

TOM WATSON'S BIG TALK

(Continued from First Page.)

the privilege to so arrange our tariff schedules, as to extort net profits every year, ten times larger than the entire revenue of the Roman Republic.

The Vanderbilt family, through franchise grabbing and stock watering operations, have robbed the American people of a vast sum than Alexander the Great harvested by his conquest of the Persian Empire.

Antiquity was shocked when Cleopatra dissolved and drank a pearl valued at \$400,000. Historians emphasize the scandalous luxury of Lucullus, who spent \$8,500 on a feast. When one of our American millionaires throw open the grand ball room for a night of revelry, the floral decorations alone cost more than the feast of Lucullus. And when one of our Cleopatras is fascinated by some Mark Antony, English Duke, Italian Prince, French Count or Hungarian Eucreezed, she thinks, she thinks nothing of spending from one to five million dollars on the "pearl."

In Cleopatra's case, the gem was merely a usual product of nature; in the modern instance every dollar that goes abroad to pay for foreign titles, and minister to the depraved appetites of aristocratic debauches is the product of the American laborer's toil. From the traction lines of New York City, Ryan and Belmont were taken greater amounts of plunder than Warren Hastings wrung from the princes of Hindustan. Great Britain was aghast at the voracity of Hastings. Her greatest orators, Burke, Sheridan, Fox, thundered against him at the bar of the House of Lords, denouncing him in language that will live forever. Ryan and Belmont did not ravage a foreign state, nor plunder people of a different race, as Hastings did; they robbed the people of their own city, men and women of the same race as themselves, and no impeachment for high crime and misdemeanors has brought them to the bar of any tribunal which has power to punish. Hastings despoiled the idle rich of India, grandees who had themselves plundered their own people. Ryan and Belmont did not plunder the idle rich. Not they! But their greedy hands upon the scant earnings of millions of workmen and work women, who create the wealth and amass fortunes for themselves by robbing the industrious poor. The British Government threw its whole power against Warren Hastings, in the effort to punish him for crimes committed against a foreign people of an alien race and creed, but who talks of indicting such men as Ryan and Belmont? Who dreams of punishing such criminals as Morgan and Harrison? Miserable cowards that we are. We crouch before the gigantic law-breakers and allow them to run our Government. All that we can do is to punish such offenses as petty larceny. Let the naked steal something to wear; let the hungry steal something to eat; let the miserable wretches, shivering with wintry cold, steal something to feed the fire, and we can pounce upon these small criminals and punish them with a rigor shocking to common humanity; but the men who steal railroads, the trust builders who violate every statute in the penal code in their march through monopoly and to millions, these are the men before whom we stand cowering and helpless. There is not an intelligent, well informed citizen of the country, who does not know that through the machinery of both the old parties, the corporate law-breakers, who ought to be behind the bars, dictate our legislation, shape our foreign and domestic policy, and control our destiny.

They talk to us foreign foes, and some of our statesmen wildly clamor for a billion dollar navy. But, tell me what greater harm a foreign foe could inflict upon us than we are suffering from the foe within our gates? The chain was falling from Wall Street's revenue maw with unlawfully issued bonds!

