

Garden of Eden, for we have in the First Nebraska district as beautiful and fertile farm lands as the sun turns his face upon in all his course. I deny that it is just to the farmers of my district that gamblers should be permitted to bet on the price of their products to their injury after they have prepared their crops for the market. When the farmer has taken the chances of rain and drouth, when he has taken the chances which must come to the farmer as they scarcely come to anybody else; when he has escaped the grasshopper and the chinch bug and the rain and the hail and the dry winds, I insist that he shall not then be left to the mercy of a gang of speculators who, for their own gain, will take out of him as much of the remainder as they can possibly get.

"There is no difference in the moral character of the transaction between the action of the burglar who goes to a man's house at night and takes from him a part of that which he receives for his wheat, and the action of the gambler who goes on the board of trade and, by betting on the price of products, brings down that price and takes that much from the farmer's income."

As with the farmer's grain so with the property of the railroad stockholder, or the industrial corporation stockholder, or the bank depositor, or the real estate owner, or the wage-earner—the property and rights of everyone of whom are affected by these high scale gamblers who, under the guise of business men, have destroyed honest values and created fictitious values at their own pleasure.

It will do no good for the American people to shut their eyes to the truth; they must not suffer themselves to be led into greater pitfalls by the very men who have brought them to their present day plight. Let us cultivate a healthy public sentiment that will frown upon this great gambling system.

If the educators who have faith in the power of public opinion to remedy evil will endeavor to create a sentiment against gambling in stocks and grain and produce they will find it easier to prevent gambling among their students.

If the ministers who discourse eloquently on sin in the slums of the cities will arraign the speculating pew holders they will find it easier to cure the more hideous but less harmful kind of gambling.

If the bank depositor, the property owner, the wageworker—men and women in all stages of life who want a condition of affairs wherein the results of their toil will be safe from the hands of those who would misappropriate it—let them join in the chorus that ought to go up from every city and village and from every farm in the United States of America: "Stock exchange gambling must go."

## Washington Letter

Washington, D. C., November 11.—I talked recently with a man who is recognized in Washington as the first financier of the city outside of the treasury department. The windows of his office look out on the stately colonade of that gray granite building in which are kept the millions of the United States government and under the roof of which are housed the secrets of the relations of the United States Treasury with the great banks of New York. While I was talking with him two former treasury officials, who are now high in banking circles in New York came in to discuss the situation. The spot was the center of national finance so far as Washington is concerned. The banker to whom I was talking frankly admitted that much of the trouble in New York, indeed most of it, was due, as he said, to the fact, that every corporation of great size and power which had been subjected to an investigation of any sort proved to be full of corruption. From the time that the investigation into the insurance companies of New York began until now that they are investigating Thomas F. Ryan's merger, there has been an uninterrupted course of revelations of dishonesty on the part of the managers of these corporations. "It is not," said he, "that the banks of New York are weak. As a matter of fact they never were stronger. It is not that there is anything in the country to justify apprehension of disaster. The crops are good and prices high. But a few men of great prominence in the United States have put their personal fortunes far ahead of their individual honor, or of their duty to those who have

entrusted them with the management of the corporations they control. I do not believe that either newspaper clamor or the trust busting activities of the president caused this collapse. It is due more than anything else to the entirely justifiable exposition of the financial methods of some of the new practitioners of high finance."

Not everybody sees the New York Sun. Not everybody knows that it speaks distinctly for Wall Street. As a newspaper it is seldom fair but usually clever. This is the comment which it has to make upon the New York panic—for that panic will hardly spread beyond the gambling district which clusters around the United States sub-treasury:

"He touched the dead corpse, Public Credit," said Daniel Webster of Alexander Hamilton, "and it sprung upon its feet."

"Is it to be said of another New York federalist, infinitely more popular and far more of a federalist than Hamilton that he touched the healthy body of Private Credit, and it became a corpse?"

"Shall it be added that an adoring nation cheered the miracle and murmured with reverent lips: 'Hail Caesar! We who are about to bust salute you.'"

In sharp contrast to the alacrity with which the secretary of the treasury has sprung to the relief of Wall Street every time there has been a flurry on the stock exchange, is the cold reception accorded the financial needs of another section of the nation. In the south the banks have served notice that they will no longer make advances on warehouse cotton. The excuse of the bankers for thus practically forcing the sale of cotton in storage is that it will bring millions of much needed foreign money into the country. In other words the producer of cotton is to be forced to sell his product at a sacrifice that money may be poured into Wall Street to save the stock gambler from sacrificing his stock on the market. It is this situation that has brought Representative Burleson of Texas to Washington. He has asked that deposits to the amount of ten millions, one-third of the amount deposited in one day in New York City to check the Wall Street panic, be distributed among the southern banks in order to save the cotton producer \$150,000,000. This request is in compliance with the recent law that the treasury deposits should be distributed equitably between the different states and sections. It is not a wild cat request because a warehouse certificate on cotton is far better security for a government loan than the collateral the New York banks are now depositing to get the nation's funds. The treasury has deposited to date in national banks about \$201,000,000, a large proportion of this amount in New York. Much of this money has been loaned by the government in the last few days to stock gamblers, in order to obviate their dumping their watered stocks upon the market to bring what they would. It would seem that there is as much reason for the administration to consider the loss of the producer of an actual product of real wealth, like cotton, as to favor Wall Street. Yet Mr. Burleson is curtly told by the treasury department that however much the government might be disposed to comply with his request, it would not now be possible, as the treasury has already been stripped of its cash save a bare working balance. In fact, the working balance alluded to, is admitted in Washington to be far short of the amount required for that purpose.

