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LIBERTY, WEALTH, DECAY

The result of great accumulations of wealth has always been the same. It would be well for us all to remember what that result has been. The history of nations has been summed up in three words: liberty, wealth, decay. We have had our season of devotion to liberty, years in which all men venerated the Declaration of Independence. Of late years those ideals have been completely abandoned by the ruling party. We have indulged in wars of conquest and hold millions of men as subjects. We have entered on the stage of wealth and waste of the products produced by toil. What will follow next? Let us "look back," not on a scene created by the imagination as Bellamy did, but upon the real facts of history, and see if we cannot draw a lesson from them. When Rome was great and its people happy, do we find that men of wealth were considered their greatest men? Was there immorality among the governing classes? Was the family life pure? Was it considered necessary that their judges and senators should receive large salaries? A recent authority sums up the conditions in Rome during the long period of its greatness as follows:

The three centuries from the secession of the Plebs to the close of the second Punic war was a virtuous period. There was no divorce in Rome through all that time. The home life of the people was clean and pure. Men and women respected the moral law and respected it because they venerated it.

Throughout this long period the life of the Roman people was one of temperance, frugality and simplicity.

Rufinus was degraded from the consulship for possessing ten pounds of silver plate when the law allowed him no more than eight ounces. Atilius received the consular dignity behind the plow. Regulus, though twice consul, possessed no more than one little field. Fabricius and Aemilius prepared their simple meals with their own hands.

Cincinnatus, who was once consul and twice dictator, after delivering his country from her enemies, retired to his small tract of land, upon which he maintained himself by his own labors. Fabricius, consul and victorious general, cultivated his own little field with his own hands.

Manius, the conqueror of Pyrrhus, refused the thirty acres of land offered him by the people in gratitude for his great services, deeming such liberality unnecessary and excessive. Regulus, while in command of the army in Africa, wrote to the senate asking for his recall, on the ground that the manager of his five-acre farm was dead; that the hired man had run away, carrying the farming tools with him, and that unless his farm was cul-

tivated he would be unable to support his wife and children.

Such were the Romans through the years and centuries when they were building up their magnificent empire.

KEEP ORDER

The Independent has often expressed its belief that it would be difficult to keep order when this satanic trust boom bursts. Things that have happened during the last week indicating that it will require all the patriotism of the best citizens, especially in the eastern states where the population is not made up of sane, self-respecting farmers as it largely is in the west, to keep order. There have been dangerous riots at Sault Ste Marie, Mich., where the starving workmen have been demanding their back pay from the bankrupt Lake Superior Consolidated company and at this writing no one can foresee when, or how, it will end.

The state of affairs in Colorado is such as was never seen in this country before. Armed troops in the court room and a judge so overawed that he dare not direct the enforcement of the orders of the court.

Far in the east just as serious a state of affairs exists. William Rockefeller, who owns 50,000 acres of land in the Adirondacks, which he has turned into a game and fish reserve and around which he has posted notices warning everybody that they are trespassers if they step on his land, has fled with his family on a special train in fear of his life. One millionaire like unto him has already been shot from ambush.

The Independent denounces all disorder everywhere. That is not the way to right the wrongs of which complaint is made. It will only tend to fasten tighter upon the people the tyranny that they would throw off. A mob must always go down before an organized and trained soldiery. The people must get rid of this oppression in the same way that they imposed it upon themselves. They have continued to vote for it for ten years. It will probably take ten years to vote it off, but that is the only way to do it. If a republican governor had not been elected in Colorado there would have been no military despotism in that state today. If there had been no rebates on the railroads there would now be no multi-millionaires like Rockefeller.

HOW ABOUT TRUSTS?

The organization of new trusts has come to a standstill. The conditions resulting from those already formed have frightened the whole nation. The question is being asked everywhere: Has the trust come to stay? One thing is certain: the methods used in their organization are now everywhere denounced and will never again be popular. Those that have been formed are tottering over one by one—the greatest of them all, the steel trust, being crowded to the verge of destruction and no one knows how many more are in the same condition. Perhaps a few of them, those having men in control of exceptional ability, may endure, but of such men there are very few in the world. The glory of those that shone the brightest for a while have been dimmed. Schwab and Morgan are not the financial divinities that they were two years ago. The one undimmed star left among them is Rockefeller, and his standing results from peculiar conditions. Let the government own the railroads and in the next generation there will be no Rockefellers.

