

MAKING THE INDEPENDENT

The labor of preparing an edition of The Independent is very great, much more so than that of any other paper of the same size. The paper, in the first place, is printed almost wholly from original manuscript each week. The current news is all re-written and condensed. While all current literature is searched, it seldom happens that an article can be found which is so written that it can be copied in these columns. Many valuable things are found in the purely economic quarterlies and monthlies, but they are written in such a style that they would be incomprehensible to the ordinary voter. There is no reason why political economy, sociology and government should not be made "as interesting as a novel," as a New York "literator" recently said of the writings in The Independent, or at least easily understood by any one having a common school education. But the professors of the craft think that they must clothe their thoughts in words and phrases of such peculiar diction that only the members of the craft will be able to understand. Of all the writers of universal authority there are but one or two whose words could be printed verbatim in these columns, without violating the rule long since established that nothing should appear that was not easily understood by the ordinary hard working man. These two are John Stuart Mill and Ricardo.

Any other weekly in the United States could find in current literature each week several columns that could be appropriately transferred to its pages, but it is very seldom, indeed, that even a column can be found that will do to reprint in these pages.

An amusing thing that illustrates this once occurred in this office. When the assistant editor, who is a thorough economist and clear writer, first took up his labors, he was requested to look over a pile of exchanges, magazines and newspapers, about four feet high, and see if he could find a column or two that would do to reprint in The Independent. He went diligently to work and after a day's tussle he handed over two or three columns which had appeared in those exchanges, which he said was "all good stuff, sound economics and readable." But when it came to be examined it turned out that some nine-tenths of it had originally appeared in The Independent and had been stolen bodily by the editors of these exchanges and printed in them as original matter.

The amount of reading that has to be done to prepare for writing one edition of The Independent is enormous. The columns of falsehoods, sophistries and disgusting drivel that must be gone over each week to get at a grain of truth or common sense, is of itself enough to wear a man out. When an item appears in the Associated press that seems to be important and true, it will not do to accept it without investigation. More than one-half of such items, it will be found if a close watch is kept for two or three days, to be absolutely untrue. The editorial writing in the dailies is a delusion and a snare. It is written by hirelings who must obey orders from the moneyed syndicate that owns the paper. Many of these editors are men of fine abilities, have been trained in the best American and foreign universities and can put up an argument that would deceive any one but an "old pop." So when reading these effusions, one has to be under a constant mental strain to detect sophistries and falsehoods.

The result of all this immense amount of hard work, as the Boston man said, is a publication that is "unique."

HAVE'NT SENSE ENOUGH

It will never do for the labor unions of this country to adopt the foreign ideas of the trade unions of the old world. So large a number of the

members of the unions in this country are composed of foreign born citizens about whom still cling the ideas that the environment of the old world evolved, one should not wonder that once in a while they come to public notice through the official action of some organization or from the words of their officers. If the hard lot of the toilers in the mines and factories of this country is to be relieved, these old world notions must be wholly abandoned. Their advocacy over there has, after a century, left the workers merely slaves and they will have no other effect here. The wage-workers of this country are not one thing and the government another. They are one and the same thing. They make the government what it now is. If they don't like it, they can change it. If they want an eight-hour day they can have it. All they have to do to get it is to all vote together and not divide up between half a dozen parties while the plutocrats all stick by one party. In Europe there would be some ground for forbidding members of unions from entering into military service, but in this country, where the government is the wage-workers, it is folly to refuse to protect themselves. It is folly also to say that wage-workers of this country are not the government, for they are. There are ten voters who work for wages for one who lives on interest or the accumulation of capital. If they want anything, all they have to do is to go and take it.

The idea of overproduction adopted by the trade unions of Europe have transferred the leadership in production from the old world to the new. The idea that wage-workers here must be antagonistic, not to the party in power, but to the government itself, if persisted in, will result as disastrously to labor here as the false notions of trade unions have over the water. Let labor take charge of the government, command the military forces, control the courts and adopt such policies as will result in good for all. This government is your government. The reason that you don't control it is because you haven't sense enough to all vote one ticket.

