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OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIOLOGICAL  
QUESTIONS.

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#### UNITED STATES PENSIONS.

There are a lot of chronic growlers snapping and snarling at Commissioner Henry Clay Evans of the pension bureau. These gentlemen seem to regret that there is no more laxity of the laws under which they can crowd to still further repletion the lists of pensioners.

Last year the total appropriation for pensions by the United States was \$140,000,000. Out of this sum was paid for pensions alone \$138,355,052.95.

The medical examiners last year cost the government \$950,000.

The salaries for clerks and other bureau officers at the agencies for the several states amounted to \$487,000.

The demand for the year to liquidate the pension roll on June 30, 1899, was \$131,617,961.00. This is an increase over the year ending June 30, 1898, of \$650,000.00. The difference in the value of the pension roll at the end of the year and the amount paid out is accounted for by the first payments in the pensions, which last year, as anyone can see, was the difference between \$138,000,000 and \$131,000,000.

#### Life Insurance.

The pension commissioner knows, and many of the public understand, that there are a good many men drawing pensions, some of them for total disability, who are, nevertheless, found to be thoroughly sound when they are examined for the purpose of securing life-insurance policies in reputable companies. In such cases, who is swindled—

the government which pays the pension, or the insurance companies which issue the policies? Or both?

During the last year the pension agents of this country made a determined and malicious fight upon Henry Clay Evans, the present commissioner. This fight was made because Commissioner Evans had demonstrated that he proposed to abide by the law and to show no favoritism in any case whatsoever.

#### Harvest Time.

In the years 1891, 1892 and 1893, pension attorneys throughout the United States managed to place more than 500,000 new names on the pension rolls of this country. These were the great harvest years of pension attorneys and brokers and they seem to think that the crop should be kept up in perpetuity. But it cannot be under the present laws as administered by Mr. Evans.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1898, pension attorneys collected through the pension agencies of the United States, as their fees in the allowance of claims, \$730,000.00. But the fees for the year ending June 30, 1899, of these patriotic promoters of public indebtedness amounted to only \$472,000. This shrinkage of the fee crop is the cause of the abuse of Commissioner Evans. He is regarded as an enemy because he stands guard against unlawful and dishonest pensions.

**OUR ENEMIES.** THE CONSERVATIVE is gratified and complimented by the character and number of enemies it has evolved.

Every advocate of the money fallacies of Bryanarchy antagonizes and denounces THE CONSERVATIVE.

Every illusionist, delusionist, confusionist and fusionist is an avowed adversary and vehement opponent of THE CONSERVATIVE.

All who admire the honesty and applaud the voucher-making methods of House Rent Holcomb are enemies of THE CONSERVATIVE.

All the silver syndicate newspapers which advocate the vagaries in finance that would measure high-priced goods with low-priced money are enemies to THE CONSERVATIVE.

For all this THE CONSERVATIVE is grateful. The character of its enemies is its choicest and best endorsement.

#### FREE TRADE.

THE CONSERVATIVE was amused at the non-mention of the tariff for protection by the meeting of the directors of the office-seekers' combination at Omaha on August 22d, 1899. The memory of the logical and eloquent pleas for commercial freedom, made by Colonel Bryan in 1890, are now like dreams of a lost symphony. No more the silver tongue talks for cheaper and better manufactured goods! No more pleads Bryan for a reduction and reform of the tariff to make things cheaper for consumers.

But he assaults the so-called "trusts." The old man, the father, goes unpunished. The children are charged upon by Colonel Bryan with a ferocity, only equaled by his courage in Cuba.

Of the omission of denunciation of the protective tariff by Bryanarchists in Nebraska the New York Evening Post says :

"They did not mince words in denouncing trusts, which 'testify to the administration's indifference to monopoly or to its inability to cope with it.' They denounced also the failure of the administration to enforce the present law against trusts, or to recommend new laws if the present law is deemed insufficient. They demanded the enforcement of the present law, the enactment of such new legislation as may be necessary, 'and a constitutional amendment, if the present constitution is construed to protect trusts, to the end that the monopolization of industry by private corporations may be absolutely prevented.' But the democratic platform in Nebraska is as silent on one obvious practical measure which can be taken against trusts as the Pennsylvania republican platform was on the whole subject. The high tariff fosters trusts, and the Nebraska platform says not a single word on the subject of the tariff. The explanation is that there was a convention of 'silver republicans' in session on the same day which was going to 'fuse' with the democrats and the populists, and that many of the republicans had been, and presumably still are, believers in a high tariff."

The trust is the union of the members of previously organized business corporations into a larger and more complex organization, thereby simplifying the management while complexing the machinery.