

WHO?—THE FARMER.

Who pays his taxes with many a sigh, Wonders why they are so high, And fails to see the "how" and "why?" The farmer.

EXCHANGE IDEAS.

The best way to help along the general reform movement is to encourage newspapers devoted to its advancement.—Birmingham (Ala.) Labor Advocate.

We are not fighting the battles of the shiftless and indolent farmer. We know that such there are, but in a country where three-fourths of that class are getting poorer there must be something wrong somewhere, or else God mightily made a huge blunder when he created the agricultural class.—Alliance Motor.

A GLASS factory in Pittsburg has reported a net profit of \$1,000,000 last year. Is not this rather a robust infant, and is it not about time to wean the brat? When calves get larger than the old cows they should be surely choked off. These protected calves are strange animals; the larger they grow the harder they bump for more milk. By the McKinley bill these hoghish, bumping calves get more milk than they did under our high war taxes.—Fremont County (La.) Herald.

A LITTLE study will convince any one that an interest-bearing national debt was deliberately created, a debt for which there is no possible excuse; a debt that has cost the people of the United States in interest, in gold, two billion four hundred and fifty million dollars, and principal, in gold, one billion five hundred million dollars, and still owing about one billion dollars. Instead of Wall Street saving the nation, Wall Street robbed the nation.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

THE GOVERNMENT that allows private individuals to invent for private gain and equip a mob to shoot down honest men who are guilty of no crime save that of daring to maintain what they understand to be their rights and to resent an attack by organized greed to destroy their independence, is not a government by the people. If protection by an armed force is actually needed, the United States government has the authority to furnish it. Special favoritism, and not eternal justice, is the motto of our government.—Pacific Enterprise.

MONOPOLY press is sick because the farmers and wage-workers are taking a hand in politics. The men who have been running the political parties seem to think that the proper place for those who create wealth and pay the taxes is in the fields and work-shops, except on election when they should sally forth, and vote for the men who are nominated by the bosses and rings. When the people adopt the methods of the bosses of the two old party leaders, and have their candidates nominated for office, they at once become political criminals and pay the taxes of driving them out of the party.—St. Joseph (Mo.) Labor Worker.

EVEN the young men and women are interested in politics this fall and all classes are so enthusiastic and harmonious in support of the People's ticket that it is thought in this country that party lines and the old party machines will be almost wiped out of existence. The more intelligent of the community, the more so, have had it for the people's ticket. The government policy of this nation will not bear close investigation. It has enriched the idle and made the rich richer, while the poorer classes are likely to become renters on the lands they once owned. Some of the best counties in the state are carrying a mortgage indebtedness almost equal to their entire valuation of real estate and personal. Thousands of such homes must be sold by the sheriff. What does it mean? Is the interrogatory of the tolling classes.—Blair Republican.

How much longer are the paid emissaries of capitalism to be permitted to hold an existence in this republic? Is a question that the men who are trusted with the power of making laws and their execution must answer. What rights have railroads and other corporations to bring this army into a state and assume the right to do police duty, which is the power only of the state? Are political corporations? Answer this, you men who sit in the congress of the United States. Answer it, you men who sit in the legislative halls of the states. Let capitalism call off its dogs of war before working men are goaded to retaliate in kind. The Pinkerton force would not be tolerated in any other country, and they have no right to exist in the United States. Workingmen must demand from state legislatures the prohibition of Pinkertonism, and keep on demanding it until it is enacted in statute law.—Southern Industry.

During the twenty-five years that the Wall Street syndicate have owned the treasury department at Washington, the policy of that department has been to make money as dear as possible. The aim of the secretary of the treasury, whatever his name may have been, has been to assist the bulls of the money market, because his owners have been the bulls. They are the men who have had the money and they wanted to keep the power of regulating its value their own hands. In this they

have had since the year 1865, the hearty co-operation of the treasury department at Washington, and of the American congress. Under the management of Hon. Hugh McCulloch the treasury department joined the Wall Street gang and doubled the value of money by burning up half of it and issuing the gang interest bearing bonds in its place.

