

How the System Grew

One of the most interesting of Thomas W. Lawson's several chapters in the story entitled "Frenzied Finance," appears in the February number of Everybody's Magazine.

In the beginning, Mr. Lawson points out that even in the Twentieth century, where enlightenment is supposed to prevail throughout this proud land, a majority of people still regard the world of finance as the world of magic and "so the ordinary mortal feels that he has no license to enter the world of finance, save only on his knees, hat in hand, bearing tribute to the divinities enthroned within its enchanted territory." Mr. Lawson explains that it is his purpose "to do away with this extraordinary deception and to show it up as one of the artifices with which tricksters since the beginning of the world have imposed upon the people."

"It is a phenomenon of the age," says Mr. Lawson, "that millions of people throughout this country of ours go of their own free will to the shearing pens of the 'system' each year, voluntarily chloroform themselves so that the system may go through their pockets, and then depart peacefully home to dig and delve for more money, that they may have the debasing operation repeated on them twelve months later." Mr. Lawson refers to the evil of the Louisiana lottery and reminds his readers of a strong public sentiment calling for an abatement of that drain on the savings of the nation. As a result, the lottery was destroyed, but he says that "in the height of its prosperity, the Louisiana lottery only took from the people the paltry ten or twelve millions of dollars per year, while today there are single groups of banks, trust companies, corporations, and trusts which take from the people by might, by trick, and by theft, hundreds of millions each year."

Mr. Lawson adds: "Today the 'System' and its methods are as clearly and as sharply defined in the tangibility of their relation to the people as was ever the Louisiana lottery. On certain days the Louisiana lottery sold its tickets, which the people bought with their savings. On a certain day the drawing took place, at which all those who had parted with their dollars expected to receive them back together with immense profits, and upon that day disappointment was spread broadcast among the many and unhealthy joy among the few. So with the 'System.'" On certain days the public is sold their stock, bond, and insurance policy tickets. Upon other days they look for their savings and profits. On the contrary, they learn that these have decreased in value or have been wiped out. My critics will say that such a comparison cannot hold, for in the lottery nothing was dealt in but gambling tickets, whereas the stock or bond ticket represents an ownership in the material things of the country. This is the fallacy the 'System' spends millions every year to foster and disseminate. Between the two the difference is in favor of the Louisiana lottery, for both are gambles and the lottery game was square."

Mr. Lawson continues: "It is only a matter of simple mathematics to ascertain the day, and that only a few years away when ten men will be as absolutely and completely the legal owners of the entire United States and all there is of value in it as John D.

HEART TROUBLES

Don't sleep with your troubles. If you have palpitation, short breath, pain in chest, side and shoulders, choking sensations, fainting spells, difficulty in sleeping on left side, and you feel anxious about it, don't sleep until you have procured a bottle of Dr. Miles' Heart Cure, and you can rest assured you have a never-failing remedy for your afflictions. If first bottle fails to benefit, money back.

Rockefeller is the absolute legal owner of the large section of it of which he is today possessed. When that day is here the people will legally be the slaves of these ten men." Mr. Lawson asks: "Why are the people today not only resting peacefully under this worse than death-bringing yoke, but assisting in the further riveting of this badge of dishonor and degradation?" Mr. Lawson answers his own question in this way: "The reason is simple: They have been lulled to sleep by the 'system' and its cunning votaries until they have but a dull appreciation not only of existing conditions but of their coming consequences. It is almost incredible that a people as intelligent as the American people, and as alert to the usual dangers threatening that which they have fought with so much of their blood and their peace of body and mind, can be so deceived and juggled with. When one looks about, however, and notes happenings of which one personally knows, and the degradation and dishonor to which public opinion is seemingly indifferent, nothing is incredible."

"One sees a certain man openly displaying five hundred millions of dollars, a sum which represents the life earnings of 150,000 of our population, and knows that this man has secured this incredible amount during forty years of his life. One sees the second highest and most honorable office in the nation, a United States senatorship, openly bought for a few stolen dollars by a man who up to the very day of its purchase was a watch repairer in a small country town, and who had never done a single meritorious deed or been possessed of worldly goods to the extent of \$5,000. One sees a wily adventuress secure from the banks, which exist only to safeguard the people's deposited savings, hundreds of thousands of dollars on her bare story that she was the possessor of some mysterious documents. One sees a \$3-a-week office boy of one of the 'System's' votaries able to borrow for the 'System,' on his bare note, four millions of dollars from a New York institution which only exists to safeguard the people's savings—although the law says that such institutions shall not loan to any man on any kind of collateral, even government bonds, one-tenth that sum. One sees two men, drunk with their success, gouging and tearing at each others hearts in Wall street, and sees their gouging and tearing bring about a panic which takes from the people in an hour over a billion dollars and drives scores to suicide, murder, and defalcation—the two men continuing meanwhile as ornamental pillars of society instead of wearing prison stripes. One sees a great railroad corporation, in which are millions of the trust funds of widows, orphans, and charitable institutions, caught 'short' (having sold something it did not own) in the stock-gambling game and held up to the tune of ten million dollars by a reckless stock gambler, who says: 'If you don't settle tonight, it will be twenty millions tomorrow,' and the toll is paid while the great banker who conducts the release of the hold-up charges the further tribute of twelve million dollars for his services. And then one sees this twenty-two millions of 'commission, tacked on to the capital stock of the great railroad which is subsequently capitalized into a 'bond' and sold to great life insurance companies as a first class investment for their trust funds."

