



By Will M. Maupin.

Economic Evolution

"I think I speak for the great majority of the American people when I say that we are not in the least against wealth as such, whether individual or corporate; that we merely desire to see any abuse of corporate or combined wealth corrected and remedied; that we do not desire the abolition or destruction of big corporations, but, on the contrary, recognize them as being in many cases efficient economic instruments, the results of an inevitable process of economic evolution."—Extract from President Roosevelt's Milwaukee speech.

Bill Jones he wuz a wonder in his grasp o' bus'ness ways,
An' he allus had a reason f'r his schemes;
He would look up at th' ceilin' with a sort o' sleepy gaze,
Just as if he saw th' reason in his dreams.
Couldn't stump ol' Bill a minnit, f'r statistics wuz his holt,
An' he allus said that figgers never lied.
If you handed him a problem calculated f'r t' jolt,
"Economic evolution," Bill replied.

When he marked up his terbacker 'leven cents upon th' pound
Ezra Jenkins swore it wuz a robber trick;
Said th' trusts wuz jus' a stompin' th' consumer in th' ground,
An' declared such on'ry doin's made him sick.
"Look here, Bill," said Ezra hotly,
"do you think you kin explain
This here robbin' goin' on on ev'ry side?"

With a fur-off gaze at nothin' like a man endurin' pain,
"Economic evolution," Bill replied.

When his caliker was boosted 'bout four cents on ev'ry yard
Deacon Smithers' wife wuz mad enough t' fight;

An' she spent a hour in jawin' in a manner good an' hard,
But ol' Bill he didn't mind it, not a mite.

"Why has caliker gone higher while my aigs is goin' down"

In a voice o' passion Missus Smithers cried.

With a fur-off gaze at nothin' an' his for-he'd full o' frown,
"Economic evolution," Bill replied.

When Bill tilted up th' prices uv his prunes an' navy beans
An' cut down th' price uv eggs an' garden truck,

Ev'ry farmer's wife wuz askin', "Wonder what ol' Bill Jones means."

An' complainin' 'bout their usual bad luck.

But Bill kept right on boostin' up th' things he had t' sell,

While by 2 all that he bought he would divide;

An' when asked 'Tr explanation all their doubts he would dispel—
"Economic evolution," Bill replied.

One day Bill he set a-schemin', 'cause his trade wuz mighty bad,

An' determined he would work a mighty coop—

Which is French an' meanin' tricky—an' a little later had

Ev'rything a-workin' his way with a whoop.

Next day "Closed up by th' sheriff" wuz the sign on Joneses store,

But there wasn't airy bit o' stock inside.

An' when asked f'r explanation by his

creditors a score,
"Economic evolution," Bill replied.

Repartee.

"O, you're not so much," exclaimed the Delaware peach.
"Well, I can get my name in the papers without meeting a frost," reported the California prune.

Seasonable.

Put away the little coal joke;
It has earned a brief respite.
'Tis the ice gag that is ready
To afflict us day and night.

Kismet.

"My boy might have been president of the United States if it hadn't been for one thing."

"What was that?"
"Well, our village was too little to be incorporated and we couldn't elect no mayor, and that let my boy out."

Troo.

There was a young man in Wahoo
Whose ninety day note was long doo.
He hadn't a groat
To pay on the noot
And he felt correspondingly bloo.

Catch It Both Ways.

No more the chilly winter air
Both bitingly concern us;
No more we climb the cellar stair
To feed the greedy furnace.
But in their place we see the face
Of one whose greed increases;
For 'tis a case of yield with grace—
The iceman now will fleece us.

Limited.

"I did think for a time that man was some pumpkins," remarked the weary head of the house."

"What made you change your mind?"

"Well, just as I can quit heating up the house to keep the cold out I must begin buying ice to keep the heat out. It seems to me that there should be some way of averaging this thing up."

A Dozen "Don'ts".

Don't count your eggs before the hens begin laying.

Don't buy this week's groceries with next week's wages.

Don't expect the boy to be happy in a cheerless house.

