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An Unsatisfied Socialist

Editor Independent: I just received a copy of your paper from a friend and I am in favor of your "Independent School of Political Economy." Many of the doctrines of socialism are correct. I am in favor of socialism, but I fear organized socialism, and I dwell upon the word organized. For years I have been a democrat. I voted for Bryan and Watson, 1896, and Bryan the last time, but with Cleveland, Hill, Gorman, etc., leaders I cannot stand for democracy any more.

When I think about it, I am sorry that the populist movement went under; it was the greatest movement that was ever started for the whole people. Now, in regard to organized socialism, there is too much materialism taught. I heard one of the national committeemen say that he did not believe a thing in the Bible. The class conscious plea they make is often based on class hatred; but as I said in the start, I believe in true socialism, but fail to see where organized socialism will appeal to the American voters with its imported anarchistic, materialistic, and class hatred, tendencies.

Just lately the national movement met and decided to move the headquarters to Omaha, Neb. The few votes failed to get their city—Chicago or Indianapolis—are making trouble. One fellow, the committeeman from Indiana, fights Omaha, and I discover that he himself is a candidate for a position on the local quorum and for this reason favors the move. He has also repeatedly expressed himself as being an infidel, does not believe in the Bible, preaches "class hatred," and this man represents the great state of Indiana.

So you see those who believe in American institutions cannot stay with socialism, do not feel like joining the democratic party, and would not join the republican party. I say to you again that it is a burning shame that the populist party no longer exists. I am with the socialists now, but I am not satisfied. I believe in spiritual growth along with the material.

I write you this letter in all earnestness; my friend, Flavius J. Van Vorhis, sent me your paper and I thought I would write you and see what you think of the situation. I am willing to do all in my power to lift this burden off of the shoulders of humanity, and I trust that I shall not stand in the way of any movement for good.

The Appeal to Reason, as you no doubt know, says your paper is intended just to keep the Bryan faction in control. Of course I do not believe Mr. Bryan ever knew he would be nominated. I am trying to get the truth. I want to be with some party that is sincere. I trust that I am not intruding, and would be pleased to hear from you.

BROSE S. HORNE, M. D.
Marion, Ind.
(Dr. Horne's letter was written some weeks ago. Since the Denver conference he may decide to cast his lot with the populists next year.—Ed. Ind.)

A Waste of Energy

If the argument and energy Mr. Bryan and the populists are expending, each trying to prove that his particular party is right, was used to advocate the cause of good government, much better results would flow from it. Partisan feeling destroys many a wise statesman's good sense.—W. F. Cramb, in Fairbury (Neb.) Journal.
Doubtless. But how fix it, Bro. Cramb? Organize a partyless party, like Golden Rule Jones of Toledo? It is one thing to know what you want, and quite another to know how to get it, and still another to get it after you know how. Advocating the cause of good government is all right, but standing alone it is about as effective as praying for rain.

That Miles Order

A really great man will not descend to hateful, mean and malicious acts. The order in which the president announced the retirement of General Miles was such an act. There has been a universal expression of resentment against it all over the United States and everybody joins in that resentment except the members of the administration and the military clique which came into power on the wave of imperialism. So severe has been the denunciation of this piece of meanness, the hangers-on about the president and secretary of war are beginning to try to defend themselves. One of them quotes an order issued by Dan Lamont when he was in Cleveland's cabinet. That order was as follows:

"Army regulations 771 of 1895 says: 'Orders eulogizing the conduct of living officers will not be issued except in case of gallantry in action or performance of specially hazardous ser-

VICES.' The secretary of war decided that under this regulation the practice of announcing the retirement in general orders of general officers and chiefs of war department bureaus be discontinued and that hereafter retirement of such officers shall be announced in special orders as was the practice prior to 1892."

That defense only makes the matter worse. It simply prohibited the announcement of general officers in general orders and that the announcement should be made in special orders, which enlarges the opportunity for eulogizing such officers instead of restricting it. Even if that order implies what this gang of imperialists claim, it has been disregarded time and again. When General Otis was retired, Secretary Root said in the order: "General Otis goes to his retirement with a consciousness of duty well done during forty years of continuous and exceptionally meritorious services, which entitle him to the gratitude and best wishes of his countrymen."

When General Miles was retired, after nearly fifty years of service—a service which was a very large factor in preserving the Union, and whose body was covered with wounds in defending this government when these modern military upstarts were pulling infants, the following order was issued:

"Washington, Aug. 8, 1903.—The retirement from active service by the president, August 8, 1903, of Lieut. Gen. Nelson A. Miles, U. S. A., by operation of law, under the provisions of the act of congress approved June 30, 1882, is announced. Lieutenant General Miles will proceed to his home. The travel enjoined is necessary for the public service. By order of secretary of war.

"H. C. CORBIN,
Adjutant General, U. S. A."

That is the form used in announcement of the retirement of a second lieutenant. The words, "Lieutenant General Miles will proceed to his home," were intended as an insult, and the other words, "The travel enjoined is necessary for the public service," was a still further insult. General Miles lives in Washington, and the words were inserted so as to follow the second lieutenant form.

The smallness, the despicable meanness, the want of all dignity, which the president has displayed in this matter shows up a side of his character of which all Americans are ashamed. They can now begin to understand how a censorship was placed

on news from the Philippines, how important public reports were suppressed and how he came to declare that the protests against inhuman cruelty practiced on the priests and people in the Philippines was an "attack on the army."

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