

litical expenses cut off, rates could be materially reduced and dividends increased. When ever the thieving of these multi-millionaires is attacked, the poor widow and orphan stockholder is placed on the platform for inspection.

"Reasonable Rates"

Freight rates all over the country are made, not on any reasonable plan, but just as the traffic managers say. Coal can be shipped from the south-east to Lincoln and back half way, cheaper than if it is put off at the stopping point, and the same is true of the coal coming from the west. Sugar made in Colorado can be bought for 20 cents a hundred less in Kansas City than it can a mile from the factory where it is made. Apples can be shipped from New York to the Dakotas and Wyoming cheaper than from south western Iowa. Freight rates from New York and Chicago to Knoxville, Tennessee, and Atlanta, Georgia, are as follows:

To Knoxville, Tenn., from Chicago, distance, 560 miles, rate, \$1.16; from New York, distance, 735 miles, rate, \$1.00.

To Atlanta, Ga., from Chicago, distance 733 miles rate \$1.47; from New York, distance, 876 miles, rate \$1.26.

There are hundreds of other cases just as bad or worse all over the country. "Reasonable rates" are never taken into consideration by traffic managers. It is simply a question of what the traffic will bear, or which section they shall build up and which they shall tear down.

The New Senators

The United States senators that have been elected during the last few weeks, with exception of one, tend to put that body more completely in the control of corporations than it ever was before. Senator Berkeley of Connecticut has been known for years as a political manipulator and railroad lobbyist. He has under oath before a committee publicly defended the buying of votes.

Senator Southerland of Utah is unknown to fame. His election is regarded as a backing up of the forces that sent Smoot to the senate.

Senator Frank P. Flint of California was sent to the senate by the Southern Pacific railroad. He will be a member of the inner circle of railroad senators of which Steve Elkins is the head.

Senator Carter of Montana is well known here in Nebraska where, as a slick and oily tongued book agent, he swindled many men out of their farms up in Burt county. He is a politician of the very lowest order and although he has served one term in the United States senate, has never shown the slightest indications of statesmanship. He is an Amalgamated Copper man.

Senator Burkett of Nebraska was sent to the senate by Harriman and his assistants. Burkett will also immediately be admitted to Steve Elkins' inner circle of corporation senators.

Senator LaFollette of Wisconsin will add luster to the body to which he has been elected. He is a fine orator and a thoroughly practical and earnest statesman whose vote will not be thrown for the interests of the corporations.

A Crime Against Mankind

The exclusion of economic and sociological questions from the columns of the daily press for the last ten or twelve years has been a crime against mankind. A generation has nearly grown up and will soon be the governing force in this nation which is entirely ignorant of all the great principles of human association and government, and utterly unfit to take charge of this great nation. All the avenues of information to the public have been locked and sealed to everything but the promotion of greed and the accumulation of the whole wealth of the country in the hands of a few. Earn-

est, able and scholarly men sought opportunity everywhere for an avenue to reach the people and their articles were rejected with scorn or held up, to ridicule. The consequence is that when in the evolution of human affairs, great economic changes are imminent, the whole population is profoundly ignorant of all the great principles underlying government. Instead of being prepared to take charge of, and direct the new economic forces, that have resulted in making the whole business world subject to railroad managers, that have made the American citizen pay twice as much for his goods that his foreign rivals had to pay, that has concentrated the control of credit and money in a few Wall street banks, the mass of the people are totally ignorant of those subjects.

That ignorance is most profound among what are called "business men." They do not even understand the ordinary terms everywhere used in the discussion of political economy and sociology. Three men have come into The Independent office during the week to inquire what the editor meant by the word "proletariate" and a letter was received from another (he said he was not a populist or subscriber to the paper, but some one had handed him a copy) asking for an explanation. Now that word has been used in political economy from the beginning to designate the propertyless class, yet these men who have large political influence and must soon cast their ballots in answering the question, what shall be done for the tens of thousands of starving propertyless people in the great cities and elsewhere, did not know even the meaning of the word.

If when distress shall come, and the proletariate is increased to millions in numbers, as surely will be the case, if bank inflation, rebates and tariffs go on unchanged, the people rush to socialism and disorder from lack of correct information, these scoundrels who have suppressed free speech in the periodical literature of the times may wish that they had never been born. There is no safety for a nation in modern times except in the fullest discussion of every economic fact and tendency. If there had been a free press, the things that Lawson and Russell have been writing about never could have transpired.

