

medicine, to journalism, to the ministry, or to politics—that they must get away from the farm. I hope that our conservation congresses will not overlook the fact that we shall make little progress towards making farm homes more inviting until we teach men that the farm with all its toil and drudgery gives them a position where they can be independent, and give their children an environment that contributes to stature and character. I believe that we shall only be doing our duty to ourselves, to our fellow man, to our country and to posterity when we emphasize the fact that it is the idler and not the man who toils, who is a disgrace to society.

Here is a place where all of us can work; here is a public opinion which we can all join in cultivating. The mother who has a daughter approaching womanhood's estate can help when she teaches that daughter that she ought to be more willing to link her fortunes with the fortunes of a poor young man, with high aspirations, education, ambition, good health and character, than to seek an alliance with an idle degenerate who spends the money somebody else has earned. The father can do his duty, and can help, when he teaches the son that he is more proud of him when he sees him at work, trying to become a useful factor in society, than when he is simply waiting for some money to be left him that he may squander it, and be the worse for having had it. Every member of society everywhere can serve in this great war upon the largest enemy we have to meet. The teacher in the college has his work to do; the preacher in the pulpit—oh, what an opportunity he has to present to his congregation, Sunday after Sunday the idea that Christ Himself made a living reality, that greatness is to be measured by the service rendered, and that happiness, as well as greatness, depends on the contribution one makes to the world. Here is a work that is large enough for us all. Here is something that invites us an opportunity as large as we can crave.

I present, therefore, as the most important thing that the conservation movement can consider, the raising up of an ideal of life that will give a man a proper conception of his relation to society. Where better than on the farm, can a man learn God's law? What is the Divine law of reward? God wrote it upon the face of the earth; He proclaimed it from the clouds; He burns it into us through the rays of the sun, namely that God has given us the material and that in proportion as man shows industry and intelligence in converting natural resources into usable wealth he can rightfully draw from the common store of the world. That is God's law of rewards. If a man lacks intelligence God punishes him by failure. If he lacks industry, God whips him into poverty by laws that are inexorable. That is the Divine plan, but we have allowed the speculative craze to take its place, and man instead of earning his bread in the sweat of his brow rushes into the city to get some short cut to riches, and society has given respectability to the man who goes on the board of trade at ten o'clock and by betting on what the farmers raise makes more than he can make raising it, while it looks down upon the people who feed us and clothe us.

But, my friends, I have already talked longer than I intended to when I came. I am here because I am interested. I am here because I am a debtor to society. Who in all this land has been placed under greater obligations than I? Who is more bound in duty to contribute as best he can to any improvement that is possible? This is one of the great avenues of effort; one of the great reform movements. It enlarges as you consider it. I am here to testify to my interest; I am here to listen to those who speak that I may gather from their matured thought ideas that I can put into use. My part is an humble part; it is not to discuss any question at length; it is not to speak as an expert upon any branch of conservation; it is rather to come and emphasize so far as I can the work that others have done to show you how large it is, to increase your interest in it, to quicken your zeal, and to have you go from here, determined, as I go determined, to contribute more largely than in the past, not only to this, but to every movement that has for its object the elevation of the human race and the advancement of the civilization of the world. I thank you.

On motion of Professor Condra, duly seconded, the congress adjourned subject to the call of the executive committee.

Well arranged time is the surest mark of a well-arranged mind.—Pitman.

PASS IT ON

In its 1908 platform the republican party promised to amend the Sherman anti-trust law. During the campaign of 1908 Governor Hughes of New York interpreted that promise to mean that "the rule of reason" must be adopted.

Later President Taft appointed Governor Hughes, as well as other men of his mold of thought, to the United States supreme court.

George W. Perkins, associated with J. Pierpont Morgan in trust control, delivered a speech recently in which he complained that republican congressmen had not tried to redeem this promise but that it had been redeemed by the supreme court in the recent trust decision wherein Governor Hughes' "rule of reason" was applied.

