

BRIBES VS. COURTESY

If the meat trust should give an order on its agents good anywhere in the United States, to furnish free to all judges, members of congress, state officers, members of the legislature and county officers a. the meat that they could use in their families, would it be looked upon as a "simple courtesy?" But the value to the recipients of such a favor would not be equal to the gift of free transportation that is given by the railroads to the above named classes each year. The cost of the amount of traveling done each year by the above named officials far exceeds the amount of their meat bills. Would such a "courtesy" from the meat trust have any effect upon those receiving it in regard to their attitude toward it? If the meat trust should adopt such a policy, how long would it be before articles would begin to appear in the great dailies denouncing it as an attempt to bribe every official in the land? It would not be long, provided that the owners of papers did not receive the same "courtesy." If they did, then articles of another kind would soon appear. The editors would point out the enormous amount of capital invested, the cost of maintaining the plants, the high rate of insurance, the taxes that the trust had to pay and the very small margin of profit that there was in the business. That is exactly the way they do in regard to the railroads. No one blames the railroads for giving passes. That is a part of the business. But when the officeholders who receive them solemnly declare that they are not a bribe and they do not affect their sentiments or actions in the least, it has a tendency to cause the sensible man to swear.

DRIFTING TOWARDS POPULISM

The conditions of Wall street and all over the country is irresistibly forcing the government toward populism. The growing population and business demands a constantly increasing currency supply. The note issue is based upon the national debt and no increase can be made in it without increasing the national debt, and increasing it for that very purpose. It is hardly possible that such a program could be put through, because it would be so plainly for the interests of national bankers alone. The republican leaders are great at phrase-making and deception, but could they persuade the people to agree to an increase of the national debt for the express purpose of allowing the national bankers to deposit their bonds and get their full face value back in money and then draw interest on their money and their bonds both at the same time? Will they not ask, if it is necessary for more money to be issued and a bond must be issued before the money, why can't the government issue the bonds, put them in its vaults and then issue the notes and not tax the people to pay interest on the bonds?

The only other way to increase the currency is by the issue of asset notes. But Secretary Shaw and many of the republican bankers are opposed to that except as an emergency issue, taxed to the amount of 6 per cent, which would prevent any such an issue except in the direst straits.

What then can there be done to meet this growing demand which comes from increased population and business? There is one way only. It is a way which commends itself to the common sense of every unprejudiced mind. Let the government issue the money as it has issued the greenbacks. There is an irresistible tendency toward that way of settling the difficulty and it is the populist way. The tide may be stemmed for a time, but in the end the government will have to do it, or face years of falling prices and hard times. Even the republican party with all its splendid organization could not long hold power under such conditions. Rather than to face them, it would probably adopt the populist theory.

COWARD JUDGES

The judges of the district court out in Teller county, Colorado, seem to be pusillanimous cowards. The judge who would allow his court room to be invaded by armed soldiers without protest is a coward. He had the right at any moment to order the sheriff to clear the room and he issued no such order. He went on to try a case with the bayonets gleaming in his face. The lawyers had more courage than the judge, and they not only protested and when the judge refused to clear the court room, withdrew from the case. The same judge has issued warrants and ordered the sheriff to make certain arrests of militia officers. He does not insist upon the orders of the court being executed. The excuse made that any posse that the sheriff could muster would be insufficient to execute the orders of the court when the criminals command a thousand armed men,

is the excuse of a coward. Let the sheriff collect as large a posse as he can, go to the military camp and see if that militia outfit would dare to fire on them. If they did, The Independent predicts that not a militiaman would be left alive in three months.

But the militia would not fire upon the sheriff's posse. The men in the ranks are the ordinary citizens of the state and they would never shoot down the lawful civil officers of the state, even if they were ordered to do so. It is simply a big game of bluff that the governor and his tin horn general are playing and the judges haven't the courage to call them down.

If those Colorado judges expect the common people of the state to obey their orders, they must have the courage to demand the execution of the court process upon all alike. There has been nothing in this country that will have such a tendency to undermine the authority of the courts as the cowardly position taken by these Colorado judges. They should be impeached and men of some courage installed in their places. If the courts will not protect citizens against the militia, then we have no government.

THE POKER TOO HOT

The military despotism that the republican governor has established at Cripple Creek is of such an infamous nature that the Colorado republican state convention held last week dropped him like a hot poker. That convention adopted resolutions particularly approving of President Roosevelt's "devotion to law and order, the effort he has made to bring all persons, rich and poor alike, in obedience to it and within its protection and laws."

It made no approval of the administration of the governor, and instead passed this resolution:

"We believe in the supremacy of law, and every citizen of the state is entitled to its protection. Life and property must be made secure and the entire power of the state should be used to guarantee to every citizen his rights under the constitution."

The governor by his orders has allowed the military to invade the district court and compelled it to sit surrounded by fixed bayonets, while the muzzles of sharpshooters' rifles and gatling guns commanded it from the outside. As there is an election at hand, the republican machine came to the conclusion that something had to be done or the common people might wake up and there would be none to vote the republican ticket except the officeholders and millionaires. If by this maneuver the common people are fooled into voting the republican ticket after the election they will find the same old gang at the helm.

