

THE SPRING ELECTIONS

They Show a Tremendous Advance in Populist Principles

There never was such a city election as has just been held in Chicago. It brought out almost as many votes as a presidential contest and the campaign was more vigorous than presidential campaigns usually are. Populism has made such advancement in Chicago that both candidates claimed to be advocates of municipal ownership of city utilities. The democratic candidate, Judge Dunne, was for immediate ownership, and the republican candidate was for granting franchises for a few years—ten or fifteen—until the city could be in a better position to take charge of the street car business. Judge Dunne and immediate ownership won out with a majority of over 25,000.

In the city of Lincoln, Neb., the republican machine went all to pieces, and here, where the republicans usually have a thousand or two majority, the democratic candidate for mayor was elected by over 500 majority. The labor union vote went almost solid for Brown and that was what did the business. Heretofore the labor unionists of Lincoln have almost unanimously voted the republican ticket and then spent the rest of the year cursing the men they elected and fighting injunctions. This year they voted together. The issue on the face of affairs was whether the saloon keepers should pay \$1,000 for a license or \$1,500. As far as that was concerned the \$1,500 license won out. A majority of the excise board is pledged for the higher amount. The really surprising thing was that the labor unionists broke away and refused to vote 'er straight.

Let Labor Have What It Produces

Editor Independent: Congratulations on your editorial, "Let Labor Have What It Produces." You are doing a noble work. Eminent domain is a tacit admission that in the last analysis, society has a prior claim upon what the individual thinks he owns absolutely. There is no absolute ownership—except in society itself. Practically it is hard to determine just how much of a given product is due to the individual and how much to society, past and present. But the easiest way to solve the problem is to allow each to own what he seems to have produced by his own effort, subject to a reasonable tax to maintain government in a state of efficiency.

Your position is sound and it completely answers both socialists and single taxers, who unite on the fallacy that the individual has an indefeasible right to what he produces by applying his energy to the land. It is not that abstractly he has such a right—but he can not show just what it was he produced solely by his own effort. Therefore, to tax him is not robbery per se.

Populism is now coming to the front as a rational system. It will solve these problems by compelling government to perform its duty of transacting public business, while each private person is permitted to attend to his own affairs with the least possible interference by government. It is not difficult to draw the line today between public and private business. In a hundred years the line might be drawn a little differently, because of changes wrought by new inventions. But I do not believe either extreme individualism or extreme collectivism will ever prevail. Both socialists and single taxers—pulling in opposite directions—are doing a good work, however, by calling attention to populism, the golden mean, the attainable, the possible and probable.

CHARLES Q. DE FRANCE.
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POPULISM IN ENGLAND

Conditions There Are Desperate and Populism Is Only Relief

The countess of Warwick and many more of the nobility and wealthy classes in England have united themselves with the political movement known as social democracy, which is practically the same thing as populism in this country. The cities in Great Britain which have adopted populist principles and where the municipality owns the street cars, water systems, lighting systems, telegraphs and telephones, have much less suffering than in those cities where these things are privately owned. The purchasing power of money is so great in England that it makes a vast difference to a workman whether he pays a penny or a half penny twice a day for car fare, whether a bath costs two pence or six pence, whether his light costs two shillings or four shillings a month. In the cities that have taken over the public utilities the cost of all these things have been reduced almost one-

half, which is equivalent to a great rise in wages. One-half of the family may be out of work and the other half, on account of the public ownership and cheap rates of the public necessities, can keep the wolf from the door. It is along that line that the reformers in England are working. The distress is very great. But England will have to take hold of the money and land system, that is, adopt the full populist program, if any general and permanent relief is obtained.

The Springfield Republican, in speaking of this movement in England says:

"The countess of Warwick has joined the social democratic federation, moved thereto by her distress at the enormous number of people out of work and actually starving. In London the conservative estimate is 100,000, and many reckon it as 150,000; and extreme penury is to be found in every city of England. The countess is now engaged in addressing workingmen's meetings in the poorest quarters of London, and at some of these the more desperate have counseled extreme measures, and advised that mobs should take what is needed to live, since nothing is done to relieve the present want.