Congress declared adherence to the combination by passing the public credit strengthening act repudiating its contract with the people and giving money another boom. The bank trust, alarmed at these high handed proceedings on the part of its zealous friends and in order to mitigate to some extent the evil results of such a fearful loss to the country in money values, inflated the bank circulation to a total of more than 300,000,000 dollars, which the business of the country was kindly allowed to use at a cost in interest from 10 to 25 per cent per annum. Business men all over the country began to succumb to the money lenders and the failures ran rapidly up into the thousands and their liabilities into the hundreds of millions of dollars. Not yet satisfied however, the operators of the syndicate ordered the demonetization of silver by their servants in Washington. This order was carried out in 1873, and two years later specie payment was resumed.

But the business of the country which was already down, was now gasping for breath, and for fear of killing the goose which had laid their golden eggs the syndicate ordered a temporary loosening of the bandages, and accordingly silver was remonetized in 1878. But in the meantime the trust continued the boom cautiously, by a withdrawal of the bank circulation, until at the present time less than one-half of their former circulation is outstanding.

The second attack on silver has begun with the same caution that has characterized the movement of the bank circulation; and with the ostensible object of increasing the circulating medium of the country, the garrotes have given their intended victims what they expect will act as an anesthetic. The new silver law provides that neither silver nor silver certificates shall be used as money if the syndicate or its agents contract for any other medium of exchange, thus virtually demonetizing silver. Its provisions go further and make it possible for the secretary of the treasury, at any time the syndicate may so direct, to prevent any further use of this emasculated money. This have the money boomers been aided once more by the American congress. But the anesthetic will not work. The people will not be lulled to sleep by the sweet song of the paid choiristers of the money trust. The managers of the Washington branch of the Wall Street crowd will not be re- turned to congress this fall. And at the next session of congress the legitimate business of the country will receive some consideration! And the money boomers will miss their expected feast. They have overreached themselves.—St. Louis Liberty Bell.

Some idea of the tribute paid by American industry to foreign masters may be gathered from this: A man named Scully, who was driven from Ireland on account of his racking and outrageous oppression of his tenants, and now lives in London, owns 80,000 acres in Kansas and over 100,000 in Illinois. From his Illinois estate alone he has a clear net income in rent of \$200,000 per year. A Scotch company has fraudulently gained possession of timber lands in California on which the timber alone is valued at \$1,760,000, and this same company has monopolized another tract on which the timber is appraised at \$8,400,000. The only tin mines in the United States are owned by English capitalists, who own thirty miles of land where the tin was discovered. Geo. B. Clark & Co., manufacturers of spool cotton at Newark, N. J., have \$4,000,000 in the business. Alexander Duncan, who once lived in Rhode Island, but now lives in Scotland, owns city real estate in Providence and elsewhere valued at not less than \$3,000,000, all paying high rent. The Coates family own \$2,000,000 of real property in Pawtucket, which pays a handsome income. A great bulk of our railroad property is owned and controlled in England, besides hundreds of millions in manufacturing industries. The truth is that our commercial interests, as well as our lands, are rapidly falling into the hands of English capitalists and monopolists. Is it possible that Americans are again to be made subject to England through the cunning of capitalists and the treachery of her legislators?—Canton (S. D.) Farmers' Leader.

