

CARNEGIE AND ROCKEFELLER

Two Living in Glass Houses Should Not Throw Stones

Editor Independent: Mr. Bryan said in the Commoner:

"The Nebraska legislature can sympathize with Kansas, but not to the extent of criticizing Mr. Rockefeller. Nebraska University has a Rockefeller temple in sight."

I agree with Mr. Bryan that it was a disgrace for the citizens of Nebraska when Chancellor Andrews went begging Mr. Rockefeller for money to build a university chapel; that the university students may have a chance to worship the golden calf.

That act legalized Mr. Rockefeller's robberies and sanctified his plunder, converting the same to absolute sacred property of Mr. Rockefeller; but Mr. Bryan, too, disgraced the citizens of Lincoln by begging Mr. Carnegie for money for a library. The only difference between Rockefeller and Carnegie is that may be one of them had a chance for robbing a few millions more than the other. These gentlemen have to build temples to their god and keep the people in ignorance and superstition, therefore they hold with the Philosopher Chilo in "Quo Vadis," that it is better to be on god terms with the philosophers for fear they may prove to the people that no such god exists, for then all would cease to present that god with offerings.

As soon as people are enlightened about the colossal humbug of divine rights of oil, coal, steel, railroad, shares, they will cease to bring offerings to the temple to sustain that idol and those fraudulent divine rights. Every trust and great corporation would long ago have been smashed to pieces if it were not for the colossal ignorance and superstition of the people and if presidents, governors, congresses, legislatures and courts had done their duty. To do that not a single new law would be needed, it would only be necessary to enforce the very ancient usury laws. Moses and Christ declared, taking interest for money loaned as usury, but afterward to protect the common people against extortions by usurers, every state had fixed a legal maximum rate for interests, for really invested money, running from 5 to 10 per cent, but our money princes did never care for such laws; they not only take even 100 per cent interest for their really invested money, but they urge the people without the least objection from the government to pay interest for only fictitious capital, so-called water stock. They need only to pay the tithe from their plunder to the philosophers, building a church or instituting a library, when those philosophers will bestow their benedictions on the plunder, what converts the same to absolute sacred property of those money princes, after that are those philosophers arranging banquets where the rarest delicacies and most delicious wines and Havana cigars are served, then they commence to sing a song of praise of those philanthropists and talk, talk, talk until you become so stupefied that you feel as if a fly wheel of an engine was turning around in your cranium. After that they will commission one of the sons of an ex-president or member of the cabinet to make an investigation, because those fellows are so highly educated and wise that they know everything. Based on the reports of those wise gentlemen our congress will declare everything all right and our supreme court, by a 5 to 4 decision, declares everything constitutional and that settles the matter.

The best critic of our government has Sidney Brooks expressed in a single sentence in the London Monthly Review. He said: "The American administration is a conspiracy for doing nothing."

From respectable parliament have our congresses and legislatures degenerated to nonsensical babblements. It is all squeal, but very, very little wool.

But those babblements furnish to our robber knights the necessary traps, franchises, bonds and special laws to catch their game. Instead of enforcing the ancient usury laws, to squeeze the water out of every corporation, they are squeezing the last hard earned cent out of the common people by taxing every necessary article for living. Bread, wine, beer, coal, coal oil, lumber, which money is again put at the absolute disposal of those robber knights, who use them for new schemes to satisfy their insatiable greed; for instance, a Panama canal, ship subsidies, irrigation, asphalt shares in Venezuela, building railroads in the Philippines, Porto Rica and China.

Several years ago Secretary of the Treasury Gage even issued an order that for thirty days all the revenues of the United States must from day to

day be sent to New York and from there to London, to save the bank of England, that strongest bastion of the international money bag, from tumbling over. But our secretary of the treasury never had money to buy bread and coal, to save our suffering poor people from starving and freezing to death. Ewitzerland has no coal and produces not half of its necessary provisions, but you never hear that people in Switzerland have to starve and freeze to death from want of food or fuel.