Don't worry about trifles until the big troubles are settled.

Don't criticise the sermon if you haven't paid the preacher.

Don't be disappointed if your son insists on doing as you do.

Don't let your courtship days end at the altar.

Don't fail to religiously keep every promise you make to your children.

Don't begin today without a determination to profit by the mistakes of yesterday.

Don't grumble at your luck until you are ready to admit that you no longer possess pluck.

Don't forget that those who listen while you talk about your neighbors will listen while the neighbors talk about you.

Don't imagine for a minute that it is harder to give this sort of advice than it is to follow it, for giving advice is the easiest thing to do.

Brain Leaks.

Those who think much about death get little out of life.

Debt is a deep hole, easy to fall into and hard to crawl out of.

We'd give quite a bit to know what a six-months' old baby thinks about.

It takes something more than ability to give to become a philanthropist.

A mother always says that her prettiest children "look like my folks."

Some people always carry their troubles to God and keep their joy to themselves.

Some people never find their faith in God until they have lost all faith in the family doctor.

In order to enjoy life to the utmost you must have some sorrows by which to make comparisons.

What a perfect old world this would be if each of us were as good as we know we ought to be.

Some of the finest bindings contain the poorest literature. It is often the same way with fine clothes.

If inventors of excuses could patent them the patent office would soon furnish employment to everybody.

A smile and a frown come at the same price, but the former pays happy interest on the investment.

Some men spend so much of their lives trying to get rich quick that they never have time to make a living.

The most miserable failure in life is the man who always acts on the advice of others and never follows his own.

A man should realize that he is growing old when he finds that spring weather does not give him that fishing feeling.

If this year's graduates could do all they think they can do there would be nothing left for next year's graduates to tackle.

Paying a choir to sing your songs of praise is a great deal like smelling the perfume of flowers with some one else's nose.

The fathers of large families would have more time to rejoice over the size if they could devote less time to meeting the bills.

Some men get fulsome praise on their tombstones because they never gave their friends a chance to praise them while alive.

The best articles on the joy of farm life are written by those who wouldn't know the difference between a stirring plow and a corn-planter.

We wish some man would invent a barber shop where the man who is in a hurry could always find an empty chair and an idle barber.

Can you imagine a more distressful sight at this gladsome spring time than that of a boy or girl about to graduate trying to think out a graduating oration?

No matter how clean a man keeps the house, when his wife returns she always exclaims, "My, goodness; will I ever get things straightened around!"

The height of impudence is when a merchant uses rubber stamped stationery to write to the editor of the local paper complaining about the editor accepting advertising from merchants in another town.

Three things must be cultivated if we would have them grow—good nature, good cheer and good friendship. Three things will grow unless rooted out—envy, malice and selfishness. Three things are better when left alone—debt, doubt and drink.

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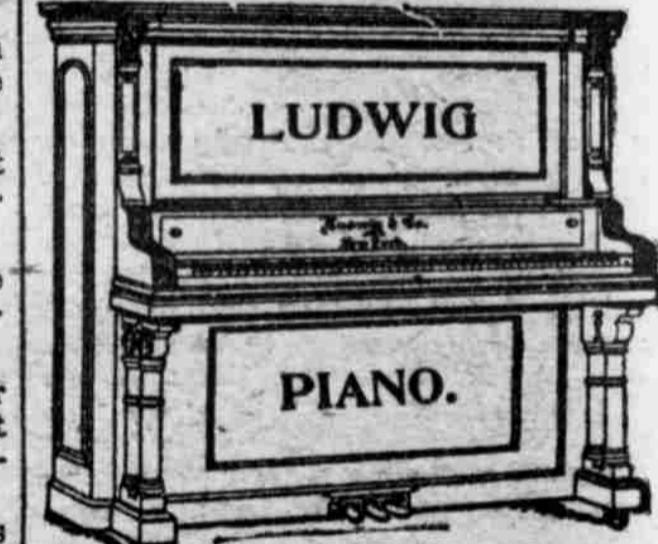
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