Pass this on to your republican neighbor. Ask him what he thinks of the supreme court being packed with the view of having it redeem a party's campaign pledge.

LOOKING BACKWARD

In the light of the confession made by George W. Perkins The Commoner's editorial on Governor Hughes' appointment to the supreme bench may be interesting. In its issue of May 6, 1910, The Commoner said:

The appointment of Governor Hughes to the supreme bench will be regarded by many as a popular appointment. He has been put forward as a reformer, and seems to be considered one by a great many good people, but his reputation as a reformer rests upon a few official acts which show him opposed to grafting and to the individual vices, but no one who will examine his record can doubt that he is in close sympathy with the exploiting corporations. It will be remembered that he vetoed the bill for the reduction of railroad rates after a New York legislature—and a republican legislature at that—had passed the reduction bill. This measure gave to the congested population of New York, the two cent rate now enjoyed by the more scattered populations of the western states, and his veto of it is conclusive proof that he obeys the dictates of the railway managers instead of listening to the voice of the public. He is understood to be a close personal friend of Rockefeller, and the published reports show that the trust magnates have contributed liberally to his campaign funds. He has not hesitated to show that he acknowledges his indebtedness. In 1908 he was the chief defender of the inaction of the republican party on the trust question.

It will be remembered also that he was the first prominent man to oppose the income tax, and his opposition came after Mr. Rockefeller had announced hostility to the income tax amendment. The corporation attorneys who filed an argument against the income tax with the Albany legislature presented the same argument that Governor Hughes did, and these corporation attorneys with Governor Hughes' powerful aid barely succeeded in preventing the ratification of the amendment by the state of New York. What would he do on the supreme bench if any question arose affecting the income tax? His speeches show that he feels no hostility toward private monopolies, and there is no reason to doubt that his decisions would be in line with his speeches.

Governor Hughes exemplifies the individual virtues and naturally demands honesty in the public service, but he is a shining illustration of that peculiar type of citizen developed in this country during the present generation—the citizen who, personally pious, opposes vice and is a punisher of small crimes but shows no indignation at the larger forms of legalized robbery.

In its issue of May 20, 1910, The Commoner printed the following editorial:

The Chicago Record-Herald says that "Bryan's attack on Hughes was mean and contemptible." It commends President Taft for taking notice of Mr. Bryan's comment and credits him with deprecating such criticism as Mr. Bryan made.

Mr. Bryan did not expect to escape criticism when he called attention to Governor Hughes' record. When anyone exposes the attempt which the predatory corporations are making to control the government, the judicial branch as well as the executive and legislative, he must expect to be denounced not only by the corporations but by those who have been fooled by the corporations. The Commoner is charitable enough to assume that the Record-Herald is among the number of fooled and not among the number of those who intentionally defend representatives of corporate greed. Neither the Record-Herald nor Mr. Taft will answer the criticism that Mr. Bryan made, for the facts upon which the criticism was based are admitted. Did not Governor Hughes veto the two cent rate bill? Does the Record-Herald approve of that or condemn it? Did not Governor Hughes lead the fight against the income tax amendment and did he not succeed in defeating it in his own state? No other governor has undertaken this, and even Governor Hughes with all of his influence, succeeded in defeating it by a very small majority. Does the Record-Herald deny that the representatives of the great corporations contributed to Governor Hughes' campaign fund, and does it deny that these contributions indicate a friendliness toward Governor Hughes? Is the Record-Herald so innocent as to suppose that the contributions made by the representatives of great corporations are patriotic and imply no return? Why the agitation in favor of publicity as to campaign funds if not to inform the people as to the influences which are at work in behalf of different candidates? The publicity bill passed by the house provides for publication before election while the bill reported by the senate provides for publication after the election, but the object of publication, whether before or after the election is, first—to discourage improper contributions, and second—to inform the public as to the contributions actually

made. The Record-Herald is presuming too much upon the ignorance of its readers if it asserts that contributions from the interested corporations do not justify a suspicion as to the existence of friendship between the candidate and the corporations.

