

individual, especially one who has made his money as has Mr. Carnegie, to do it."

Several members who did not want to be quoted declared they were unalterably opposed to the idea chiefly because the money Carnegie proposed to pay to ex-presidents would come from the income of bonds of the United States Steel corporation.

Some time in the future, they said, the government might want to lower the tariff on steel products and the cry might be raised that it would interfere with the pensions of several ex-presidents. Representative Robert L. Henry of Texas said:

"The idea of pensioning ex-presidents does not appeal to me greatly. I am certainly not enthusiastic about its being done by Mr. Carnegie.

"His offer is vulgar and insolent. Perhaps the government ought to grant them an annuity, but I refuse to get greatly excited even about that. I don't think an ex-president is ever going to suffer for want of the necessities of life."

Mr. Henry refused to look on the matter seriously. He added: "Why, if necessary, we can put them in the soldiers' or sailors' homes. Those that have gone up Salt river, I suppose, ought to go into the sailors' home."

Representative Burke of South Dakota (rep.) said: "I am opposed to the principle of a private individual pensioning men who have been presidents of the United States. I think every citizen of this country will take the same view of it too."

Representative J. C. Needham of California (rep.) said: "The idea is all wrong. I believe Mr. Carnegie's offer will result in the granting of an annuity to ex-presidents by congress. This great nation should not let Mr. Carnegie or anybody else take care of its ex-presidents."

Congress never has voted a pension to an ex-president, but it has many times pensioned the widows of presidents. Mrs. William Henry Harrison was granted \$25,000 by congress; Mrs. Polk, Mrs. Tyler and Mrs. Garfield got \$5,000 a year each.

Mrs. Lincoln was given a pension of \$3,000, which was raised to \$5,000, and at one time she was voted \$25,000 in a lump sum, and at another time \$15,000.

Mrs. Benjamin Harrison never was given a pension, but was given the franking mail privilege. Mrs. Cleveland was given the franking privilege, but no pension.

THE COMMONER AS A VOTE MAKER

Democratic County Committee of Potter County, Coudersport, Pa., Nov. 21, 1912.—Editor The Commoner: It is my purpose to have your paper placed in the hands of as many voters as possible during the next three or four months, as I believe it is the best vote maker of anything which can be done. We also wish to show Mr. Bryan that we appreciate what he has done for the democratic party in the past sixteen years and especially at the Baltimore convention.

I propose to have the organization in each township obtain as many subscribers as possible and forward to you as fast as they come in. Will you, therefore, kindly advise me your best terms, so that I can put the matter up to each committeeman?

Herewith enclosed find copy of resolutions passed at the last meeting of the democratic county committee in this county. Yours truly,
H. A. AVERY,
Chairman.

"We, the members of the Democratic County Committee, in meeting assembled, as a token of our high esteem, and in full appreciation of the great services rendered the cause of progressive democracy

in the past decade, and especially the magnificent patriotism manifested at the recent national convention, which gave us our splendid progressive platform and our excellent national ticket, the Hon. Woodrow Wilson and Thomas R. Marshall, therefore, be it

"Resolved, That a vote of thanks of the democracy of Potter county be, and is hereby tendered William J. Bryan for the great service rendered our party. And, as a more substantial appreciation of what he has done for democracy, we, each of us, pledge ourselves to subscribe for his excellent paper, The Commoner, and also promise to obtain as many subscribers for the same as can be secured in our several districts.

"Resolved, That this resolution be adopted and spread upon the minutes of this committee, and that a copy of the same be forwarded to Hon. W. J. Bryan, at Lincoln, Neb.

"H. A. AVERY,
Chairman.
"S. M. SIEBERT,
Secretary."

DEBASING NATURE AND DESPISING GOD

From the Fort Worth Record: Shocking and sickening as is the Chicago story of a young white girl's infatuation with Jack Johnson and the black animal's brutish insistence upon holding her within the toils of his power, it should not surprise any man who has the slightest ken of racial instinct or the faintest appreciation of the philosophy of social consequence.

The only wonder is that an intelligent people have permitted associations that make the least compromise with fundamental principle.