WILLIS J. ABBOT.

### SPEAKING OF "VITTLES"

There is a merry contest going on between the Houston Post, Washington Herald, Charleston News and Courier, Milwaukee Sentinel and other newspapers as to which locality offers the most gustatory delights. Owing to the fact that Nebraska has not yet been entered The Commoner admits that the Houston Post leads with the following: "A pair of Texas 'possums duly dressed and baked, garnished with taters, and accompanied by Texas celery, tomatoes, crackling bread, cold buttermilk and punkin pie." The Post furthermore promises to furnish the "vittles" for a Thanksgiving day dinner if the contestants will visit Houston. This sounds good, but up here in Nebraska the Thanksgiving day dinner will consist of alfalfa fattened turkey stuffed with the crumbs of bread made from Nebraska wheat, sweet taters raised in the once despised sandhills, seedless tomatoes that will still be blushing red on the vines despite the November season and each weighing more'n a pound, pone made from the finest corn that ever rustled its blades in the

wind or nodded its tassels towards the horizon, wheat bread made from wheat so hard it cuts the rollers like emery powder, sass made from apples as different from the Ben Davis variety as democratic principles are from g. o. p. hot air, tomato ketchup so fine that every taste gives you an appetite for another square meal, macaroni and cheese, the ingredients of which were secured first hand from Nebraska farms and dairys, injun puddin' covered with a sweet sauce made from sugar extracted from Nebraska beets, and pie made of punkins as yellow as a newly minted gold eagle and sweeter'n a dream of your first sweetheart. The chief drink will be water so clear that a full glass looks empty and so cold that it will make frost on the outer rim; water that has been filtered and purified by thousands of feet of percolation through rock and sand and brought to the surface by gravity. And when the dinner is over the happy Nebraskans will wander forth under the clear blue sky and look abroad over a land teeming with industry and dotted by full granaries, pretty schoolhouses, comfortable churches, cosy homes and fat flocks and herds. Texas, Wisconsin, South Carolina, the District of Columbia—fine places all and worthy the praises of their local journalists. But every time we walk abroad across the Nebraska fields we kick up evidences that go far to prove to our entire satisfaction that the Garden of Eden was located between the Missouri river and the seventh guide meridian west, with the clear and pellucid Platte bisecting it east and west.

### WILL FURNISH "STRIKE BREAKERS"

Laboring men will be particularly interested in a newspaper dispatch under date of Washington, October 25, and printed in the Lincoln (Nebraska) Journal, republican:

"The bureau of commerce and statistics is sending out circulars all over the country to the principal business houses and associations which is very likely to stir the labor unions to wrath.

"In this letter the bureau says that according to the import of congress which created the department they are trying to help poor, ignorant, and homeless foreigners to a place where labor is plentiful. They point out that there are thousands of aliens, many of them unskilled laborers and others tradesmen of the highest skill, who have settled in sections of the country where their true economic worth is not appreciated. These men are living in parts of the country that are over-populated where work is scarce and laborers are plentiful.

"The department is asking those to whom they send their circulars to send them lists of employers who are in need of help and the kind of workmen they need. The department on receipt of this information will get into communication with the men who wish to import laborers from the congested foreign districts in the east and will endeavor to send them men to fill the vacant places. The department says that the list they will be able to fill includes skilled labor of all kinds, unskilled labor, farm hands, domestics and settlers.

"The thousands of men, easily got hold of by this department of the United States government to send to any part of the nation where a call comes from may affect strike situations to a great extent. So it is looked on by those who have heard of the move of the authorities and it is expected further that the various organizations of allied labor will protest against the government putting in their way cheap foreign labor with which they must thereafter compete."

### ONLY?

The Hurley (S. D.) Herald (rep.) says: "The republican party is under more or less suspicion today of being a corporation party." Only suspicion?

### "WITHOUT ARE DOGS"

If, through some wondrous miracle of grace,  
To the Celestial city I might win,  
And find upon the golden pavement place,  
The gates of pearl within,  
In some sweet pausing of the immortal song  
To which the choring Seraphim gave birth,  
Should I not for that humbler greeting long  
Known in the dumb companionships of  
earth?  
Friends whom the softest whistle of my call  
Brought to my side in love that knew no  
doubt,  
Would I not seek to cross the jasper wall  
If haply I might find you there "Without?"  
—Edward A. Church in the September Century.