can the people of this country afford to build up enormous money making machines at the expense of their own independence and manhood? Shall this country of political freedom become a country of commercial slavery—the inevitable resultant of concentration and combination of wealth?

I have been read many a lecture by republican newspapers and severely criticised by republican politicians for daring to intimate that the party shows indications of not being faithful to its duty upon this great question. I yield to none of them in loyalty to the party. I have such a regard for the traditions and principles of the party that I am unwilling to see it pledged, by the silence of most of its present leaders, to the interests of the "judicious combinations" referred to in Senator McMillan's letter. I make bold to say that the leaders of the party, upon this question, do not correctly reflect the opinions and convictions of the rank and file of the party.

The republican party has ever been a party of honesty of purpose. It will do no damage to the party to discuss this question openly and freely. The real traitor to the party is the one who inquires, behind closed doors, what is expedient for the party. When the leaders discuss party policy in secret they are not thinking of the welfare of the party. They have in mind only their own personal interests. If the attitude of the party is right it can trust the people to treat it fairly.

The republican party can be depended upon to deal honestly and effectively with the problem of trusts if it is permitted to express its convictions.

Among the latest compromise styles in dress skirts, designed particularly for those who cannot or will not adopt the extreme models, is one formed of graduated box plaits that reach from belt to hem, tapering to about two inches in width at the top. There are two different waists which go with this skirt, one in which graduated box-plaits, like those on the skirt, reach from shoulder to belt; the other plaited also, but with a deep-shaped lode, covering the upper half of the waist, front and back, and only the plait exactly in front reaching the entire length of the waist.

The blue foulard silks are always more favored at each recurring spring season than any pattern in black, brown or green. This year the satin foulards and the thinner lustreless foulards show an unusual number of shades in blue, including indigo, Roman, drake's neck, silver, navy, bluebell, peacock and ciel. Polka dots, small diamond shapes, Vermicelli and coral designs predominate among the blue foulards for cool traveling, beach and walking costumes.

A pretty novelty in belts is made of black or white velvet, embroidered with steel jet or imitation jewels.

THE SUNNY SOUTH

Presents an Unequaled Combination of Advantages

"Nature has given the South advantages unequalled by those of any other country. More than 60 per cent of the world's cotton is raised in the South. But its cotton crop is now exceeded in value by its grain crops, which aggregate \$50,000,000 bushels a year, a fact which comparatively few seem to know. More than one-half of all the standing timber in the United States is in the South. Iron ore and coal are in unlimited supply, and owing to their proximity to each other, and to the low cost of mining, pig iron is now made at a smaller cost than in any other part of the world. Pittsburgh and Chicago are now using Alabama iron for basic steel making, and soon large steel plants will be built in the South. Nearly every Southern state has an abundance of the best water powers to supplement the advantages of cheap coal. It is not an exaggeration to say that this favored land has greater advantages and resources, such as mineral, timber and agricultural wealth, than all other sections; it also has greater advantages for the profitable utilization of these natural resources than any other country in the world; by virtue of its rivers and long sea coast, it has the guarantee of the lowest freight rates, regardless of railroad combinations; it has a climate that is conducive to good health and long life—a climate that reduces the cost of living to a minimum; it has all of these mighty factors to insure its prosperity, and with fewer disadvantages than any other equal area in America or Europe. It can produce everything, from the widest range of agricultural growth to the widest limit of manufacturing and mining diversity, at a lower cost than other sections. It is becoming the market garden of the North. In the aggregate the shipment of early fruits and vegetables to the North and West probably amounts to \$50,000,000 a year. This business is increasing very rapidly. Ten years ago it was of trifling importance.

Some countries have iron and coal, some have timber; some have a good climate; some have water powers; some other advantages; but no other except the South combines all of these, and to them adds cotton, which, in all its ramifications, is the foundation of what is probably the greatest manufacturing interest in the world.

For information concerning the remarkably low prices of land, unexcelled terms and special excursion rates, apply to G. N. Clayton, Northwestern Passenger Agent, Wabash Railroad Co., room 302 Kaibach Bldg., Omaha, Neb.

SOME LATE INVENTIONS.

Unwholesome water is purified by a New Yorker's patent, consisting of introducing sodic chloride and sulphate of alumina in sufficient quantities to precipitate the impurities, after which the water is drawn off from the deposit.

For use on cigar boxes a box lid and air support is formed of a piece of metal bent to clamp the end of the box close to the lid, with an extension bent at right angles to engage the cover when open and hold a price ticket.

A portable fumigating device for purifying small rooms is an oil stove set in the bottom of a casing, with the liquid or fumigation contained in a receptacle at the top, with pipes over the flame to vaporate the liquid.

Stamps can be carried in the pocket by the use of a handy receptacle, consisting of a flat piece of metal with one end bent double to hold a flexible strip of metal to clamp the stamps, with a spring cover which closes over the outside.

To measure bolts of cloth as they are wound from one roll to another, an automatic device is formed of a roller held between two arms to rest on the bolt as it revolves, moving a graduated disk forward one notch at each revolution.

In a new safety pin designed by a Canadian woman the pin portion will not pull out under a strain, having the point formed with a small arrow head which enters the cloth easily, but will not pull out of the end of the clasp when once closed.

Cinders are prevented from blowing in car windows by an improved screen, which is wound on a roller at the top of the window and can be operated like a curtain, the screen allowing the passage of fresh air and affording a view of the scenery.

A New York woman has patented a baby carriage with a music device attached, having a toothed wheel revolving with one of the rear wheels, to turn the shaft of a music box, the shaft being disconnected when it is desired to stop the music.

A New Yorker has designed an improved bicycle saddle, in which a flat spring bar is clamped in a vertical position on the post, with an independent circular pad mounted at each end of the bar, the pads being adjustable to form a seat fitting any rider.

Salt can be freely shaken from an improved cellar, which has a double cap the inner member of which has slots instead of round perforations, while the outer member is fitted with tongues to enter the slots and turn freely to dislodge the salt from the holes.

In a new combined mud guard and support for bicycles a stiff wire frame is hinged down to the crank hanger. It is covered with fabric to protect the rider when mounted and the lower end swings down to the crown of the front fork, extending to the ground to form the support.

A spectator at a New York performance of "Othello" a short time ago saw from his seat while Desdemona was being smothered by a pillow in the hands of the Moor and declared: "consider this an outrage. I will not stay in any play house where they allow a negro to kill a white woman." Then he went out.