

ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION.

New York, Sept. 18.—The Roosevelt Memorial Association, of which William Boyce Thompson is President, and which is raising funds for memorials to Theodore Roosevelt, yesterday called attention to a significant speech by the former President at St. Louis before a Colored audience. The speech read in part as follows:

"We are engaged at the present day in a great struggle for social and industrial justice in this country and our chief opponents in this struggle are the powers of pillage, the powers that profit by privilege at the expense of the rights of the plain people as a whole. I advocate genuine popular rule in Nation, State, in City, in Country, as offering the best possible means for eliminating special privilege alike in politics and in business, and for getting a genuine equality of opportunity for every man to show the stuff there is in him. I do not demand equality of service, and where this is the case it is but just that there should be inequality of reward, for it would be the rankest kind of injustice to reward the man who renders worthless service as well as we strive, however inadequately, to reward him who renders service that is literally priceless. But I do ask that we endeavor so to shape our governmental policy as to bring about a measurable equality of opportunity for all men all women so as to do justice to man and to woman, to big and to little, to rich and poor. I believe it is even more important for men to pay heed to their duties and to the rights of others than it is for them to pay heed to their own rights. But I believe also they can only do their rights. I hold that we, of this Nation, are false to our profession, false to the traditions handed down to us by the founders and the preservers of the Republic, if we do not make in very truth a real republic, a democracy in fact as well as in name, a democracy where each man stands on his worth as a man and is judged as such; a democracy in which the people really rule themselves where their representatives do not rule them, but honestly and efficiently manage the government for them."

THE FARMERS AND THE RAILROADS.

The Oklahoma Farmers' Union is entirely consistent in its stand concerning the railroad brotherhoods' plan for government ownership of the railroads. In resolutions adopted at their meeting at Clinton, the members of the farmers' union put forward this proposition:

"If congress in its wisdom sees fit to give these railroad men their demands, we ask that congress shall also buy all of the farms in the United States, with their equipment, and employ all of the farmers a wage equal to two-thirds of the hourly wage that the average railway employ receives; and then sell all farm products to the consumer at cost."

The alternative proposition of the farmers is just as reasonable as that advanced by the railroad unions. In fact, more reasonable, because in the case of the government ownership of farms, the product would be sold to the consumer at cost; whereas the railroad unions propose that they be given a large share of the profits. In their proposals, the farmers agree to give all the profits from the farms to the public and still be content with an hourly wage. They simply proposed—and justify—that if the people bought the railroads for the railway workers, they also should, as a matter of fairness, buy the farms for the farmers.

While presenting their alternative proposition, in order to show by comparison, the injustice of the railroad brotherhoods' plan, the Oklahoma Farmers' Union at the same time went on record as being opposed to any form of government ownership of railroads.

"We view with alarm and oppose any government ownership of railroads," says the resolution, "and we especially oppose the Plumb plan (the railroad brotherhoods' plan) of buying the railroads by the United States

government at the public expense turning them over to the railroad employes and guaranteeing to the employes that whatever wage they demand will be paid."

If the masses of the people are to pay for buying the railroads for any class of workers, it would be better to buy them and donate them to the farmers. The latter are more interested than are the railroad workers in guaranteeing to the public an uninterrupted operation of trains and an efficient service at the lowest cost.

Or, the railroads might be bought and donated to the carpenters or the bricklayers or the laborers who are engaged in manufacturing automobiles or other special products. The railroads might just as well be donated to any of these classes of workers as to the railroad employes, if the masses of the people are going to foot the bill.

It is significant that while the railroad workers insist on sharing the profits of the railroads, they do not propose to share any deficit that occurs in operating the roads. The railroad employes do not intend to stand any loss, but to make their earnings as high as possible at the expense of the public. One of the brotherhood leaders objects to the plan of putting railroad profits back into the railroads in the form of improvements. If the government-ownership, profit-sharing plan were put into effect, it is possible that the railroad profits among themselves and their operators. Then if it was found necessary to make improvements they would issue bonds and thus make the public pay for the improvements.

Although any form of government ownership of railroads is unthinkable, the plan proposed by the railroad brotherhoods is the worst yet brought forward. It is especially vicious because it proposes legislation for a particular class of workers and provides that these workers shall be given special benefits for which the great majority of other workers will pay. The railroad employes constitute only about three percent of all employes in the United States. Yet they insist that their will shall be supreme over all.

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