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OUR CHRIST

By Harry Webb Farrington

I
I know not how that Bethlehem's Babe,
Could in the God-head he;
I only know the manger child
Has brought God's life to me.

II
I do not know how that Calvary's cross,
A world from sin, could free;
I only know its Matchless Love
Has brought God's love to me.

III
I know not how that Joseph's Tomb
Could solve death's mystery;
I know there is a Living Christ—
Our immortality.

The man who is inclined to think there is something in this talk about prices getting back to war level finds speedy disillusionment when he tries to purchase a suit of clothing.

Governor McKelvie of Nebraska has been under fire so long because he travels about the country so much that the average citizen who wants to have a few minutes with him saves a lot of time by haunting the railroad depot at Lincoln.

The watermelon crop was so large in many of the western states that it is reported a considerable part of it rotted in the fields. This ought to be passed along to the man who is hunting for arguments to prove his claim that the world is getting better.

Railroad men attempt to explain the ability of Henry Ford to pay his railroad men more money, charge less for freight and still make a neat surplus by saying that it is because he is doing more business than the road did before he bought it. The real reason is that he is devoting his energies to running a railroad while most of the other railroad managers are devoting theirs to running the government.

The treaty of peace between Germany and the United States which Secretary Hughes negotiated now lacks only the approval of the United States Senate to become effective. As about the main difference between that and the one the Senate rejected is that the new one has been arranged by a Republican administration and the other by a Democratic administration, it is not expected that the Republican majority will tarry very long about ratifying it.

Due to the insistence of Commissioner Charles W. Bryan the Lincoln city council has reluctantly consented to operate a municipal coal yard for the ensuing year. Every coal profiteer in the town opposed this as an invasion of his private right to make as much as he could. Before the coal yard was established coal dealers were trying to induce the purchase of their winter's supply, but since then it appears there is to be no coal famine this winter because the industries are not demanding their usual quota.

Letters From Interested Readers

MONEY QUESTION AND HOMES FOR PEOPLE

Bellevue, Wash., August 23, 1921.—The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.; I have read every issue of The Commoner since its first publication. I have worked for every reform advocated by W. J. Bryan and have rejoiced to see the good accomplished.

I knew Mr. Bryan as a fellow member of the 53rd congress; his ability and position on all important questions inspired my confidence and admiration. His opportunity for the study of public questions since then, always coupled with right motives in party leadership, has been such as to eminently fit him for leadership in the reorganization of the Democratic party, and I consider him the most capable and the safest man in America today, to trust with such reorganization.

I think the leading issues now should be the MONEY QUESTION and HOMES FOR THE PEOPLE. Every organization, government, state or municipal; every corporation, transportation, commercial or industrial; every company and individual, wants and NEEDS more money. We have GREATER population and production, MORE DEBTS, INSURANCE and TAXATION than ever before, yet at this very time the Federal Reserve Bank is RETIRING CURRENCY, HOARDING MONEY, FINANCING FOREIGN LOANS, DEPRESSING BUSINESS, INCREASING FAILURES and MULTIPLYING UNEMPLOYMENT. They are ROBBING basic industries of values by the billions through doubling the value of the dollar.

It is plain the banks are determined to RUN and CONTROL BUSINESS and VALUES for THEIR own PROFIT. They have secured from congress a complete monopoly of money control. They have all the currency they require, in their own name, without any charge for interest, with the privilege of retiring as much as they choose, whenever they choose. They have practically all the money of the people in deposits, which they use, hoard or loan as they please, at high rates of interest. They make all loans payable in GOLD COIN of the United States, then impound all the coin in their own vaults.

The people have placed their heads in the mouths of lions and the fear of the bite has such a terror that no one dares protest or speak the truth above a whisper in criticism of the banks.

The constitution gives congress the right to coin money and regulate the value thereof. Congress, representing the people, should issue all United States coin and currency directly to the treasury of the United States available for any public purpose that it may determine for the public good. Such money so issued would get into circulation at its full value and SAVE IN TAXATION every dollar so issued.

Let the banks conduct a loan, deposit and discount business, but be required to insure all depositors against loss. Enact a national law against usury and fix the maximum rate of interest. The banks have had a fair trial. They have been FOUND WANTING and MUST be DETHRONED.

