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A CALL TO ARMS

National Secretary Edgerton Calls an Unofficial and Informal Conference of Reformers to Meet in Denver, Colo., July 27th.

TO BE A PARTY OF THE PEOPLE

Provide a Political Home for the Large Army of Voters Who are Not Republicans, Cleveland Democrats or Karl Marx Socialists.

Editor Independent: There must be some avenue through which those who believe in the rule of the people can vote for their principles. At this time it seems inevitable that the reactionary element of the democratic party will capture the next national convention. At the best, the most that can be hoped for from that organization is a meaningless platform, on which will be placed a colorless candidate, both of which will be acceptable to the corporations. There is a large army of voters in this country who are not republicans, Cleveland democrats, or Karl Marx socialists. They must have a political home. How is it to be provided them?

This army of voters is composed of advanced democrats, former republicans, populists, single taxers, the more moderate socialists and other reformers who give themselves no party name. In the last two campaigns nearly all of them followed Mr. Eryan. Where are they to turn now?

Will it be to Mr. Roosevelt? On what ground? Because he has admirable qualities? So had Mr. McKinley. So has had almost every man that ever sat in the presidential chair. Yet that fact did not cause men who believed in other principles to support these presidents at the polls. Shall we vote for Roosevelt because of his alleged antagonism to the trusts? After all, is it not largely "sound and fury signifying nothing?" Sensationalism will never settle grave national problems. Even if the president were never so favorably disposed, the real governing power is in a little clique of United States senators, every one of whom is close to one or more of the great trusts. Does anyone imagine that this power behind the throne will permit anything to be done really inimical to the interests of the great corporations? Mr. Roosevelt has been in office nearly two years, with both houses of his own political party. What has been done to curb the trusts? The anti-merger decision? But are not the very roads involved reaching the same ends by other means? Are there not more trusts now than when Mr. Roosevelt took the oath of office? Are they not just as oppressive to the people? What reason is there for supporting the republican party now more than there was in '96, or 1900? An evanescent prosperity?

No. There is no hope in this direction, nor does any real reformer think that there is.

Then where will he turn? Will it be to the Cleveland-Gorman-Hill democracy? He might as well go to republicanism and be done with it; for there is practically no difference between them. If you must take a certain medicine, it is better to do it knowingly than under a misleading label.

Will he espouse the socialist party? Personally, I believe in the socialistic trend. But I do not take very much stock in the millenium-in-a-minute idea. The socialist party demands that you take the whole program or nothing. It does not believe in reform, it says, but in revolution. Everything is wrong and must be overturned at once. It has no use for government ownership. That it denounces as state capitalism.

All that the most ardent supporter of socialism can claim for it is that,

as advocated, is a theory, an experiment. However well it looks on paper, it still is untried. Does any rational man imagine that the great, conservative American people will turn over all existing institutions to substitute therefore an experiment? Does history teach such a thing? Or common sense?

It is evolution, not revolution, that does things. Revolution only occurs where some impediment is placed in the way of evolution. It is still evolution that accomplishes the results. Evolution is but another name for growth. It is a slow process. You cannot force things in unnatural ways. France tried the revolutionary, get-rich-quick plan to secure a republic. Yet the republic was eighty years in coming. So will it be with socialism. It must come a step at a time, if at all.

Abuse reform as you will, reform is yet the process of evolution. One part reformed here and another there. Thus come species. And thus come governmental policies.

The spirit of the socialist party is not entirely wholesome. Class-consciousness is not the right way. That means hatred. Love is the only constructive force. Not through division and denunciation lies the road, but through universal brotherhood. Kindred to the above defects is a certain Godless, materialistic element in the

(Continued on Page 3.)

THE MAILS OF THE GODS

From Wilshire's Magazine for June.

(Nothing new has developed since last week regarding C. D. No. 75584, the complaint that "large number of copies of the issue of May 14, 1903, were mailed at the pound rate of postage to names furnished by persons interested in the circulation" of The Independent. His Mightiness, Czar Madden, has not yet issued his ukase which will forbid The Independent second-class rates—but it may come any day. Practically every single taxpayer who purchased copies of that issue (The Henry George Edition), upon being acquainted of the fact that "complaint" had been made, wrote a strong letter to Czar Madden showing what "interest" the purchaser had in circulating the paper. In the meantime, the postoffice scandals give added interest to the story Wilshire tells in the June number of his magazine.—Ed. Ind.)

THE MAILS OF THE GODS.