To put it in a paradox, this development is the natural result of an unnatural contact of whites and blacks tolerated for gain, or for sport or for convenience. When white men meet negro men in the prize ring, when they ride together in street cars, or railroad cars, or when they meet upon any common plane, they stand upon a footing of equality for the occasion, and repeating the occasion establishes a status which has no limitation or differentiation in the mind of the heedless white or the covetous and lustful black.

There is no culture of mind or heart or uplift of soul of the individual black man that warrants social equality with the white man. That is a hard saying, but it is the decree of nature and God, and to ignore it is to debase nature and despise God.

May not the black man aspire? Yes, as high as the heavens. May he not expand? Yes, throughout the whole wide universe. But aspiration and expansion are not hindered by confinement within the association of his own race. By and of himself, among his own, he must pursue his own way—and he may not be permitted to pursue any other without consequences revolting to the white man and ultimately destructive to himself, for such instances as this repeated will provoke revulsion and antagonism merciless and far-reaching.

They play with fire who venture to cross the line of racial separation by so much as the slightest step or in the faintest degree. It is not because the individual white man is injured by the contact of the moment, or that the individual black man may not be bettered by the association. If that were all there would be no race problem, and the rule would rest upon an unseemly prejudice. President Roosevelt was not hurt by the dinner with Booker Washington, for with all respect to the host, it may be said that the guest was individually worthy of the hospitality. But in the mathematics of races, the honest, humblest black is Washing-

ton's equal; and since Washington was made equal with Roosevelt, the lowest black became equal with chiefest of the white race. That is the philosophy of the black man's reasoning; that is the corollary that finds unconscious lodgment in the white mind moved to an association by whim or temporary advantage.

Jack Johnson had a white wife, who is now dead, and nothing ill may be said of the dead. But the example has borne fruit in the weak brain of this poor child of passion who would give her birthright for the gratification of a diseased or insane fancy. The suicide of the other one, provoked perhaps by a belated realization of her racial debasement, is no warning to the younger victim lured by notoriety and intoxicated by adventure.

And that isn't all. "Oh, some of the best white women in Chicago ride in this car," said Johnson to the girl's mother when she shrank from being seen in his automobile. Of course "the best white women" in Chicago do not ride in that car, but Johnson sees no reason why they should not; other brutish negroes there and elsewhere see no reason why they should not; and thus in millions of negro minds is born the purpose of impudence and insult and outrage to be visited upon white women any time and anywhere.

What have we of the south to be concerned about in this unspeakable infamy which the undiscerning North tolerates? May we not be content to preserve our own standards, maintain our social integrity and let others indulge animalism and amalgamation to the utmost of their bestial bent?

No, for we have knowledge they do not know; we have experiences which should teach them to beware, and we are not faithful as our brothers' keepers if we do not cry aloud and warn them of their peril.

Besides, they can not conceal these exploits from the knowledge of our blacks, and our blacks will be tempted to more wicked deeds. Quick and sure vengeance awaits the least encroachment here, but it would be little less than criminal not to endeavor to prevent the occasion for vengeance.

Thousands of black brutes all over the land will be moved by this circumstance to entertain the nameless desire which always lurks in the mind of the low and lustful.

We may not calculate how many white women must suffer the consequence of such example—nor how many black men may be destroyed to hold the others of the race in leash.

Will men never learn that nature can not be mocked without punishment? That the God of Heaven is the God of races? That the pigment of the skin, while not a badge of dishonor, is an outward and visible sign of a status decreed from everlasting to everlasting? Association, dalliance or trespass, by whatever action or custom, is outlawry which invites the wrath of the Most High.

SUPERFLUOUS

The banquet hall was adorned with many beautiful paintings, and the president of the little college was called upon to respond to a toast. Wishing to pay a compliment to the ladies present, he designated the paintings with an eloquent gesture and said:

"What need is there of these painted beauties when we have so many with us at the table?"—Ladies' Home Journal.

THE DIFFERENCE

A woman wearing a long hat-pin may be ejected from a streetcar in Berlin. Here the rest of the folks have got to get out.—Port Press.

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