Twelve Whys. 1. Why has land and labor been depreciating for the last twenty years? 2. Why has the premium on bonds gone up and up, until they are 30 per cent above par? 3. Why has the purchasing power of money increased? 4. Why has your ability to pay mortgages and debts decreased? 5. Why has the great bulk of wealth in our country been concentrated in the hands of the few? 6. Why is our country filled with paupers while millionaires own the wealth? 7. Why has the average field of farm land shrunk from \$15 per acre, as it was eight years ago, to \$6.75? 8. Why does it pay better for moneyed men to speculate with their means than it does to invest in honorable, industrious enterprises? 9. Why is it that twenty-five years ago the farmers owned one-half of entire wealth of the country, while to-day they own less than 20 per cent? 10. Why have 1000-acre farms increased 800 per cent during the last twenty-five years? 11. Why have the bondholders been given special privileges, not granted to bayonet holders? 12. Why is it that the drones, the money changers, the board of trade gamblers, live in affluence, dress in broadcloth and gloat over their wealth, while the honest, industrious toilers dress in rags and are the paupers of this country? We say the answer to these twelve questions is class legislation and contraction of the currency. We defy any old party machine to successfully contradict it.—Newton (La.) Herald.

FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

POWDERLY PROCLAIMS AGAINST PARTY PERPETUITY.

A Law to Place the Control of its Own Election in the Hands of the United States Congress and to Prevent the People Interfering Too Much in the Matter.

The Lodge Force Bill, if it passes, is intended to regulate the election of congressmen, and is particularly designed for use in the south, at least that is what it is supposed to be. A very appropriate title for the bill would be, "A law to place the control of its own election in the hands of the United States congress and to prevent the people from interfering too much in this little matter."

The proposed law covers seventy-six pages of the regulation congressional file, with about two hundred and fifty words to the page; it is so complicated, so cumbersome and illy constructed a piece of machinery that it is very doubtful if its parent could successfully manage it and explain what it would be able to perform. Shorn of verbiage, the intent of the law is to perpetuate the existence of the party in power and enable it to keep a close watch over the election of all officers and congressmen. Why should a special law be enacted to regulate the election of congressmen? Whom do they represent that they should insist on manipulating the election machinery in their own interests? A congressman does not represent the United States in the house of representatives, he represents a number of citizens comprising a certain territory in a certain state, and the people of that state should have the right to scrutinize and regulate the election of their representatives, who will represent them in congress. The law provides that the agents of the United States government shall have the right to scrutinize and regulate the election of members of congress, but it is so artfully worded that they shall also have the privilege of scrutinizing the election of all other officers of the state. Section 9 of that law is in direct violation of the contract by which the several states are bound to the United States, and is a most unwarrantable interference in the legislation of the sisterhood of states. It reads:

Section 9. Hereafter all votes cast for the officers of representative or delegate in congress shall be counted, canvassed, certified and returned in the manner hereinafter provided; and any state, territorial or municipal law or ordinance, in so far as it conflicts herewith, is hereby annulled. If the citizens of the United States value their independence they will promptly resent such tampering with their right to make state, territorial and municipal laws to suit themselves. If the government of the United States shall have the right to supervise the election of its own officers and take that right out of the hands of the people, who are supposed to be represented, of what use is it to support the government of the separate states and territories? Where does congress get the authority to annul a state, territorial or municipal law.

It is told, by its friends, that that law is to operate in the south, and that its passage will enable the people of that section to guard against bulldozing and intimidation. There is more intimidation contained in four lines of that law than in all the southern outrages that have taken place since the war. It is claimed that this law will enable the colored citizens to vote free from intimidation and influence. That may be true outside of the polling place, but it simply transfers the intimidation and influence to the inside of the polling-booth. Why not act the part of states and territories? colored men are not fit to have a vote, for that is what they mean? If there is a body of men in this land who do not know enough to do their own voting, if they lack the manhood to defend their ballots with their lives at the polls, then that body of men are not the kind to be privileged to vote for those who make laws for others.