"The countess appeals to the government and the wealthy classes, assuring them that they will be forced to meet the demands of the desperate if they do not help willingly. Many leading citizens are awake to the needs of the hour and are subscribing liberally, and a committee has been formed to carry out a systematic scheme for providing work, and it is work that the self-respecting poor clamor for; they do not ask for alms. London papers the past winter have been full of cases where men and women were brought before the court for being known to have children or other dependents in a starving condition, only to be dismissed because the so-called delinquents are able to prove that they have been out of work for weeks, or, in some cases, many months, and the whole family is starving. Temporary relief is almost no relief; soup kitchens do not restore the self-respect that would rather starve than beg, or afford the comforts of home or sufficient clothing.

"It is of interest to observe, in this connection, the effect of the Brussels sugar bounty convention, to which England was a signatory, upon the condition of the poor. That the rise in the price of sugar in the London market, due to the abolition of the bounty system in Europe, has increased the distress can not be doubtful. The London Daily News lately gave two columns to the distress caused in that one particular. It appears that many men no longer able to do hard work, or widows left with a few pounds, have resorted to the keeping of a "sweets-shop." A front room in the home, or a small shop, does not cost much, and a little money is sufficient to start in with a stock of confectionery; the trade is easily learned and this has earned a frugal living for many until now, when the high price of sugar lately imposed has actually killed this little business and plunged many families into acute distress—notwithstanding the asservations of Mr. Chamberlain that colonial preference taxes on the necessities of life would fall lightly, even on the poor."

GOT PETULANT

Then His Wrath Cooled Down and He Will Continue to Get Wisdom

Editor Independent: But more particularly, our other friend, Chas. Q. DeFrance, giving you credit for having better sense than to "stop my paper," you may credit me with a dollar on subscription. It is not that I "take myself too seriously," but in ordering the discontinuance of the paper a while ago, was perhaps overly petulant at the drivel against Mr. Bryan and, as too many others do, jump onto the editor. At second thought it is easy to see that the "blue pencil," is difficult to wield at all times, especially in this medley of economic thought. But I want to say once for all that Bryan is a safe man to tie to and to those who express distrust of him, that they do not know the man at all. Not being a worshipper of men am in good position to scan their views without favor or other prejudice and am free to say that Mr. Bryan gave and perhaps yet gives too much stress to the "silver fad," and like some others of my acquaintance, favors the "income tax," singular as that may seem. In this connection, I am constrained to note the reply of Bro. Freeman to your (seemingly) private letter to him on the working of the single tax, also your tilt with Mr. Young concerning "conditions in New Zealand. Young said just what was in my mind to say, only that I would have quoted Taylor

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as evidence that all the economic betterments in New Zealand are due to the very meagre application of the land value tax, i. e., the doctrines of Henry George, while a much larger application is assured. In your reply to Mr. Young you say, "There is no doubt that the single tax would establish justice," and then break away with remarks reflecting upon its sufficiency or practicability, such as we are not sure that Mr. George was right and that "it is yet to be tried," etc. Do you think we need to try "justice" to see if it will work?

Going back to Bro. Freeman's reply to you in last issue, it is easy to see that you have not given, hitherto, serious examination of the single tax philosophy for I am assured that had you done so, your economic acumen would have soon overcome the "shifting of the tax to the consumer" and that a higher rent would reflect back in higher charges, giving no relief. How much more do you pay for eggs at the high rent department store at the center of the mart than you do or the little grocer on a by-street who pays a low rent? But I am not going to trespass after Bro. Freeman's laurels, and if you keep on propounding your objections to single tax to either he or Wakefield or their like, you will, laying prejudice aside, soon see that single tax is no fad. Both you and Tibbles better get in out of the wet for there will be a single tax shower before 1908. E. C. CLARK.