By Treasury rulings and by Acts of Congress our money system has been revolutionized. The government has been made to abdicate one of its most important functions. It would not be more dangerous to delegate to private individuals the right to declare war and make treaties, than it is to delegate the power to control the creation and distribution of the national currency. Never did any government surrender its royal prerogative of creating money until the goldsmiths of London bribed a king's purveyor into wheeling him into granting that fatal concession. As a matter of historical fact, the monstrous usurpation of our leading class against which we Jeffersonians revolt, had its foul origin in the disgraceful relations which gave Barbara Villiers her name over Charles the Second. Our forefathers did not intend to part with the sovereign power to create money. Admonished by every tesson which could be taught them by the records of the past, they reserved to the government the great royal function of creating money, just as they reserved to the government every other attribute of sovereignty necessary for the high purpose of necessity. They denied to the States the power to make anything else but gold and silver a legal tender of payment of debts, yet, today, six thousand national bankers, private citizens, though they are, do practically what the Constitution forbids the states to do. To the extent of Six Hundred Million Dollars, they already have their personal notes in circulation as money; under the Aldrich-Vreeland bill, the year given the right to issue an additional Five Hundred Million. That of it? Morgan, Ryan, Belmont, Rockefeller, Harriman, are national bankers, as well as railroad owners. Under this new law, they, as bankers, can monetize the securities which, as railroad owners they see fit to issue. You cannot monetize land, nor cotton, nor corn, nor merchandise, but you can monetize any sort of railroad security which have been gathered up by the banking association and which the Secretary of the Treasury can be persuaded to look upon with favor. Nor is this the worst of it. When they are given the power to expand and contract the currency, as the Aldrich-Vreeland bill gives them, they can only send prices up or down, but can precipitate a panic whenever it is to their interest to do so; thus our government has deliberately given Wall Street almost absolute control and a terribly dangerous power over the \$5,000,000,000 people of our Republic.

Who would not be shocked beyond expression if the government should delegate any other of its sovereign functions to private persons, to be exploited for private gain? How long would it be before the flags of revolt would be unfurled from the Lakes to the Gulf, and from Ocean to Ocean, if a few of our money kings were allowed to handle our army and navy?

For several years, a "Big Stick" President has been engaged in the alleged work of Trust busting. Where's your busted trust? Which one of them has been put out of business? You cannot name it. How can a President who has been "standing pat" with the tariff standpatters do any effective trust busting? You might as well try to purge the Gulf of Mexico with the Mississippi. As long as you "stand pat" in spite of you. We Jeffersonians contend that the Trusts are the natural offspring of monopoly and that

the only way to destroy a Trust is to kill the monopoly. Put on the free list those articles manufactured by the trusts. The foreign competitor will do the rest.

The American people, patriotic idiots that we are, give their hearty support to a protective policy, a Tariff System, which is a ruinous burden to everybody with two exceptions. The first exception is the American manufacturer, who exploits the home market with his trust; the second is the foreigner, who buys American goods cheaper than we can buy them—cheaper than he can buy the manufactured goods of his own country. It is a literal fact that after the beneficiaries of special privilege get their portions of the annual increase of the nation's wealth, none of it is left. In mine, mill and shop, in field and forest, the workman brings forth every year the immense sum of Four and a Half Billions of Dollars.

Yet, when we come to examine the official reports published by the government, the terrible fact appears that the specially privileged have taken practically the entire amount. A bare living is left for the workman of town and country, while to the beneficiaries of our damnable class laws have been awarded riches that stagger human comprehension. If it is wrong—if it isn't a crime against humanity, if it isn't an injustice which, unless righted, will cause a bloody revolution, then all my reading and study have taught me nothing.

The Money Question

Last fall there was a panic, in spite of the fact that we had a greater amount of material wealth than ever before. Bankruptcy went stalking through the land and the cry of distress rang from sea to sea. How did our Republican President—our friend of the "Big Stick" deal with the panic? He followed precedent, doing just what our Democratic President, Mr. Cleveland, had done. J. P. Morgan was commander-in-chief of the Wall Street "patriots" who forced the panic, just as he was in 1893, and to Morgan Roosevelt's administration virtually said, as Mr. Cleveland had said in 1893: "If nothing else but bonds will do you, come on and get the bonds."

What brought about the panic of 1897? The volume of real money had been so greatly lessened in comparison with the country's need for money, that it is not difficult to "corner" the available supply. New York did this last fall. Credits of all sorts had been recklessly extended, and when the real money was needed, New York was found to be in possession of it, and New York held on to it. Neither banks nor individuals could get back their own money from New York without paying an extortionate price for it. How could the situation have been relieved? The Government should have used its sovereign power to create money and should have broken the New York corner on money by issuing its own notes—just as Andrew Jackson did in 1837!