"When one sees these things and a hundred other as rankly fraudulent one should not wonder at anything American connected with dollars. "Such things occur because the 'Sys-

tem' has so far been able to keep the public in ignorance of its doings. On the surface there is nothing to suggest that a set of vampires have captured the high places of finance and are sucking away the lifeblood of the nation. Our banks and trust companies all present a fair exterior and apparently are the same safe and honorable institutions they were before the canker fastened on them. Only its votaries know what the system is, and their way is the way of silence and darkness. A tie, stronger and more effective than the oath of the Mafia, binds them to do its service, and woe be to him who dares divulge its methods. He who is bold enough to enter upon a recital of these secrets must be strong indeed to withstand the bribes to silence which would be placed in his hands. The system can well afford to pay any price rather than be brought face to face with its past, with an enraged people for referee. And even if the being be found who will venture an expose of the conspiracy, he will find it strangely difficult to get his story past the traps and pitfalls which will be placed between it and the people for whose enlightenment it is intended."

Mr. Lawson describes in a very interesting way the growth of what he calls "the fabric of civilization," or, in other words, "the few rules and inventions by and through which humanity regulates its earthly affairs." As invention No. 1, he names law; as invention No. 2, money; as invention No. 3, life insurance; as invention No. 4, fire insurance; as invention No. 5, the bank; as invention No. 6, the corporation, and finally, as invention No. 7, the stock exchange, which was created as "a common market place, to which came all those who had corporation

tokens of property to sell and the prices these brought were announced to the world and became the measure of the value of the institution that they represented." He says that it was at this stage that the class which is known as the 'system' began to cast envious eyes "at the accumulated earnings of a prosperous people, locked up and safeguarded against deprecation, while the owners (the public) rested easy in the conviction that they had protected themselves against the spoilsmen." He says that the system reasoned that it was necessary to devise some plan by which control could be secured of the seven institutions or inventions mentioned, and "so that all the benefits the people intend for themselves may revert to the 'system' while the 'system' may be exempt from the punishment provided for those who attempt unfairly and dishonestly to secure such benefits." Then, according to Mr. Lawson, the magic "jimmy" was called for and when it was produced by the skillful lawyer, it was the "trust." Mr. Lawson says:

"All this sounds very hyperbolic and far-fetched, perhaps, but it is exactly what a 'trust' is. The 'trust' may also be defined as a master key to the people's financial structure, which enables its owner to enter any or all of the separate institutions I have mentioned, and combine any or all of them without affecting their respective organisms into a new organization which possesses the potencies and the privileges of each, but is unhampered by

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A New Book

By William J. Bryan, Entitled

Under Other Flags

Travels, Speeches, Lectures.

SINCE Mr. Bryan's European tour a year ago he has been besieged by requests for copies of letters describing his travels abroad. These letters together with a number of his lectures and other public addresses, have been gathered together and published in book form. The European letters contain Mr. Bryan's account of what he saw and learned while in Europe, and present interesting views of Ireland, England, Scotland, France, Switzerland, Germany, Russia, Holland, Belgium, and the Netherlands, together with a description of his visits with Count Tolstoy and Pope Leo. In this volume Mr. Bryan writes entertainingly of the "Birth of the Cuban Republic." He also included his lectures on "A Conquering Nation," and "The Value of an Ideal."

Other articles in the volume are "The attraction of Farming," written for the Saturday Evening Post; "Peace," the address delivered at the Holland Society dinner in 1904; "Naboth's Vineyard," the address at the grave of Philo Sherman Bennett; Democracy's Appeal to Culture, address before the Alumni Association of Syracuse University; and an account of his recent trip to the Grand Canyon entitled "Wonders of the West." The book is illustrated, well printed on good paper and substantially bound.

One of the features of "Under Other Flags" is the "Notes on Europe," written after his return from abroad, and giving in brief form a resume of the many interesting things he saw.

The sale of Under Other Flags has been very gratifying to the author. Although the first edition appeared in December the fifth edition is now on the press. The volume of sales increases from day to day. Agents find the book an easy seller and order them in lots of from 25 to 100.

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