

**On Common Ground**

Most important question before the American people at the present time is the "Railroad Question." What shall we do to be saved from extortionate freight and passenger rates, from corrupting rebates, from the free pass evil through which, with the aid of money, railroad managers control legislatures, courts and public officials of every class and description. So serious has this railroad question become in recent years that there are now many thousands of plutocratic republicans and democrats who are willing to join in a movement for relief. To populists, who have been contending for government ownership for years, the story is an old one. At this time it seems likely that "railroad question" will soon become the common ground upon which all are agreed as to the remedy. Populists understand that the attempts at "control" through legislation by either of the old political parties will prove fruitless. Instead of "government control" it will continue to be "railroad control." Government ownership is the only effective remedy. To secure this, populists, socialists, liberal democrats, and anti-monopoly republicans can join hands. They show how thoroughly the socialists are in accord with populists on this question, we quote the following which was the leading editorial in *Wilhelm's Socialist Magazine* for January: **THE PEACE OF JUSTICE.**

The president's message properly analyzed is the most revolutionary document ever given to the world by the head of a great government.

That its revolutionary character is quite unconscious is even more significant for its very unconsciousness goes to show how the socialist ferment has spread, all unnoticed and unforeseen, in the most unexpected minds.

When to this sentence and hear the class of revolution echo in it:

The steady aim of this nation, as of all enlightened nations, should be to bring ever nearer the day when there shall prevail throughout the world the peace of justice."

It is true that when the president wrote these lines he was not thinking of the "peace of justice" between individuals, but between nations; nevertheless the one is but the corollary of the other. No nation will be unjust or overbearing to another nation when "peace of justice" reigns within its borders.

Russia, the modern type of the nation which would tyrannously oppress weaker nations, is notoriously the nation in which the powerful within her own borders tyrannize over the weaker.

The differences between nations always arise in the effort of a tyrannous class within one nation endeavoring to extend its tyranny beyond the national boundary. In the feudal age it was the nobility which brought about war by causing more land and more dependent peasants than the home market afforded.

Today wars caused by the capitalist class of one nation wishing to conquer new markets for itself to the exclusion of the capitalist class of some other nation. For instance, Russian and Japanese capitalists wanted the Manchurian market. The Russian capitalists got their czar to send out his troops and navy to carry out their program by force, and the Japanese capitalists got their mikado to send out his troops and navy to meet those of the czar.

When the war ends there will be lots of dead peasants and lots of new capitalists. There will be peace, but whether it is the "peace of justice" or not is another story.

If the president wishes the peace of justice between nations, let him first look to the establishment of the peace of justice within the borders of his own nation. It is true that he has, in his message, made feeble steps in this direction, although, feeble as they were, nevertheless they threw the capitalist class into a frenzy of fear. The particular paragraph which so excited them was that in which he recommended that the government should have the right to fix the rates charged by the railways. If there is any danger of his recommendation causing any such law to go into effect, it is not surprising that the day after the message was given to the public there was called together in New York a hasty meeting of fourteen of the presidents of the great railway systems to discuss ways and means to meet the emergency.

The day after there was a violent break in the stock market, and while our friend and co-worker, Mr. Thomas W. Lawson, should be given considerable credit for this break—for he had advertised in papers that on that day he would begin his onslaught on the Copper and Standard Oil crowd—still Lawson himself must admit that the message of the president, coming out as it did, was at least a singularly fortunate coincidence for his bear operations.

The probability is that the net result of the president's threat will be the hurrying along of Rockefeller's well-laid plan for the complete trustification of all the railways.

Competition is the cause of secret rebates and comparatively unjust rates that the president is so much exercised over. One railway fears if it does not give a rebate to a big shipper that some other railway will take the business. After giving a rebate to one shipper it tries to get even by charging other shippers exorbitant rates. The poor railway presidents are in a dreadful quandary lest they lose their \$50,000 a year jobs. If Rockefeller takes over the railways, he will certainly fire them, and if the club that Roosevelt holds over them—government ownership—comes about, then Uncle Sam will be just as sure to throw them out. Next to being in the ingenious Mrs. Chadwick's place in the Tombs, charged with manufacturing two million dollars out of nothing, I think being a railway president is about the most nerve-shaking position one can imagine. With the elimination of competition and war no captains of industry will be wanted. And even if they hold on to their jobs there is going to be very little for them to do. For Roosevelt proposes to manage their railways for them so completely that they will not have much more to do with the running of the trains than has any mere stockholder like the gay Mr. Vanderbilt himself who spends all his time in Paris partaking of the reward of thrift.

The president would have the government see that the railways are equipped with safety devices for their employees. He says that he knows it will never be done "unless the railways are required by law to make ample provision for their safety." Talk about rights of capital and labor; I

would like to know what recognition does the president give to the rights of capital when he calmly proposes to take the money of the railways and use it to build automatic couplers and block systems, and all against the will and consent of capital.

