

Trusts—The Cause and Cure

There is wisdom among many counsellors. The Independent might secure and publish profound dissertations on the cause of and cure for trusts, from men of great reputation as economists; but it believes that among its twenty thousand subscribers it has a great many who can in a few words tell where the trouble lies. The economist's opinion might be weighty and learned—but in practical politics it is backed up by but one vote, the same as the opinion of the humblest reader of The Independent. Lyceums, debating societies, and kindred organizations which encourage an interchange of opinion, are of undoubted benefit; and there can be no doubt that an interchange of ideas through The Independent upon this question of vital importance will be beneficial.

REFERENDUM AND INITIATIVE.

Editor Independent: My views of the trust evil and some remedies. First, enact a system of direct legislation through the referendum and initiative, so that the people might vote for laws and amendments at the polls.

Second, Land monopoly might be restrained by Henry George's plan of single taxation, by the government buying the land with greenbacks to be issued by the government. The land to be re-sold to actual settlers for payments of these greenbacks and a quit claim deed given in exchange.

Third, the money trust could be dissolved by the free coinage of silver and gold. I think free coinage could be enacted without the aid of any foreign nation. And then the establishment of a United States savings bank system, such as was proposed by Senator Butler of North Carolina a few years ago. Readers of The Independent will understand what the Butler savings bank system would be when in use.

As to other trusts, they would be dissolved by national ownership of the land system and national savings banks.

Trusts are an outgrowth of customs house duties, whether for protective tariff on revenue only. Both are equally bad policies and are trust creative. The government could derive revenue from a property taxation.

With government ownership of the land and banking system, the trusts would have to pay interest on the money they use, and without a protective tariff could not undersell competitors in trade, and for these reasons would be forced out of business.

The referendum and initiative should be the paramount issue of the platform to be drafted by the reform party in 1904.

IRL DEAN.

Marion, Ia.

HANG THE TRAITORS.

Editor Independent: We want no remedy for the trusts or mergers. They are linguistic thaumaturgies—that is all. People with ideas upon such subjects can ill afford to be longer fooled by such phrasing.

The truth needs to be known that our struggles are with the legislation of the corporations. The question is this: can corporations ever be allowed to have a legal existence?

The Sherman law and the state laws that propose their regulation by that fact give corporations a legal standing in courts. They are there a personality, exercising human rights through their human agents. The non-human principle becomes a fort behind which the irresponsible agent can give battle.

Corporations are unknown to the federal constitution. In direct violation of the compact entered into by the people, their organic act the declaration that cannot without its abrogation admit of any rights not human.

The remedy: Bring treasonable courts, congressmen, and legislators, who have deliberately violated their oaths to support the declaration and under it the constitution, and the military officers, national or state, that have violated theirs by shooting down human beings in defense of corporation property—to the gallows for their treason. Judgment at least is demanded for their treason.

H. ELLINGSTON.

Minnehaha, Minn.

NO REMEDY.

There is no remedy for the trusts, at present, as nine men out of every ten would buy stock in some company, if he was sure of profits. Afterwards, if his company would combine with other companies, working along the same lines, he would still keep his stock or exchange for shares in the new company.

Before he knew it, he would be a

stockholder in some trust. If dividends commenced, he would secretly rejoice that he was having a better income than his neighbor.

He would want nothing done to injure his company.

His neighbor might belong to some other trust and he would not want any legislation that would injure his company.

Men, at the time of their election to the legislature or to congress, are generally of middle age or past and they have seen the years slipping past, without reaching the financial circumstances that they had set their hopes on twenty years before.

Everything is run by money and after a man becomes a legislator it is hard to refuse any extra increase of income.

If legislation, adverse to the trusts, was enacted, it would not be enforced or if it was and the trusts were fined, they could easily make up the fine by advancing prices or lowering wages.

Speculative trusts are formed under the names of "pools" or "funds" to control speculative operations. Such trusts are formed by combining the capital of a great many men and their aim is to control the market and keep the other fellow from making a profit. Capital has such a firm grip on this country that its power is liable not to be shaken until the end comes in war or the downfall of the nation.

W. H. SEWARD.

Conneautville, Pa.

DIVISION OF LABOR

Farmers Dealed the Benefits of Improved Methods of Production—"Oughtn't to Eat Crackers"

Editor Independent: In a former letter I called your attention to the price of wheat in the west where I was two years ago and the price of crackers. The farmer was getting 90c to \$1 per 100 pounds for his wheat, or about 1 cent a pound. Common crackers were selling in the store for 10c for common and 15c per pound for fancy from the Biscuit trust, or ten to fifteen times more than wheat in its raw state, so that three pounds of fancy crackers would pay for forty-five pounds of wheat in its raw state from the farmer, or nearly enough to make a barrel of crackers.

