

**Old Stories Retold**

Some years ago The Independent gave its readers a full history of Senator Aldrich's capture of the street car lines in providence, and anarchistic violation of a law of the state making a ten hour day. The open and notorious violation of that law was nothing but anarchy led by a United States senator. The workmen struck and demanded their rights under the law. Aldrich led the fight on the workmen and declared their action anarchy. With the vast criminal wealth of the state to back him, this anarchist senator won out. He succeeded in bonding and stocking a company where the real investment was \$2,000,000 for \$39,160,200 and sold the securities to the public. Now, long after The Independent had given its readers the story, Mr. Clure's magazine has got it and it is creating a sensation.

Another story which was written up at the time, in 1894 when it happened, is also made a part of the McClure Magazine story. Senator Allen had a part in it. It was the raising of the tariff on sugar, by which one mill on a pound more than the sugar trust asked for when the bill was in the house, by Aldrich when the bill came to the senate, by which \$3,000,000 was taken out of the people. Aldrich did that after making an agreement with the sugar trust to buy the Rhode Island legislature and re-elect him to the United States senate.

All the readers of The Independent will remember what a fight Senator Allen put up against that steal and how one of a firm of New York brokers who handled the sugar stock for these senatorial thieves was sent to the District of Columbia jail for not answering questions when subpoenaed as a witness before a senate committee. Populists have known all these things for ten years, but they are news to the readers of magazines and the great dailies.

There is one thing that populists should take into consideration when reading about this anarchist Senator Aldrich. He is generally known as the "boss" of the senate, but the extent of his power is not fully realized. He is chairman of the finance committee, the most important committee of the senate, but he is also chairman of that other committee, which although it does not appear on the official list of committees, is more powerful than any of them. That is the "steering committee" which decides what bills shall come before the senate and what shall not. Of all the cold blooded villains that has ever appeared in American politics, Aldrich is the worst. He has back of him Rockefeller, the two families being bound together by marriage relations, the sugar trust and the great manufacturing grafters. Aldrich literally makes every tariff bill that goes through the senate.

**No "Thrust" Intended**

In a recent letter Mr. E. M. Young of Plattekill, N. Y., takes me to task as follows:

Read your article in Independent on New Zealand. Very good reading; but—but you go out of your way to make a thrust at the greatest reformer of all times—Henry George!

Mr. Young refers to that notice of Dr. Taylor's new book, "The Politics of New Zealand." I must emphatically disavow any intention of making a "thrust" at Henry George or anybody else. For both Henry George and Karl Marx I have the highest regard, and were I a hero-worshiper, I'd be compelled to worship both—inconsistent as that may appear.

Beyond any doubt the philosophy of Henry George is one of justice. So, too, is the philosophy of Karl Marx. yet. Neither has had a fair trial. magnet. One is individualistic—the other collectivistic; yet both are intended to better the condition of mankind.

Both, too, are theoretically beautiful—because the big, warm hearts of

George and Marx were full of love for humanity. But they are only theories yet. Neither has had a fair trial. Either may be correct—or both may be wrong—we can not tell positively; for we have no concrete examples to guide us. New Zealand does not help us, because, as I tried to show—perhaps in too blunt a way—neither single tax nor "collective ownership of the means of production and distribution" has been tried there.

New Zealand policies are more in accord with populism than anything else—and populism isn't rounded out fully enough to be dignified by the name "science" or "philosophy." If it be a philosophy, it is an eclectic one, taking what is conceived to be good from any and all sources. The New Zealanders were undoubtedly influenced by Henry George. Their land tax shows that. But they violated the very foundation of his philosophy by imposing an income tax—which is founded on ability to pay rather than a payment for advantages conferred.

There isn't, really, anything of Marxism in New Zealand laws, because the wage system is left intact. The post-office, savings banks, public railroads, government insurance, and the like are concrete examples of applied populism.

The history of New Zealand seems to disprove some of Loria's theories in his "Economic Foundations of Society." The middle class actually did capture the government at the polls; held it; enacted laws to benefit the middle class; and still holds the power. If I understand the socialist doctrine, New Zealand rather shatters the "inevitable" part of the program. Up to 1890 it looked as though capitalism was running its course so swiftly that, if Marx theories are correct, the co-operative commonwealth would be "inevitable" in a few years at most. Possibly the union of middle class farmers and proletarian laborers was "reactionary"—but it was accomplished and is giving good results. I believe the same thing can be done—and will be done—here in a few years.

No, Mr. Young, I have no unkind words for either Henry George or Karl Marx. But there is a world of difference between theory and practice, as the example of New Zealand shows. Yet without the theory, there would be little progress.