The Democratic party does its best to intimidate the colored citizens of the south, and they give as a reason that if they did not do so they would be subject to negro rule down there, or, as they put it, "ignorant rule." In the north the employers of labor intimidate the working men in the interest of the Republican party, but that party cannot lay claim to as respectable excuse as to desire to avoid "ignorant rule," for the workmen of the north have never imposed ignorant rule when they elected their own representatives. Our laws should not be framed in such a way as to recognize ignorance or illiteracy, for to recognize illiteracy is to perpetuate it. Every law should aim at the abolition of illiteracy, and instead of making laws to guard the uneducated man at the polls, we should make laws to guard the republic against illiteracy by obliging all voters to learn how to read and write before voting. A law that would fix on certain classes of citizens, and require all citizens would be required to know how to read and write before voting, and which would not interfere with those who are voters at the present time, and who are not so educated, would go further toward regulating the election of congressmen, in an honest way, than the piece of machinery on the table of the United States senate.

The adoption of the Australian election law would solve the difficulty so far as an honest count and an uninfluenced election is concerned; but I fear that that is not the aim or intent of the promoters of the proposed law; in fact I believe that if we had not agitated so vigorously, and so successfully, in favor of the adoption of the Australian law, our friends would be no fear of an honest election, and as a consequence no necessity for the supervision of congressional watch dogs.

In section 10 the following is to be found: If during the count and canvass of the ballots contained in any box other than that intended for the reception of ballots for the office of representative or delegate in congress there shall be found any ballot or ballots for the office of representative or delegate in congress, it shall be the duty of the chairman or acting chairman of the supervisors of election, who shall

count them and immediately place them in an envelope and seal them up.

If our election boards are to remain as at present constructed; in such states as have not adopted the Australian law, that guarantee have we that said boards will not be dishonest enough to fail to live up to the last-named provisions? It is evident that the supervisors is to have the scrutiny of other boxes than those containing ballots for congressmen, and that is in direct conflict with the trend of public opinion of to-day, for the cry is for a secret ballot not a public one.

Further on in the same section the election of a congressman is left to chance, a sort of Louisiana-Lottery scheme is invented by which a second ballot may be avoided, and the game of blindman's buff substituted for an honest election. It says that, if there are more ballots in the box than voters than one, the inspectors of election and one of the supervisors of election shall be blindfolded and placed with his back or their backs to the said box, from which they shall publicly draw so many ballots as shall be equal to the excess, which ballots should be forthwith destroyed and the votes for the persons named in such withdrawn ballots shall be deducted from the votes entered for such persons on the tallies.

A more dishonest piece of legislation does not exist than that. It does not record the will of the majority, it does not aim at justice, and it certainly does not express the sense of those who voted in earnest. When a number of ballots in excess of the number of voters are found in a box it shows that illegal voting has been done, but, instead of making an honest effort to find out and punish those who did illegal voting, a second wrong is perpetrated in drawing, at random, a number of votes without questioning whether they are the legal ones.

That law gives the house of representatives without the advice or consent of the people of the United States. It was hastily passed and without consideration. It should be reconsidered and published to the world, so that those who are to be governed by it may know what it is in time to express their opinion on it before its passage.

According to rule, there is no probability that that will be done, and the next best thing is for the people to send in their protests to the senate against its passage by that body. Our members should act at once and ask the senators from the various states to voice their sentiments on this measure when it comes up for consideration. The name of every congressman who voted for that law should be published to the world, and the citizen who are opposed to such high-handed work should scratch them on next election day. T. V. POWDERLY.

The Necessity of the Independent Movement.

No candid man who has watched the course of political and government affairs in this country for the last twenty-five years will undertake the separate acts of any one except the dealers and the speculators in money and stocks. Nobody but the veriest demagogue would undertake to say that a system of finance which led to the substitution of interest bearing obligations for a non-interest bearing currency which was meeting satisfactorily, every want of the business of any country was an act justifiable upon a principle of business, even to the machine called the "government."

Yet all this has been done, and the result of it is that money has been placed out of the reach of the common people and of the legitimate business of the country, unless at a cost in the way of interest to allow their death to the business that has to bear the burden. But while the legitimate business of the country has been subjected to this severe pressure, the money speculators of the country have been furnished by the government with all the money they wanted at the merely nominal rate of one per cent per annum.