When the British were being led into that death trap at New Orleans in 1815 and their whole campaign was falling into wreck and ruin, one of the generals who had served under Wellington in Portugal and Spain, cried out: "Oh, for an hour of the old Duke!" There have been at least two occasions when the American people might have cried: "Oh, for an hour of the grim warrior who made that English general feel the need of the old Duke! Oh, for an hour of Andrew Jackson!"

One of these occasions was when a so-called Democratic President exclaimed, in dismay: "My God, Oates, these bankers have got the government by the leg!"

The other time was last winter, when the Secretary of the Treasury was handing out those Panama bonds—a violation of law for which he ought to have been impeached, just as Mr. Carlisle should have been impeached in 1893, when the "endless chain" was falling from Wall Street's revenue maw with unlawfully issued bonds!

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Such a situation is unthinkable. Yet we have its exact parallel—with no less terrible consequences—in the domination of these bankers.

Search ever so diligently throughout the vast storehouse of nature and you will hunt in vain for such a thing as money. Never did it exist until the government called it into life. Nature produces commodities; the law may confer upon one of these commodities or upon several of them those legal powers which lift the commodity out of its natural position as a commodity, and give it the artificial, man-made position which entitles it to bear the name of MONEY. Nature does not produce armies. It only supplies the raw material. Just as it ever has been a governmental function to create armies and navies, so it has ever been a governmental function to create money.

To supply the nation with its currency is not only the government's prerogative, but its high and solemn duty. It is a part of the public domain, in the loftiest and truest sense. The bankers have invaded it and entrenched themselves upon it. Let the government drive out these insolent trespassers and reclaim the public domain. Let us scourge the money-changers from the Temple and consecrate it anew to the holy purpose for which it was created. Let the government itself create all the money. Every dollar thus called into being will have for its security the Law of Legal Tender, the industrial demands of the entire country, and the wealth of all the people.

In its last analysis "the currency system which has been foisted upon the American people, is merely the exploitation of public credit—yours and mine—for their private profit. The credit of all the people represented by our government has been seized upon by six thousand bankers. Every sane and intelligent citizen must know that the government has no more right to surrender to private individuals the credit of all the people than it would have to hire out the army and navy to further some mammoth expedition of these buccaners of Wall Street.

Why has the National banker any more right to use the government credit—based upon what you and I produce—than has the farmer, the merchant, the mechanic, the lawyer, the editor, the scholar? What right has the government to take what belongs to us all and give it to a favored few?

A currency system, based upon the general credit, would be a blessing to us all. Surrender it to a few, who use it for their private gain and our oppression, it has become a curse.

We Jeffersonians have been decried and reviled as wild people, asking for something that was visionary, impracticable, unlawful—why should we be condemned for advocating and boldly demanding that the rights guaranteed to us by the Constitution of our country should be restored?

To break the fetters which the money power has fastened upon the people, was one of the leading purposes of Thomas Jefferson.

That he did break that power, in his day, was one of the crowning glories of Andrew Jackson.

It is an astonishing evidence of the success with which the banking class has hypnotized the people, that we—the disciples of Jackson and Jefferson—should encounter a storm of persecution when we endeavor to arouse the people to a knowledge of their financial slavery.

The happiest era in the history of our Republic was the decade which preceded the civil war. The principles of Jackson and Jefferson were supreme. What we are trying to do is to bring back the ascendancy of these principles, so that our people may again be prosperous and free and happy.

Taking advantage of the civil war, taking advantage of the fiery passions which burned so long and so fiercely; taking advantage of the wickedness and woe of the Reconstruction period, these "non-combatant" financiers, actuated by the same vile spirit as that which sends the ghoul to rob the dead upon the battlefield, contrived the cunning system of finance which shackles our commerce and despoils our labor.

Torn by sectional prejudice and political agitation, the people on both sides, North and South, were unconscious of the vicious, vandal laws which were being put upon the statute books.

Shall sectional prejudice always keep us blind to facts? Shall political agitation always deafen us to the Voice of Truth?

The money power which Jefferson fought and defeated; the financial system which Jackson attacked and overthrew, has come back, as Thomas H. Benton said it would, hungrier, and more powerful than ever. If the American people are not willing to see their Republic glide into the hands of a money aristocracy, they must arouse themselves to a determined effort to regain their industrial independence.