A MILLIONAIRE MURDERED

Some very serious things have been happening in this country of late. They are of such a nature to give pause to the class that has been exploiting the common people and accumulating millions through special privileges. It may be that the population of this country can be driven into the conditions of the peasantry of Europe, but The Independent doubts it. While it is true that the plutocracy of Europe can always hire half of the

Good Clothing For Boys...

CLOTHES that you find in clothing stores of the good class are clothes that are built to wear. They're good clothes, made out of good, substantial materials, well put together. You'll seldom find a good clothing store that handles clothes in which the wear is sacrificed for the sake of show. A good looking suit for a child can be made of handsome cloth that's poor, trimmed with shoddy silks and satins, cotton ribbons and potato buttons. They won't wear. Clothes that are made for us are made to wear while they last, and last while they wear. You'll find no shoddy about a "NEBRASKA" boys' suit. In calling your attention to our boys' suits we suggest looking on page 18 of our Fall and Winter Catalog. We want to impress upon you one point—WEAR. These suits are marked to sell for \$2, and sell for a great deal more by your home clothier.

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oppressed to shoot the other half at a shilling a day whenever trouble arises, there is some doubt about their being able to do it in this country whenever the oppression gets too heavy.

The Adirondack region of New York has lately been large bought up by a few millionaires and fenced in. They intend to make hunting parks and fish reserves out of it as the lords and dukes have done in Europe. One of these multi-millionaires has recently fenced in fifteen square miles of this region which has always been free to the public, and put up notices all around it as follows:

"Trespassers Beware! All persons are warned against trespassing upon these lands or waters, the same being devoted to the purpose of propagating and protecting fish, birds and game and as a private park. Orlando P. Dexter, owner. Azro M. Giles, game-keeper and warden."

The other day Millionaire Dexter was shot dead from ambush and it is reported that the lives of others of the same class of men are not safe in that region.

The Independent has no sympathy with murder under any circumstances, but the conditions that have brought about this state of affairs is directly attributable to the course that the rich have pursued and it is time that they took warning. They may be able to get men to march with a tin dinner pail out of which there sticks a piece of sausage, while the rest of the pail is empty, but the very men who march in those lines are the ones who try to redress their grievances by committing murder.

"WAX WORSE AND WORSE"

There is a sect that believes that "the world will wax worse and worse," until finally mankind will become so vile that God will wipe them off the face of the earth and begin anew. It must have been men of that sort that captured the daily, and most of the weekly and monthly press of this country. Nothing could drive mankind on faster toward such a goal than the way the great dailies are run. In every field, it seems to be the effort to publish less than the truth, more than the truth and when occasion requires, absolute falsehoods, but never to print the simple truth itself. It will sell its honor to the highest bidder, invade the privacy of homes, corrupt the minds of the youth, sell its

influence to corrupt politicians, impoverish by its lies millions of well-to-do and bring actual starvation and death upon the poor if only sufficient boodle is offered it. Today the decent people of the United States are practically without a press and their children are every day fed upon libidinous literature gathered from every foul corner of the globe, contained in the sensuous descriptions of the work of the police and lewd pranks among the men and women who make what is called "high society."

In these papers crime and scandals are so written up as not to make them repulsive. Take, for instance, the way that the Tracy murderer's career was handled. The papers were filled with the story for days in which the endurance and bravery of the criminal was described in such a way as to make the wretch a hero. It produced the effect of making the readers, especially the young, sympathize with the criminal and desire his final escape. That is the way the other scandals and crimes are treated. The demoralization it produces is unspeakable. American homes are flooded with this vile trash to such an extent that when good literature is offered, the reply is always made: "I get more papers now than I can read."

The people are opposed to trusts and monopolies of any kind. They favor equal rights, equal opportunity and equal taxation of property. Yet when it comes to decide whether they will accept equal rights, equal opportunity, and equal taxation, if to get it requires them to vote a ticket that is named neither republican nor democrat, they have so far preferred a party name rather than the reforms that they demand. The reason why they act in that way is one of those things that no pop can find out.

The wild dreams of the imperialists of Americanizing tropical countries are vanishing in air as the years go by. During the year 1892, 11,982 emigrants went into Cuba, but only 1,063 were Americans. During the first six months of 1893, American emigration to Cuba had almost ceased, there being only 114 who went there. In the Philippines during the last year the number of Americans has decreased from 13,000 to something below 6,000. This whole tropical imperialism business was the greatest piece of folly that any nation ever committed.