If they can do that in Switzerland with their inadequate natural resources, it must be an easy matter to do the same thing in this land of plenty. We are rich enough to provide every family with a comfortable home and plenty of good food and clothes and to give every child a good education, not to make great philosophers, clergymen or angels out of them, but to prepare them to become honest, healthy, intelligent, in dustrious men and women, fathers and mothers.

Statistics show that if all the incomes of the United States were equally divided that every family had to spend every year \$500 for their sustenance and comfort. Now it takes not an expert arithmetician to figure out that if you pay \$25,000 pension to Grover Cleveland (I wonder for what) that fifty families or 250 persons; \$50,000 salary to a president, that 100 families or 500 persons; \$1,000,000 salary to Manager Schwab of the Steel trust, that 2,000 families or 10,000 persons; and if Rockefeller takes \$30,000,000 profits, that 60,000 families, or 300,000 persons must be deprived of everything and urged to either beg, steal or starve to death.

I saw in the newspapers that it was proposed to raise the salary of the president to \$100,000 and the salaries of representatives and judges of the supreme court in proportion to that, but at the same time had Hill of New York declared that it becomes necessary to cut the wages of our laborers, that our manufacturers are able to compete with the manufacturers of other countries, but Mr. Hill is mistaken in that. Wages and incomes of the common people are already cut low enough and even too low. It is on the top that the cutting down process must begin. Squeeze the water out of our corporations, enforce the old usury laws, to stop all kinds of usury and cut out the exorbitant profits and salaries of our money princes, high officers and their favorites and you can provide all the people with their necessary things so that they can live comfortably.

After while will the people of the United States too become so wise not to believe everything that every university professor, clergyman, politician and old woman says, then they will commence to think and act for themselves and look for themselves as to what becomes of their money. First of all we must provide bread and butter for our own people, before we are squandering our money for a Panama canal and building railroads in China, Philippine islands.

Honest Abe Lincoln said: "Some people can be fooled some times, many people can be fooled many times, but not all the people can be fooled all the time." F. SCHWEIZER.

Woodlawn.

Government Ownership

One of the good results from government ownership would be the saving of the \$65,000,000 now paid to railroad corporations for carrying the mails. This vast sum would more than pay the interest on the necessary bonds that it would take to buy these railroads, if they could be bought for the actual cost of construction and equipment, and then, being relieved from the terrible pressure of corporate influence, we would get even better postal service than we now have. Our present postal system is terribly handicapped by these corporations. They refuse to allow the government to handle many things that they well could handle, because it interferes with the profits of these railway magnates. As god as our postal system now is, it could be made far more effective if the express companies were not continually fighting the necessary legislation required to make the service more beneficial. Another good feature of government ownership would be the death of the strong lobbies that now hover around our legislative bodies like vultures. These lobbies defeat all good legislation and force upon the people all our bad legislation. They are the greatest danger that now threaten representative government. Another good feature of government ownership would be the elimination from politics of these vast corporations that dominate conventions by stocking them with their friends, by the use of the free pass system. No political leader under private ownership can hope to dominate his party

without he can fill the convention with his friends, and thus he is compelled to favor these railroad corporations in order to get free passes for his friends to the convention. Government ownership of railroads would remove from the field of politics the vast corruption funds required to secure favorable legislation for the railroads, and to prevent what they consider unfriendly legislation. Nearly, if not quite, all of our United States senators are railroad attorneys, or in some way connected with some legal firm that receives a big salary from some railroad corporation. These attorneys are always armed with that fearful weapon, the free pass, and these favors are distributed where they will do the most good. These free passes constitute one of the most deadly weapons against human liberty now in use. By the free pass, legislation is controlled, and all of our judges are influenced more or less by their use, and even coroners can bleed these railroad corporations for an almost unlimited amount of transportation. The most insignificant political worker is armed with this deadly weapon to self-government. The more disreputable a politician, the more sure you are to secure transportation with his signature. Government ownership would give us better transportation, better laws, better judges, better officials everywhere, and better politics all the time. This being true, it is strange that we, an enlightened people, do not demand public ownership at once. President Roosevelt should be petitioned by voice and by letter to push this fight against railway discrimination, because this fight once begun will necessarily end in government ownership of all means of transportation.—The Forum.

