

British minister, Choate, at their head to protect him when it appeared necessary, from the prying proboscis of the committee. His clearly evasive answers to many of the questions showed him merely as a skillful fencer crowding the line of falsehood so closely that it was hard to tell whether he had not in fact crossed it. Take the following verbatim report to questions and answers of his testimony about his purchase of the Equitable Insurance company stock from Ryan and Harriman:

Q. You may explain, if you care to, Mr. Morgan, why you bought from Messrs. Ryan and Harriman \$51,000 par value of stock that paid only \$3,570 a year for approximately \$3,000,000, that could yield you only one-eighth or one-ninth of 1 per cent. A. Because I thought it was a desirable thing for the situation to do that.

Q. That is very general, Mr. Morgan. Will you speak of the situation? Was not that stock safe enough in Mr. Ryan's hands? A. I suppose it was. I thought it was greatly improved by being in the hands of myself and these two gentlemen, provided I asked them to do so.

Q. How would that improve the situation over the situation that existed when Mr. Ryan and Mr. Harriman held the stock? A. Mr. Ryan did not have it alone.

Q. Yes, but do you not know that Mr. Ryan originally bought it alone, and Mr. Harriman insisted on having him give him half? A. I thought if he could pay for it at that price, I could. I thought that was a fair price.

Q. You thought it was good business, did you? A. Yes.

Q. You thought it was good business to buy a stock that paid only one-ninth or one-tenth of 1 per cent a year? A. I thought so.

Q. The normal rate of interest that you can earn on money is about 5 per cent, is it not? A. Not always, no. I am not talking about it as a question of money.

Q. The normal rate of interest would be from 4 to 5 per cent ordinarily, would it not? Where is the good business, then, in buying a security that only pays one-ninth of 1 per cent? A. Because I thought it was better there than it was where it was. That is all.

Q. Was anything the matter with it in the hands of Mr. Ryan? A. Nothing.

Q. In what respect would it be better where it is than with him? A. That is the way it struck me.

Q. Is that all you have to say about it? A. That is all I have to say about it.

Q. You care to make no other explanation about it? A. No.

Q. The assets of the Equitable Life were \$504,465,802.01 on December 31, 1911. Did Mr. Ryan offer this stock to you? A. I asked him to sell it to me.

Q. Did you tell him why you wanted it? A. No, I told him I thought it was a good thing for me to have.

Q. Did he tell you that he wanted to sell it? A. No, but he sold it.

Q. He did not want to sell it, but when you said you wanted it, he sold it? A. He did not say that he did not want to sell it.

Q. What did he say when you told him you would like to have it and thought you ought to have it? A. He hesitated about it and finally sold it.

Doesn't it look as though the feathers of Morgan's angel wings were pretty badly singed by the fire of that examination?—Denver News.

WOODROW WILSON'S TRIBUTE TO BUSINESS MEN

Woodrow Wilson has written for the January issue of the World's Work an article entitled "The New Freedom." Referring to the problem of corporations, he says:

"What we have to discuss is not wrongs which individuals intentionally do—for I do not believe there are a great many of those—but the wrongs of the system. I want to record my protest against any discussion of this matter, which would seem to indicate that there are bodies of our fellow citizens who are trying to grind us down and do us injustice. There are some men of that sort. I don't know how they sleep o' nights, but there are men of that kind. Thank God, they are not numerous. The truth is we are all caught in a great economic system which is heartless.

"When I hear judges reason upon the analogy of relationships that used to exist between workmen and their employers a generation ago, I wonder if they have not opened their eyes to the modern world. You know we have a right to expect that judges will have their eyes open,

even though the law they administer has not awakened.

"Since I entered politics I have chiefly had men's views confided to me privately. Some of the biggest men in the United States, in the field of commerce and manufacture, are afraid of somebody; are afraid of something.

"American industry is not free as once it was free; American enterprise is not free; the man with only a little capital is finding it harder to get into the field, more and more impossible to compete with the big fellow. Why? Because the laws of this country do not prevent the strong from crushing the weak. That is the reason, and because the strong have crushed the weak, the strong dominate the industry and the economic life of this country.

"There is a great deal that needs reconstruction in the United States. I should like to take a census of the business men—I mean the rank and file of the business men—as to whether they think that business conditions in this country, or rather whether the organization of business in this country is satisfactory or not.

"I know what they would say if they dared. If they could vote secretly they would vote overwhelmingly that the present organization of business was meant for the big fellows and was not meant for the little fellows.

"What this country needs above everything else is a body of laws which will look after the men who are on the make rather than the men who are already made. Because the men who already are made are not going to live indefinitely, and they are not always kind enough to leave sons as able and honest as they are."

The president-elect deprecates the extent to which government has become associated with business and regards it as the "most alarming phenomena of the time."

"Our government has been for the past few years under the control of heads of great allied corporations with special interests," he says. "It has not controlled these interests and assigned them to a proper place in the whole system of business; it has submitted itself to their control.

