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THE CLASS CONFLICT.

CONFLICT BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND NON-PRODUCERS;

The Non-Producing are Now on Top, and are Trying to Keep There by Bluff and Deception—Monetary Contraction and the Bank Credit System.

There are two distinct and well-defined classes composing society—the producing and non-producing classes. Between these two there is an irrepressible conflict. At present the non-producing class is on top and working with might and main to keep there by strengthening their position by every means, fair and unfair, that can be devised by the ingenuity of man. Bluff and deception is the main reliance of this class.

The non-producing class is the money-owning and debt-owning class, the salaried, the interest-drawing, rent-receiving class. It is their interest—at least it apparently is—to keep prices of property—especially products of daily use—low. They are enabled to buy more with their money in a low-priced market than in a high-priced market, hence they jump to the conclusion that is the condition which is most beneficial to them. They may be in error, however, and when the end is reached that such conditions must inevitably produce this will be proven.

The more evenly property or wealth is distributed among the people the more prosperous, contented, and happy that people will be. A forced or unnatural distribution of wealth could not produce these results, but rather the contrary. But the economic conditions of a country should be such that this state of affairs would naturally and logically exist. It is not necessary, nor either is it possible, that all persons should be on an equality of wealth, but the producers should enjoy the privilege, which is their right, of possessing the full share of that wealth which their industry creates in its money representative. What use they make of it is altogether a different matter. They may spend it or lay it up for a rainy day, convert it into stable property, anything which their circumstances or fancy suggests. It is none of society's business, but it is the business of society, the duty of the state, to see that means are provided that will enable the producing class to come into possession of their just proportion of the wealth they create in its money representative, and have the power and privilege of enjoying the same.

Such is not the condition of society at the present time. The producing class does not have the opportunity of enjoying the full measure of what their industry creates, while, on the other hand, the non-producing class, enjoys vastly more than its share of this world's goods. It is not necessary to go into tedious details to explain or discuss this point, every fair-minded person realizes and admits this patent fact.

At the root of this unequal and unjust distribution of wealth lies the money question. The amount of money in circulation is the gauge by which this equal distribution of wealth must be measured, and that amount will enable the purchaser to pay cash on delivery and the seller to demand it. It is the credit system which interferes with the cash rule and it is the lack of money in circulation which is the foster mother of the credit system. The disproportion in the circulating medium to the amount of property to be exchanged for and by money has caused the abnormal growth of the credit system, and the banks by the princely privileges granted them, have been enabled to stretch credit to the bursting point, and they often do this to the great detriment of the wealth-producing class.

This evil has been frightfully increased since the civil war, and by a conspiracy on the part of the non-producing or money class which need not be restated here; the story of the black crime has been told hundreds of times and proven beyond the possibility of denial. The contraction of the money volume is the root of the evil which the whole producing class is groaning under.

A full volume of money in circulation insures high prices for labor and the products of labor. Money in large volume then comes into the possession of the producer. If debts have been contracted the producer is enabled to pay them. If he is of an economical disposition, the chance to lay up a surplus or accumulate fixed property is given him. Taxes, salaries, fees, and such fixed charges remain nearly stationary. The money class, the non-producers, are compelled to part with a more equitable portion of their wealth when high prices rule, while the producing class becomes the receivers. Cash payment on delivery of goods is the truest gauge of equity between producer and non-producer.

The question of the greatest importance then is how this happy medium is to be established, the volume of circulating money commensurate to the wealth created by the producing class. The monetization of silver alone offers the most universal means for the supply of money. Restoring silver to its old place as one of the money metals would create a general rise in prices of products and remuneration of labor throughout the civilized world, and lift the human race up to a higher plane than it has ever enjoyed in the world's history. The accumulating distress that is enshrouding the producers is pressing this question home to them more severely every succeeding month. The horrors of an ever deepening poverty is staring the entire producing class, great and small, in the face. Silver must be monetized or the dark ages will again settle down on the world. That act would break the money tyrant's chain, and other reforms, much needed could then be pushed forward. The poverty which low prices is pressing on the people prevents advance on any line of reform, and keeps abuses fastened on them which clog and hinder every effort to better their conditions.

