

AGREEMENT WITH DEL MAR

The position always maintained by The Independent on the money question was never more clearly stated, not even in these columns, than by Del Mar in his History of Monetary Crimes (page 16) which is a book that should be in the hands of every populist. After showing that gold is most frequently found in placers and silver never, and that when a placer field is discovered many thousands of men rush to the place all of whom can work at once and thus throw immense quantities of gold into the circulation, while silver is only found in veins where only a few can work at a time, thus rendering it impossible to produce such sudden changes in the volume of money, he says:

"I would not have it inferred from these remarks that I prefer silver to gold for a general measure of value. A general or universal measure of value is a chimera invented by the bankers of Threadneedle street to foist their metallic scheme upon the world and render their city the center of a system of cosmopolitan barter. A national measure of value, consisting of silver metal ("free coinage") system, is little better than one of gold metal. No metal, as such, can measure value with precision or equity. This is what MONEY alone can effect; and if there was no question of policy in the matter, I should advocate a monetary system independent of both metals. But the monetary question is a practical and political one. We cannot ignore history, law and practical politics, the most that can be done is to reform it in the interest of the government, that is to say, of the people."

While The Independent holds firmly to the populist theory of money, it has recognized that it was a question of politics, and for that reason alone and not from any economic reason, it has advocated the free coinage of silver.

The Springfield Republican calls attention of the republican papers which seek to give all the credit for the passage of the government irrigation bill to President Roosevelt to the fact that General Miles preceded the president twelve years in the advocacy of that measure. General Miles in an article in the North American Review of March, 1890, entitled "Our Unwatered Empire," urged the passage of such a law with so much eloquence and logic that the article was made the basis of speeches in congress when the bill was before that body.

The recent decision of Judge Rogers at St. Louis legalizing the black list is another step toward the degradation of the courts to subservient tools of capitalists. It shows that the courts are willing to contradict and overturn their own interpretations of the law whenever it is to the interest of large accumulations of wealth to do so. The courts have held constantly that the boycott was illegal, that it could not be employed to injure a firm's or an individual's business. In Great Britain, and it is from there that our courts get their precedents and their inspiration, the jails have been filled with persons charged with boycotting. The sending out of a "black list" which prevents a man from obtaining employment at his vocation, is simply a boycott and nothing else. The decision of Judge Rogers therefore is that the capitalistic class can boycott, but the men who work for wages cannot. Is it not about time that these wage-workers ceased to cast their ballots for the party that puts such judges as Rogers on the bench?

The Springfield (Mass.) Republican seems to take seriously the fake newspaper story to the effect that all foreign corporations doing business in Nebraska will be required to incorporate again and pay a fee gauged to the amount of capital stock. The Republican should know that the state administration is republican and can be depended upon to do nothing which would cause the Standard Oil or any other foreign corporation any grief.

The hold that the "reorganizers" have on the south may be surmised from the following insulting paragraph concerning Bryan which appeared in the Atlanta Constitution, which during the last two campaigns claimed to be his steadfast supporter. The Constitution now remarks: "There is one supreme debt that Mr. Bryan owes to the democratic party and which he should be generous and humble enough to pay in full. He should either talk sense when he talks politics—or quiet down and come home!" It is very evident that the editor of the Constitution has relapsed into a Cleveland bunco steerer.

Iowa is a hide-bound republican state with immense majorities of that party in almost every county, and it pays its school teachers the smallest

salaries of any state in the Union except Ohio under the rule of Mark Hanna. The average salary of men teachers in Iowa is \$37, and of the women teachers \$31.45 per month. Many of the Iowa teachers are deprived of the ordinary comforts of life while the state produces \$400,000,000 worth of agricultural products. That is what results from a people who are inspired by the gospel of greed and who always "vote 'er straight."

Mr. Wilshire makes the following somewhat astonishing statement in the August number of his magazine, page 8. He adopts the republican fashion of calling the social democrats of Germany "socialists" and then says: "The socialists in Germany have exactly the same platform fundamentally that all socialists have the whole world over, viz: the demand for the ownership of the machinery of wealth production by the people and its administration democratically." Will Mr. Wilshire print the platform of the social democratic party of Germany? The Independent has printed it two or three times.

It is announced that Morgan has perfected his plan and the four hard coal roads have been "merged" into one organization. There is now a complete monopoly of the hard coal supply controlled by one organization. It will control the prices for next winter's coal. Prepare to make your contributions to Baer and Morgan and after that go and "vote 'er straight." There is nothing like being a mullet head.

The coolness with which a republican daily will lie is shown in a remark by the Indianapolis Journal in speaking of the chart that was used in the last two political campaigns showing the range of prices of wheat and silver. It says: "With wheat at one dollar and silver down to 43 cents this chart might look somewhat out of tune just now." The Chicago price of wheat at that writing was 81 cents and of silver 55 cents. Since the prospect that the governments of the world would re-establish bimetalism at the ratio of 32 to 1 silver has advanced 11 cents an ounce. It is probable that every mullet head who read the above item in the Indianapolis Journal actually believed that he was getting \$1 a bushel for his wheat. That is the way they are made.

The ways of bribe-givers and corruptionists have been the same since long before Christ until the present time. The railroads are adepts in that business and they produce the same effects that they did more than 2,000 years ago. When these same sort of men were laying the foundation for the ruin of Greece Demosthenes spoke of them as follows: "What is it that has ruined Greece? Envy, when a man gets a bribe; laughter, if he confesses it; mercy to the convicted; hatred of those who denounce the crime—all the usual accompaniments of corruption." That description applies to every one of that listless and funereal crowd that assembled in the auditorium the other day and nominated Barnes for supreme judge. That is the way all the republican papers talked when Congressman Baker returned the passes sent him.

That the railroads have some big scheme that they want the supreme court of this state to sanction no reasonable man can doubt. They wanted to know their man and how he stood on that question and having found out they did follow their usual custom of allowing the different republican railroad attorneys to fight it out among themselves. Months beforehand they picked their man, and there was not a republican attorney in the state that dared to announce himself as a candidate after that. One attorney said to the editor of The Independent some weeks ago that it would be folly for any lawyer to announce himself a candidate after the railroads had made their selection, for he could no more get a nomination in a republican convention with the railroads against him than he could lift himself over a fence by his boot straps. And every man in the state knows that to be true.

The Wall Street Journal says that "the trunk line situation has been solidified into a trust. Allied with it is the steel trust." That is a statement of the truth. All the "publicity" that the new department of state may give to the matter will no alter the situation. It was not intended to. Neither of the old parties will allow any alteration. Too many big democrats and republicans are interested. They will soon spread abroad the catch phrase, which has already appeared in some of the big dailies: "Trusts are our salvation," and every mullet head in the land will reply: "Yep. That's so."

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