The Retired List

The senate has several times shown signs of wishing to rebuke the president for unnecessarily loading up the retired list of the army by retiring officers with advanced rank, bestowed for the purpose of getting them out of active service. Now, however, congress has finally given him a free hand by agreeing to the bill to place Senator Hawley of Connecticut on the retired list with the rank of brigadier-general. A more inexcusable bestowal of a rich government favor has not been seen since Representative Boutelle of Maine was made a retired captain in the navy when stricken with incurable disease. The retired lists were obviously not intended to be the refuge of aged or decrepit politicians. Mr. Roosevelt can, hereafter, point to the Hawley case whenever any one criticises his padding of the retired roll of either service. To make matters worse, the house, in agreeing to retire Senator Hawley, added an amendment similarly retiring General Peter J. Osterhaus, one of the most gallant of our German-American civil war generals. Neither of these men has been connected with the army since 1866, General Osterhaus having lived in Mannheim, Germany, for the last thirty years. For Senator Hawley senatorial courtesy will have a new meaning hereafter.—New York Evening Post.

Papers from South Africa tell of the horrible experience which a diver named Palmer had with a monster octopus. Palmer was down under thirty-five feet of water. The water was clear enough for him to distinguish objects about him quite well. Suddenly an octopus which was concealed behind a block of dislodged concrete, darted out a huge tentacle and in an instant had pinioned a leg. Another tentacle shot out, fastening an arm. The creature drew itself slowly from its hiding place, flicking its feelers round the diver and fastening them on various parts of his body. Having no knife Palmer could make no fight with the monster, which had drawn itself clear of the block and was clinging bodily to

him. Fortunately he retained sufficient presence of mind to pull the signal cord and the men at the surface began to haul him up. As he emerged from the water he was completely wreathed in the sucking tentacles of the fish and was in a state of collapse. As he was dragged up the ladder the octopus still clung to him and had to be chopped off with knives and hatchets.

When spread out on the pier the fish measured eleven and one-half feet from tip to tip of his tentacles.—Kansas City Journal.

The Inaugural Durbar

Now that the hurrah is all over and people are reflecting calmly on the subject, not a few are likely to come to the conclusion that there were some features of the grand inauguration durbar at Washington last Saturday that might well have been cut out, as undignified, improper and entirely unfitting to the occasion. The performance of the cowboy contingent, for instance, might have gone all right in a circus parade or a Wild West show, but not in connection with an affair of the character of this parade, and the event which it was designed to be an imposing feature.

The lassoing of policemen may be funny, but that doesn't justify such horseplay nor contribute to the efficiency of the work of these officers in connection with a big public affair of this kind, for the maintenance of order and for safeguarding both participants and spectators against the accidents and confusion that are always to be apprehended on all such occasions. In some cities fool business of that nature wouldn't be tolerated for a minute, even to provide amusement for the head of the nation. We venture to say that were these cow punchers to undertake to loop policemen under similar circumstances in New York, for instance, they would discover very quickly that these men were not on duty to be made monkeys of, but were engaged in serious and responsible business, while interference with them in the performance of it, even by a lot of rustlers who regarded themselves as privileged characters, could not be attempted with impunity and without risk to the offender of being taught a wholesome lesson at short order, on the subject of proper behavior.—Fall River Globe.

Kansas Fighters

For many years Standard Oil has had Pennsylvania's oil industry in its grasp. California, Texas, Colorado, Indiana and other states have been suffering from its oppression, but not until it got into a fight with Kansas did the oil trust meet with any great difficulty. It is the wealthiest and most powerful of all trusts, and it threatened dire calamities to Kansas for daring to oppose it, but threats only stimulated the Sunflower state to fight the harder.

The dispatches seem to indicate that the Standard is now badly frightened. It has never had a proposition of this kind to deal with before. Following the action of his state, a Kansas congressman has instituted an inquiry by the federal government which promises to add much to the trust's troubles.

Other states may now carry on the fight about as vigorously as Kansas, but the point of it is that Kansas had to start it. As soon as Kansas did so any number of states joined in the idea. There are at least half a dozen legislatures now considering propositions to establish state refineries. It takes Kansas to start things.—Topeka State Journal.