CHARLES Q. DE FRANCE.

New York, Jan. 30.

**Civilization**

Tom Watson's speech at Lincoln was the arraignment of the political course of one of America's greatest citizens. While every sentence cut like a two-edged sword, while the sarcasm was as pungent as ever employed by Cato in his denunciations of Catiline, yet there was not a trace of malice in all that he said. But the Japanese seem to be past masters in that style of oratory. Where can a more terrific accusation against our modern civilization be found than in the following extract from an address delivered in Boston by Mr. Hyashi, a distinguished citizen of Japan.

Today we Japanese have battleships, torpedoes, cannon. The China seas redden with the blood of our killed and of those we kill. Our torpedoes roar, our shrapnel shriek, our cannon breathe slaughter and we die and are the cause of death. And you Occidentals say to us: "You have won your rank, you have civilized yourselves." Centuries upon centuries we have had artists, painters, sculptors, philosophers. In the sixteenth century we had published in Japanese the fables of Esop—were we then barbarians?

**His Name is Dennis**

Public Opinion is publishing a long-drawn-out attack on Lawson written by Dennis Donohoe, the financial editor of the New York Commercial. The style would hardly pass muster in a quarrel over the county printing by two county papers in the back districts. The following is a specimen taken from the beginning of the second number: "In what respect is Mr. Lawson's

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past life pertinent to the subject-matter of your narrative?" As it is purposed in this chapter, and in the succeeding ones, to depict in vigorous English several incidents in Mr. Lawson's versatile career, which even those who are not censorious might well deem shameful, it behooves the writer to deal with this question fully and frankly, here and now. Haunted, he tells us, night and day by "that grim procession of criminals and suicides" of his own making, he bows his perumed curls over the stool of repentance and moans, "Mea Culpa! Mea Culpa—but don't forget for one moment that others make me do it!"

**No Opposition Party**

There is no longer any democratic party in opposition to the republican party. What remains of that organization is simply part of the republican party. The special subsidy of \$142,700 to the Southern railway for carrying the mails from Washington to Atlanta and New Orleans asked for by the post-office appropriation bill was before the house. That is part of the republican party's scheme or subsidies. It is simply a gift by congress with out any return whatever. It has been bestowed upon that railroad company for many years for the declared purpose of "expediting the mails," but in all that time the mails have not been expedited, and are handled on the same schedules that were in force before the subsidy was granted. It has been one of the indefensible scandals of the subsidy business for years. What happened when this matter was before the house? Did the democratic party attack it? Not at all. The most active advocates of this most indefensible subsidy were democrats. It passed the house with only seventy-seven votes in the negative and many of them were republican votes.

Years ago the democratic party did fight subsidies, but now its leading members in congress are the most active advocates of them. There is no possible opportunity for the democrats to put up an opposition to the republican party in the next campaign. The record that the party has made in congress is such as to make any such attempt supremely ridiculous. There is a greater proportion of republicans in congress who really favor railroad regulation, a modification of the tariff, a financial policy that will make every

dollar as good as every other dollar, postal savings banks, a parcels post, and who are opposed to subsidies than there are democrats. With such a state of affairs as that, nothing could be more ridiculous than for the democrats to put a ticket in the field in pretended opposition to the republican party. Such an effort would become the laughing stock of the world.

When the St. Louis democratic national convention submitted to the domination of the Wall street gang that sent the gold telegram, it then and there passed out of existence as a party in opposition to the republican party.

The next thing in the political history of the United States will be the thorough organization of a truly national party that will antagonize in earnest the policy of the dominant party, fight subsidies and every other thing that tends to accumulate the wealth of this land in the hands of a few, and oppose the domination of the "ten men of Wall street."

**New Alignment**

Everywhere the dailies and magazines are talking about the new alignment of parties. It forces itself to the front. The moment that the democratic party went over to Wall street and put the control of its machinery in the hands of such men as Tom Taggart, Belmont and men of that character, a "new alignment" became certain. That made it a political force, if any force it had, exactly in line with republicanism as supported of the agrandizement of the trusts, corporations and money power. There was no longer two parties in the United States and another was sure to rise and take the field. The Springfield Republican says:

And that is how the radical republican element comes to be at the moment in the ascendancy of the party and the control of the government. How long it will be able to hold its position is a question full of national interest and replete with possibilities in relation to party realignments in the United States.

Everyone knows that there has long been in the republican party a large radical element. Enough of them bolted the party in 1896 to have captured the government, if democrats had not gone over to the republicans