I called the attention of some parties there to this fact and they said the farmers had no business to buy crackers; that they should make their own crackers. "Yes," I said, "but the farmers do not know how to make crackers; it's a trade." "Well," the fellow said, "if the farmers don't know how to make crackers, d—n the farmers—let them eat hay." "This," I said, "is what you are trying to bring them to if possible; outside the farmer, the world would be no poorer if the farmer were compelled to eat hay; but the farmer would be both physically and financially poorer, and it was the farmer I was talking about."

While the trusts, combines, manipulators, speculators, banks, professionals, etc., are protected by state laws and tariff laws, tariff laws keep out foreign competitors, enabling the trusts and manufacturers to double the price of their products on the farmer, at the same time the government is bringing over thousands of immigrants and giving them 160 acres of land each, to make competitors for the American farmer, and lower prices for farm products, making millionaires on the one side and poverty on the other, while the farmer is the main spoke in the wheel. At present the eastern states are affected more particularly than the western, but the western states are beginning to feel the pressure as well.

To show I know something about this, will state some stubborn facts in my own experience: I recently sold a farm in the west, once valued at \$2,500, for \$800. I just sold another that was valued at \$6,600 for \$1,600, with one-fourth interest in an irrigating ditch four miles long. I offered another for \$800 that was once valued at \$3,500. We split on the price and I have it still—the man offered me \$750—has abundance of water, owning four shares in an irrigating ditch; all these farms were formerly No. 1 wheat lands. They have springs of natural gas near the last mentioned farm and am now prospecting for oil with a fair show of success in that vicinity; on this account, this farm is not in the market for farming purposes at present.

They say it's not always best (even) to tell the truth, but these are stub-

born facts all the same. Might say they were sold at about one-third to one-fourth their former valuation.

This is one difficulty the farmers have to contend with. If they have a double crop or what would be the same as two crops in one year, they must be disposed of within the year just the same at whatever price can be had, on account of the perishable nature of the farmer's products. Apples, potatoes, all vegetables, butter and eggs, even wheat, corn and oats, are liable to damage and will not keep long.

I have known seasons here when there was an overproduction of apples and potatoes and there was no market for them at any price, and thousands of bushels were either given away or thrown away.

Then the farmers have everything to contend with—the wind and the weather, too wet or too dry, too hot or too cold; there is a worm, insects, bug or fly for every living plant—fruit and vegetable; there are rats, mice, spiders, army worm, chinch bugs, hawks, skunks, snakes, and reptiles; then after they get their share while the crop is growing, the trusts, speculators, manipulators, lawyers, bankers and doctors manage to get the lion's share of what is left.

Then the soil is becoming exhausted from continual cropping. Many of the eastern states are almost beyond recovery in that line, and some of the western states are showing signs of exhaustion in certain lines, notably for wheat.

In some of the western states the time has gone by for giving away public lands to immigrants. We should keep all we have left for the future—coming generations of Americans—and they will find that their forefathers have been altogether too generous in giving away public lands.

The time will come when there will be a congested population and a worn-out soil. Then it is making competitors for the American farmer, and making him poorer and poorer, while they are building up trusts, combines, manipulators, speculators, manufacturers, bankers, by tariff laws, enabling them to fix their own price on their wares and manufactures.

We know the Pillsburys, the Armours, Swifts, the Goulds, the Hills, the Vanderbilts, the Rockefellers, the Morgans, the biscuit trust, the sugar trust, the tobacco trust, the cotton trust, the oil trust, the harvester and plow trust, the mowing machine and twine trust, the leather trust, the iron, wire fencing, and nail trust, the salt trust, the bank trust and hundreds of others too numerous to mention, all becoming millionaires directly or indirectly out of the farmer. Now give us the name of one farmer who is a millionaire or a multi-millionaire that has made his millions by agriculture alone. So poorly paid are the farmers in the eastern states that it is almost impossible to keep the boys and girls at home; they dig out as soon as they become aware of the situation, drudge and unremunerative life of the farm.

JOHN T. MARTIN.

Pittsfield, Pa.

Whoa, Hayseeds!