Federal Judiciary

To preserve the dignity of the states and the uniformity of decisions, it was provided in the judiciary act of 1789, that the test of the constitutionality of a state law should first be made in the state courts of the state whose law was challenged; and that if the state courts refused to set aside the statute in question, an appeal might be taken from the Supreme Court of the State to the Supreme Court of the United States.

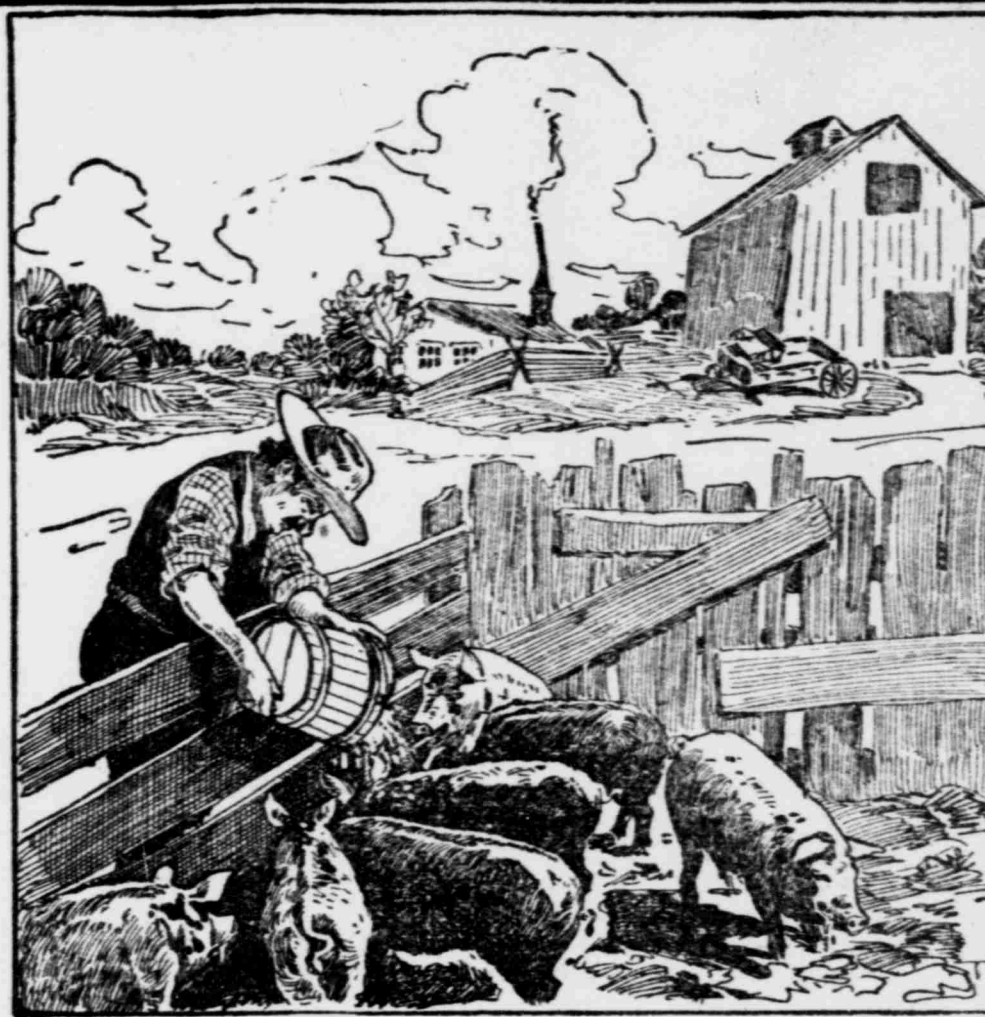
That method of testing the constitutionality of a State law has never been changed by Congress, nor by any set of states. The Federal Constitution is the law of the land today. Previous to the civil war, no State law was ever attacked in any other manner.