We should have a United States HOME LOAN department. People should mate and marry while young and raise families, but the difficulty and uncertainty of procuring homes, puts off this momentous event in life, and leads to much mating without marrying to the disgrace and moral degradation of American society. A government Home Loan department should give liberal loans on long time at low rates of interest to encourage thrift and enable families to have homes of their own. Nothing could do more for moral, social and industrial development. Our homestead privileges are not inviting. Good lands are scarce and the isolation of the present day homestead is a distressing deterrent. Nothing would do so much to encourage thrift as to authorize long time, low interest loans to add to a few years savings for the one purpose of providing homes for our people. Every citizen should have the hope of a home, with family love to soften the heart and make sacred the privilege of citizenship in the United States. A good home and an acre or more of land owned by the head of the family will make self support a possibility and loyalty to country a certainty.

I am not interested in mere party success but put the issues I have outlined into your platform and I will do my utmost for the success of the cause.
GEO. F. RICHARDSON.

DEPREDAATION OF THE CLASSES

Charlottesville, Va., Aug. 29, 1921.—Charles W. Bryan, Lincoln, Nebr. Dear Mr. Bryan: Your circular letter of August 24th to hand. I am in entire sympathy with the subject of your letter. As to the possibility of accomplishing anything, I am frank to say that I am pessimistic.

In a general way I have been a strong supporter of Mr. Bryan. I have not agreed with him in all details. Nor do I now agree with some. In a general way, however, I have no hesitancy in saying that he has occupied and deserves to occupy a leading role among American publicists. Without going further into our agreements and disagreements, I am making bold to say that I should like for him and for you to concentrate upon what I believe is the burning issue before the American people, without regard to any side-tracking of any description. What is this issue?

In my judgment it is the depredation of the classes upon the masses. You say this has been Mr. Bryan's contention all along. In a measure this is absolutely correct. But hasn't he been to some extent side-tracked? The country is in a deplorable condition, not because there is not milk and honey in abundance, but because this milk and honey are gathered in by these classes and withheld from the masses. As the years go by, conditions, instead of growing better, are growing worse. There never was a time when despotism was as rampant in America as at this time. In order that you may not be in doubt as to what I have in my mind, I refer to COMBINES, which mean the Steel Trust, the Oil Trust, the Paper Trust and every other Combine of every description, including a Combine of unscrupulous politicians, from which source all Combines receive their authority to exist and are perpetually protected in their lawless operations, as well as operations technically made lawful.

In this land which, as I have already said, is flowing with milk and honey, it ought to be easy for every one disposed to do so to make a living with a reasonable number of hours of work each day. Because of the vampires referred to it is becoming harder and harder for an honest man to keep his head above water. What is the remedy? In the writer's opinion there is one and only one, BREAK UP ALL COMBINES. Can this remedy be applied? I do not know. Unless it can be applied, then the situation is absolutely hopeless. If a sentiment cannot be aroused, perpetuated and made effective by which one class or classes can be prevented from feeding on the masses, then we have nothing to look forward to except a contemplation of absolute gloom. There is not one particle of logic in any system or condition which enables an idiot and profligate who has his money invested in a concern, which lives upon the tribute FORCED from the people while sensible as well as good men are ground to the earth. With all due deference to other peoples' opinion, there is no such a thing as a good TRUST or a good COMBINE. They are all bad. This was formerly Mr. Bryan's position. He has been somewhat less pronounced on it in late years. Things were bad enough up to the 12th day of August, 1914. Since then, they have grown worse in geometrical ratio. I agree with Mr. Bryan that war ought to be stopped, if such a thing can be done. Certainly, Mr. Sherman was right when he said, war was Hell. It has surely made a Hell for the American people. I have never understood why war should be an excuse for multiplying and giving free rein to thieves. Neither can I now understand it.

To conclude this long epistle, for which I apologize, I again say that if we can find a way to break up every Combine of every description, starting with the Capitalistic Combine and ending with the Labor Combine, the whole trouble will be solved. Restore competition, real competition, and our industrial troubles will be at an end. If this remedy cannot be applied, then it is perfectly useless to waste our time, our thought or our money. I should like to see some expression from either you or your brother along this line. If you believe it can be done, then let's go straight at the mark and not allow anything to divert us. The progress we have made in recent years reminds me of the frog jumping two feet every day and slipping back three feet every night. This is just about the way we have succeeded in recent years, in curbing the parasites and privileged classes of all kinds.

Yours very sincerely,
J. EDWIN WOOD.