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THIS IS NO. 218 50 CENTS A YEAR Appeal to Reason. GIRARD, KANS., U.S.A., FEBRUARY 3, 1900

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

FOR PUBLIC OWNER SHIP OF MONOPOLIES

SINGLE COPY, ONE YEAR... IN CLUBS OF... Entered at Girard, Kas., P. O. as second-class matter

TWO THOUSAND COPIES FREE FOR LARGEST; ONE THOUSAND SECOND WHICH WILL YOU TAKE?

NOW WATCH HER

GET THERE, BOYS!

I never heard of a weekly issuing and selling 500,000 copies of one single issue. You broke the record on No. 207 with 300,000. People haven't stopped talking about it yet. Out this way the mail clerks had to give No. 207 the right of way and a clear track. She was a whale. Train after train carried sacks full, piled to the car top. Now 500,000 would simply PARALYZE the enemy. Every copy is well worth a quarter, and a year hence you wouldn't sell yours for a dollar unless there were more on hand. It's just such a copy you can put into the hands of the most prejudiced, blind party man. He just can't dodge it. EVERY intelligent man is studying Municipal Ownership. Thousands upon thousands are thirsting for FACTS. Give it to them boys! Once they sink, the glory of the dawn approaching will catch them. Shall we print 500,000? If so orders must come NOW so we can handle them and avoid delay. On news 40c per 100; \$4 per 1000. On book paper 60c per 100; \$6 per 1000. Like a postage stamp, the same price for any quantity—and that price the lowest.

Just THE THING for the March and April elections. Now can't you put a copy in the hands of every voter? Club together and roll her up.

Boys, there are thousands of news stands all over this country who never see a copy of the APPEAL TO REASON. Now are you going to stand this? It is in your hands to change it. Ain't the APPEAL a blamed sight better paper than lots and cords of printed stuff the newsdealer puts out each week? Thousands of these are not in the grasp of American News Co., the monopoly which Munsey's Magazine tackled and licked. And Munsey never had any such workers as the APPEAL has. Now here is a plan by which in thirty days you can get the APPEAL in every stand in the country. Go to every dealer in your city and spread the word for others to do the same. Call for it. Ask him why he don't keep it. Tell him to put it in his order list that day, and see that he gets it. Show him a copy and tell him he can get it direct if the news company don't supply him. Tell him ten copies ten week will cost as a trial, one cent each, with "privilege of return," but cash must come in advance. That every copy is good for every cent he pays. That he can get 100 for \$1 when he wants that number. That he can sell every copy for two cents. News stands copies printed in book paper. Once read a patron will always come back next week.

SUPPOSE a community were to borrow a sum of money and pay it out to the community for digging holes and filling them up again or shooting off fireworks or some other useless labor, and then taxing the people over a series of years to pay the loan with interest. Would anyone but a foolish person conclude that community was prosperous because money was freely in circulation? All bad or useless work done is of this character. This nation has been doing that kind of work for years and pay day comes now and then to this or that person and we see what we call a culture. England is doing that kind of work extensively now. All the time of the men employed in the armies and navies of the world is taken from good work and put to bad work, and those who remain at home are taxed to pay not only their wages but to provide the cost of all the powder they shoot off. That the money is collected in an indirect way (they dare not collect it directly so the people can see it) does not alter the status of the case. A principle that holds good with a community holds good with a nation or the whole world of people. An Esau may imagine himself rich while he squanders his heritage, but that does not change the real conditions. More destructive even than wars is the loss to the world of all men engaged in the war of commerce. There is more waste of time and material in competitive industry than in all other evils that afflict the earth. Gradually the people are waking up to this fact. The rich are trying to stop this waste and put the savings into their dividend account—hence trusts. But that does not help those who are out of the combines, and they, being in the majority, will some day take a hand in the melee and change the whole system—replacing competition with national co-operation. That is, putting all the people productively at work instead of having most of them destroying wealth.

THE U. S. Senate has 26 members who are worth more than a million. That is because the millionaires all vote for their kind. The working people have—well the census has not yet been taken of the laboring men in the senate, but there must be as many as the laboring people are in the majority!

