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UNCLE RUSS SCARED

Bid Foree Comments on Russell Sage's Interview Regarding the Danger in Trusts

Editor Independent: I saw in a late issue of the Kansas City World a part of an interview given out by Russell Sage, in which he said, "Combinations of all great industries are a menace to the government, oppressors of the people," etc. Now, "wouldn't that jar you?" What is the matter with Uncle Russ? Since when did he begin to take an interest in the government or the people? Maybe he is in the same case with a certain class of bankers who lent all of their political strength to the destruction of the silver standard in '96 and 1900. They knew as well as any one that it was the worse for the people, but didn't care so long as they thought it was to their interest; but as soon as the power that they helped to establish begins to exert itself against them, proposes to cut them out of their share of business and profits then they raise a kick and hou. Something of the same sort is the matter with Uncle Russ.

This is the same money-making miserly old gent that held one of his employes between himself and a dynamite bomb while it went off and then lawed him through all the courts in the land rather than pay him for his injury. Much he cares for government or people!

The trouble with Uncle Russ is, he is scared, and there is a note of alarm in his music. While the millionaire was forming schemes and combinations to choke the thousandaire out of business it was all right with Uncle Russ. He did not think it necessary to borrow extracts from democratic or populistic speeches and go before the people in an interview with them. But when these billionaires' combinations are forming for the purpose of choking the millionaire out of business, he can see things differently.

But then it's all right; we are glad he spoke, if he was a little late about it; and he has appealed to the right parties, the people. The people are long suffering and forgiving and willing to help right things any time. It's a hopeful sign when the millionaire can crawl up and stick his head out of his money-making rut, long enough to see the trend of things, to see the danger that is threatening him as well as other people. It would be a good thing if more of the millionaires could experience the same sort of a scare that is troubling Uncle Russ. Then instead of employing cunning Hars to deceive the people, they could form a combination with the people to the advantage of all concerned.

SID FOREE.

Plattsburg, Mo.

Result in New York

The result of the election in this state has been, to democrats, a surprise and a disappointment. The majority for Coler in New York city of nearly 120,000 surpassed all democratic predictions. That such a majority should have been overcome by republican majorities outside of Greater New York, showed a republican strength for Odell that surpassed all republican predictions.

The large majority in New York city was due, no doubt, in a great degree, to the widespread dissatisfaction with Mayor Lowe's administration, together with the confidence felt in Mr. Coler, in his own city, where his character is best known, and where his record for faithful public service has been made.

The "still hunt" tactics pursued by the democrats outside of New York city, have not been successful. Perhaps a more audible campaign, with greater emphasis laid upon national issues would have been. Our opinion is that republican national policies are much more vulnerable than republican state policies, and as the election of congressmen and a United States senator were pending, more attention should have been given during the campaign to the issues of trusts and imperialism.

In the city of Ithaca the result of the election is satisfactory, and proves

that republican municipal candidates cannot always be "carried along with the rest of the ticket," even in gubernatorial and presidential years, when republican majorities for state and national candidates are almost a certainty.—Chester C. Platt, in Ithaca (N. Y.) Democrat.

Tom L. Johnson's Campaign

Republican newspapers and politicians of the plutocratic brand continue to rejoice over what they term the retirement from political leadership of Tom L. Johnson last Tuesday. Without studying the returns they point to the republican majority of 90,000 in Ohio against the democratic candidates as conclusive proof that the voters are opposed to Johnson and all that he represents.

But analysis of the returns tells a different story. In thirty-four counties the republicans gained on the majorities of 1901, whereas the democrats made gains in fifty-three counties.

In more than two-thirds of the counties visited by Mayor Johnson and Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow, democratic candidate for secretary of state, the republicans lost heavily, their great gains having been made where little or no campaign was conducted by the Cleveland mayor.

John R. McLean, the bitter enemy of Johnson, controlled the democratic organization in Hamilton county, the result of which was that a republican gain of 25,000 was made in that county alone. Lucas county, in which Toledo is located, showed a democratic loss of about 4,500, thus aggregating a republican gain of nearly 30,000 votes in two counties, where the ample corruption fund of the Hanna party was used easily and effectively.

On the other hand, the democrats made substantial gains in fifty-three counties, especially among farmers in the districts visited by the Johnson tent. This effect of the democratic campaign has alarmed Ohio republican leaders. They see in it the breaking up of the almost solid farmer vote that although they may corrupt enough voters in the towns and cities to sum up a big total in one election, and to discredit Tom L. Johnson in the minds of superficial people, they can never recover the farmer vote when once that class is convinced that it is being robbed through unjust taxation.

Equal taxation and home rule were the paramount issues upon which the democrats appealed to the intelligence and conscience of the voters. The appeal was effective in nearly every county in which it was made.

This was especially true in Cleveland and Cuyahoga county, the home of both Johnson and Hanna, which was carried by the democrats by a majority of 3,000 although three years ago the republican majority was nearly 14,000.

Those republican newspapers, therefore, which profess to believe that Tom L. Johnson has met his political Waterloo had better revise their opinion, for events within the next two years will prove that they are only deceiving themselves.—Norman E. Mack, in Buffalo (N. Y.) Times.

