

GREEN GABLES

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140, which was favorably reported and unanimously adopted:

Whereas, It is the universal demand of organized workmen that such great evils and sources of danger as Oriental immigration, government by injunction, over-long and exhausting hours of labor for men and women, and involuntary servitude of children, be forbidden by national laws; and,

Whereas, Past failure to secure such laws is believed to have resulted more from the want of a definite plan which would impress upon party conventions and nominees a respect for the desires of organized labor and point out to all wage earners just what ones among those aspiring to legislative honors favored laws desired by them, than from any repugnance to laws in themselves so just and right; therefore, as a method of instructing conventions and nominees as to the profound earnestness of purpose on the part of organized labor in asking such laws and for the purpose of enabling trades-unions to select intelligently and from among aspirants for legislative honors, be it

Resolved, That the legislative committee of the American Federation of Labor is instructed to prepare bills concerning such legislation by congress as is desired, and especially concerning the subjects of Oriental immigration, government by injunction, eight-hour work days, and the involuntary servitude of children; that copies of these bills when prepared shall be sent to the executive officers of each of the State Federations of Labor, where such federations exist, and in other cases to such persons or organizations as may be selected with instructions in each case providing that the bills for the desired legislation shall be submitted to the county conventions of all political parties with a request for an endorsement of the same by such conventions, and instructions from them to their delegates and nominees to act in accordance with such endorsement; that such further steps shall be taken as will secure the nomination by state conventions and the election by state legislatures of only such men for the house of representatives and the United States senate as are fully and satisfactorily pledged to the support of the bills prepared by the legislative committee of the American Federation of Labor; that it shall be the duty of the officers upon whom the responsibility of promoting the proposed legislation shall devolve to give the results of their work, as shown by the actions of conventions and the pledges of candidates, the greatest publicity, to the end that all trades-unions may know who their friends are.

Here we have a carefully planned system for non-partisan political action, backed by about two million members, who are determined to protect themselves. By appearing before the county committees throughout the country and questioning candidates they will exert a strong influence. Conventions and candidates will not dare to deny the doctrine of majority rule.

The Knights of Labor at their annual convention reaffirmed their demand for majority rule in governmental affairs, and provided for questioning candidates.

The labor papers throughout the country are earnestly in favor of majority rule and the questioning of candidates, and news of the movement is widely published. An example of the attitude of the labor editors is as follows:

National Federation for Majority Rule:
Gentlemen—I have your letter of the 17th inst. inclosing article entitled "Office-Holders Benefitted by Majority Rule" and shall take pleasure in giving space to same in the May issue of the Locomotive Firemen's Magazine.
With best wishes, and hoping that you will contribute additional matter concerning your movement to the columns of our magazine, I remain,
Yours respectfully,
LOCOMOTIVE FIREMEN'S MAGAZINE.
Per J. W. Carter, Editor and Manager.

In the ten states that elect legislatures this year (1903) it is expected that organized labor will question candidates. The chairman of the legislative committee of the Missouri State Federation of Labor, Mr. H. F. Sarman, who was largely instrumental in securing the submission of a constitutional amendment in his state, is corresponding with every central labor union in the ten states that elect legislatures this year. He is suggesting that the central union take hold and question candidates as to whether, if elected, they will vote to allow the people of the state an opportunity to ballot upon a constitutional amendment for majority rule. It was this program that secured for Missouri the submission of a constitutional amendment. The letter closes with these words:

We believe this to be the most holy work you can engage in, as it will free future generations from monopolies and trusts, and finally from bondage to the unscrupulous autocratic law-making power. The people alone have the right to institute government; and reform, alter or totally change the same when they choose to do so. A resolution ready for adoption is enclosed.

Yours for political and industrial liberty,
H. F. SARMAN,
Chairman Legislative Committee Missouri State Federation of Labor.

(Continued next week.)

Celina (O.) Standard: Uncle Mark Hanna evidently has reached the conclusion that Ohio democrats are becoming too pernicious in politics, as he has cut the smart set at Newport and hastened back to Cleveland to take a hand in the coming campaign.

