#### EMPLOY THE UNEMPLOYED

Mr. Gibson Draws on His Imagination for Statistics, but Makes Some Suggestions Worth Stud

Editor Independent: J. C. Harkness takes the right stand, and I advise every populist including The Independent to join socialism. There is no danger that anything advocated by the socialists will do any harm, but 12 on experience part of it should, why can't the people correct it by the initiative and referendum at the drop of a hat? In practice municipal ownership of gas, water, electric light, street railways, did not prove profitable to the people living in those cities except they owned their own homes and business locations, because the landlord charged more rent to offset all saved, and more. So it would be in the country if the government built one or more railroads and transported at cost: The land there would rise in price, so the landless would lose and taxes would rise to offset all saved.

All know that on an average the consumer pays \$5 for what the laborer (producer) obtains \$1 for producing, including transportation labor cost. The producer and consumer is the market as far as \$1 in \$5; for the \$4 the trusts have to seek a market in the Philippines, darkest Africa, or hammer at the gates of Pekin, China, or now and then get up a rattling war, etc. But that market will come to an end when it runs short of cash. This will create an unemployed problem, worse than heard of before. There have been during these prosperous years millions out of employment; certain parts lacked laborers in harvest, etc., for a couple of months, but it cost more to pay railroad fare than wages amounted to, and beating the way has become a life and death fight on the railroads. There are millions of cabins on the south and west coasts and on unsurveyable government lands where dwells the old tramp and lives on six bushels of wheat ground into graham flour on a big coffee mill. Game, fish and a patch of potatoes and

Long before the socialists get into power the government will have to employ all the unemployed and all that want to work for the government making houses, food and goods of all kinds that the unemployed laborer wants for comfort; and divide wha: they have produced in wages according to the amount of labor done by each; the government using the best machines, steam plows, etc., machines made by the laborer. The government has sub-arid prairie enough to feed 150 million people; 40 million acres pine timber outside Alaska; 300 mi!lion aeres pine timber in Alaska; millions of acres coal and iron lands. The government has already started irrigation works. The government does not need the farmers' worn out weed farms (nor do the socialists) and don't want them.

So the farmers and trusts can go on and do business as they do now. The government will then employ as fast as they can all laborers, mechanics, farm hands, farm renters, small mortgaged farmers, because all those will get twice as much pay for less work in goods; goods are all we want in the end.

All honor to Bellamy's ideas, Carl Marx's, all socialists platforms, etc. But here is where the practical socialists have to start, and probably before the government is in the socialists' hands; that is, employ the unemployed. The government would of course have to build some railroads to transport the goods and accommodate those it employed. With those people, style in shoes, clothing, etc., would not matter; any style would be better than bare-footed, etc.

We shall demand immediately that the government does not give any more land in 160 acre lots, but keep it themselves and farm it for the unemployed with good steam plows because then twenty times more people can get plenty to eat from the same area.

We shall demand immediately that the government build saw mills in Alaska and transport the lumber at cost. If we don't take immediata steps to save the forests in the states the country will be a desert in which even the trusts and old farmers could not live

Some socialists contend that it would be a waste for the government or some co-operative association to build a new set of railroads, factories farms, etc. There is enough now. True, there are enough houses to house all, and farms enough to feed all, but what good does that do the millions who have no farms or homes, and no money to buy or rent? Don't they now open more farms and build more homes?

When we consider that it will only take 12 days of 25,000,000 men over 20 (there are that many now) to com-

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of railroad, would it not be 6 years or more waste of time to wait?

The Independent contends that especially not socialize farming, but best have small farms throughout the wes: and northwest. There are more than 1,000 steam plows to work and steam harvest threshers (cuts and threshes at one operation). Farms, 10,000 to 50,000 acres. There are a couple of eastern trusts starting operations in northwest Canada on each 50,000 to 93,000 acres, but the reader knows all this long ago. In northwest Canada there are 500 million acres prairie. The days are long, things grow fast in summer, land is good, they raise 12 to 34 bushels wheat to the acre. Wages are \$30 to \$50 a month and board. Steam plows run three and one-half to six miles an hour and cut one to three rods wide and generally sow at the same time.

