

A COLORADO WAR HORSE

Boulder, Colo., Jan. 14.—To The Editor of The Commoner: Perhaps the enclosed verses are too lengthy, perhaps not sufficiently meritorious for your invaluable paper, The Commoner, but I would like to see you pay a neat little tribute to Colonel Montgomery in some form. In my opinion he was the brainiest, most courageous man this state has produced. Others have risen higher, others excelled in the practical manipulation of affairs, perhaps, but for superb ability in the forum, he had, as I believe, no peer within our confines. He was at one time house member, at another, speaker, and would have presided over the senate had he lived a few days longer. He was the man who could and did on numerous occasions preside over our state conventions as no other man could and upon the floor in debate, he outshone all others. He was our old War Horse of Democracy, and no man ever better deserved the title. I have often wished he had been sent to the United States senate. Had he been, I know he would have attained at once the standing of a powerful national figure. He was aged seventy-eight years, according to the papers, but seemed much younger. The irony, the sarcasm, the wit, the courteous, yet courageous bearing in debate and public assemblies—his playground and his battlefield—all combined to make him appear to me as a man truly great and I always had implicit faith in his political honesty, for he always seemed to me to be a great champion of truth, right, and justice.

HENRY A. DRUMM.

BENJAMIN F. MONTGOMERY

(Lieutenant-Governor-Elect.)

Look where he lies; how peacefully he sleeps;
And yet how resolute his cast of features.
E'en in death he holds the impress of that iron will,

That courage, poise and confidence
That made men hail him chief.
And, too, how faithfully that classic brow
Reveals the secret of that power
Which more than all things else,
Gave him unquestioned mastery—
The wondrous thought that lay within—
That burning eloquence from those fearless lips—

At times in words as with'ring as a fiery blast—
At times in tones of thund'rous warning to the foe—

At times in speech of mild but pungent jest and brilliant repartee—

But always lucid, sparkling as the crystal waters of the mountain stream—

Unerring in its mission as the arrow in its flight;
Convinced his fellows that he well deserved to be
Commander of their destiny.

The frequent smile that charmed both friend and foe

The flashing eye that pierced the densest maze—

The silv'ry tongue that roused and stilled the hearts and souls of men—

All, are gone, and gone forevermore.

But on the gracious walls of memory

A picture hangs, enlivening rare—

A picture of the forum—

Where the people are assembled

On the grave affairs of state.

And in the very midst stands he,

Of towering form and serious mien,

As sturdy as the giant oak and as the lion brave,
Commotion's in the very air—the crisis is at hand—

He lifts his voice; all eyes are turned, all noises hushed,

As if his very boldness stilled the strife.

He speaks and speaks at length;

And when he's spoken, all is said;

The right has won—the wrong has fled.

* * * * *

O weep, my state, my beloved state,

O state of the golden west;

For 'neath your skies there was none so wise—

Defender, bravest and best.

Where'er the call, a very wall

He stood for you and for me;

Where'er he spoke, the storm clouds broke—

Came light and liberty.

With honors rife—a useful life—

Our children's children will tell

How brave you wrought—how brave you fought;

Great soul, a loving farewell.

HENRY A. DRUMM.

Boulder, Colo., January 12, 1913.

England and Its Ways

When the general condition of its people is considered, it is marvelous that England has been able to maintain its prestige as one of the leading countries of the world as long as it has. The people are groaning under their burdens and it could never have done so this long except for the help obtained from many colonies.

England, until lately, is an example of what we should not do, for out of its population of around 40,000,000 people, it is said that nearly 30,000,000 are always on the verge of starvation and 1,000,000 are public paupers.

One of the main causes for this is that more than half of the land is now owned by only 2,500 persons and that the people have been forced to the cities. It is estimated that less than 23 per cent of the entire population live in the country and these nearly all on rented farms. Very few Englishmen have any land at all or have any home of their own. They are nearly all tenants and the majority of the workers live in small, badly arranged and ventilated houses, with no conveniences—as compared with our homes here.

As a result, the poorer classes have become almost hopeless of better conditions and the women in particular have been driven to the worst possible extremes through necessity—which is shown everywhere boldly and openly. Disease is on all sides and the great majority of the poor soon become broken down wrecks. Drink is the greatest national curse—\$750,000,000 being spent yearly by the people for that purpose alone.

What has brought this about? The indifference of the majority to political life. They left the rich and titled to rule them, which they did to their personal advantage, resulting in "The good old rule, the simple plan, That they should take who have the power, And they should keep who can."

What they did not "take" by force, they took through laws that burdened the poor man the heaviest and he gradually lost his all in one way or another.

