

Question Box

Was John Brown a Hero?

(1) Why do you oppose a parcel post? (2) In your article "Debs at Harper's Ferry..."

The appeal does not oppose a parcel post. We are neither opposed to the scheme nor are we shouting ourselves hoarse with enthusiasm over its possibilities.

If the parcels post were to lighten the load of the man living in the rural districts by enabling him to get merchandise at a lower cost it would not remove the greater and more grievous means of fleecing which would go on robbing him the same and would probably get what he had saved through the reduced rates.

So long as the capitalist is able, by means of interest, rent or profit, to take part of the value produced by the farmer, a parcel post can do comparatively little for him.

We regard John Brown as a patriot and a hero because he dared defy the damnable institution of chattel slavery which gave one man the right to own the life and labor of another.

To be sure he was an outlaw. So was George Washington when he dared to take up arms against his king. History abounds in instances where the man who sought to aid the distressed could do so only by opposition to the laws in force.

No man can do more than live for a cause and give his life for it when by so doing he can accomplish such results as did old John Brown, of Ossawatimie.

Just as the hated abolitionists labored to free the negro from chattel slavery so are the hated Socialists striving to free all workmen, white and black, red and yellow, brown and mixed, from wage slavery.

The probability is that there will be no need for rag carpets or for looms with which to weave them.

The gentlemen who own the corporations demand the right to organize as trusts or mergers so they can further their own interests without reference to the effect on others.

Will you walk into my party? said the spider to the fly old party worker. And some of the flies got caught.

AT SUGGESTION OF PRESIDENT. The United States department of justice, acting at the suggestion of the president, has instituted proceedings against a Socialist sheet at Girard, Kan.

MR. CLEWS MISSES THE CLUE

MR. HENRY CLEWS, L.L.D., New York banker and financier, delivered the latter part of an address before the American Institution of Banking at Baltimore, October 13, 1908, to a discussion of Socialism and an exposition of what he considered its fallacies.

Socialism is being preached all over the land, and the prompt enforcement of the law punishing one who stands in a high place who would be the best argument for the poor and rich alike, then it follows that the law's delay in reaching the rich offender, which is a fact practically admitted by the great banker, proves conclusively that "our" laws are not for rich and poor alike.

During the past eighteen months, we have been tried by the fire of adversity. We are on the road to better times, and I firmly believe we will be a better people and a better nation by the temporary suffering we have endured.

How much better do you suppose those people will be who have been driven to suicide and starvation as a result of the panic referred to? How many of you would like to be bettered in that way? Do you suppose that Mr. Clews, philanthropist as he is, would feel so complacent over the situation were he one of the unemployed and without any assured means of getting another meal or a shelter for the winter?

Discontent is the parent of Socialism. The aim of every politician, employer and wage earner, should be to work together honestly and fairly for the common good of the whole.

It is safe to say that Mr. Clews has not missed a meal as a result of the industrial depression. He may have been foiled in some of his plans for the addition to his board, but he belongs to the class which is fortified against these physical discomforts.

Value and Effect of Ambition. I am not one of those who condemn the Socialists as a whole. I have met them on the platform, have engaged in debates with them, and have seen the wives and the children of their wives and daughters.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Clews has not learned more from those Socialists with whom he says he has come in contact. It is because ambition is rooted in man's nature that Socialism is going to prevail.

Many Socialists are well meaning men who suffer from mental astigmatism. Their view of life is distorted. But like the pupils of ten or fifteen years ago, a little money in the bank, a little less work, and what they shall eat or drink, or how they shall be clothed, will reform their ideas and straighten the defect of their vision.

Mr. Clews would have you believe that the man who is out of work and hungry, or the man who is otherwise distressed by economic conditions, is unable to see things as they are so ill as Mr. Clews can see them from the higher viewpoint of his New York office.

THE CAMPAIGN OF 1912 is now under way. The Socialists never quit work. They are camping tonight on the trail of capitalism with just as much enthusiasm and determination as on the day of the election.

Clews sees them. But that is another supposed contingency that is not to the point. The poor man who is hungry and out of work is not in possession of a bank account. He is not free from worry. He is not well clothed. In his condition of hunger, worry and discomfort he sees things as Mr. Clews cannot see them.

It is true that not all men can be captains in the industrial army. Socialism does not propose that they shall. What the Socialist demands is not a position of authority over his fellows but a democratic organization of industry by means of which each may consume and enjoy in proportion to what he produces and gives.

But Mr. Clews offers us a new form of benevolence to be exercised through giving employment to the deserving poor. How utterly imbecile is the proposition to give employment when the masters are unable to give employment. To employ help it is necessary, under capitalism, to make a profit off the employe's labor.

Let's Be Good. Let the strong help the weak. Let the righteous live their good lives and let the wicked follow them.

To which we say, amen. Let Mr. Clews and all the able-bodied parasites come down off the perch of privilege where they have been participating in the plundered dividends, and go to work.

Cheerful Face and Itching Palm. Let the happy try to let a little sunlight shine on the unhappy and unfortunate. A kind word and a cheerful smile will lighten sorrow and make misfortune a little easier to bear.

How beautiful and how meaningless. Let us rather abolish poverty, and there will be no unhappy and no unfortunate. When poverty is removed, as it can be through a sane system of industry, the unhappy and unfortunate will come out of the tenement cellars into the sunlight and become fortunate and happy through their own effort.

When James and Benjamin Franklin started the little paper called the New England Courant, the council passed a resolution to appoint a censor, and James Franklin was finally put in jail for a month.

ing it possible for any man to work at any time and receive the full value of his labor would create. Is that so complicated and abstruse that a man of Mr. Clews' intelligence cannot comprehend it?

It does not pay him to understand it. Mr. Clews' heart is with his treasure that exalts him above other men. Were he and his kind to abdicate the advantage they hold as wealthy men of affairs they would be reduced to the ranks and compelled to be public benefactors in fact as they now are in theory.

Capitalism produced the night rider, and now it is trying to kill its own baby.

hope has died within him and his usefulness has been marred. The mission of Socialism is to awaken that ambition so that hope may live again and the usefulness of the man who works may be so rewarded as to grow and fill the earth with plenty.

It is of little consequence whether Mr. Clews blames or doesn't blame the poor for joining in the Socialist movement. The censure or approval of the wealthy has far less to do with determining the acts of the needy than the compelling force of their own necessities.

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