

## REPUBLICAN MANAGERS TRY THE "FULL DINNER PAIL" TRICK AGAIN

### Robert Baker's Vigorous Reply

The republican managers are at their old game of promising prosperity "after the election." They are behind the "full time and keep going" placard which is being distributed over the country. Inspired by the republican managers, the New York Leather company recently sent to the Austin Engine company, the following letter:

NEW YORK LEATHER CO.,  
51 Beckman Street,  
New York, July 22, 1908.

Gentlemen:

We have tacked this notice upon the walls of our factories in Brooklyn and New York:

"Believing that the election of Taft and Sherman means a safe and progressive business administration, the day following their election we shall start this plant on 'FULL TIME and KEEP GOING.'"

If you believe with us that by relieving any uncertainty as to what the wage earner can expect in the event of electing men who will secure the business prosperity of this country, we should be glad to have you follow our example.

As members of the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Hardware Manufacturers' Association, the American Supply and Machinery Manufacturers' Association, the National Credit Men's Association, the Manufacturers' Association of New York, the New York Board of Trade and Transportation and other commercial bodies, if you will kindly fill in and return to us the enclosed card, we will supply you with a "FULL TIME and KEEP GOING" card such as we have posted, and notify all these associations of your harmonious attitude.

Regardless of politics, once the manufacturers of this country join universally in this movement depression will cease.

Lend us your help and post the card, "FULL TIME and KEEP GOING."

Yours very truly,

NEW YORK LEATHER BELTING CO.

Robert Baker, president of the Austin Engine company, wrote the following reply:

AUSTIN ENGINE COMPANY

Office: Second Avenue and Eighth Street.

Brooklyn, N. Y., July 25, 1908.

New York Leather Belting Co.,

51 Beckman St., New York.

Gentlemen: We have yours of July 22d offering us copies of cards posted in your factories, which you say read as follows:

"Believing that the election of Taft and Sherman means a safe and progressive business administration the day following their election we shall start this plant on 'FULL TIME and KEEP GOING.'"

Permit us to say we do not understand. Why have you stopped your factories? Why is the "FULL TIME and KEEP GOING" plan not now in operation? Why has there been any shutting down by you and the other members of the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Hardware Manufacturers' Association and the numerous other similar associations to which you say you belong? Did you not assure us that McKinley would insure a "full dinner pail" to all who desire to work? Was not this assurance renewed when your several bodies endorsed Roosevelt and Fairbanks? Then what has emptied the dinner pail of millions of men who are willing to work? What greater reliance can be placed on this assurance than on the other? If you were false prophets before, how do we know you will not be again?

#### WHY ARE THEY CLOSED?

But why the closed; why the idle mills; why the unused freight cars? Why the maintenance of high prices in the face of falling demand? Where is the "abounding," "marvellous," "wonderful," "unparalleled" prosperity? Haven't we got a republican administration? Haven't we got a republican senate and house of representatives? Haven't we had them uninterrupted for twelve years? Haven't the republicans made the laws, state as well as national, and haven't they been charged with their enforcement? Then what is the matter? If the laws are defective, why haven't they been altered? If defective now, were they not equally defective eight and four years ago, when you

assured us, "all is well," and "leave well enough alone?"

Why the depression, we ask? Haven't we had seven years of Roosevelt, who, according to republican orators, and assistant republican, as well as republican newspapers, is the greatest, wisest and best president the country ever had? Haven't we had twelve years of "standpatism" with Hanna, Aldrich and Cannon, sitting on the brakes to prevent the enactment of legislation not desired by the gentlemen who are so conspicuous in their support of Taft and Sherman—Morgan, Rockefeller, Carnegie, Harriman, Schiff? Do these men make a mistake when they select candidates? Which is most likely to be misled, these men who say that Taft is all right, that he is a conservative, or the western farmer, who is told that Taft is a radical?

Where is the "abounding" prosperity? Wealth has certainly increased enormously, or, at least, prices have been boosted to a point that ought to have satisfied the most avaricious. The fortunes of the few have become gigantic—bounded out of sight. Morgan, we are told, has three hundred or so millions; Carnegie as much; while Rockefeller is credited with a billion; a few thousands others having from one to a hundred millions each. These seem to have had their "FULL TIME and KEEP GOING" cards in operation, while they are generally credited with having in October-November last gathered in nearly everything in a large way in the shape of banks, trust companies, industrial and railroad combinations, which had so far escaped them. In fact the bulk of the people have been set a lively pace to pay the increasing prices for the necessities of life these and a few others control.