The great multiplying power of production with steam, electricity, and improved machinery has created within the last half century demands a vast increase in the volume of money to distribute and divide this wealth.

E. E. EWING.

POINTS FROM THE PRESS.

The man who claims that gold is better than any money his government can make is a traitor. He places gold above his country and by his own admission would sell, like Benedict Arnold, his country for gold.—Appeal to Reason.

Labor alone can produce prosperity. It can come through no other source—labor applied to natural resources.

Have the people figured out from the last treasury statement how much money per capita is in circulation? With a circulation of about \$7 how can any business enterprise be carried on successfully. — Silver Knight-Watchman.

Some men are born poor, some achieve poverty, and others have it thrust upon them by class legislation. — National Single Taxer.

With thirty tons of silver a week going to England, and half of it coming back coined into exact imitation of American dollars, hasn't Rothschild got the silver question just where he wants it? Fifteen tons of coined silver will buy more than thirty tons of bullion. Who gets the profit?—Chicago Express.

The taxed man raises corn, the taxing man raises corruption; the taxed man raises wheat, the taxing man raises war; the taxed man raises potatoes, the taxing man raises perquisites; the taxed man raises hogs, the taxing man raises "hob"; the taxed man raises sheep, the taxing man uses the "sheep"; the taxed man improves land, and the taxing man is ruining the land. This is the "best government on earth."—Coming Nation.

It was made very clear in the debate on the Teller-Matthews resolution that the government of the United States had been robbed of millions of dollars by surrendering to bondholders and gold gamblers the option to pay the government obligations in silver coin. This was done without a shadow of law, and up to the present time no one has been impeached. Let a poor urchin take a broom from a government department, however, and instantly the police court has a case for trial.—Silver Knight-Watchman.

The Cleveland (O.) Recorder is authority for the statement that Hanna gave the state committee \$200,000; gave the papers \$300,000, and that his personal expenses were \$100,000—a total of \$600,000 to get an office worth (?) only \$8,000 a year! No Roman senator ever poured so much corruption into the life of his nation as that. The laboring men elected Hanna. They like to elevate such men. They alone make it possible in this country for such men to hold office and pollute the nation. But for the political ignorance of working men there would be no Hannas. The character of any people always finds a reflex in its government. A politically ignorant people always have a corrupt and vicious government.—Appeal.

The Words of the Prophet. But this is a people robbed and spoiled. They are all of them snared in holes, and they are hid in prison houses; they are a prey and none delivereth; for a spoil, and none saith, Restore. Who among you will give ear to this? Who will hearken and hear for the time to come?—Isaiah, XLII, 22, 23.

Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is no warmth; and he that earneth wages, earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.—Ezekiel, I, 6.

MONEY AND WHEAT.

STORY OF JOHN DOE AND RICHARD ROE.

The Upward Trend of Money and the Downward Trend of Prices Since 1874 Illustrated—Moral, Don't Be a Farmer.

On the Fourth of July, 1873, two neighbor farmers—John Doe and Richard Roe—disputed about the probable trend of prices in the future, and they agreed upon a test as follows: That on the first day of January, 1874, they would each measure out from his bin a hundred bushels of wheat. Mr. Doe would sell his at the average price of wheat for the year 1873, put the money away and let it lie untouched until the last day of December, 1895. Mr. Roe would keep his wheat one year and exchange it for a like quantity and quality of new wheat, and repeat the operation every year, so as to have a hundred bushels of good wheat on hand all the time until December 31, 1895. The object was to ascertain how much would be lost or gained on the value of one hundred dollars and on one hundred bushels of wheat in the next twenty-one years—the time it takes to grow a man.

When the trial began, January 1, 1874, Mr. Doe sold his wheat, as agreed, at the average price for the year 1873, which was 115.1 cents a bushel, receiving for the lot \$115.10. Mr. Roe started out with his one hundred bushels, exchanging it from year to year, as agreed.