THE small papers throughout the country, at the behest of the fast disappearing retailer, are opposing a parcel post, such as nearly every civilized country now enjoys, on the ground that "the department stores could place their goods at a very slight expense in every town and hamlet in this country."

This argument is that the people should not be permitted to buy anything or get possession of it without paying a heavy expense! It doesn't matter much whether we have parcel post or not, the small retailers have to go. The great department stores can sell goods for less than the small retailer now pays for them, and they can ship goods now as cheap as the merchants ship them in. They have practically monopolized the trade of the great cities, as miles and miles of vacant store rooms attest. That they are now going out after the country trade and that they are getting it rapidly the increase of mail order business houses is ample proof. The selfishness of the retail merchants in using their influence to prevent cheap transportation that it may aid them in keeping up competition will react on them as selfishness always does. The trust method has always been to put in a store and sell their goods direct to consumers in every market held by the small fellows. It is these small merchants' political influence that has for years prevented a reduction of railroad passenger rates because they desire to prevent people from cheaply reaching the cities and doing their own shopping.

When the little retailer turns up his toes to the daisies, as he certainly will in the next five years, the purchasing public will have removed from their shoulders the burden of sustaining six hundred thousand business houses where one hundred will better do the service.

It matters little to the purchasing public whether the stores at which they buy are owned by a great aggregation of capital doing business at a minimum of expense or whether they are owned by innumerable little dealers. They are interested in getting the goods at the lowest price just as the little merchants are interested in getting their goods where they can buy them the cheapest.

I pity the people who desire to perpetuate their business by having conditions that make it too expensive for people to buy in the cheapest market that the dealers may be able to collect a profit so that ten retail store keepers get a living where only one store is needed. If that is good business tactics, then any improvement in transportation is to be regretted because such improvement facilitates the exchange of commodities.

THE slickest scheme to sell books of no real value is being worked by some fellows, just who does not appear on the surface. Some time ago I received the following letter, which bears the impression, purposely to deceive, that the government was taking great pains to place documents in the hands of people who would use and care for them:

COMMITTEE ON DISTRIBUTION. Messages and Papers of the President. James D. Richardson, Tennessee Editor. Ainsworth E. Spofford, General Secretary. Washington, D. C., Jan. 12, 1900. Mr. J. A. Wayland, Girard, Kansas. Dear Sir:—I am directed to inform you that your name has been selected by this committee, and Prof. I. S. Merrifield, a member, has been assigned to call upon you and state the details of filing application by which you may secure a set of the most precious of all Government Documents. Congress authorized the distribution of only a limited number in each Congressional District. The subscription now offered is published under authority of the Editor, Congress having voted to issue a duplicate set of plates for that purpose by act of June 7, 1897. Knowing that you will appreciate this opportunity, I beg to remain, dear sir, Yours faithfully, C. H. McCall, Clerk.

When this "assigned" person called on me inferring his representing the government, and told his little story, showing what a snap I had to get these volumes for \$34.50, "the cost of the gilt binding," I laughed at him and asked him who was behind this game. Some fellows are making one or two millions profit out of this gold brick game—one of the most clever ones I have ever come across. This letter was received by hundreds of people here and every state is being "worked." If congress were not made up of gold brick swindlers, somebody would be sent to durance vile for this base use of the government for the purpose of taking in the public. Private profit is a great incentive to genius!

I WONDER how the editors of the country like the private enterprise of the paper trust? Good thing to be at the mercy of the greed of men—and the paper trust is not composed of worse men than the editors, either. The latter would do the same thing if they had the opportunity. Would it not be better to deny anyone the opportunity to squeeze by having the public (government) make and sell paper at the cost of production—to all alike? How does an increase in the price 100 per cent. hit you? Grin and bear it and swear you like it. That is the part party bigots should play. A friend on one of the great papers of the nation tells me that such papers are getting rebates from the rise so they will say nothing, letting the little papers which in the aggregate use the most paper, pay the increased price, and will be afraid to kick because it might "hurt the party." Standard oil methods of rebate are being used.

