

PREDICTIONS FULFILLED

The Starving, Freezing Thousands of Boston—A Result Foretold in the Independent

The readers of The Independent will remember how often it predicted two or three years ago that the thousands who rolled up the big republican majorities in the eastern states would be the greatest sufferers under the system that was being inaugurated and that they would have to bear the brunt of the next great change in social conditions, while the west would be comparatively comfortable. We tried to save these thousands from the distress and misery that would be sure to come upon them; but they would have none of it. They believe the millionaires and the great dailies and refused to listen. What was foretold is coming to pass. Rev. Frank Crane, accompanied by Mayor Collins, has been investigating the suffering in Boston, and Mr. Crane speaks of it as follows:

"It is simply the vestibule of hell where the poor shiver in winter and cry for bread in a land of plenty. This land of ours I am speaking of. You worshipers at the shrine of the God of things as they are will soon be overcrowded and crushed by the innumerable throngs of the worshipers at the shrine of the God of things as they should be.

"The shame and the crime of the shivering poverty which broods and curses in our slums and purlieus are only magnified by the lauded and glorified full dinner pail, prosperity, American supremacy in commerce, a land fat with bursting barns, affluent with fields that bubble with oil for fuel and rich with mountains whose ribs are crusted with gold and silver.

"O, God, send these preachers of prosperity and plenty to the pits where the pinched faces of want may squarely meet their eyes. I tell you, men that you are sitting on the crater of a volcano whose threatenings may even now be heard by him who will listen but a little—a volcano whose fury may yet overthrow and overwhelm the republic. Do not forget the French revolution. Do you not remember that the people ripped up the Bastille as if it had been wet paper? The very man—Foulon—who said 'Let the people eat grass,' had a wisp of grass in his mouth on his way to have his senseless head chopped off.

"The American tramp came in the same day the American millionaire was born. One of them will kill the other unless a peaceable and sensible society disposed of both. If the present social system is right, we must seek some protective system to prevent over-production of mankind. If I were head of the socialist party I would parade the poor—women, babies and all—through the streets of the business section and the Back bay district, and I'd have them sit down in the streets and let the sleek fat and well-fed gaze upon their brothers and sisters who have been hungry and tired and sick and brow-beaten and cursed so long that they are ripe for many uncomfortable things and in a frame of mind to bring those same unpleasant things to pass, and that right speedily."

It is said that an immense throng listened to Mr. Crane as he spoke, and the most profound seriousness was manifested by every listener. Very often well dressed men ejaculated: "Lord have mercy." That is what has resulted from the conspiracy by the few to take to themselves all the increase of wealth made possible by invention, science and education. Its results are fortunes such as were never known before and suffering among the wage-earners of the manufacturing states that cannot be described. That suffering among the toilers of the eastern states is caused by the excessive prices they have to pay for the necessities of life. The railroads add to the price of excessive charges, the trusts add to it by destroying competition and then charging, as the railroads do, all that people can possibly pay. Banks add to it by excessive interest rates. The government adds to it by exorbitant tariffs. Between the laborer that produces and the laborer who consumes, there are whole armies of robbers who take their toll. It is no wonder that great mass meetings are being held in the eastern states demanding that the tariffs that shelter trusts shall be abolished. The only remedy so far proposed by the administration is a law compelling the robbers to tell us just how much they have taken and by just what processes they did it. They call it 'publicity.'

The Indiana Situation

Editor Independent: I have read your comments on the proposed "Indiana Populist," and the "Call to arms" issued by its mid-road editor, with much interest. Undoubtedly the time

has arrived for a "call to arms" of the populists of Indiana, for let no one be deceived into believing that the 30,000 populist votes of 1894 have vanished; they are still here, just as thoroughly convinced of the economic truth of populism as ever. The fact that recent elections show only about 1,000 votes cast for the mid-road ticket signifies simply the force that was induced to oppose fusion. In 1896 the people's party of this state thought they had found a home to their liking in the democratic fold. To be sure they were always badly treated by the democratic state management, but so long as the great Nebraskan controlled the policy of the party nationally the populists of Indiana loyally submitted to insult at home, determined not to be goaded into any action that would antagonize the general work of the party.