On the last day of the year 1895 Mr. Doe had his \$115.10, and Mr. Roe had his one hundred bushels of wheat. On comparing the values of the two articles at the beginning and the ending of the period of twenty-one years the following statement was made:

1874, January 1—
100 bushels wheat, worth...\$115.10
100 dollars, worth...\$6.95 bus. wheat.
1895, December 31—

100 bushels wheat, worth...\$50.90
100 dollars, worth...\$196.46 bus. wheat.
Doe's money had gained in value in twenty-one years as much as would buy 109 1/2 bushels of wheat more than it paid for when the test was begun.
Roe's wheat lost in value more than one-half, for while it was worth \$115.10 in the beginning, it was worth only \$50.90 at the end of the test.

Now let us suppose that Mr. Doe, instead of letting his money lie idle, had put it out and kept it out as the money lenders do, at—say 8 per cent, a year compounded annually. At the end of the twenty-one year period his one hundred dollars would have been swollen to \$503.28, which would have paid for 985.76 bushels of wheat. If the interest rate had been 10 per cent, a year, the amount in the twenty-one years would have been \$740, and that would have paid for 1,454 bushels of wheat.—Ex-Senator Pepper.

The Census Question.

Notwithstanding some little hope in a contrary direction, we are afraid that the census of 1900 will be organized under conditions which gives the party in power another chance to repeat the political outrages of the "Porter census" of 1890. That expensive and mendacious presentment, as the country knows, was famous or infamous, for its ability to assault civilization with the new proposition that seamstresses are "manufacturing plants," and to steal a congressman and an electoral vote from the State of New York. There were other things of a scandalous character connected with that census organization, which it would be better not to have exposed, but which it will become necessary to discuss in case it shall be plain that the same sort of thing is to be imposed upon the country again. It would be well for the party responsible for that census not to tempt analytical treatment in the public press of its administrative "true inwardness."

As the census bill stands to-day the party in power will enjoy the opportunity to organize the twelfth census in the interests of the Dingley trust and monopoly bill, to juggle with the returns of agriculture, industry, and commerce, and to lie, as it always does, in relation to the currency.—Washington Times.

Political Duplicity.

Will not the outspoken declarations and vigorous work of Secretary Gage and other treasury officials, so far commit the Republican party to the gold standard that the next Republican candidate for the presidency will be compelled to run as a gold monometalist? Oh, no; not at all. Each of the gold parties for the last twenty years has claimed in every canvass to be bimetallicists, and it made no difference which was successful after election, the party in power labored to establish and maintain the single gold standard. It was more than twenty years before enough of the people of the United States realized the duplicity of the parties to which they belonged, and decided to put country before party, to furnish any hope of the success of the people against the parasites of the gold standard.—Silver Knight-Watchman.

CURRENT NOTES.

Thousands of acres of cotton remains unpicked in Oklahoma, and in every southern state, because the price is so ridiculously low that it isn't worth bothering with.

The single gold standard rule of shrinkage in values of all products of labor prevails except in the case of wheat. Owing to a world-wide failure in the wheat crop the price of wheat is now nearly half what it was before the beginning of currency contraction.

Once farmers actually received \$2 per bushel for wheat in local markets. That was in greenback times and each of those bushels of wheat paid \$2 worth of debts. Now, in the era of McKinley prosperity, it takes three bushels of wheat on an average to pay \$2 worth of debts.

Under the value-squeezing single gold standard, monopoly ownership of railroads and plutocratic control of taxation there is no chance of improvement in the farmers' condition. Prices will continue to fall, while fixed charges, such as interest, taxes and rent, will remain the same, or increase, and, no matter how low the price may fall, the railroads will exact the same amount in money for carrying the crops to market.

A cheerful idiot or accommodating liar named Davis has been writing to J. Pierpont Morgan's paper, the New York Sun, articles designed to prove that the advance in the price of wheat is permanent, because the supply of agricultural land is exhausted, and the prices of farm products must rise. If so, why is wheat the only product now up?

Were it not for the crop failure abroad wheat would to-day be in the same position as cotton—it would pay no debts at all and would hardly be worth enough to get itself to market.

It would be a losing game for the farmers to abandon politics, acquiesce in the single gold standard and wait for the diminishing supply of farming land to starve out the plutocrats and make the farmers rich. The farmer is in politics to stay.