WHEN they tell you that railroads are not profitable, ask them why the owners are not in favor of selling them to the government? Why people are trying to get into the business all the time? Why it is that the people who operate railroads become enormously wealthy? And other knotty questions.

THE APPEAL in clubs of 25, 25c per year.

IN THE Chicago Chronicle of January 2d there is an interview with E. F. Lamb, a London banker, visiting in this country, in which he says "English investors figure that their investments in the United States bring them an income of \$500,000,000 a year, and this of course may drain your gold surplus."

That sum of money represents an average of \$7.00 tribute on each man, woman and child in the United States. It is equal to the total national expense of government in an ordinary year. It is a tribute paid by our people to those who have never even seen this country, as much as if we were a conquered people and the levy had been made through the form of tribute that Germany laid upon France when she was helpless at her feet. It is not likely that English investments in this country on the average pay more than 3 per cent. net, which would mean that English ownership in this country would have to be fifteen billion dollars in order to produce an income of five hundred million. In other words, this banker says Englishmen own three-fifths of all the property in the United States, though he does not put it in just that way.

The assessed valuation of all property in the United States in 1890 was less than twenty-six billion of dollars. This banker says Englishmen (to say nothing of other foreigners) own three-fifths of that. Just how it was possible for them to become possessed of fifteen billion dollars of American property when they have never sent fifteen billion of gold nor fifteen billion of silver nor fifteen billion of merchandise nor fifteen billion of all them combined to this country, is one of the problems you may solve if you can. The American people have never received anything for this alien ownership because the aliens own never done anything for the Americans except to skin them.

It is a well known fact disputed I believe by none that in 1890 there was no alien ownership of property in the United States worth mentioning. Since that time we have exported, given to these aliens, \$3,694,334,537 more of gold, silver and merchandise than they have given us. It ought therefore to be true that instead of any foreign ownership in this country, Americans should own that sum of property in foreign countries. Perhaps you can explain how it is that when we give more than we get, the foreigner can have such balances to his credit in this country that he can buy three-fifths of the assessed valuation of the laborer's twenty million people in forty years! If you are good in mathematics, please figure it out.

The casual reader of the daily press will read this interview and feel that "our" country is greatly benefited by foreign investments, but the benefit is all on the other side. American labor and ingenuity is today creating wealth, a very large part of which goes to support royal nabobs and capitalists in Europe, but the burden is not greater because the wealth goes to Europe than if consumed by the same kind of leeches in this country.

Under socialism each worker would get the results of his social labor and nobody could get a living by investing in the tools and then charging the workers for the use of the tools.

SUPPOSE you take two large office buildings, just alike, side by side. Place the rent on each at \$100,000 a year, supplied with heat, light, elevator and janitor service. Let us suppose the items of light, janitor and elevator service cost \$10,000 a year for each building. Let us further suppose that the owner of one building, concluding that individual enterprise should be encouraged, should reduce his rents to his tenants 10 per cent. the cost of these three items, and then let the tenants do their own janitor service, lighting and elevator business—how long would that building have any tenants who could find rooms in another in which these things were done by the owner of the building? Not very long. Such a foolish owner would not only lose his tenants, but he could not get half the rent that was formerly paid. This principle holds just as good with a larger building, called a town or city. If the owners permit private enterprise to step in and make a profit off the passengers who go along the elevators up and down the streets, called street cars, that city will hold its business and prestige only so long as no other city offers to do this thing at the lowest cost under the control of the owners. In other words, if some city would take over all its franchises and operate the street cars at public tax method of payment as it does its fire, sewer and clean its streets, that city would outstrip all other cities on continent, no matter how unfavorable it may be in other respects. Public ownership is always a winner.

OF 231 samples of milk tested by the St. Louis inspector, 321 were adulterated with water, chemicals or coloring. This is done because the dealers can make money by doing it. Not a single case of adulteration would be made but for this incentive. If the city owned the pasture and the dairies nobody would get a profit by such theft and it would not be committed. But that would kill the incentive to steal—and that incentive is sacred and on no account to be interfered with. It belongs to the private property system. Besides, the people would degenerate if they got pure milk! O, that awful socialistic solution!