#### HERE'S THE REAL RUB

But what has happened to the masses, whom you and other boosters of McKinley and Roosevelt assured were to share in the prosperity? With a total estimated wealth of some one hundred and ten billions, the per capita tables work out all right, there should be enough to go around, for that's equal to about \$7,000 per family. But who has it? How many of the millions of toilers have a tenth of that sum free and clear? How comes it that the bulk of the people are shy their proportion of this enormous wealth? Have they been lazy, thriftless, or improvident during these twelve years? If lazy, then who created the wealth? Has the average farmer, mechanic, salesman, clerk, teacher or laborer, squandered their portion in riotous living? Did they spend it for automobiles, steam yachts, or even for diamonds? If not, what has become of it? Why haven't they got it, how did they lose it? What has been the unseen, subtle, but apparently all-powerful force that has taken it from them? Why have matters become so appalling in America that the so-called effete countries of Europe have felt impelled to take official cognizance of the deplorable conditions in which so many of our toilers are compelled to live. The Italian government (as a result of the shocking reports that reached it) having sent a commission to investigate. Most revolting conditions were shown to exist. Whole families were found crowded into one and two room apartments, while not only the women, but little children not much more than babes, were found working in filthy, unhygienic quarters, helping to eke out a scanty living for the family. Overcrowding was shown to be the rule not the exception. In one case seven adults and seven children "living" in a dark, middle room, and a large, bare, rear room.

The daily press also tells us, that since October, thousands of entire families have been out of work, as a result, they have used up all their savings, not their proportion—\$7,000, as above—but a paltry \$50, all they had been able to save during those years of boasted prosperity. The president of the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, R. F. Cutting, says: "I can not remember such a condition existing before. Not even in 1893 and 1894 did the depression persist so long!" While, according to Senator Foraker, on July 1, "22,000 skilled workers are out of employment here in Cincinnati." Presumably the number of the unskilled was greater yet. These illustrations of "unparalleled" prosperity have been duplicated all over the country, no section has escaped the

blight. There has been a tremendous exodus of those who could not find employment, a half million more having emigrated to Europe than have immigrated here.

Why the depression, why the blight? This "marvellous" prosperity seems to have been wonderfully efficacious in keeping the toilers poor. This "unprecedented" prosperity seems to have been monopolized by a few. They have gone on piling up millions, but the larders of the workers, it seems, have accumulated nothing, so that they now face starvation as their reward for the part they took in producing "widespread" prosperity. The bottom has dropped out of their "full dinner pail."

Again we ask why? You say, "Regardless of politics, once the manufacturers of this country join universally in this movement, depression will cease." Who are they to sell to? How can the masses buy when their savings are gone? With wages reduced, how are they to pay monopoly prices and yet live? How are you going to bring prosperity to the toiler without destroying monopoly and special privilege? Using the force-pump won't alter conditions, the people want something more than wind. Why not prick the monopoly bubble, let out some of the wind and water, bring the necessities of life within the purchasing power of the people? The crop of millionaires may not grow, but an equitable distribution of the wealth produced according to the part that each has contributed to its production will bring happiness to millions and insure a natural, therefore lasting, instead of the "force-pump" prosperity you propose.

Let us clip the talons of monopoly, uproot special privilege, and economic conditions will improve so mightily that all will be able to enjoy the comforts of life and none will have to toil such long hours that life becomes a burden.

Finally, firmly believing in the fundamental democracy of American institutions, we have no more right to dictate how our employes should vote than they have to coerce us.

Yours truly,

AUSTIN ENGINE COMPANY,

By Robert Baker, President.

#### DID JUDGE GROSSCUP READ THE RECORD?

(Continued from Page 4)

pany of New Jersey. He repeatedly said that it was the Standard Oil company of Indiana with which he was dealing, but that in dealing with the corporation it was proper for him to take into consideration its relation with the Standard Oil company of New Jersey, just as it is proper for a judge to take into consideration all the facts with reference to any defendant when it comes to the imposition of any penalty for violating the law. Every criminal law writer and every authority concedes to the trial judge this right to take into consideration all the circumstances of the defendant in imposing punishment. This is all that Judge Landis did, all that he ever assumed to do, and to say that he imposed a fine on the Standard Oil company of New Jersey when that concern was not before the court, involves a misapprehension both of his opinion and of the record in the case.

#### WE KNEW IT WAS COMING

James W. Van Cleave of St. Louis has declared in favor of the republican ticket. At the beginning of every campaign Mr. James W. Van Cleave rushes into the limelight and pledges to the republican managers his "devoted and unswerving support." The fact that Mr. Van Cleave is a republican politician who, as president of the Manufacturer's Association, habitually supports the republican ticket, does not prevent this gentleman from giving the public to understand—in a four page circular—that he intends "to bury Bryan and Bryanism under such an avalanche of votes in 1908 that the work will not have to be done over again in 1912 or ever." In that event Mr. James W. Van Cleave will have a long and much needed rest. And the country, too, will have a rest from Mr. James W. Van Cleave and that, after all, is not an inconsiderable point.

#### GLENWOOD SPRINGS, COLORADO

Seventy-three residents of Glenwood Springs, Colorado, have sent The Commoner a check for \$195 as their contribution to the democratic campaign fund.