Where do the Federal Judges of District Courts get their authority to join governors and suspend the operation of State laws? They have it by the force of the Federal Constitution. What line of the Revised Statutes gives these lower Federal Courts any such jurisdiction? What clause in the Constitution justifies them?

It cannot be found. It does not exist. The act of the Federal Courts that have been enjoining State authorities, annulling state laws, and arrogating to themselves the right to put a veto on State legislation, is nothing in the world but encroaching audacity of the corporations, acting through the complicity of the judges.

The Eleventh Amendment to the Constitution has no other purpose than to protect the States from just such outrageous wrongs, and humiliations as they have been subjected to by corporation attorneys, presiding judges, during the last thirty or forty years.

If the laws of the State are unconstitutional why cannot they be attacked first in the State Courts, as the Judiciary Act of 1789 provided?



The Swine and the Flower

Oh me! I saw a huge and loathsome sty,
Wherein a drove of wallowing swine were barred,
Whose banquet shocked the nostril and the eye;
Then spoke a voice, "Behold the source of LARD!"

I fled, and saw a field that seemed at first
One glistening mass of roses pure and white,
With dewy buds 'mid dark green foliage nursed;
And as I lingered o'er the lovely sight,
The summer breeze that cooled that Southern scene,
Whispered, "Behold the source of COTTOLENE!"

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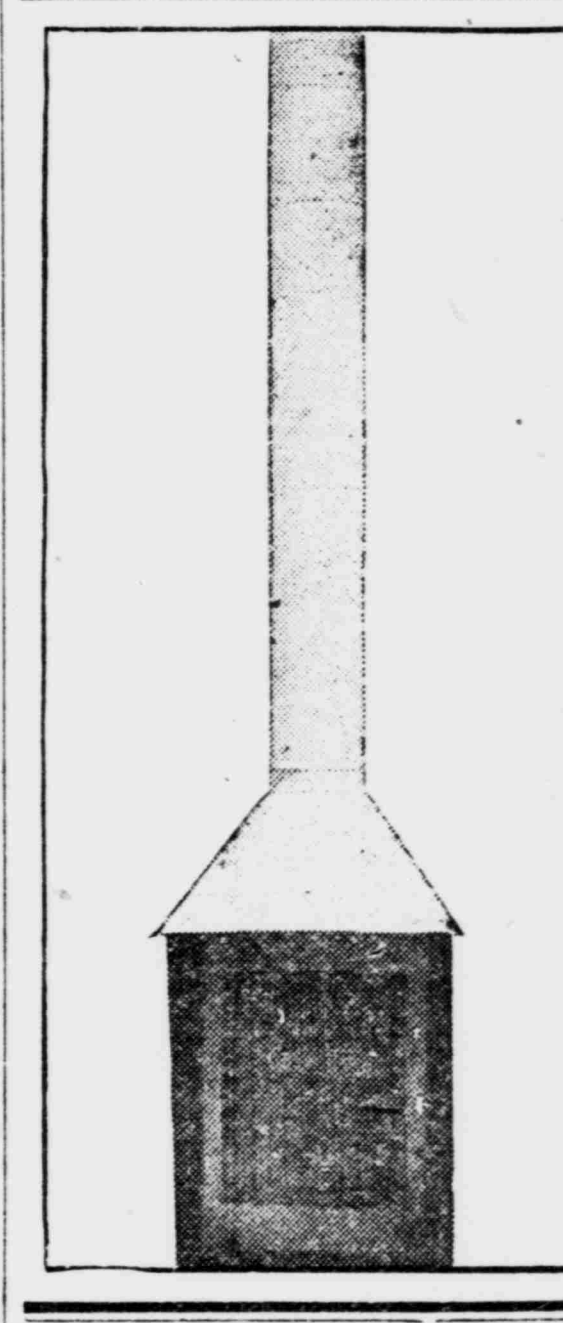
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is especially adapted for turpentine men, sawmill men, or any one where a temporary fire-place is needed. The cut herewith gives a front view of this invention and shows how same can be attached to any frame building, either where fire-place would be built, or can be set in window.