San Francisco, Dec. 22.—Two years ago S. Dinglieno was sentenced by the federal court to serve a two year's sentence in the Folsom penitentiary and pay a fine of \$200 for having counterfeited tools in his possession. Dinglieno's term expired on Nov. 23, but he refused to pay the fine and declines to take the pauper's oath, saying he is content to remain a guest of the state. The warden of the prison has asked for legal advice as how to eject the convict.

And there is a sample of your civilization in which men prefer prison with all its inconveniences rather than face the fierce battle of a competitive warfare for bread! Great developer of the genius of men, eh? Now this fellow has to work, and work hard, so it is not a desire to be idle that keeps him there. When the state (society) will provide the means of production and distribution for all there will be no such instances as this. Men will work and produce the things they need and will not infringe on the rights of others. Why is it practical to furnish food, clothing and shelter for such as will become criminals and not those who do not wish to become criminals? Would it not be cheaper (you are always talking about cheap things) to own productive industries than to keep up prisons and insane asylums and pauper houses and jails and other non-productive evidences of our brutal system? Of course the capitalists could not have any needy people who would have to work for them if the state furnished employment at more than \$5,000 a year, which its Labor Commission has furnished proof that it can, and that is the reason. The people like to be wage-slaves of the corporations, because they get so much pay and such brotherly treatment!

The following letter is from the editor of one of the great papers in Philadelphia:

EDITOR OF APPEAL.—I am very much pleased with your paper and wish you every success in propagating your ideas of socialism. I use my opportunities to further the cause, but at present they are few but I believe they will widen. I gave the APPEAL to the printers in the building and they are already getting up a club. With best wishes for your continued success I am yours sincerely,

There is not a great paper nor bank nor railroad office nor corporation that is not saturated with socialists in every department. These people have to keep a little quiet at present but conditions are getting more and more favorable all the time for them to do something for the cause. I know of several managing editors of great papers who are radical socialists but who would lose their places if they were known, for they are serving plutocratic masters for bread. If the papers of the country had the financial freedom loosened they would sing an entirely different tune. But is due course all this ability and conviction and agitation will be thrown into the agitation for a better system. We are preparing the way for it. Abolition of chattel slavery was not popular at one time, but persistence in the work by such as were in a position to agitate made conditions that brought to their aid all this element. Keep up the work. We will have socialism in our time, and never doubt it. You are making history.

Look into the salons (really saloons) of the rulers and you will see them lolling about in obese agony for lack of exercise, wasting existence in vain efforts to find amusements that will make life bearable. Look into the workshops and mines of these rulers and you will see thousands of their wage-slaves dropping from exhaustion by reason of overwork and under feed. This is suggested to me by two pictures in a daily paper, one showing men being carried out of sugar refineries because of the fierce heat and slavish exertion, while the other pictures were pen drawings of how some of the U. S. senators appeared. "Slovely, eh? Best system on earth, and don't you forget it. If you don't like it you can get off the earth. If these workers don't like their jobs, why don't they quit and go to the senate? Free chance for everybody! The reason you are not a senator is because you have not enough brains! If all the people had the same amount of brains I suppose they would all be senators!"

THE one-hoss has been knocked out during the preparation of this issue because of changes in the business management of the paper which the enormous volume of new demands made necessary. The methods that had been used would not fit new conditions. The office will be moved into its own building in a few weeks, new machinery of improved pattern will be installed, the force will be classified and specialized, and the office put upon a footing that can handle half a million circulation without annoying delays and minimum of mistakes. See what trouble your activity in getting subscribers has put us to! And still you will not let up! To several inquirers will say that the health of the writer is excellent, except failing in eyesight.

SPRINGFIELD, Mo., has two morning papers. One democrat, the other republican. They occupy adjoining buildings, have the same press rooms and owned by the same man. You can plainly see that politics is a matter of money. They will take a fee on either side of the case or both sides. When laboring men use political power to further their individual or class interests a great howl goes up from the property class about confiscation, paternalistic government, etc. Laboring people, follow the example set by your brothers in New Zealand, turn the tax machine in your favor instead of in favor of your masters.