But that the Record-Herald may be no longer innocent in its defense of Hughes' appointment and no longer ignorant of the influences back of the appointment, let it read the following extract from a letter written by W. E. Hutton & Co., and published in the Cincinnati Enquirer on the first of May:

"The new week opened rather better than the old week closed. The nomination by President Taft of Governor Hughes to succeed Mr. Justice Brewer in the supreme court gave general satisfaction in financial circles because of the conservatism that Governor Hughes has shown in his official acts when the interests of capital have been concerned. He has vetoed, for instance, the two cent per mile maximum passenger rate for New York state; he appointed a committee to investigate speculative methods in the state whose report did much to restrain popular and unwise legislation based on lack of knowledge; and in other ways he has shown himself a man with a proper appreciation of the protection guaranteed to property under the constitution. It was felt that with such an addition to the highest tribunal, that decisions in such cases as the Standard Oil and American Tobacco would be in safe hands."

This is a trade letter from New York City and tells of what is going on in Wall street. The writer of that letter commends the appointment of Governor Hughes and in a very friendly spirit justifies the president's act, but the praise of this friend is more damaging than Mr. Bryan's criticism. It will be noticed that the Enquirer letter calls attention to the veto of the two cent rate, just as Mr. Bryan did, but gives Governor Hughes praise for the veto whereas Mr. Bryan criticizes him. The Enquirer letter does not mention the governor's attitude on the income tax. This is probably an oversight but it makes up for the oversight by mentioning something that Mr. Bryan overlooked, namely, the appointment of the committee which whitewashed the Wall street gamblers. Does the Record-Herald regard it as complimentary to Governor Hughes that he should by implication be charged with appointing a committee, not for the purpose of exposing Wall street methods, but for the purpose of quieting clamor against it? And what does the Record-Herald think of the suggestion that the sugar trust case and the tobacco trust case are safe in Governor Hughes' hands? That is worse than anything Mr. Bryan said, and yet, this charge against Governor Hughes made in the form of a eulogy and by a friend, ought to convince any unprejudiced person that Governor Hughes is expected to take the side of the trust magnates in cases that come before the supreme court. He may not do so but he will disappoint those who are most delighted with his appointment if he is not a thick and thin advocate of the so-called business methods which are deemed legitimate by Wall street, but which are denounced by nine-tenths of the people.

CORN

When Summer rolls round with her pageant of beauty,

A riot of color, a world-wide parade,
Away with dull care! Who would sing of stern duty

When Nature in sweetness and light is arrayed?

The corn-fields are rustling, a message foretelling

Of joys soon to be, for ere long we shall rob
The stalks of their harvest; my bosom is swelling

In anticipation of corn on the cob.

Don't lead me to one of those fashionable show-rooms,

The home of the tip and the festive dress-suit;
Way down on the farm we have lots of elbow-room

To take a firm grip on the succulent fruit.
Despising those symbols of pure affection

Precariously stuck in each end of the cob,
Dame Nature's equipped me for this delectation—

With two sturdy lunch-hooks I'm here on the job.

Please pass me the salt and the pepper, the butter,

The cool, smiling butter from dairy's recess;
Both corn and emotion so fill me I utter

These words 'neath a strong gustatorial stress.
And, though a mouth-organ performer resembling,

I'm careless of comment, regardless of jeers,
With corn on the cob there's no chance for dissembling—

Come, pass me another, I'll muss up my ears!

Ah, blest be the man whose strong molars discovered

This food of the Gods for man here below!
The store of delight for us all he uncovered
When husked from the sheaf were the kernels of snow.

The platter's piled high with ears fragrant and steaming,

The very aroma arouses a throb.

Come, boys, shed your coats, this is no time for dreaming,

We're here to do business with corn on the cob!

—Arthur D. Pratt, in Puck.