There is not a great newspaper today that will send a man to Washington with instructions to write up the facts as they exist. Two or three monthly magazines have lately entered that field and they had to defy the threats of suppression and libel persecution. As the traveler in Arkansas said: "The ground is hot and hell is not a mile away." They had all better watch out.

San Domingo has a new dictator. His name is Col. Teddy. The new dictator promises to pay off a foreign and domestic debt of \$20,276,750, nearly all bearing four per cent interest and support the government on an income of about a million a year collected by means of a tariff. Col. Teddy has already sent a lot of warships and marines down there. Meantime some of the United States senators are growling because Col. Teddy made a treaty and ratified it himself without referring it to the senate. Teddy claims he had a right to do that because he called the contract a "protocol" instead of a treaty. There was a rumor of an uprising in San Domingo, but the new dictator has put a close censorship over the press and no one knows what is going on down on the little island.

A New Plutocratic Theory

The plutocratic pirates always have a theory ready to fit every occasion when any discontent appears. A few years ago when the farmers were complaining because they did not get enough for their wheat to pay the expenses of producing it, the plutocrat had a reason for the low price that every mullet head accepted as gospel truth, he im-

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mediately came to the conclusion that there was no use in kicking. The plutocrats declared at that time that the cause of the low price of wheat was the opening up of so much new wheat land in the Dakotas and other western states, and the farmers must content themselves with the fact that wheat was bound to always be low, on account of the great extension of the wheat lands. Now when there are tens of thousands in all the great cities suffering for bread, they have another theory to fit the occasion. They now say: "We pointed out last summer that we are gradually but surely approaching the time when we will have no wheat to speak of for export. Only in years of bumper crops will we have any wheat for export."

What is the object of this new theory? The tariff is threatened and the desire is to get the farmers on the side of protection. One of the chaps says: "The tariff heretofore may have done the farmers no good, but now it puts from 15 to 20 cent. a bushel on the price of wheat. The farmer should be an active worker for protection." The mullet head will take all that as gospel truth also. He will never know that the tariff makes him pay twice as much for American goods as the foreigner pays for them because he will never see that fact stated in his party paper, and he would as soon think of taking poison as to read any other paper.

Governments Coming Down

There is a general attack on the governments in existence all over the world. Aside from the disturbances in Russia, within the last few weeks the governments of Hungary, Spain and France have been overthrown and new cabinets formed. In England every one is looking for a speedy dissolution of parliament and change of ministers. In the Province of Ontario, Canada, the government has been retired by overwhelming majorities, although the party ousted has been in power for over thirty years. All this discontent comes from the distress and suffering among the common people. There are forces at work that are effecting the whole world. First comes the cry from all continental Europe for more perfect freedom, a demand that the natural rights of man shall be

respected. This demand is individualistic and not socialist. Men want individual freedom of action, and the demand puts stress on a free press, a full representative government, which means that individuals shall have a part in the government as individuals and not as a class.

The strange thing about this movement is that it is called socialism, just as populism is called socialism in the United States. Socialism means the destruction of competition, and what this movement in Europe means is a right to compete. They want the monopolies and special privileges abolished. It is the old plutocratic plan. When the republicans in this country started out to get legislation that would make several kinds of money, they demanded that "every dollar should be as good as every other dollar" and then went to work and made nine kinds of money only one of which was "good."

Senator Aldrich

Steffens has been investigating Rhode Island, than which a no more corrupt spot never blackened the face of mother earth. Furthermore, no man more deeply soaked in corrupt practices can be found than Senator Aldrich, the boss on all tariff questions in the United States Senate. He is so foul that the earth on which he steps but once sends up a mephitic vapor a year afterwards. Steffens' summing up of the condition in that little state of hypocrisy and tariff is this: "Aldrich, having worked to the top of a corrupt political hierarchy in his own state, and having made himself the paladin of the sugar interests, took advantage of the venality of his fellow citizens to secure from them extensive public utility franchises which he, in part, transferred to the aforesaid sugar interests at an enormous profit.

Aldrich is as much worse and more despicable than the common thief as he is the more intelligent. He began his career in political crime, and he has become more expert at it every year since. He is one of the heartless, cold hearted sort of pirates. He cuts a throat without the least excitement. There is never a flash in his steel-like eyes. Walls of distress have no more effect upon him than a breeze upon the face of a granite cliff. Aldrich is not