And be it not forgotten that the interests of 99 per cent. of the people are identical with the interests of the farmers. In the consideration of all business matters except those involving politics everybody recognizes that general prosperity depends upon the prosperity of the farmers, and the time may be near when not only will the farmers vote together, but when all producers possessed of intelligence will vote for their own interests and the good of humanity, and against the selfish schemes of the few bondholders, tax-eaters, mortgage sharks, land monopolists and transportation monopolists.

The first step towards the complete abolition of monopoly and special privilege is the restoration of normal prices through the increase of the circulating medium by opening the mints to silver at the constitutional ratio. And reform will not stop at the beginning. PERCY PEFOON.

The Mill Operatives.

The mill operatives of New England are awakening to the great injustice that has been and is being perpetrated upon them by the money power, says tariff was the cause of the constant reduction of wages. But now they fail to see it in that light. Congress was called into special session to remedy the tariff and a measure was passed and prosperity was proclaimed throughout the land; and on the heels of it wages were reduced in every cotton mill in New England.

"Grim determination and unanimity of action mark the course of the strikers. They declare they will stand together to the end, which they now believe to be a long way off. They realize that the mill owners will try to starve them into submission, but they say this weapon will fail of its purpose. Hardship will have to be endured, and they have made up their minds to stand it. They count on aid from other mill towns, should the fight be a long one, to pull them through."

Economy and Caution.

Since 1893 it has been so fashionable to be poor that economy and caution have become fairly a national characteristic. The man who made money before 1893 hurried to put what he gained into quick circulation. Now the average citizen who has prospered during 1897 is inclined to hold tight, for the time at least, to his new surplus.—Secretary Gage.

Nothing could be more significant of the advance of poverty. If everybody should "hold tight" his surplus, retrenching himself and family to bare necessities, the community would be still poorer than it is. But want of "confidence" causes hoarding, and hoarding manufactures pauperism. The secretary thus completely gives away his own case.

THE PASSING SHOW.

REIGN OF MONOPOLY AND ITS FRUITS

The Plutocratic Workings of the Federal Courts—Current Press Clippings Showing the Sweep of the Wave of Prosperity.

A man sued a railroad out in Kansas and got judgment against the corporation. Of course, the case was at once appealed, but after it had been dragged up to the higher courts the judgment was affirmed, and, as the railroad refused to settle, the sheriff undertook to levy upon the property in sight. There happened to be nothing in sight but some trains, and upon these a levy was duly made. The sheriff seized three trains, and, to make sure that they would not get away, he chained them to the track. Then the company had the sheriff arrested for obstructing the United States mails, and the federal judiciary decided that the point was well taken. Therefore, the sheriff is in trouble, and the man who recovered the judgment is not at all likely to see the color of his money on this side of the grave.

Here we have a practical instance of the way the system of obstructing the mails works. The United States mails are not only a great source of revenue for the railroads, but they afford a convenient bulwark to fight behind whenever the corporations want to get out of doing their duty. Any man with common sense can see that the real obstructors of the mails are the corporations. The companies refuse to pay wages high enough to prevent strikes and thus bring about an obstruction of the mails. In the present case, the obstruction of the mails was brought about by the refusal of the corporation to pay the amount of the judgment against it. But the true view of the situation is disingenuously evaded and upon a mere quibble, the railroads are permitted to defy the courts of a sovereign state. Had the judgment been against some poor man, the sheriff would have levied upon all he had and the money would thus have been obtained. It seems that corporations, backed up by the United States mails, can do pretty much as they please.

The labor situation in the cotton mill district has completely changed, and it is more than probable that a great strike will agitate all New England, says the Twentieth Century. The capitalists say that there may not be a strike after all, and that anyhow the shutting down of the plants has no terrors for them. The mill hands are the only ones who will suffer to any great extent. But the administration is not likely to contemplate with equanimity the prospect of a strike at the time when preparations are necessary for the congressional campaign. If the strike assumes great proportions there will be an immense amount of suffering throughout New England, during the coming six months.

The great cotton corporations of New England demand that the laws regulating hours of labor should be modified with the intent of a longer day's work for women and children.