England is a constitutional monarchy but the king is largely a figurehead now. The real leader of the nation is the prime minister. Parliament, consisting of a house of lords and a house of commons, rules. The trouble has been that the former has had too much power and the latter too little. Gradually, this is changing, and with the change, is coming better laws for the workers and poor.

It has been a fearful struggle to survive—no matter how, with many—but the great majority of the English have suffered without breaking the law and they really imagined their ways the best until recently when their eyes have commenced to open by seeing how other countries and their own colonies were surpassing them.

To give an example of the results on the people themselves—out of 34,608 young men who wanted to enlist in the army, 16,297 (nearly one-half) were rejected for physical reasons.

Millions of the inhabitants have no hope of getting work, never have enough to eat and no regular home at night. It is estimated that 1,250,000 people have \$2,925,000,000; 3,750,000 have \$1,225,000,000 and the others have only \$4,400,000,000 to divide—many with nothing at all.

The qualities that have made the English great are their tenacity, optimism, confidence, honesty of purpose and ability to rule other nations. What has held them back at home though is that the majority are too conservative. They are too slow, think too much of themselves and not enough of the general good. They are also inclined to compromise difficulties more than they should. Hard conditions for many years has much to do with some of these faults—they have become callous to the needs and suffering of others through seeing so much of it. This does not apply to all though, for many of the noblest characters in history have been English men and women. The well-cared for Englishman is one of the finest specimens of the human race. Under better conditions in many of the colonies, the English and their descendants are in the lead with reform laws and think more of their neighbors than we do here sometimes.

The English spend more of their time in their homes and less hours in business than we do.

They believe the workers should have rest and recreation so as to be fit to work hard when the time comes. Their annual expenditure for sports alone is \$220,000,000 while they give but \$75,000,000 towards helping the poor.

Under the present administration, England is waking up and has already adopted the trades dispute act, which provides peaceful picketing during strikes; an act to provide for the feeding of school children; the compensation act, which provides for the payment of persons injured while at work; a full adoption of the fair trades resolution, which makes obligatory the payment by government contractors of the union rate of wages; an improvement of the position of the workers in the government dock yards; the provision of work for the unemployed hereafter; the old-age pension bill; the payment of members of parliament, which relieves the trades unions of the payment of members who represent their interest in the house; the establishment of labor bureaus where men and women in search of work may register and be supplied with information as to work obtainable; the insurance against illness and unemployment to a certain extent.

For the immediate future, the labor party's program contains planks looking to the further improvement of the conditions of labor; a law making it obligatory on the government to provide work for those wanting it; the abolition of night work as far as possible; a land policy which will place the workers on the land again until the nationalization of the land is completed; the nationalization of railways and mines; and bills for the improvement of the housing of the working people.

What has already been done is a wonderful advance and ahead of anything our nation has yet accomplished. With these laws in force, England will surely become a better and happier place for its people to live in and advance instead of going backward. It is vital to her future welfare and she now recognizes the nation otherwise will fall before other countries that are strong rivals.

Comparisons as to financial conditions show as follows: Per capita circulation, United States, \$34.59; Great Britain, \$19.60. Per capita bank deposits, United States, \$45.23; Great Britain, \$23.81.

Wages are lower in England than here but the living cost is less. Generally speaking, our workers here are somewhat better off. This will not be so hereafter though unless we make changes too. WILLIAM H. B. HAYWARD.

Philadelphia, Pa.

A HINT FROM NEW JERSEY

Perhaps those who complain because the president-elect announces no definite policy will find enough in the New Jersey anti-trust bills to hold their attention temporarily. The measures are seven in number and are said to have Governor Wilson's approval, which at Trenton means a great deal.

The purpose is to prohibit and to punish monopolies of every description. To this end the proposed laws forbid combinations, secret or otherwise, to limit production, to stifle competition or to fix prices. All stocks must represent money or property. No dead horses and no anticipated profits shall be capitalized. When one issue of stock replaces another the amount must be the same. One corporation shall not buy into another to establish a monopoly or to restrain trade. In the case of existing holding companies the voting of securities unlawfully held is prohibited. Mergers are to be permitted only on the approval of the utilities commission, and discriminations in prices or otherwise are prohibited.

As stated, seven bills seem to have been necessary to cover all this ground, but one of the seven has a bearing upon all of the others. It makes the officers and directors of every corporation personally responsible for violations of the laws. It fixes the penalty at imprisonment for not more than three years or a fine of not more than \$1,000. It is an anti-monopoly, an anti-trust, an anti-robbery proposition with teeth in it, and the teeth are sharp and long.

These bills are of importance, of course, as foreshadowing the downfall of New Jersey as the home port of the buccaneers of big business, but for the instruction of Wall street in the ideas that soon are to prevail at Washington they are even more impressive.—New York World.