It used to be said that the capitalist will have enough heart to look after his men without any law compelling him to do so. We said men would not work for a heartless employer. Then, when we found capitalists seemed to get all the labor they wanted, even if they had no hearts, we said that the way to get at them was to make them financially liable for injuries to employees. If going at the heart was a failure, let us aim at their pocketbooks. When they find it doesn't pay to kill and maim men the capitalists will put in safety appliances. But we did not count upon how cheap judges and juries are compared with the cost of safety appliances. The railways simply got comparative figures and found that good safe and sane judges were to be had in unlimited quantities at much lower figures than were the poorest and cheapest automatic couplers. Therefore they bought judges instead of automatic couplers and went gayly on with the gentle sport of killing their employees.

The president has awakened to this and he now says the only thing is a law compelling the installation of safety devices. I fear the president will never see much attention paid to life when so much attention is paid to dividends. If the president is sincere then let him not hold up the club of government ownership as a dreadful alternative to the present system of murder for profit, but let him advocate it because it will not only save from slaughter thousands of employees' lives every year, but will also at the same time be a good business proposition for the people from a purely financial standpoint.

However, I must give the president credit for calling attention to the necessity of doing something. I do not remember of any other president ever going into the matter of the necessity of shorter hours for railway employees, of the need of child labor laws, of the importance of cities looking to the manner in which their citizens are housed, and of providing playgrounds for children.

The materialistic conception of history finds fresh grounds for its base in the president's recognition of the change of character of our industry requiring a change of character of our political institutions. When the republic was born, industry was local and carried on on a small scale, and naturally the several states were given control of it. Jefferson was the only statesman farsighted enough to propose any control of industry by the national government, and even he suggested it for insurance only, which from the very nature of the business has never been of a local character.

Roosevelt, today, in taking up national supervision of insurance, is merely re-echoing Jefferson. Today all the greater businesses are national in their scope, but the law still assumes them to be local; so instead of the big corporations which are all national in their operations being incorporated by some state and very often in a state where they may never intend to operate. The president now proposes that these corporations be brought under national control by having them incorporated under a new federal law by the national congress instead of under the state laws by the state legislatures. There is no doubt that this is a perfectly logical proposition, but whether the corporations who now can protect themselves under the old states rights doctrine will not prefer the present system to the new one is questionable. It is considerably cheaper to buy a state legislature than it is to buy congress, and then too a state charter has advantages over a national charter anyway for incorporators who want as little supervision and control as possible.

This country is run for the benefit of the corporations, and it is doubtful if even a Roosevelt will ever change the system of state control as long as the corporations own the country.

Let the nation own the corporations and then we may see something doing.

Attention is called to Hayden Bros.' offer of men's suits and overcoats at \$5. Now is a good time to buy. Mail orders filled promptly.

**An Ideal Combination**

Watson's Magazine 1 yr.  
Woman's Home Companion 1 yr. (Best woman's paper published)  
The Independent 1 yr. } \$2.15

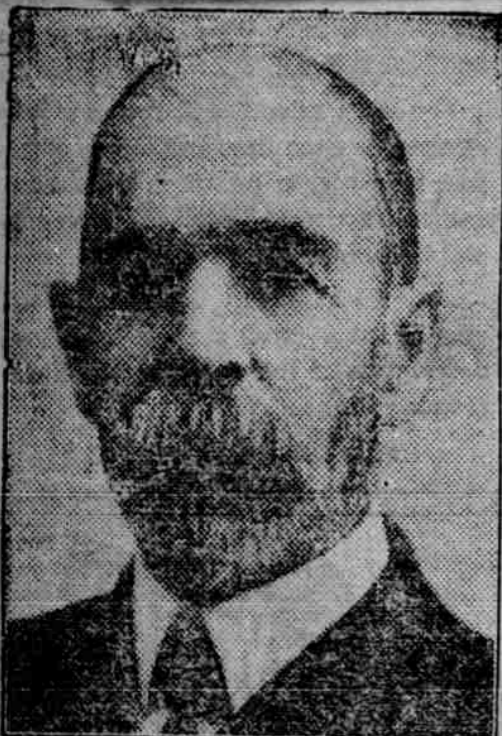
R. P. Yates, Kenton, Tenn.: "Find my vote marked for a straight fight. No fusion in mine, state or national. Give me Tom Watson, first, last and all the time."

**To Curb The Trusts**

Editor Independent: If congress will pass a law allowing the secretary of the treasury of the United States to assess corporations, say 1-4 of one per cent up to \$20,000,000, and then when they add \$20,000,000 more add one-half per cent to their tax, when they increase again \$20,000,000 add another one fourth of a per cent to the tax, they would not capitalize for any more than their stock was worth and there would not be millions of stock on the market that is not worth a cent, or in other words they would not water their stock. Such a tax would add millions to the treasury. I would like to hear from some one through your paper on this subject.

AUSTIN BOLLES.  
Sardina, N. Y.

