

they can destroy any citizen any business, any city, any state.

Their corrupting influence is felt and seen all the way upward from the town council to the judge on the bench; from the bench to the senate of the United States, and from the senate to the railroad commissions, whether state or national.

Almost without exception, the railroads of this republic were paid for by the public, and not by the corporations which own them.

In donations of land, of bonds, and of actual cash, the American people have paid for practically every railroad on this continent. And we have nothing to show for it. We are paying dividends every year on at least five billion dollars of watered stock.

The figures show that in every ten years we pay in freight and passenger charges an amount equal to the sum total of the actual cost of the roads. Talk about the trusts. The greatest support which the trust system of America has this day is in the railroads. It is only by discriminations, secret rebates, special help and favors that Rockefeller or any other great organizer of the trusts could make his way to the gigantic power which he has established.

By no other methods than by government ownership of the railways can you equalize all shippers, all persons, establish a fair system of exchange, restore public franchises to public uses; take out of politics one of its most corrupting influences; take out of commerce one of its most tyrannical masters, and thus put transportation where the postoffice system is—making it a servant and agent of all the people, doing good where it extends.

Is public ownership of railroads and telegraphs and other public utilities the cry of a mere demagogue? Is it a step toward anarchy and chaos? Is it a subject which can find no room in the domain of legitimate, respectful debate? Gladstone of England was in favor of government ownership of railways, and when he was a member of Sir Robert Peel's cabinet carried through parliament a law which empowered the British government to purchase the railways, a law which the corporations managed to render a nullity.

Bismarck, the iron chancellor of resurrected Germany, was in favor of government ownership; and it was through his leadership that Prussia acquired her railways. Nearly every kingdom in Europe, many of the countries of Asia and Africa have adopted the system and work it with perfect success. And as an American citizen, seeing that Australia and Canada successfully deal with this great problem and operate railroads in the interest of all the people, I feel ashamed of the backwardness of our own statesmanship which fears to grapple with that issue.

We are in favor of an income tax. Planting ourselves squarely upon the ground occupied by Thomas Jefferson, we say that the larger the income the larger should be the rate of taxation on that income, to the end that vast accumulations should be discouraged and that the wealth of the country should always be in a process of distribution.

No fairer tax than this can be imposed. It would put the burden of government upon the shoulders of those who are most able to bear it. It would draw the support of the administration from those who derive from it the greatest benefits.

It would throw our pension debt upon that class of men who during the civil war speculated upon the necessities of the country and grew rich while the soldier was in the field.

Declaring itself in favor of a graduated income tax, the people's party supplements that by saying that there should be no tariff tax upon the necessities of life which the poor must have in order to live. Establish an income tax, and you would give the government a source of revenue independent of the tariff and thereby pave the way for the reduction of the tremendous burden of taxation which now rests mainly upon the shoulders of the middle and lower classes. At this time, when governmental extravagance squanders every dollar of the national income, it is idle to prate of tariff revision until they first tell us how they will get the money to run the government when tariff revenues have been lowered.

The farmer must pay his tax whether his farm be run at a profit or not. The merchant must pay his tax regardless of whether the net balance of trade be for him or against him. The income tax is levied upon profits only; and there is not an argument to be urged against it that does not reek with the rankest selfishness.

Upon the money question we have always stood for the quantitative the-

ory, have always opposed national banks, and have said that the creation of money was a governmental function which should never be surrendered; should never be delegated to any class of citizens, but should always be held by the government as one of the great attributes of sovereignty. We were for free silver upon the ground that to the extent it was coined it would increase the volume of the currency. But any other equal amount of currency created by the government out of any material whatsoever would have suited us quite as well. We stand precisely where Jefferson and Jackson stood. We are for the money of the constitution and for the old democratic doctrine that it is as easy for the government to issue its own treasury notes to pass current as money, as it is to issue a bond upon which the banker shall base his note, and use it as money.

If Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson considered that one national bank with its comparatively insignificant circulation was of deadly danger to republican institutions, why should it be heresy for us to contend that 5,000 national banks with a circulation of more than \$400,000,000 are likewise dangerous to the spirit of republican institutions?

No class of citizens should be allowed to use a governmental function for private profit and reap the enormous gains which the bankers now derive from that source. But this view of the subject is almost trivial compared to the tremendous power which the national banks have in expanding and contracting the currency, thus holding the markets of the republic at their mercy and having the power at any time to unsettle values from sea to sea.

This country today is in the utmost peril from the money question. In vain do the democrats waive it; it can not be waived. The Cleveland ruling, by which coin was held to mean gold, and by which paper notes were used to get bonds from the government, is still in force, and the endless chain only needs another Cleveland at the windlass. And when we see standing around Judge Parker the same old Cleveland crowd—Olney, Gorman, Belmont, Carlisle, Lamont—the gravity of the situation deepens as we study the faces of that notable collection of patriots. The discoveries of new methods in treating gold ores, the opening of vast deposits of the precious metal in so many different parts of the world illustrated and vindicated the people's party's contention on the subject of the currency rather than discredited it.