New York city has about 187,000 workers idle and the appeals for charity are more urgent than ever before.

The Carnegie company has notified their several thousand employees of a 10 per cent reduction in wages.

Miss Helen Gould and William Rockefeller have become rivals in the matter of raising flowers. Roses and orchids are the hobby of both, and each is trying to excel the other. Miss Gould received a palm Thursday, from her agent in Egypt. It is over 100 years old and cost in the neighborhood of \$20,000.

How the American sovereign is courteously treated in his search for work! A well known gentleman of Phoenix, Ala., applied to the Columbus Commercial Fertilizer Company several days ago, for a job. He had previously approached the superintendent of the company in regard to the matter, who told him he would need a man soon, and to call again. He was met by the general manager, whose first question, accompanied by an oath, was, "What do you want here?" "I came out to see the superintendent about a job." "G-d d-n it, we don't want any one, and you had better get off these premises."

A correspondent says the superin-

tendent of the Demorest company, Williamsport, Pa., promised that 800 more men would be employed if the Republicans won. The men were not employed, but 14 have been laid off indefinitely.

Oswatimie, Kan., made famous by John Brown, has not profited by the experience. The struggle to free the blacks has resulted in the slavery of both white and black. Don't believe it! Go to Oswatimie and patronize the "charity" barrels.

POEMS FOR THE PEOPLE.

A Good Time Coming.
There's a good time coming! Help it on!
In the golden day that's coming, we shall work but we shall live.
There will be no needy workman and no millionaire to give,
There'll be happy wives and mothers making happy homes for men;
For the women won't be working in the shop and office then,
And there'll be no hungry babies through the winter's cold to cry.
For we'll have no fabled "surplus" and no "limited supply"
When we come into the Kingdom of Our Father here on earth,
Where the Landlord won't be in it, and the worker'll get his worth!
—Virginia M. Butterfield.

The Indignant Answer.
Is this the land our fathers loved,
The freedom which they toiled to win?
Is this the soil whereon they moved?
Are these the graves they slumber in?
Are we the sons by whom are borne
The mantles which the dead have worn?

Of human skulls that shrine was made
Round which the priests of Mexico
Before their loathsome idol prayed—
Is freedom's altar fashioned so?
And must we yield to freedom's God,
As offering meet, the worker's blood?

Shall tongues be mute, when deeds are wrought
Which well might shame extremest hell?
Shall freemen lock the indignant thought?
Shall pity's bosom cease to swell?
Shall honor bleed?—shall truth succumb?
Shall pen, and press, and soul be dumb?

No—by each spot of haunted ground
Where freedom weeps her children's fall—
By Plymouth rock, and Bunker's mound,
By Griswold's stained and shattered wall—
By Warren's ghost—by Langdon's shade—
By all the memories of our dead!

By their enlarging souls, which burst
The bands and fetters round them set—
By the free pilgrim spirit nursed
Within our inmost bosom, yet—
By all above—around—below—
Be ours the indignant answer—No!

—J. G. Whittier.

Society.

I looked and saw a splendid pageantry
Of beautiful women and of lordly men,
Taking their pleasure in a flowery plain,
Where poppies and the red anemone
And many another leaf of crimson,
Flickered about their feet and gave their stain

To heels of iron or satin, and the grain
Of silken garments, floating far and free,
As in the dance they wove themselves, or strayed
By twos together, or lightly smiled and bowed,
Or curtsied to each other, or else played

At games of mirth and pastime, unafraid
In their delight; and all so high and proud,
They seemed scarce of the earth
Whereon they trod.

I looked again and saw the flowery space
Stirring as if alive, beneath the tread
That rested now upon an old man's head,
And now upon a baby's gasping face,
Or mother's bosom, or the rounded grace

Of a girl's throat; and what had seemed the red
Of flowers was blood in gouts and gushes shed,
From hearts that broke under that frolic pace;
And now and then from out the dreadful floor

An arm or brow was lifted from the rest,
As if to strike in madness, or implore
For mercy; and anon some suffering breast
Heaved from the mass and sank; and
As before
The revelers above them thronged and prest.

—William Deay Howells.