"As a result, there have grown up vicious systems and schemes of governmental favoritism (the most obvious being the extravagant tariff); far-reaching in effect upon the whole fabric of life, touching to his injury every inhabitant of the land, laying unfair and impossible handicaps upon competitors, imposing taxes in every direction, stifling everywhere the free spirit of American enterprises."

AN IRRESPONSIBLE AUTOCRAT

There are nearly 7,500 national banks in the United States, with a capital of more than \$1,000,000,000 and resources of fully \$6,000,000,000. They are all under the authority of government.

There are more than 17,000 state banks, savings banks, trust companies and loan companies, with resources approximating \$14,000,000,000. They are all under the authority of government.

There are 214 life insurance companies, with assets of approximately \$4,000,000,000. They are all under the authority of government.

There are 240,000 miles of railroad, capitalized at more than \$20,000,000,000. Practically all these roads are under the authority of government.

In addition, there are hundreds of millions of dollars invested in traction lines, in gas plants and in various other corporations affected with a public interest. All this capital is under the authority of government.

Nobody questions the wisdom of such supervision. It is accepted as a matter of course, because there is no other means of safeguarding the general welfare, though government may be weakly and badly and foolishly administered. Even Wall street has come to admit the necessity of a certain degree of government regulation, and among its captains of industry are men who have seriously advanced the radical socialistic suggestion that government should supervise not only the capitalization and conduct of great corporations, but should fix prices as well.

It is only when somebody proposes to regulate the New York Stock Exchange that a wild chorus of dissent arises. The whole world of big business is agreed that the institution which manipulates prices, which fixes the rate of interest that legitimate industry must pay for loans, which can commandeer hundreds of millions of other people's money to juggle for its own profits, which sets aside the laws against usury and the laws against over-certification of checks, which can plunge the country into a panic, and is responsible only to itself, is the one institu-

tion that is too sacred for government to meddle with.

Could anything be more ridiculous or absurd? If the New York Stock Exchange is not affected with a public interest, as the courts say, nothing is affected with a public interest. It should no longer remain the great anarchist of organized wealth, but it should be incorporated by the legislature of New York and subjected to the supervision of the superintendent of banking. No body of men is fit to be trusted with the irresponsible power over prosperity that is now wielded by the stock exchange.—New York World.

ONE PHASE OF CARNEGIE "PHILANTHROPY"

Omaha (Neb.) Chancellor: There is another phase to this Carnegie "philanthropy" that should be repeatedly emphasized. Let it never be forgotten that his so-called gifts are never actual gifts of wealth in such form that it will easily be dissipated. It is always in the form of stocks or bonds in such institutions, say, as the American steel corporation. Every person knows the character of the corporations in which Carnegie not only has secured his ill-gotten gains, but in which even now his wealth is invested and upon which his millions still pile up. Now he proposes to "give" to a few favored persons certain sums represented in these stocks and bonds. In other words, he proposes to give to a few, for the purpose of winning their support for these modern forms of piracy, an economic interest in the fruits thereof that they may become supporters of the dishonest economic system by which they were at first secured. For let it not be forgotten that none of these stocks and bonds represent any wealth already produced, but are in fact liens upon wealth yet uncreated, upon wealth which unborn generations are to earn, and which they will never receive, so long as we continue the present policy of not only looting the weak of our time, but of the generations yet unborn. To support such piracy shows either ignorance or infamy, and Carnegie is not ignorant.

Several years ago he announced that he would attempt to dispense his wealth, or what the law considers his, before he dies, for, said he, "it is a disgrace to die rich." It is not a disgrace either to live or die rich, if those riches are honestly earned, but riches secured through influencing legislators to pass laws transferring to your pockets the wealth which others produce is not honestly earning your wealth, and to possess such wealth living or dead is a disgrace. Carnegie is that man, and he knows it. Yet what is he doing or what has he ever signified he would do to change the infamous system by which he secured his filthy, blood-stained wealth? Not one thing. On the contrary, he has done all he could to perpetuate that system, and so long as that conduct is the ruling course of his life, let his very name be an anathema among high-minded, honorable men.

THE LITTLE FELLER

Little feller, little feller,
Runnin' all around the ranch
Playin' with the calves and chickens,
Sailin' boats down in the branch,
Ridin' on your saddle pony,
'Cross the breezy prairie ways—
Little feller, little feller,
How you brighten up our days.

Little feller, when we hear you,
Laughin' that clear, childish note,
How it makes the worries scatter—
How like mist our troubles float;
How the frowns we wore are vanished,
How the harsh thoughts die away;
Little feller, little feller,
How you heal us in your play.

How you bring the good that's in us
To the forefront of our souls;
How you keep the days unfoldin'
Like a wealth of golden scrolls;
Live without you, little feller?—
Why, the thought jest makes us sick;
You're the sun of our existence
On this ranch at Lonesome crick.
—Arthur Chapman in the Denver Republican.

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