

EX-GOV. DENEEN'S ORATION ON THE FOURTH OF JULY

Editor Day Book:

I should like space in The Day Book to comment on some of the remarks made by Ex-Gov. C. S. Deneen at the Fourth of July celebration given under the auspices of the Young Men's Club at Highland Park last Friday evening. In order to impress on his hearers how great and glorious a country this is he dwelt at length on our great prosperity and on our expansion in annexing Cuba, the Philippine Islands, Hawaii, etc. It may be a glorious thing for us to have expanded to the extent that we have and then again it may not. The majority of us are not well enough informed on such matters, but the worst kind of a dub knows that the prosperity talk is ninety per cent gush. The Ex-Governor was very careful not to mention that the great prosperity he was talking about exists for a very small minority only. Long hours, low wages, high cost of living, etc., be very carefully avoided.

A Fourth of July oration should have something in it about human freedom, and human freedom can not be intelligently discussed without also discussing human slavery. Did the Hon. Ex-Governor say anything about the human slavery of every description now existing? He did not. Why didn't he? Does he not know anything about it; is he indifferent or ashamed that so much human misery should exist after such a long period of Republican gentlemen in office? I believe myself he was ashamed to mention the conditions actually existing among the toilers of the land. I know I would be if I had made such a flat, miserable failure of my use of the powers of government as he and his kind have. Mr. Deneen sees this thing from the viewpoint of the ten per cent of our people who happen to be the owners of the earth, and he probably succeeds in making many good, honest people believe that everything is

lovely for everybody. This is thoroughly bad, as the greatest crying need of our day is that all should know the actual evil condition great masses of our people are living under. The majority of our people are good; they love justice and can be depended upon to render a just verdict on any question they thoroughly understand, and it is a pity that such men as Deneen should use his prestige to influence people into thinking all are prosperous.

How many men, how many women, how many children are there in this glorious, prosperous country today who are two weeks or less from starvation? Does Mr. Deneen know? If he does not he is an ignoramus; if he does he is a hypocrite. Mr. Deneen may be sincere. If he is, he is not now, and never has been, fit to be governor.

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MOTHERS AND POVERTY

Editor Day Book:

The unfitness of mothers of dependent children complained of by "Organized Charity" is in my opinion all caused by poverty.

The Mothers' Pension Law recently enacted by the legislature of eighteen states will, to a great extent, make the unfit mother fit because the pension removes the cause of her unfitness, which is her poverty.

It is the common observation that the very fine and very fit mother becomes comparatively unfit to take care of her children after a few years of hopeless struggle with poverty.

The mistake of "Organized Charity" is their allowing good mothers of dependent children to be made unfit by the poison of poverty, the poison of hopelessness, the poison of overwork in trying to earn the living for their children at hard labor and give proper care to their children at the same time.

The "Organized Charity" contends that a mother should have her children taken away from her because