COME and smile with me—not the kind that costs so much per glass, but the other kind. Note what a little thing will frighten the guilty. Senator Hoar is not a socialist, not even friendly to it, and has always been one of those who live upon the unpaid epidemics of the working people, and all he says here is for the purpose of retaining his hold of the official seat that he has been sucking for the greater part of his life. But see how even it frightens the banker's attorney. The following is from the American Banker, of December 18th:

Senator Hoar's socialism is a new but a startling growth. It is not of the wild, staring, unkempt sort; but of the mild, bespattered, hearth-fire kind. Something was expected of him in the line of his stringent anti-expansion views. It has come, not as a roaring lion; but mild as a sucking dove. He got in something against the right of this nation to extend its rule over the people of the Philippines into the resolution as a matter of course, but its other appendages are far, far more important. Thus it recites that it is the obligation of the Republic "to secure for every workman and for every working-woman wages enough to support a life of comfort, and an old age of leisure and quiet, as befits those who have an equal share in a self-governing State." In other words, the nation has no right to rule any one against his will, but it is obliged to compel employers to pay such wages as it thinks will suffice to provide their employes with means to live comfortably and die in an old age of leisure and quiet. We are not altogether surprised. The growth of socialism in New England is as pronounced a phenomenon as the decline of puritanism. There are several socialistic mayors holding office at the present time in the State of Massachusetts.

BRO. PRENTICE: Farm homes under socialism and single tax would have entirely different bases. Under single tax competition would be present both in the use of the land and in the improvements, but not to the extent it is today. Effort would have individual initiative. Under socialism the public would initiate and the workers would be employed by the public—by themselves collectively. The public today really employs all people, but it does it indirectly through individuals, instead of directly. Under the single tax, carried to its logical end, the rent for use of all land would be paid into the public treasury instead of private purses, and that rent would belong to the whole people who had paid it in and be used for the whole people in public improvements. Land could not be monopolized by the few under single tax, to the exclusion of the many, for the tax would be great enough to bear all public burdens, and the many crowded out of the use because they could not command the necessary capital to its best use would have the voting power to increase the tax sufficient to keep themselves on the tax money. That would be making the monopolizer keep them without work, like the workers today keep the capitalist class, and that would check the monopoly. Still, the greatest benefits to man can not be given by the single tax alone. Socialism will harmonize the warring factions of society. There would be conflicting individual interests under the single tax.

THE Topeka Capital, the leading republican paper of this state, has arranged to place the daily wholly in the hands of the Rev. Chas. M. Sheldon, the world-known Christian socialist, and author of several books on Christian Socialism, for the week beginning March 13. Mr. Sheldon is to control the reading matter and advertising as well. The readers of that paper will get some new ideas. It is a business proposition as the management state that they are arranging to put out 100,000 copies a day, five times the average edition! They must believe that the people want socialist literature. Then why have they not been printing more of it? But it shows the influence our agitation has been producing. Keep up the lick, boys, they're coming.

THE men who are manipulating the financial laws of the country, now being directed by Rockefeller, are preparing to apply the Standard Oil methods to the banking interests, and the little banks will be wiped out like the little oil industries or like the trusts have wiped out little factories. It will not be long until you will hear the pig-squeal from the country banks that have been used as cat's paws to hold the country down politically while this rape has been fastened on it. The little fellows think they will be benefited by those laws, but they will wake up the most surprised fellows in the world one of these fine days. Say, mamma, won't that be fun?

AN associated dispatch from Washington of the 9th says that the proposition to have this government build the cable to the Philippines will probably be opposed by the Japan government and that some corporation with a government subsidy will build it. Private interests that will make millions by private ownership of the cable oppose the people doing it, and they will then go to the treasury and get a subsidy large enough to build it as they did the Pacific railroads. The people pay the bills but must not own it! But if they are such geese as to permit it that way they ought to be plucked—and they likely will be.

I NOTICE in the advertisement of some proprietary article this sentence: "We can undersell any reliable manufacturer in the country who will allow their salesman to interview you." The once vivacious traveling man seems to be getting it in the neck from the trusts on the one hand and the people outside the trusts on the other. "Things are not what they used to was."

