

CAN'T UNDERSTAND.

A sociologist who has been making some local studies in Lincoln says that there are, besides the college settlement, five other clubs or associations, numbering about a dozen people each, who meet at stated times in this city to study and discuss political economy and sociology. They are all composed largely of working salaried men, there being only four or five professional and business men in the whole lot. He says that there is not a republican a regular attendant among them. Once in a while a republican is induced to attend. He asked one of these republicans why he did not continue to attend. The answer in substance was: "I can't understand what they are talking about half the time. It would take four years of study to acquire the knowledge necessary to comprehend the terms they use. Take the socialists; what do they mean by 'surplus value,' 'fixed economic law,' 'exploitation,' 'a labor fund,' and all that sort of thing? What do those other fellows mean when they talk about 'marginal cost,' 'bank reserves,' 'expansion of credit,' 'the unaccounted for millions in the exports and imports.' Life is too short for me to get onto all those sort of things."

"But," said the sociologist, "they also talk about trusts, public ownership, taxation, special privileges, the purchasing power of money, its relation to wages, real wages, and many other things in which I should think that you would be interested."

"There you are again," replied the republican. "Real wages? What do you mean by real wages? Are not all wages real?"

"I will try to explain," said the sociologist. "Suppose that an English workingman and an American workingman both get \$5 a week wages. The Englishman pays one dollar a week for rent and the American pays two dollars, and in the same proportion for all his living expenses, at the end of the week has not the Englishman really received more for his labor than the American? 'Real wages' may be said to be the ratio that the laborer receives above the cost of subsistence."

"That is the worst rot I ever did hear," the republican replied.

"Well," said the sociologist, "they talk about intemperance, saloons, the police-control of the social evil, taxation, the factory girls, the conditions surrounding the women in offices, in the department stores, the condition of the jails, your system of private detectives sanctioned by state law, the poor, how they are cared for, the reformatory work in the penitentiary and places for detention for criminals, the character of the men on the police force, the beautifying of your parks, what is best to be done about the "reservation" on the bottoms, the condition of your schools—"

"Oh! for heaven's sake stop. You will drive me crazy," said the republican. "I never had anything to do with any of those things. I don't know anything about them. I don't want to bother with them. It is as much as I can do to make a living."

After relating this, the sociologist asked us how we would classify a man like that and how many such there were in the state of Nebraska. We told him that in The Independent they were classified as "mullet heads" and according to the election returns there were a little over 96,000 of them in the state.

Massachusetts sends one-third of all the millionaires in the state—thirteen—as delegates to the republican national convention and many of these are multi-millionaires. The starving thousands who are now out of work in that state, made desolate and poor by the government policies these millionaires advocate, will rally at the polls next November and vote to give the control of the government into the hands of the very men who have accumulated their millions by exploiting the common people. Why can a party committed to the interests of the very rich get the votes of those millions who have little or no property at all? Can any one tell? The Independent gives it up. The small property owners outnumber the millionaires many hundred times. They could at any time take charge of the government and administer it in their own interests as was done in New Zealand. Why don't they do it?

The world seems never to have learned to get acquainted with genius. The man of genius has always been forced to live a life of isolation. It is not till he has been dead fifty or a hundred years, or a thousand years, that the world begins to know him. The poet Poe died 55 years ago in poverty and distress. During the last few years hundreds of editions of his works have been published in this and other lands and the world is just

beginning to get acquainted with him. Why cannot such economic and social conditions be attained that the world will know a genius when he is alive and not have to wait fifty or a hundred years before it ever hears of him? Such conditions will never be attained while wealth is the only divinity that is worshipped. As long as the "captain of industry" is the great man, the genius will not be known to his fellow men.

After all the calculations have been made and all the juggling with the figures possible gone through with the bald fact stares every man in the face that enormous appropriations by congress are going to create a deficit in the revenues next year of about \$100,000,000. That will come just as the hard times begin to press upon the people. In that day and under those conditions, the banks will be called upon to give back the government deposits that they have so long had without interest and when demands will be made upon them from many different sources. It is all very well for the bankers to go on plunging and say, "After us the deluge," but they will find that that deluge will consist of fire and brimstone.

The shrewdness of the political managers of the railroads is amazing. While they allow some of their organs to assail them on the tax question they have already made rates to recoup themselves in a large degree for any raise in the assessment. Architects and builders in the middle and western part of the state say that the freight on building material is often two and three times the original cost of the material. Nothing is ever said about this in the republican papers that have been calling for an increase in the assessment. It was freight rates that populists first attacked, well knowing that that was the vital point. If you lower freight rates, that hits them on the solar plexus.

Does the Stanton (Neb.) Register think that the hundreds of workers for Hearst who so suddenly appeared in so many different states started out to spend their time and money simply because of the admiration they had for Hearst, as so many thousands did for Bryan in 1896 and 1900? Does he believe that the weekly papers, especially the labor and socialist papers, that devoted whole editions to getting up his boom did it because they had such a high admiration for Mr. Hearst's character and ability as a statesman? Does it believe that Mr. Linsen sent those thousands of news telegrams about Hearst for weeks to daily and weekly papers recording Mr. Hearst's triumphs because of Linsen's admiration for this man of character and statesmanship, and paid for them out of his own pocket? If it does, then its criticism of The Independent is justified. It is a fact that the republican stories of the millions that Hearst has expended are ridiculous. Less than a million would have done the whole business. But then no candidate for a presidential nomination ever before spent a million in getting delegates. Bryan had no millions to spend.

A gentleman, in writing to The Independent, says: "Do write in your peculiar style at least one paragraph doing justice to the socialists, among whom are many of pure character and the very highest ideals and who are doing the best they can to bring their own lives and that of the communities in which they live up to those ideals." There is one thing that The Independent has often said about the socialists. The world owes them a debt of gratitude for calling attention to the social evils from which humanity suffers. There are no writers in the field of literature who have done more valuable service, or who can present those evils in such burning words. All that The Independent has to say antagonistic to socialism is that it does not believe that their proposed remedies will bring relief.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., escaped arrest in Texas for violating the state anti-trust acts by the assistance of the railroad officials who got hold of a private telegram and transferred young John D. to a special car and rushed him through the state. The one car attached to a locomotive did not attract the attention of the sheriffs who had warrants, and in that way the great Sunday school teacher escaped the officers of the law.

A recent opinion handed down by the supreme court makes Mr. Rosewater pay \$39.69 a word for libelling the "popocratic" candidate, as he called him, in a late election. The full amount of the judgment is \$2,500. Another case in which it seems that Rosewater won in the lower court

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was reversed and a new trial ordered. In this case Rosewater had charged that the candidate had not paid the doctor's bill for attending his first wife or for the wedding suit in which he had married his second wife. It turned out that the doctor was being sued for malpractice and the case was still in the courts and that the wedding suit did not arrive until half an hour previous to the wedding and did not fit.

Over 100,000 men who work on the lakes and depend on their summer wages to tide them over the winter are now and have been for some weeks in idleness on account of a strike. Lake navigation is but an infinitesimal part of what it usually is at this time of year. The railroads are transporting the grain, the coal and the merchandise that usually goes by lake, and after all that, their earnings are falling off. At this date last year, Buffalo had received by lake 31,650,000 bushels of grain. This year at the same date only 694,000 bushels were received.

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