There is one farm in the northwest of 46,000 acres; land cost \$3 on ten years' time. The machinery was bought on one-half cash, half three years. They have ten steam plows cutting two and three rods when they run header and thresher; can fire with anything, but coal costs \$1.50 to dig anywhere in the hill sides; mayb: haul ten miles; some timber close There are 500 shares in this company farm; for 6 to 7 months there are 36 men and for 6 weeks extra 36 more; they do all the work, including repairing engines. There are several six-horse teams that do the seeding on the fall plowing, haul some water, etc. Each share paid in \$100 to start; balance on time. No dividends for one and three-quarters years. The yearly expenses are about \$25,000, or less. The gross value of grain raised is \$275,000 average. This is raised by 1,800 days labor.

Except the ten or thirty-six, the

shareholders don't live there and those only seven months. The laborers (even if shareholders) get wages. For 16 days labor done by shareholders or hired at \$40 average, he receives \$500 a year after land was paid for. The laborers get enough so they can winter in the south. A five-month

ticket, both ways, cost \$40. I have in my mind's eye an oldfashioned farmer; this year his gross receipts were about \$450, including cattle sold; got 400 acres, much rough. They work from 5 in the morning to 10 in the evening, winter and summer. It is one endless grinding, cussing, scolding from morn to night. The children at 12 couldn't read. There are millions like them. But they seem to prefer that kind of life to produce \$450 in place of \$500 for 16 days' labor. Each must hold separate title to 80 in the big farm. The engines have tiers 50 to 60 inches wide, all rough, and big balance wheels that increase the power. They generally make two rounds in five hours, 6 miles off, 6 miles back. Wind mills and pipes and tanks at both ends provice water. Sometimes one crew runs 10 to 11 hours, and another the same with the same engines. It is a machine and engineers' farming. They do improve the land. The management is easy. A little chamber on engine gives shelter in rains, so work can go on pleasantly; but then some soils will stick to the wheels, and they can not plow so much.

However, if a man of Morgan's type is manager, the shareholders would never see their \$100 again, nor a cent of dividend. But if the laborers could agree, it wouldn't take much capital to start; \$25, \$50, or \$100 would give them an income in addition to what they worked for elsewhere.

I have seen places in the northwest

where a plow could be run 30 miles straight and not take it out of the ground, but in the southwest could run 100 miles. A 12x12 mile farm is the most economical, but 3x3 miles will do. This describes a socialistic form, but the shareholders are not socialists, except in practice. In employing the unemployed the government would farm that way. A tramp could then get enough to buy food by working one or two weeks; this would be easier than tramping, so there would be no tramps.

In the southeast part of Alaska there are any amount of rivers and creeks where the pine timber grows down to the water's edge. All that is to be done there is to chop down the tall timber, float it down to the mill where it is crosscut sawed and handled by machinery and run aboard ships that take 10 million feet of lumber. In fact, saw it, ship it around the horn and up the Mississippi and inland 500 miles for \$4 per thousand and pay big wages. It would cost less than \$1 aboard ship; then there would be \$30,000 to pay sailors and train crew, cannot sink a ship loaded with lumber. As much lumber as goes on the market is destroyed by forest fires. Give me wood for fuel-I don't want coal. The small matter of Bartley's steal, railroad taxation, etc., amounts to but little; the railroads would shift the taxes on the people; higher rates those are small losses. But by not being socialistic 175,000 of Nebraska's voters lose \$175,000,000. The populist was John the Baptist in socialism; he has lost his home. Don't worry about details in socialism-referendum will settle that. Please vote socialism; while waiting practice co-operation in our business, farming, etc.

S. P. GIBSON.

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