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Coxey's armies are moving on to Washington led by adventurers and deluded by the populist idea that government is only another word for asylum for persons in indigent circumstances.

Coxey's army is an organized wail of distress, a fatuous scheme to induce the government to scatter greenbacks over the country, a wild and impracticable exploit of a few crack-brained or knavish leaders, aided by the foolishness of a class of men who are always willing to embark in any undertaking, no matter how visionary or unreasonable; the legitimate outcome of the dissemination of the fallacies of the populists.

There is much variability in the army, or armies. It is beset by many difficulties, and every day there is a rise or fall in the importance of the movement. Within the last two weeks when the various divisions seemed to be making great headway in their course toward the capitol, there have been times when it seemed impossible to estimate the importance of this most peculiar demonstration, when it seemed that the great question of the hour in this country was, What shall be done with Coxey's army when it finally reaches Washington? Sometimes it has looked as though four or five thousand or even a greater number of these marching fanatics would succeed in reaching their destination, and it requires no argument to demonstrate that an army of paupers of anything like this magnitude in the comparatively small city of Washington would mean that the national authorities would have a momentous and extremely difficult issue to deal with. At other times when rain and obdurate railway officials and unsympathetic communities depressed the enthusiasm of the "soldiers" and stopped the progress of the army, the importance of the movement has appeared to dwindle and it has seemed to be a matter of small consequence whether the men reached Washington, or what should be done with them when they get there.

But this phenomenon is in reality a most formidable expression of the disquietude that obtains in all sections of the country, and a serious consideration of the movement will convince anyone that if the army ever sets foot in Washington, and it seems altogether probable that it will, the authorities will find themselves face to face with a problem most difficult to solve. Unfortunately Coxey's army

is a condition and not a theory, and it has got to be met in a practical manner.

Suppose the government were to set the men to work with pay. Such a course would immediately draw to Washington thousands of new recruits. The soldiers are most unquestionably paupers, but it isn't an easy matter to arrest several thousand men, and once arrested they would have to be fed. They can't very well be driven out of town at the point of the bayonet, particularly if they maintain a peaceable demeanor. When they get to Washington, no matter how or where it comes from, they must have food. Will the government contribute it, or will it be donated by private citizens, or will the soldiers be compelled to steal it? If Coxey gets to Washington is almost as big a question as Christ's coming to Chicago.

It is possible that the best plan would be for the authorities to prepare to meet every emergency, and then do nothing; receive the army and give it a respectful hearing and then, with the statement that no immediate official relief could be granted, advise it to disperse. It is probable that the army would not long remain if left dependent on such assistance as private individuals chose to render. The soldiers, finding no grand government free lunch, would drift away to places where they would have a clearer field. A few arrests would undoubtedly have to be made; but if the prisoners were treated as prisoners and not as guests, arrest would not be invited.

The railroad companies are, to a considerable extent, responsible for the growth of the Coxey movement. Had the divisions been left to trudge along on foot, like the main brigade, enthusiasm would quickly have subsided. Free transportation invited recruits. The pretense of the railroad companies that their trains were seized, or that they were forced to carry the Coxeyites is palpably transparent. The power of the military of the different states was at their disposal, and they could have prevented the seizure of the trains if they had so desired. If the railroads are so helpless as recent developments would indicate, all that is necessary, when free transportation is wanted, is to organize a company of a hundred or so and capture a train. Excursion parties could beat their way from one end of the country to the other.

That remarkable publication, the *Nebraska City Press*, using as a text one of the *Call's* recent hysterical expressions anent a most disgustingly scandalous divorce case in this city, intimates that this case is only one of a "series of disgraceful escapades that have quite upset Lincoln society in recent years." The *Press* may be accurate enough in chronicling the stirring events of the wild life that obtains in Nebraska City; but it has on several occasions displayed a conception of affairs in this city that is almost as unique as the editor's peculiar use of the English language, which is a source of amusement wherever that paper is read. It would certainly require a great deal of stretching of the lines that mark off the limits of "Lincoln society," to make them take in the persons who have figured so conspicuously in the recent "disgraceful escapade."

Newspaper reporters have fallen into the habit of making nearly