TWENTY YEARS A CRANK

Dr. Garvin, governor-elect of Rhode Island, has long been denounced as a "crank." He was always able to carry the town in which he lived, so he has been either a senator or representative in the Rhode Island legislature since 1883. While in the minority, for Rhode Island is always overwhelmingly republican, by his persistent nagging, he has been able to get several reforms through the legislature as also to have the constitution of the state amended two or three times. Among these reforms were the overthrow of the old landed-property qualification for foreign-born voters, elections by plurality vote, a ten-hour labor law, a factory inspections act, the secret ballot and the state bureau of industrial statistics. The secret ballot and the law extending the suffrage which almost doubled the vote, for half of the citizens were disfranchised, were the two most important of the bills that he got through. Meantime he constantly practiced medicine in the homes of the poor and thus kept in touch with the common people. For twenty years he was a "crank." Now he will be governor of the state. He may not be able to accomplish much in that position, for the governor of that state has little power and the legislature is all in all. There will have to be something like a revolution before a reform legislature is elected for under the old and archaic constitution of the state, the legislature is in the hands of the capitalists in the towns.

F. P. Compton of the Greeley Citizen rejoices in the fact that J. L. White was re-elected county commissioner in Greeley county.

DON'T

Because you bought a harness of a man and got cheated, is no reason for you to think that no harness makers are honest, is it? Because you bought some farm machinery and after you used it last year you let it stand out doors and get all rusted is no reason for you to find fault with your implement man, is it? Because you sent a mail order to Chicago and got done up is no reason to condemn all Chicago or to think that all mail order houses are cheaters, is it? Because we want you to order a suit of us—try us—try our mail order system—try our goods—get acquainted with our prices. We know that you'll like us, goods, prices, service and treatment. Try one of our Fancy Cassimere Suits for \$10.00 that we are showing on page 5 in our catalogue, and if you don't get your money's worth tell us, and we'll give you more than enough to square the shortcomings, if there are any.

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A PLAIN BALD LIE

It is perfectly astounding that a paper like the Springfield Republican should make a statement about money that is absolutely false, and that every man knows is false. It must be that it is afflicted with monetary insanity. In speaking of the recent low record in the price of silver it says:

"These drops also reduce by millions of dollars the worth of the silver money of the United States."

The silver "money" of the United States is not worth one cent less than it was before this fall in silver, and it is impossible that the editor of the Springfield Republican does not know that fact. He would not take any less for the silver dollars which he has in his pocket than he would before. Neither is American "silver money" worth any less in London, Berlin, Paris or any other mart of trade anywhere in the world than it was before. And the Republican editor knows that also. Yet he deliberately writes and publishes this plain, bald lie.

Why men will keep up this sort of thing is past comprehension. What is a dollar—let it be gold, greenback or bank note—worth? How does any man know whether it is worth more or less? A dollar is worth what it will exchange for. Will a silver dollar exchange for any less wheat, corn, coal, clothing or anything else than it did before this fall in the price of silver bullion? Will it not buy just as much of any of these things as a gold dollar? If a silver dollar is a 40-cent dollar because the material in it is only worth 40 cents, then a national bank note is a 1-mill dollar. Does the worth of a national bank note vary as the price of paper goes up and down?

"Money" is one thing and "silver bullion" is another thing. The variation of the "worth" of one has no relation whatever to the "worth" of the other. Silver bullion varies in "worth" almost every day, but it never affects the "worth" of the American silver dollar. If silver bullion should go down to 10 cents an ounce instead of 49 7-8 cents, as it is now, the American silver dollar would still be at a parity with gold. Any pop school boy ten years old could tell the editor of the Springfield Republican why.

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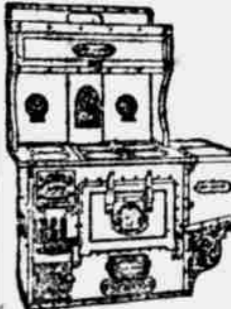


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