What It Has Cost

John H. Clarke, the democratic candidate for United States senator in Ohio, has one redeeming feature about him. This is the way that he talked about the war of subjugation in the Philippines in a speech the other day. He spoke of the Philippine policy, which has cost us more than 10,000 of the young men of the country, dead from wounds and disease; which has resulted in slaying perhaps 100,000 of the Filipinos, with whom we have no quarrel except that they desire to govern themselves, while we insist upon ruling over them. He pointed out how their country had been laid to waste and devastated, and so prepared to become a prey for the famine and disease which have swept 500,000 of their population into the grave. At this, he said, at an expense of \$600,000,000, and with the yet greater expense of the deliberate abandonment of the principles of the Declaration of Independence under the inspiring influence of which we have accomplished all that is great and good in our history. The speaker declared himself in favor of granting to the Filipino immediate independence, reserving to ourselves coaling stations, which they have always been ready to grant to us, and of salving to all the rest of the world, "Hands off this attempt to form a government of the free."

Race Suicide

Editor Independent: President Roosevelt's action, on August 3, 1903, in sending a \$300 check to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. H. Signet, of Pittsburg, Pa., on the occasion of the birth of their twentieth child, taken in connection with his recent California reference to "crops of children," his action of March 3, 1903, in congratulating Mr. George Cunningham, of Gloucester City, N. J., on the birth of triplets, and his previous letter to Mrs. Van Vorst, of New York city, advocating large families, affords increasing evidence of a coarseness in the president's character which is calculated to create general disgust and abhorrence.

The president is wedded to a fallacy whose prevalence is equalled only by its far-reaching capacity for evil, namely, that large families are desirable per se, a fundamental social fallacy about which both education and religion are strangely and culpably silent. Is the president so ignorant as not to know that mere numbers is the last thing that parents should covet, or the municipality, or the state, or the nation? Does he not know that one child born thoroughly well endowed is enough better for society than ten children born to a life of utter commonness, with the world no better for their having lived? Which, pray, does the president rate higher—Greece, with her small population and imperishable achievements, or China, with her teeming millions? Ay, which will he say is better—the United States, small in population, but great in moral strength, the world-power for liberty and self-government; or the United States of the twentieth century, with population so grown as to enthrone brute force as the national ideal, to seek her highest national concern no longer in social advancement at home, but in foreign markets and international complications, to sacrifice the highest political ideals on the altar of a piratical, conscience-searing, soul-destroying commercialism.

But the chief victim of the president's proposed policy would be the womanhood of America, it subjecting, as it would, one-half the people to the passions of the other half, inflicting in ever increasing severity "the august martyrdom of motherhood," multiplying society's chief danger, the unwelcome child, condemning women to a life of toil rendered shameful by the unworthiness of those served abridging for half the people those birth-rights of the soul, education and world-knowledge. With President Roosevelt, woman is not so much a human being as an animal, not so much God's great agent for the idealization and spiritualization of life as a factor in the exercise of certain physiological functions common to the brutes. Napoleon I., when asked the chief need of France, is said to have replied, "Mothers"—mothers, not in the noble sense in which they may indeed be considered the chief desideratum of society, but mothers to the end that he might have more fighting men to sacrifice to his personal aggrandizement. We can well imagine President Roosevelt echoing the brutal answer of the French emperor. If the women of America do not protest against the degradation which the president of the United States would impose upon them, they lack the in-

telligence and spirit with which they are generally credited.

Providence has given man a wide and fruitful world. But Providence never intended, by these blessings to invite its population by a race of animals called, by courtesy, human. This earth was designed as the home of a race of men and women in the image of their great Creator; a race with whom the physical should ever be subordinated to the spiritual; a race with whom the act of self-perpetuation, so far from being the act of a careless or impulsive moment, should be the most deliberate and spiritual act of the life; a race with whom the birth of an immortal soul should be a matter of the most profound responsibility and significance; a race which should regard with alarm any increase in its numbers at the expense of moral or mental qualities. When a man is so morally deteriorated as to preach the propagation of children as he would the propagation of cattle, his vulgarity deserves social ostracism; and when that man is the president of the United States, he merits the swift and emphatic condemnation of the American people.

JOHN SAMPSON.

Washington, D. C.