Truly the populists of Indiana refused to lend their support to the state democracy when it repudiated the national platforms of 1896 and 1900. They either absented themselves from the polls at state elections or threw their votes to the prohibitionists and socialists. Everybody knows that Mr. Bryan was betrayed in both campaigns by the democratic managers of this state, and the traitors do not deny their perfidy. The mid-road populist opposition was insignificant and a very small factor controlled largely by men who did not vote that ticket themselves. If a "call to arms" is to be issued, and one will be issued, certainly, it must be addressed to those who find they have been turned out of their democratic home. They are the populist party now just as truly as when they became guests under the roof of democracy, and in returning to their own home they will invite the many true democrats to accompany them, for the two are without a political home. This "call" is not coming from any "mid-road" populist who thinks to rally a following opposed to Mr. Bryan and his friends. Even the 1,000 mid-road voters of Indiana cannot be controlled in that direction any longer, for it is apparent to every observer that "the parting of the ways" is here, and that one of two things is inevitable: either the Bryan democracy will control the democratic party and the Hill-Cleveland faction will break away, or the Hill-Cleveland reorganizers will control and the Bryan party secede. Division cannot be averted and in states like Indiana where the reorganizers are in control it behooves populists and silver republicans to start the movement for an independent organization, and take care of their democratic brothers. The populists have held their organization in this state to meet this emergency. The silver republicans will join them in this movement and the mid-roads will not be barred. But let no one think they can rant about fusion traitors and command attention from these people. They have fought for their cherished principles and used their best judgment in working for them. They were fusionists, and will be again under similar circumstances.

The money question is the issue. It must be settled before any other economic problem can be adjusted. It is the question that will split the democratic party, that has split it already. It is simply a struggle now for control of the next national convention. If Mr. Bryan and his friends secure control, it will be a victory of doubtful benefits.

It has been suggested that a conference of Indiana populists and their sympathizers be held in Indianapolis on Washington's birthday (or February 23) to formulate some line for aggressive work.

I approve of the plan and it would be decidedly beneficial to have the silver republicans and Bryan democrats join the populists in their deliberations. FRANCIS D. CRAIG, Indianapolis, Ind.

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Recent Books.

The Independent has arranged with the Macmillan Company (66 Fifth ave., New York,) to supply direct from this office any of the latest books on political economy, sociology, and kindred subjects. All books published at net prices are subject to an extra charge

STALLIONS

IAMS' October, 1902, importation of black Percherons, Belgians and Coachers was the largest ever made west of the Missouri River. His stallions of big size, quality, finish and extremely low prices are propositions that will make you his buyer. If you can pay cash or give bankable note, you will sure buy stallions of Iams. Only man in the United States that imported only black or bay stallions. He has just imported

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FRANK IAMS

St. Paul, Howard Co., Neb. On U. P. and B. & M. Rys.

References: St. Paul State Bank, First State Bank, Citizens National Bank.

for postage. Orders should be sent to this office. Among the books which will interest Independent readers are the following:

Our Benevolent Feudalism, by W. J. Ghent. Cloth, 12mo. \$1.25 net (postage 13 cents).

An Essay on the Reform of Local Taxation in England, by J. Row-Fogo, member of the society of accountants in Edinburgh, sometime examiner a political economy for degrees of Edinburgh university. 400 p. 12mo., cloth, \$2.00 net.

Who's Who, 1903. An annual biographical dictionary. Fifty-fifth year of issue. 1531 p. 12mo., cloth, \$1.50 net. The present issue of "Who's Who" has been greatly enlarged over previous issues. The price of this, and the volumes for previous years still in print, will be \$1.50 net.

A Neglected Subject

For example, do farmers realize what a government system of railroads would mean to them? They work hard to produce all the corn, wheat, pork, etc., that they possibly can. At their farmers' meetings and in their farmers' papers they discuss how best to plow, fertilize, etc., to produce more, and more, and more. Yet, never, or seldom, a word on transportation; and they know that the market value of what they produce depends on the cost of getting it to market; or rather, their profit must come out of what remains after the transportation charges have been allowed for. Now, if they think a moment, they know that the policy of railroading for profit is to charge all the traffic will bear. So under these circumstances it is of greater importance to them to look to transportation than to strive for better crops. A little study along this line this winter by the farmers of this country would be the most profitable thing they could do. This question, and all these questions, are vital, not only to farmers, but also to doctors and to everybody else. When farmers prosper, the entire community prospers, particularly doctors who have a country practice.—Dr. C. F. Taylor in Medical World, Philadelphia.

G. W. Mueller, of Oldenbusch, Neb., had in a bunch of ewes on the South Omaha market Tuesday, that sold for \$3.35. Mr. Mueller says that these ewes cost \$1.40 a hundred about sixty days ago and have brought him the best returns of any investment he ever made in the feeding line. He attributes a large measure of his success to Martin Cullerton, the sheep salesman for the well-known firm of Nye & Buchanan Co., who both bought and sold the ewes for him.

What sort of a platform the republican party will hereafter promulgate will not be of the slightest interest to any one. It will amount to no more than the word of the most notorious and confirmed liar. No dependence whatever can be put in it. It has gone to such lengths in repudiating its most solemn pledges to the people that it will make no difference what it advocates or denounces in its platforms hereafter. It was going to stop the coinage of silver and then coined more than was ever coined before. It was solemnly pledged to admit Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona as states. It openly repudiates the promise. It pledged itself to reciprocity. Now it will have none of it. What matters it what such a party promises in its platforms?

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