Another important trust which is lodged in the hands of the government is the public land, and this has been managed in the same way as the finances—in the interests of trusts and syndicates of capitalists. Nearly 200,000,000 acres of the public domain have been given to railroad corporations, directly, on the plea that the roads were a public necessity. But when the managers of these self same roads have been asked to allow their narrow gauge voice in fixing the price of their work, they have denied that right on the plea that the roads were private or corporate property, and that the public had no right to interfere in any way with their management, thus denying the statement upon which they received their donations. Under fraudulent entries of various kind the syndicates have obtained title to other millions; and without color of right, law or title, other syndicates have had the free use of still other millions of acres from which, in at least one instance, actual settlers were driven off the lands. On these free lands these corporations have for years pastured un-such cattle, to be sold in competition with the products of the taxpayers of the country. Under this system of management foreign capitalists, corporations and syndicates have obtained possession of nearly 200,000,000 acres of the best land of the country, and are establishing thereon a system of land tenure which bids fair to rival that of Ireland, and which now takes from this country a rental which far exceeds in value the entire annual product of that impoverished and downtrodden country.

Another matter which is not properly under the control of the government, but the control of which has been usurped by it, is the so-called "protection of our infant industries." Under the specious plea of excluding foreign pauper competition with our free labor a heavy tax has been levied upon foreign goods imported into this country, thereby enabling the manufacturer to hold his goods at a high figure without danger of coming into

competition with foreign goods. Acting under a knowledge of this fact foreign manufacturers have been induced to invest many millions of money in various lines of manufacture here and they have imported thousands of these same laborers who are told so much about, with which to carry on their business. On account of this exclusive policy on the part of our government some foreign governments have, in retaliation, passed laws prohibiting our trade altogether or crippling it very materially. In this way many millions of wealth, in the form of profits, are annually taken abroad, which might otherwise be kept at home and other millions, which might have come to us in exchange for our product, have been kept away.

In reply to petitions for relief the people have been met with a new silver law under which the money loaning syndicates are making notes which cannot be paid in silver or silver certificates, thus practically demonetizing silver and giving to one man complete control of the mongrel silver coinage that is left, thus destroying at one blow, nearly one-third of the circulating medium of the country.

The parties in power have refused to reclaim the acre of the vast empire of land which has been contracted to the land syndicates, but upon which the contract has not been fulfilled by the syndicates. And when after years of persistent work, the people in a few states have secured the right to elect commissioners to regulate the compensation of railroad attempts has been made to so limit their powers as to render them as nearly useless as possible. When it is found no longer possible to resist, by open refusal, the cry for a reduction of the tariff, the cry of "reciprocity" is raised as a means of futher delay.

Complaints, petitions, and remonstrances have been thrown away on the old party managers.

As a last resort the people are throwing off old party ties and undertaking to elect men who will do, if elected, what the interests of the country have long demanded should be done.

Upon these causes rests the Independent political movement to-day. Will you not assist it with voice and vote?—St. Louis City Liberty Bell.

Hell Has a Son.

It is now well known that the final fixing of the silver bill, which passed both houses and was hastily signed by the President, can be traced directly to wily John Sherman's door. John is smart, he can fool the people and the American congress and please Wall Street and the money power of the world, all in one day. John can do most anything except be President of the United States; to get that he must have votes from the "inconspicuous multitude," which means the farmers and laborers. John has been feeling the public pulse enough to know that it would be impossible to do that therefore he has announced that he will retire from the political field and hereafter seek repose in some quiet corner of the great state of Ohio; his last crawling act of infamy was in the silver measure referred to; no other man on earth could have so worked a bill as to practically demonetize silver and at the same time convey an idea that it was next door to free coinage and would be a great measure of relief to the industrial world. John Sherman, your very legislative acts have contributed more to the sin, misery and distress of this world than any other man in it. If there be no hell we want to contribute to your misery while on this earth. If there be one, it requires no stretch of imagination to assume his Satanic majesty and all his imps will meet you with a brass band and receive you in a manner due to you for efficient service rendered in mortal form. A slight quotation from Moore seems decidedly appropriate.