Editor Independent: Under the above caption I saw recently in The Independent what Mr. Wayland in the Appeal to Reason said about the bankers who ridiculed farmers who asked that the government should make them loans on their wheat 2 per cent interest; but that Secretary Shaw has made those bankers a loan of \$30,000,000 without interest, on dubious chattels.

Which reminds me that a few years ago a Holt county (Neb.) paper contained several pages of advertisements of sheriff's sales and foreclosures of mortgages, because of a few crop failures caused by drouth. Those industrious people could not pay their dues. At the same time Secretary of the Treasury Gage had issued an order that for thirty days all the revenues of the United States must daily be sent to New York and from there to London to save the Bank of England from bankruptcy. The revenues of a single day, or even a half day, would have saved the dear homes of those Holt county people, who would gladly have paid their debts after having another good crop—but Mr. Gage could not spare it! It took the last cent of those revenues, which are squeezed out by taxing such hayseeds, to keep the Bank of England from tumbling over.

Last spring congress voted \$50,000 for banquetting a genuine German imperial prince; and not long ago Queen Roosevelt bought a \$50,000 silver dinner set for the royal palace, to be prepared to receive royal guests. You know that German prince who visited us last spring had to take the im-

perial silver set along—he could not eat from a common china plate.

Whoa! Cousin Hayseed!

Whoa! Uncle Street Walker!

Stop a little!

You forget to pay the fiddler. Then take your empty \$50,000 dinner pail along, that you can enjoy your \$50,000 banquet. That's equal rights to all; special privileges to none.

F. SCHWEIZER.

Woodlawn, Neb.

Grain Meeting

There will be a meeting held at Lincoln, Neb., January 22, 1903, at 3 p. m. in University Hall in the interest of and for the purpose of advancing the Farmers' Co-operative Grain and Live Stock association and extending its usefulness in Nebraska. All farmers and others interested in extending the work of the association and in the building of farmers' co-operative elevators are requested to attend and take part in the meeting. We recommend that farmers and shippers meet at the various shipping stations of Nebraska and send representatives or delegates to this meeting. All persons interested in the success of the co-operative movement and desiring information regarding the same, are cordially invited. James Butler, manager of the central association, and other speakers from Kansas will address the meeting. Reduced rates have been granted on all the railroads in the state. Ask for them when buying your tickets.

The Farmers' Grain Association of Benedict Nebraska.

D. W. BAKER, Pres.

E. E. WATTS, Sec'y.

The Farmers' Grain Association of Thayer, Nebraska.

R. B. PRICE, Pres.

T. C. PRATHER, Sec'y.

The Farmers' Business Association of Shelby, Nebraska.

H. THELEN, Pres.

H. H. HEWITT, Sec'y.

J. A. Wayland in Appeal to Reason says:

"Senator Harris of Kansas now classifies himself as a democrat, repudiating the name of populist. He never was a populist. I was in Topeka when he was elected and heard him and then said he was not a populist, had no sympathy with the spirit and aspirations of that organization."

Senator Harris is not the only recipient of favors at the hands of the populist organization who, after he had secured all he thought possible, bit the hand that fed him. Here in Nebraska we have the satisfaction of knowing that no more staunch populist than Senator Allen lives within her borders. There may come a time at no distant day when Senator Harris will believe he flopped several years too soon.

I Will Cure You of Rheumatism

Else No Money is Wanted.

After 2,000 experiments, I have learned how to cure Rheumatism. Not to turn bony joints into flesh again; that is impossible. But I can cure the disease always, at any stage, and forever.

I ask for no money. Simply write me a postal and I will send you an order on your nearest druggist for six bottles Dr. Shoop's Rheumatic Cure, for every druggist keeps it. Use it for a month and, if it succeeds, the cost is only \$5.50. If it fails, I will pay the druggist myself.

I have no samaras, because any medicine that can affect Rheumatism quickly must be drugged to the verge of danger. I use no such drugs, and it is folly to take them. You must get the disease out of the blood.

My remedy does that, even in the most difficult obstinate cases. No matter how impossible this seems to you, I know it and take the risk. I have cured tens of thousands of cases in this way, and my records show that 39 out of 40 who get six bottles pay gladly. I have learned that people in general are honest with a physician who cures them. That is all I ask. If I fail I don't expect a penny from you.

Simply write me a postal card or a letter. I will send you my book about Rheumatism, and an order for the medicine. Take it for a month, as it won't harm you anyway. If it fails, it is free, and I leave the decision with you. Address Dr. Shoop, Box 940, Racine, Wis.

Mild cases, not chronic, are often cured by one or two bottles. At all druggists.