An officer who recently returned from Mindanao, the land of the Moros and slavery under the stars and stripes, says: "One officer, and apparently only one, had attempted to uphold the constitution as regards slavery. He had been bothered with disputes, etc., about slaves and as a means of ending the trouble he announced to the natives that the constitution of the United States forbade slavery and that the constitution was going to be observed in the territory under his jurisdiction. His fellow-officers laughed at him. The Moros, however, took him at his word to the extent, at least, that he was not troubled further." The Independent is glad to know that there is at least one army officer who believes that "the constitution follows the flag."

The reorganizers succeeded by the plenteous use of money in capturing 15 democratic state conventions and in every one of those states they failed to cast anywhere near as many votes as Bryan received in either of his campaigns for the presidency.

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JOHNSON COUNTY

A Bulletin Not "Authorized by the Railroads of Nebraska"

The communication below was received some days before election, but was crowded out because one of the editors was out campaigning and the other had more than his hands full of work. The result in Johnson county would indicate that the people there rather like to pay their own taxes and part of what the railroads ought to pay themselves—at any rate they gave Mickey a bigger majority than they did Dietrich two years ago:

Editor Independent: The caption, "Not authorized by the railroads of Nebraska"—except the "not"—is going in all the weekly and daily papers in our state regarding the taxation of railroads. The inference, as I understand it, is that they are taxed more than other property, which, if true, is a great wrong and ought to be righted. If they are taxed more than any other business interests in this state, I wish they would explain it. In the first place, every other business that I know of has losses in the shape of bad debts—even those who pretend to do a cash business do not escape. But who ever got a ticket or a pound of freight without the cash? (A few thousand republican voters got tickets to go home to vote—and they didn't pay cash.—Ed. Ind.) Railroad losses do not compare with those of our other business interests. True, they have wrecks now and then, but the taxpayers can't be held accountable for those, for that is their own blundering most of the time—working their men overtime, not seeming to realize that the human machine must have a certain amount of rest to run safely.

But what I wanted to give your readers is this: The Atchison & Nebraska railroad has 25.81 miles of line in Johnson county. Its taxes this year are \$4,615.65. This may seem exorbitant, but the bulletins fail to state that Johnson county gave this railroad company \$102,000 in bonds, running twenty years at 10 per cent interest, and that \$260,000 was expended in paying off the bonds and interest. It is reasonable to suppose that the road had some capital in addition to what the county gave it, and the \$4,600 of tax even on the money our county gave is not so very onerous after all, even if the stocks were all wind or water.

Tecumseh, Neb. W. G. S.

According to the Omaha Bee's figures the A. & N. is worth \$113,000 a mile at present. In other words, it is paying interest on its bonds and dividends on its stocks to the extent that the total would be a fair return on \$113,000 a mile. The mileage in Johnson county is worth \$2,800,000, and if equalized at 1-7 of its value would be assessed at \$400,000—or nearly four times as much as it is now assessed. If the A. & N. was paying \$16,000 to \$18,000 of taxes in Johnson county today, instead of \$4,600, it would not be paying too much as compared to other property owners. But love for the word "republican" is so strong down there that a majority of the voters will gladly pay out of their own pockets ten to twelve thousand dollars a year that the A. & N. ought to pay, rather than vote any other ticket.

Mr. Morgan's Profits

Up to date, during the year 1902, the promoting firm of J. P. Morgan & Co. has cleared \$42,190,000 in profits from the various combines it has effected with the capital of its clients. Twenty million of this total was made out of the organization of the steel trust. The following are the large trust deals handled by Morgan & Co. during the year, the figures indicating the profits of his firm:

U. S. steel corporation.....\$20,340,000

Northern Securities Co.... 4,500,000

Steamship combination..... 2,500,000

Harvesters merger..... 5,500,000

Louisville & N. deal..... 6,000,000

United States Kealty Co.... 3,000,000

Monon purchase 350,000

Total \$42,190,000

These deals represent a total capitalization of \$2,052,568,000, of which a large proportion is water. Here is where the skill of Morgan comes in—his ability to make something out of nothing and on the principle that the laborer is worthy of his hire, he has not been overpaid. But the power he has created within himself is a menace to any government.

The dishonesty of the republican binders was exhibited wherever they appeared before the people. They unblushingly declared that the Wilson bill was "free trade" when it was so highly protective that Cleveland, would not sign it and thousands of republicans are now demanding that the nation shall go back to its principles so as to shield the people from the extortions of the trusts.

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It is but a slight service to aid a sick friend—and I will do this:

I will mail the sick one an order—good at any drug store—for six bottles Dr. Shoop's Restorative. He may take it a month to learn what it can do. If it succeeds, the cost is \$5.50. If it fails, I will pay the druggist myself.

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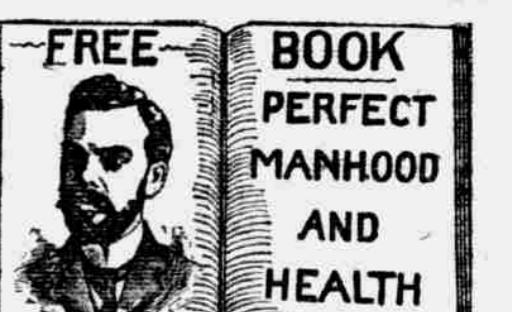
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