"And just prophet when from earth his spirit flies, Let a damned one dwell full within sight of Paradise, Beholding Heaven but feeling hell."

When the last event transpires, Ohio should raise the windows and fumigate.—Lansing (Mich.) Alliance Sentinel.

The coming party will be satisfied with nothing but a fraternal basis of union and an equality of rights and advantages. This is not a class movement. It appeals to all business men, and no one is so much interested as the small tradesmen themselves. We are not at all rabid. We are simply obeying a natural law of economics. We do not want to hang monopolists and capitalists, but we simply desire to put an end to the system which permits them to exist. * * * The plutocratic tendency dates back thirty years. It has increased so rapidly that it is enough to scare any thinking man. If it continues to increase, as it has in the past, the wealth of the country will be wholly in the hands of a small fraction of the people, and the rest of us will have to live on wages. If nothing is done within ten or fifteen years to check this tendency, we are lost. We are upon the very hinge of destiny. If we swing any further on the edge, nothing but a social cataclysm can save us.—Edward Bellamy in California Nationalist.

The whole people of Nebraska are undergoing a grand reformation. All over the state the farmers are shouting the battle cry of freedom and are rallying to the support of the Independent ticket. My friend, you are a Republican, your neighbor across the way is a Democrat. Don't you see, if the corporation gang can keep you divided they can run you both? But when you both get together and join hands for the common good you can make Rome howl, and the politicians know it. So the Demo-Republican press screams, "Don't vote for the Independent ticket, you will elect the other man." Vote! It is your opportunity to rebuke these false leaders as Christ did of old. "Get thee behind, Satan." Friends, if you are politically a Democrat your interests are identical with your neighbor who is a Republican. A law that will injure him will injure you, and a law that will benefit him will benefit you. What a foolery it is for you two men to have these old party bosses wool-pull you all the days of your life over an old bone that has never done either one of you a bit of good.—Allen (Neb.) News.

THEY WERE AFTER BARGAINS.

Three Women in Counsel Over the Merits of a Bath Towel.

One is bad enough, two are worse, but three women in counsel over the merits of a bath towel are enough to make a poor, worn out clerk wish he might depart from earth by the electricity method.

"It seems like quite a good one for the money, doesn't it?" says the intending purchaser.

"Well, I don't know," says the other, holding the towel up at full length and giving it critically. "I got one quite as good for 37 1/2 cents at White's."

"You did?"

"Yes, but it was eight or nine weeks ago, and I don't suppose they've any more like it."

"I may be mistaken, but I've an idea it would shrink," says number three, taking the towel from number two and wrapping a corner of it over her finger. "See, it's a little thin."

"Well, I wouldn't mind if it did shrink a little, because—oh, look at this one! Isn't it lovely?"

"Beautiful! How much is it?"

"A dollar and a half."

"Mercy! I'd never pay that for a bath towel!"

"Nor I."

"These colors would fade."

"Of course they would."

"Do you know I like good plain crash as well as anything for towels."

"I don't know, but—see these towels for fifteen cents. I paid twenty-five cents for some last week but a bit better."

"Let's see; they are full length? Yes, they are cheap. I've a good notion to—but I guess I won't. I have so many towels now."

"There's a bargain if one only really needed them."

"How do you like towels used as tidies?"

"Horrid."

"I think so, too."

"So do I—oh, let me tell you. I saw a woman on the street one day with an apron made out of a red and white fringed towel!"

"Mercy! Looked like fury, didn't it? How was it made?"

"Oh, one end was simply gathered to a band, and—there, the towel was just like this one—and she'd taken it so and gathered it in so, and—really it didn't look so bad, after all."