The mills of the gods grind slowly, as a rule, but in some instances they do move with reasonably rapidity. It is only eighteen months ago that the postoffice department perpetrated the outrage of refusing this magazine second-class entry on the ground that it was "designed primarily for advertising purposes," classifying it with the advertising circulars which some manufacturers get out for the purpose of advertising their goods and which are required to pay third-class rates.

And now it is the turn of the postoffice. In the February number, 1902, I wrote editorially: "Is Third Assistant Postmaster General Madden aware of the clique organized in the United States, for the purpose of blackmailing publishers whose business success depends upon their uninterrupted enjoyment of second-class privileges for their publications? Was this magazine suppressed by Mr. Madden because its editor declined to be bled \$5,000 to swell the funds of this delectable gang?"

Today the country is ringing from

end to end with the postoffice scandals. Every day brings fresh disclosures of rottenness and corruption in the postoffice department.

Here are a few clippings from this week's daily papers. This is from the New York Evening Post:

A SMOTHERED POSTOFFICE SCANDAL.

Ex-Postmaster General Smith, Perry, Heath, and Others Implicated in Statement by Removed Chief of Washington City Postoffice—Asked by Postmaster General Payne to Explain.

Postmaster General Payne yesterday addressed letters to ex-Postmaster Charles Emory Smith, Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristow, Postmaster Merritt of Washington, and Comptroller Tracewell of the treasury, calling attention to a published interview with S. W. Tulloch, for many years, until three years ago, cashier of the Washington postoffice. In the interview Mr. Tulloch makes serious charges. He is quoted as saying:

"I was cashier of the Washington city postoffice for more than twenty-one years, and was considered one of the experts in the service. I served during the celebrated Star Route investigation and trial, consequently, when the irregularities, with which I am personally familiar, took place, I protested, and very vigorously, and demanded everything in writing for my own protection and that of my bondsmen. I became what First Assistant Postmaster General Perry S. Heath called an 'obstacle.' Mr. Merritt, then temporarily residing in this city as an official of the postoffice department, was appointed as our local postmaster, and he very summarily removed 'the obstacle' in less than five minutes after taking possession of the office."

And this from the New York American:

FAYNE WILL BE FORCED OUT OF CABINET.

Senator Lodge Declares the White-wash of Machen Will Result in the President Ousting Postmaster General.

Washington, May 1.—Postmaster General Payne is likely to be forced out of the cabinet.

Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, one of the president's personal friends, waxed wroth tonight on learning that Postmaster General Payne had defended Mr. Machen, superintendent of free delivery. He intimated strongly that Mr. Machen's discharge had been ordered by the president before his departure, and that unless that was an accomplished fact before his return there would be trouble, and the postmaster general might be asked to resign.

Fourteen months ago, in an article entitled "Five Thousand Dollars for an Entry," I wrote:

"Hence, when I was 'tipped' that Mr. Harrison J. Barrett, a young lawyer of Baltimore, was great on postoffice business I did not hesitate a moment in inquiring what it would cost to get his services. I knew that Mr. Barrett was a nephew of the assistant attorney general of the postoffice, James N. Tyner, and that he had lately been his assistant in that office. He resigned about a year ago. In fact, his resignation proved to have occurred at a most fortunate time, for Mr. Madden soon after began his crusade, and this gave Mr. Barrett a chance to gain distinction and cash that seldom befalls so young a man in so short a time."

I also published the letter I received from Mr. Barrett in reply to my inquiry, in which he said:

"Taking the case as presented in the articles in the copies of the publication, the reason for its rejection as second-class matter seems to be that it is a publication 'designed primarily

"Madden Educational Subscriptions."

Under Mr. Madden's postal laws and regulations it seems to be unlawful for a *populist* or *socialist* publication to mail out *single copies* at the *pound rate* if paid for by *one person* and sent to *another*, especially if the person who pays is "*interested*" in circulating the paper he buys! But Mr. Madden has said (in Circular VI), that "*the exception to the rule that the person who receives the publication as a subscriber must pay for it with his own money is intended to cover the case of genuine gift subscriptions with no other intention than to compliment the receiver.*" Up to date The Independent has not learned Mr. Madden's definition of the word "*interested*," but it has decided to make a special rate for

Madden Educational Subscriptions, giving The Independent Five Months for 25 Cents.

You can buy one of these cards "*with your own money*" and use it for *your own subscription*; and if your pocketbook will permit, buy *as many more as you like* and *present to friends* whom you wish to *compliment*. We have some interesting matter on this Madden business that you cannot afford to miss. Send for one or more Madden Educational Subscription cards. *Only 25 cents each.*