It is made of the best galvanized steel, is light, strong and durable. This portable fire-place can be moved from place to place and taken down or set up in a very few minutes, thereby saving an expense which would incur in making a chimney of sticks and mortar or brick.

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HARRY B. CLARKSON, General Manager.

the charters which have been the cradles of modern Democracy.

If we tamely submit to the financial aristocracy which erects its strongholds upon the heights of Special Privilege and plunders us through the prostitution of legislative machinery—if we yield to these insolent and insatiable plutocrats without a fight, we will be the first branch of the great Teutonic family that ever disgraced itself by such pusillanimous surrender.

I, for one, am proud of a record of prolonged and determined battle against the system of class legislation which yoke we bear. And because of this record, I accept the nomination which my party has tendered.

Any soldier can fight bravely when he knows his are the heavy battalions that are sure to win. The truest soldiers are those who fight gallantly when they know they can't win. Why, then, do they fight?

Because, sometimes, it is better to have fought and lost than not to have fought at all. From every field of civil war—from every part of that bloody path which stretches from Big Bethel to Appomattox, of those who wore the gray could speak, would come the voice:

"Believing as we did, we had to fight. Honor, self-respect, patriotic convictions were imperative—we had to fight. And on the fields where we fought and fell in the Lost Cause, as well as upon the fields of Thermopylae, Marathon, Bannockburn, King's Mountain and Yorktown, the glorious old truth is still the truth, 'To die for one's country is sweet!'"

Believing as we do, we have no doubt that we are sure to win. The truest soldiers are those who fight gallantly when they know they can't win. Why, then, do they fight?

Where conviction says we should go, we will go. What conscience says we must do, will be done. Having

obeyed the law of our being in this behalf we leave the rest to God in whose vast economy no true word or work was ever lost.

In ancient times, long before the discovery of any easy way of "striking a light," and making a fire, it was a most important matter that someone see to it that the fire did not die out. Yet it happened, time and again, that there was no light to be had. The fires had been neglected everywhere and the nation found itself in darkness. To rekindle the spark was a most tedious and difficult matter; therefore the ancients, to prevent a recurrence of the calamity of losing the fire, set apart certain individuals whose sole duty it was in life to keep the light.

In Rome the preservation of the fire was given a character sacred; a temple was built for the service, and those who were set apart to feed the eternal flame were consecrated as to a religious duty.

Pure young women, known as Vestal Virgins, were chosen as guardian angels of the sacred fire, and if the Vestal Virgin lost her own purity, or let the light in the temple die out, the penalty was death.

Within the temple, night and day, winter and summer, year in and year out, the Vestal Virgin fed her sacred fire. Roman eagles might be flying to the uttermost ends of the earth; Roman legions might be marching in the woods of Germany, or pursuing Picts and Scots on the Grampian Hills, or forming lines of battle upon the Euphrates—but in the temple, at Rome, would be found the eternal fire, with the Vestals feeding it, night and day.

If the light went out in the house of any Roman—rich or poor, country or town—he was not left in darkness. Straightway he betook himself to the temple and lit his torch at the fire which the Vestal had kept alive. And all over the vast dominions of Rome there was never a fear of universal darkness, for they knew that if one Vestal fell away from duty, another would take her place, and that Vestals

might come and Vestals might go, but the light would shine forever.

Oh, my countrymen! Each of us is a temple, within each of us is lit the sacred fire; within each of us are the better angels of our nature, whose eternal vigilance is needed to keep the temple pure and the light trimmed and burning. As it is with the individual, so it is with the nation. The grandeur of the Republic must always rest upon the nobility of the citizen. Does the sacred fire burn low within me? Then was unto me—for I have lessened the nation's splendor. Has the light gone out of your life? Then was unto you—for the nation has lost a part of its glory.

To every man and woman who has listened to this address, to every man and woman who shall hereafter read it, I appeal:

Consecrate the temple, keep pure and perpetual the Vestal service, for it is moral death to the individual to neglect the fire; it is moral death to the nation to lose the light.

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