But I beg to call your attention to the fact that no man can tell when these veins will be exhausted, and when this vast increase in our currency will be discontinued. And I warn you now that when that day arrives, contraction, and the frightful results which have always flowed from contraction, will be upon you. The moment the volume of currency ceases to increase, as population and commerce increase, then relative contraction is at once in action; and the increased need for money not being followed by a greater supply of money, there will be a crash which will make this republic shake from one end of it to the other.

And in the storm that sweeps over the land, as it surely will do, there will again be heard the cry of the suffering man, the suffering woman and the suffering child. Why is Judge Parker so assured that the gold standard is irrevocable? Nothing in human law and custom is irrevocable—especially if it is wrong. Neither the sanctions of the constitution of the United States, the statute law of the land, nor the unbroken national practice of a century were sufficient to make the double standard of gold and silver irrevocable. Why, then, should the single gold standard, which violates the constitution, mocks the statute law and rebels against the precedents of a hundred years be considered irrevocable?

It seems to me that a financial system which is based upon a violation of fundamental law which all officials are sworn to obey rests upon a foundation which lacks a good deal of being as stable as the rocks.

If I know myself, I am a Jeffersonian, heart and soul. If I know my party, it is Jeffersonian, through and through. We have the same faith that he had in the principles of human brotherhood and the same horror of any system which robs labor of its just reward, which builds up aristocracy by means of special privilege and which by class legislation brings back with new faces the old foes of the human race.

To restore the liberties of the people, the rule of the people, the equality of all men before the law is our purpose. We believe that manhood should count for more than money;

that character should outweigh the dollar. Whether he work with brawn or brain, it is the worker who should be monarch of the world.

Not wealth, not birth, not office, but the worker—he who has noble ideals; he who wants to achieve; he who has a message and a mission, and looks upon the earth as a room to work in and the blessed sun the light to work by—he who, clinging to those convictions which become a part of his life, would rather die than make cowardly submission to what he felt to be wrong.

For myself, I do not believe that the present tyranny of the corporation, the monopoly and the autocracy of wealth can endure forever. Some day, some day the American people will rise in their resistless majesty and drive the usurpers from the places they have seized. Some day popular sovereignty will come again and put its foes to rout as it did in the time of Jefferson, as it did in the time of Jackson.

It may be that this effort of mine to rally and arouse the real democrats, the real believers in popular government, may come to naught—but no matter what befalls, I will accept this call, which seems to me to be the call to duty. As fearless John Adams said in the brave days of old, "Sink or swim, live or die, survive or perish, I give my hand and my heart to this cause."

At the conclusion of Mr. Watson's speech, Mr. Jay W. Forrest of the Albany county democracy, made the speech notifying the Hon. Thomas H. Tibbles of Nebraska of his nomination for the vice-presidency on the same ticket with Mr. Watson. He won the audience at the start with a reference to William J. Bryan, and declared that the man who followed the leadership of Bryan and fought with him in his two campaigns, could never support a ticket begot by "August Belmont, the subway crook, and crooked Dave Hill, of Albany."

Mr. Tibbles made a short speech of acceptance. He said that the last time he was in Cooper Union he was there in the interest of an oppressed people, and that he was glad to appear again in the same cause. "The wealth of the country belongs to and should remain with the producers rather than go into the already too well-filled pockets of the predatory pirates of Wall street," said Mr. Tibbles.

Attention.

At the meeting of the state central committee held at the close of the state convention a motion was carried unanimously that each delegate be assessed \$1. The committee urges that where the delegate has not the money that he proceed at once to collect it and send it to the treasurer, F. D. Eager, 1328 O street, and due credit will be given his county.

State Headquarters.

At the meeting of the executive committee at the Lincoln hotel August 19 B. B. Weber was re-elected chairman; J. H. Edmisten, vice chairman; F. D. Eager, treasurer, and the selection of secretary was left with these officers, with the understanding that J. R. Farris would be the man if his services can be secured. Lincoln was chosen for state headquarters, the location to be fixed as soon as propositions are all in. At this time it looks like "The Royal," formerly the Walton, which has been made new from top to bottom, will be the place. Work has been begun and there is a determined feeling that the fusion cause can and must win.

Populism Not Socialism.

Every plank in the socialist platform that's good and practical, is populism, and they took it from the greenback, union labor, populist platforms. One of the most important planks in the populist platform, socialists ignore, the financial plank. Socialists propose to issue a certificate each evening to all persons who have labored that day, representing the wealth each has created. Those who have fooled away everything they earned, when old, will be put on the pension list. What we would like to know is how will we know the amount of wealth those that are pensioned created. Then we would like to know how we can compel foreign countries to accept socialist labor certificates when our obligations were made payable in the currency of the country at that time, not in labor certificates now. Socialism is not practical, it's a foreign plan of government and if put in practice would bring on a civil war in this country.—Southern (Iowa) Educator.

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