LT. COL. BOWMAN



**IN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS PE-RU-NA CURED HIM.**

**Cold Affected Head and Throat—Attack Was Severe.**

Chas. W. Bowman, 1st Lieut. and Adj. 4th M. S. M. Cav. Vols., writes from Lanham, Md., as follows:

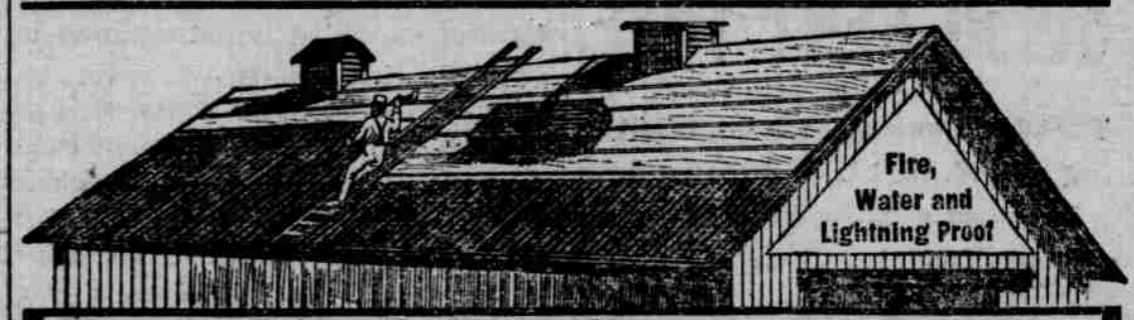
"Though somewhat averse to patent medicines, and still more averse to becoming a professional affidavit man, it seems only a plain duty in the present instance to add my experience to the columns already written concerning the curative powers of Peruna.

"I have been particularly benefited by its use for colds in the head and throat. I have been able to fully cure myself of a most severe attack in forty-eight hours by its use according to directions. I use it as a preventive whenever threatened with an attack.

"Members of my family also use it for like ailments. We are recommending it to our friends."—C. W. Bowman.

**Pe-ru-na Contains no Narcotics.**  
One reason why Peruna has found permanent use in so many homes is that it contains no narcotic of any kind. It can be used any length of time without acquiring a drug habit.

Address Dr. Hartman, President of The Hartman Sanitarium, Columbus, Ohio, for free medical advice. All correspondence held strictly confidential.



**New Steel Roofing and Siding**  
Painted red on both sides  
**\$2.00 Per 100 Square Feet.**  
Most durable and economical covering for Roofing, Siding or Ceiling, for Barns, Sheds, Houses, Stores, Churches, Poultry Houses, Cribbs, etc. Cheaper and will last longer than any other material. Sheets six and eight feet long.  
**We Pay the Freight**  
to all points East of Colorado, except Indian Territory, Oklahoma and Texas. Write for prices for shipment to such points. This roofing at \$2.00 per square is our No. 19 grade, flat, semi-hardened. \$2.10 for corrugated, "V" crimped or pressed standing seam. \$2.25 for brick siding and beaded ceiling or siding. No experience necessary. Send us your order for immediate shipment. We have other grades.  
**WRITE FOR FREE CATALOGUE No. 6** on Building Material, Wire, Pipe, Plumbing Material, Furniture, Household Goods, etc. We Buy at Sheriffs' and Receivers' Sales.  
**CHICAGO HOUSE WRECKING CO., 35th & Iron Sts., Chicago.**

**P. F. ZIMMER, Real Estate.**  
Farms, Ranches, and City Property bought, sold and exchanged. Some good farms for sale in the Kansas and Nebraska winter wheat belt. Write today and tell me what you want or what you have to sell. Give full description. I will immediately let you know what I can do for you. Reference First National Bank, Lincoln, Neb. Address  
116 So. 10th St. Lincoln, Neb.

**THE \$50,000,000 WORLD'S FAIR, ST. LOUIS 1904**  
BOUGHT BY THE CHICAGO HOUSE WRECKING CO. Millions of Dollars' worth of material will be placed on the market for quick sale by us at prices that will mean an enormous saving to purchasers. Now is your opportunity to put into execution your long contemplated improvements.  
**100,000,000 FEET OF HIGH GRADE LUMBER FOR SALE**  
The time to buy Lumber is today. Even if you do not need any Lumber today, it will pay you to purchase it now and store it for future use. It's better than money in the bank. Buy quick, because the price at which we will offer this material is bound to sell it as fast as we can make delivery. The finest grades of Lumber were used in the construction of this Grand Exposition. We have everything needed in the construction and furnishing of a building for any purpose.  
**SEND US YOUR LUMBER BILL FOR OUR ESTIMATE**  
YOU CAN SAVE FROM 30% TO 80% IF YOU BUY AT ONCE. This is your opportunity to build or improve your Home, Barn, Warehouse, Church, Elevator, Tool Shed, Granary and Crib, Store, School House, and in fact any kind of a building. We can furnish you anything in the line of Manufactured Articles, Roofing of all kinds, Wire Fencing, Pipe, Furniture and thousands of other items. **ASK FOR OUR SPECIAL CATALOGUE 45**  
**CHICAGO HOUSE WRECKING CO., EXPOSITION GROUNDS, ST. LOUIS, MO.**