UNVARNISHED LIES

The chief object in the editorial writing in the great dailies seems to be to suppress the truth and print lies. A bright example of that kind of writing appeared in the Chicago Record-Herald of September 30. In commenting upon the fall in price of English consols which had reached the low point of 86 7-8, it says:

"If we turn from the 'world's premier security' to American government bonds we will be able to make a comparison not at all unpleasant from the American point of view. Our 2 per cents, which net less interest than the consols to the investor, are selling at 107 and 108, with great demand."

The statement that there is as much difference in American and English credit as is represented between bonds selling at 108 and consols selling at 86 7-8 is an unvarnished lie and the writer in the Record-Herald knew it was a lie when he wrote the article. A banker with \$100,000 worth of American 2s gets interest practically on \$200,000. He can get their full face value in deposits or he can get national bank notes for the full face value and still own the bonds and get interest on them. If he gets no more interest, and always does get more, on the money deposited or his national bank notes, he is getting 4 per cent, instead of 2, on his investment. To the English consol no such privileges attach.

VERY LIKE NEBRASKA

Ex-Governor Hogg of Texas, whom the dailies have been telling us had become a multi-millionaire and abandoned his former political principles, made a speech the other day in which he made the fur fly more furiously than in all his life before. He talked the same kind of talk that the populists of Texas have been in the habit of using from the last few years. He said that the last democratic legislature was as bad a thing as the state ever suffered from even in the darkest days of reconstruction. In reviewing their work he declared that in the last four years party pledges had been

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scandalously violated; that platform promises had been deliberately ignored and ridiculed, and that lobbyists and free pass dispensers had controlled the actions of the people's representative to an extent never before known in the state. He declared for a constitutional amendment providing that no insolvent corporation should do business in Texas; that the free pass systems over railroads should depart forever, and that the use of corporation funds in politics and the support of a lobby in Austin should be prohibited.

He further charged that every official in Texas that had any control over the affairs had pockets full of free passes, including sheriffs, judges, clerks, tax assessors, and scores of other officials, and that their official action was influenced largely thereby.

The situation down in Texas under democratic government is so like it is in Nebraska under republican rule that there is no distinguishing between the two. The railroad corporations still follow Jay Gould's advice. In a democratic district be a democrat, in a republican district be a republican, but always and everywhere be for the interests of the railroad.

ALWAYS FOUND TOGETHER

Wherever there is an Indian reservation and republican officeholders, there is stealing and swindling. It is just as bad down in the state of New York as it is in the Indian territory or up on the Omaha reservation. Even the saintly Rockefeller has been at it. Rt. Rev. William D. Walker, bishop of the Protestant Episcopal diocese of western New York, said at Rochester, in a public address and in an interview, that some of the steals in New York state parallel those charged against members of the Dawes commission in Indian territory, and only of a smaller magnitude because of the lesser opportunity.

The bishop further remarked: "Constant vigilance must be exerted by the friends of the Indians to keep them from the talons of these birds of prey." Perhaps the bishop has in mind a little Rockefeller transaction which was as follows:

The Seneca Oil company, which was permitted to exist for a short time, succeeded in purchasing valuable holdings from the Indians in the southwestern part of the state, and made them large promises as an inducement. The lands were obtained at ridiculously low rates, and then almost immediately were sold to the Standard Oil company at a price estimated at from \$150,000 to \$200,000. Rockefeller would rob an Indian just as he would a hard working housewife.

Dr. Harper, of Rockefeller's university, got a concession from the sultan. Then he came back to Chicago and announced that there had been "amazing progress in Turkey since Abdul Hamid began to rule twenty-nine years ago."

NEWSPAPER TRICKS

"For tricks that are vain" the republican editors of this state are peccaffar, and at the head of the list stands one Edward Rosewater. The following is a sample:

"Remember that Judge Barnes was twice appointed supreme court commissioner by unanimous vote of the three supreme judges, including Judge Sullivan. Is not this pretty good evidence that he is in every way qualified for judicial work on the bench of our highest state tribunal?"

There is not an intelligent reader of newspapers in Nebraska who does not know that the whole nine supreme court commissioners were appointed "by unanimous vote." There are three judges who make the appointments, one of whom is a republican, one a democrat, and one a populist. There are nine commissioners. To keep peace in the supreme court family it was agreed that each of the judges should name three commissioners and the court sitting en banc "unanimously" appoints them all. That being the case, could any newspaper trick be vainer than the above, taken from the Omaha Bee of October 1? The trick consists in the inference that Judge Barnes has such a high judicial reputation that he alone received the unanimous vote of the supreme court, including that of the populist and democratic judge.

That trick wouldn't fool a five-year-old boy. That is the reason that The Independent says that "for tricks that are vain" the republican editors of Nebraska are peculiar. Nearly all of them have been trying the same trick.

What hopes the socialists can have of ever organizing the "proletariat" into an efficient political party is past comprehension. The wage-workers cannot even be forced to act together in labor unions. When one of these unions strikes for higher wages, instead of the workers all joining together and thus winning a victory, there is always a lot of them willing to act as strike-breakers and fight the men of their own class. If "class consciousness" will not work there, where the economic effect is close at hand, how can it be made to work with the socialist propaganda, where the economic effects are far off? There is a learned and distinguished citizen in this city, who for seven or eight years has held weekly meetings teaching and advocating the Marxian theories and his meetings are not made up of the "wage slaves." Never more than three or four of them have been attendants. The men who have attended those meetings have been editors, university professors, judges, lawyers and merchants. The discussions have been indulged for the intellectual enjoyment they afforded. "Class consciousness" has not put in an appearance yet.

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