Can It Be Done

Editor Independent: I have been a careful student of the labor problem for many years and have carefully watched its effect on our nation, religiously and politically, and since I first began my investigations it has branched out and grown to enormous proportions. One branch bears the fruit called monopolies, corporations, trusts and combines; the other is loaded with racial suicide and prostitution. If it is possible to discover that which will kill the root of this evil tree its branches will die also.

Let congress set the wages of the single man, giving him sufficient wage to supply his actual wants, with a small margin. Then let it put a bounty on marriage so as to make his wages, when married, one-third more than when single; then add one-fourth more for each child. Then make the general standard of wage to meet the wages of a man with wife and six children.

Then let it set prices on raw material and on its manufacture and distribution, so that these several prices shall agree with the standard wage, after giving capital used a lawful interest (not usury as now). Then let there be a precedence given to the married man over the single man in obtaining labor. Let this law be applied to every manner of production, manufacture and distribution known to our nation. And then our troubles will end as far as those evils named are concerned. The single man is crowding the married man to the wall and he is assisting the corporations in their extortion, for he can work for wages too low to allow for a wife and children. So he cannot marry, his girl must work for herself and is forced to remain single and crowd the labor market. Yet she would be glad to marry and guide the house if she was assured her husband could get wages to support two, and the children that would follow. Apply those rules and it will gradually lessen prostitution and it would not be long until houses of ill-fame would be things of the past.

If it was possible for this to be done it would stop the clash between capital and labor that must soon come under the present strained conditions. It would stop racial suicide and prostitution. For congress should set prices on everything produced by capital and labor in union so as to protect the consumer from extortion. For we are a mighty nation of producing consumers and there should be a power within us to set an equitable scale of prices on everything and stop the present Babel.

J. S. LEE, Sr.

Gateway, Mont.

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How John Samuels Paid a \$3,000 Mortgage.

John Samuels lives in Brown county, Kansas. He is a farmer thirty-five years of age. He came to Kansas from the East in '81, bringing a young wife, two children, and some money. The money he invested in 160 acres of land. He paid a good price—six thousand dollars, two thousand down and a mortgage back for four thousand. But it was a well-improved farm and worth it.

There have been fat and lean years in Kansas, and in 1902 John Samuels still owed three thousand dollars on his place. He had reduced the debt one thousand dollars, an average of one hundred dollars per year, and kept the interest paid up. His expenses increased with the growth of his family. His wife's health was not so good of late, and he paid an occasional doctor's bill. Some improvements and extensions must be made on the farm buildings. He would be fortunate if he could make these additional necessary expenditures, keep his interest paid up and continue applying one hundred dollars per year on the mortgage.

He realized at this rate he will be a very old man before the farm will be free from debt. If he dies the home will be sold; perhaps at a time when it may bring little, if any, more than the mortgage. The savings of a lifetime will be lost and the wife and children will suffer.

One day a stranger appeared and asked permission to explain life insurance. Mr. Samuels listened intently, conceded it was just what he needed, that he would like a policy, if he could pay for it, but he owed three thousand dollars on his farm, and it was all he could do to pay the interest and a hundred dollars a year on the principal. As the premium on a policy at his age would be \$102.60, he did not see how he could carry it.

"Suppose," said the agent, "the person who holds this mortgage on the farm should say to you: 'If you continue to pay the interest as before, but instead of paying one hundred dollars a year on the principal, pay me \$102.60 per year, I will, if you die, cancel the mortgage, giving your wife the farm. If you live twenty years, I will release the mortgage, giving the farm to you.' You surely would accept such a proposition. Now, Mr. Samuels, continue paying the interest, but instead of paying one hundred dollars per year on the principal, take a three thousand dollar policy in the Old Line Bankers Life Insurance Company of Nebraska, which at your age, thirty-five, will cost \$102.60 each year for twenty years. If you die, your life insurance will pay the loan and leave your home free of debt. If you live twenty years, your cash settlement, consisting of the guaranteed reserve and estimated surplus will pay the mortgage and leave you \$210.45. You have paid out \$2,052.00, and have left \$210.45, thus paying a debt of three thousand dollars with \$1,841.55, or sixty-two cents on the dollar, having meanwhile a guarantee that, should you die, the debt is canceled."

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