Election Frauds

Those who are searching for an argument against the political rights of women are continually pointing to the frauds in Denver as an example of the workings of woman suffrage.

It is difficult for one to retain their dignity when reading some of the effusions upon the Denver frauds in their relation to woman suffrage, especially when we know that women took little or no part in them.

If the testimony of those who have made a study of these questions for years can be taken, the election frauds in Denver are as nothing compared with those in some of our cities where men only vote.

Mr. Rudolph Blankenberg of Philadelphia, chairman of the committee on election frauds, says that in Philadelphia there are more than 100,000 fraudulent names on the voting register, that when the polls opened at 7 a. m., one ballot box had already been stuffed so full of fraudulent votes that it was impossible to get any of the legal ballots in; that 142 voters were registered as living in one small house not able to lodge a dozen; that out of 38 registered letters which he sent to voters alleged to be living at another house, 29 were returned through the mail with the report that the persons were unknown there.

Vice outside the election frauds has become so flagrant that the Law and Order society has been tackling the situation, and its executive officer, D. Clarence Gibbons, is said to have broken up 400 gambling dens and about 1,000 houses of ill repute. They have been making these raids without the co-operation of the city police, because it was found whenever they told the police what gambling dens they

were going to investigate, the gamblers always received warning in advance. And now a bill has been introduced in the legislature forbidding the Law and Order society to make any raids without previously notifying the police.

What adds still more to the terribleness of the situation in Philadelphia is the fact that a majority of the voters submit to all this with the patience of lambs while in Denver they are making vigorous efforts to get rid of it.

Christ's rebuke to the Scribes and Pharisees seems most fitting in its application to these people who are so afraid of the votes of corrupt women when He says: "Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel."

ELNORA MONROE BABCOCK.

Will Pull With Any Man

Editor Independent: Enclosed please find \$1 for subscription to November. I had about become disgusted with the way reformers were fighting one another, but your article in February 25, "A Moribund Party," gives me some hope that the reform elements will have sense enough to come together and do something, but unfortunately the ego is so strong in some men that they would sooner not have reforms than that some other man should carry them out. I have been fighting for reforms for thirty years, and have seen my hopes shattered, just because we could not agree as to the mode those reforms should be carried out. I do not care for party names myself. I will pull with any man, who is fighting for the same reforms that I am, I do not care who it is, whether it be Bryan, Hearst or Watson. They are all fighting for the same cause, their mode may be different, that is all. I think that Bryan made a mistake in working for Parker, and I did not follow him, but I do not see any use in jumping on him for that. It was a matter of the head, not the heart. Let us get all the reform elements together and form a new party. Call it something like the nationalist, and I will guarantee that we can put the next president in the white house. T. S. KNIGHT

Life of Col. Jesse Harper

I desire to say that I hope to secure agents to sell this splendid book in every county. To all persons who will take agency send \$1.25 for one book to use as a sample. Sell them for \$1.25 each. Send me \$4.50 five books, \$5 for six books, \$10 for thirteen books. This will give a good commission to agents. Much of the book is new to all. It has choice information on social, moral and economic questions and comprises 371 pages. Write to the author, A. C. BARTON.

Danville, Ill.

SHERIFF SALE

Notice is hereby given, that by virtue of an order of sale issued by the Clerk of the District Court of the Third Judicial District of Nebraska, within and for Lancaster County, in an action wherein Henry A. Somers is Plaintiff, and Bethany Manufacturing Company et al Defendants, I will, at 2 o'clock, p. m., on the 16th day of May A. D. 1905, at the East door of the Court House, in the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, offer for sale at public auction the following described Lands and Tenements, to-wit: The southeast quarter of Block twelve (12) in Bethany Heights, in Lancaster county, Nebraska. Given under my hand this 12th day of April A. D. 1905.

NICHOLAS RESS, Sheriff.



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