

Observations by the Kicker.

Evidently Tired of Groping in the Dark, Editor McGuire, of the Cash-Book, Seeks the Light.

The Scott County Kicker is the first and only Socialist paper ever published in Southeast Missouri. The editor, Mr. Phil Hatner, is very bitter in his criticisms of the Republican and Democratic parties.

Bro. McGuire has, perhaps, asked of me more than he realizes. It would be difficult to explain to heathens the blessings of Christianity in an acceptable way in a mere newspaper article.

Socialism means the teachings of Jefferson and Lincoln applied to modern conditions. It means a government of, for and by the working class—and under it all must work—or starve.

"Dreamer," you say! Well let's see. The present system is the competitive system. Competition is strife. The inevitable outcome of strife is war.

But you understand competition, and what you want to know about is Socialism. Socialism is the direct opposite of competition.

Do you notice the tendency of modern capitalism to "get together?" If there were ten railroads from here to St. Louis, the rate on each would be the same.

Step into the various banks of your county—and adjoining counties—and see if the charge for "accommodations" is not exactly the same in all! That is co-operation.

Can you make it any worse? With here and there a very rare exception, the special interests fill all the offices and court benches.

Again: The foundation upon which Socialism rests is the referendum and the imperative mandate. A nomination for office cannot be "sneaked" through by trickery or otherwise, for a nomination is re-

ferred back to the people and is not binding until approved by them. If accepted, the nominee files his resignation with the committee in charge of his campaign.

Under such conditions, Bro. Mc., public officials would be servants and not masters of the people, and with public utilities in the hands of the people the profession of the "legislative agent" would soon become a lost art.

The human race evolves. It advances, and the present economic system is no more applicable to present conditions than the feudal system would be.

There was a time when a young man could go out, learn a trade and soon become his own boss—a wagonmaker, a shoemaker, a harness-maker, etc.

No man is a free man WHEN ANOTHER OWNS HIS JOB. The workers build the factory and operate it after it is built.

There are house builders, architects and material enough in the world to build beautiful houses for each and every family, yet millions live in shanties that are unfit for human habitation.

You see, Bro. Mc., the trouble lies in the fellow who lets the community support him and gives nothing useful in return.

The lawyer is another gentleman that Socialism would make short work of. Our present system is the work of the lawyer, and he has taken care of himself.

It is a class struggle, Bro. Mc., the same that has existed since civilization set in. The fight is on all over the world and has broken out violently in Russia.

Capitalism rests upon force—and ignorance of the masses. Laws are cunningly devised to favor some at the expense of others.

causes. When they wake up they find themselves confronted with the police and, if necessary, the military.

The capitalists of a town, or county, or state, or nation, stand together when their common interests are threatened, and they stand together internationally.

Finally the workers got it pounded into them that in order to overcome this their organization must be international.

You know, Bro. Mc., that there is no equality before the law in this country. Only last week a very respectable gentleman was taken before a St. Louis judge to answer to the charge of carrying concealed weapons.

You know of the St. Louis sub-treasury steal. You know that Dyer's father was made a federal judge, and that young Dyer, the defaulting employe, has just returned from Switzerland, where he went as President Roosevelt's personal representative to bring back a man who had stolen only \$3,000.

You saw Senator Burton, of Kansas go to jail for refusing to accept the yoke of the "community of interests" that govern at Washington. You know the story of the People's Bank, of St. Louis,

and you now see the power of the whole federal government at work to suppress the Lewis publications. Wiltshire's Magazine was driven from New York to Canada, and a publication that was denied mail privileges in "free" America was accepted by the King of England.

In Idaho three working men are in jail. One is now on trial. Their offense is that they are incorruptible officers of a labor organization.

In case at bar the states, through their officers, are the offenders. They, by an illegal exertion of power, deprived the accused of a constitutional right.

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pure and simple. It is difficult to accomplish; hazardous at every step. All of the officers of the law are supposed to be on guard against it. All of the officers of the law may be invoked against it.

Now let us look on the other side of the picture. The Standard Oil crowd was driven out of Texas. In order to get admission for the Waters-Pierce Oil Co., H. Clay Pierce went to Texas and made affidavit that his company had no connection with Standard Oil.

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paragraph that I consider extraordinary: "We had lost sight of the murder of Governor Steiensenberg of Idaho more than two years ago."

I will have to "ring off," Bro. McGuire. If I have said anything that will set you and others to THINKING, I shall feel amply repaid for my effort.

Fourteen million women of the United States are working in the shops, factories and like places earning their own living today—according to a late report from Washington.

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The strongest argument in favor of the proposed new order is the kind of opposition it has. The argument against it is suppression and oppression.

Not wishing to torture you, I will not do it, but imagine the result, Bro. McGuire, if I were heartless enough to ask you to explain what Tom Taggart-Roger Sullivan-Perry Belmont Democracy "offers to the individual!"

I hope the federal court won't get me for the foregoing "scurrilous and murderous" language. I do not feel at all secure.

OF late Mr. Bryan has been insisting that the Republican party is "going Democratic" and often praises Mr. Roosevelt. In a speech delivered in Newark, N. J., May 1, in praising the Republicans for the "reforms" they had inaugurated, Mr. Bryan said: (This is taken from the Commoner and is therefore not an associated press lie)

"It rejoices me to see our opponents JOINING WITH US in the support of these reforms. It rejoices me so much that if I cannot take back what I have said about the Republicans, I DO NOT FEEL LIKE SAYING IT AGAIN. In fact, I am about in the position of the young fellow who courted his girl for a year before he had the courage to propose to her.

How do you like that, you fellows who shout "Bryan for 1908!" He says "I haint got nothin' agin nobody," and "If I cannot take back what I have said about the Republicans, I do not feel like saying it again."

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nobody," and "If I cannot take back what I have said about the Republicans, I do not feel like saying it again."

Note the love story. Read it again and instead of Jim and the girl substitute the Republican and Democratic parties. That is what Mr. Bryan means. No other construction at all applies.

Lincoln, Neb., May 21—W. J. Bryan's trends state with anxiety position, that he will not accept the nomination from the Democratic party if Roosevelt is renominated. Bryan, while he has so far refused to give his possible endorsement of Roosevelt, feels it is safe to say that he more nearly represents the politics for which Bryan stood in 1896 and 1900 than any other man.

The Kicker did not expect the Republican and Democratic shell game operators to "marry" before 1912, but it seems that they have all along loved each other and have "just been waiting for you" to tell me so that I would tell you. And now that they understand each other they "haint got nothin' agin nobody"—except the "unfortunate citizens" who understand and expose their treachery.

CONDITIONS CHANGING. There was a time—and not so long ago—when a town in Scott county could do with the people's money as they pleased.

The first effective protest was made against the ballot job when \$375 of the people's money was taken to pay for work that another had offered to do for \$90. A clear exposure of that transaction brought the going to its knees—although the beneficiaries of that steal tried to convince the public that it was right because "the people of Scott county are Democrats and should support a Democratic paper."

I am now convinced that the ditch job "industry" will suspend business—profitable as it has been. The exposure of last week set the people all over the county to thinking and talking, and if anyone has been found to defend the ditch job, I haven't heard of it.

But the Kicker is not falling out with anybody. It is no more of my business than it is the business of any other citizen and taxpayer.

Farmers, how many of you find yourselves \$250.10 ahead of the game at the end of a year's hard work? And yet that is the exact amount of YOUR money that your "servants" donated to a man who wears a billed shirt and a stand-up collar every day in the week.

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Big Stock-Reducing Sale!

Here we are again with Bargains for ALL. Our Great Stock of Merchandise must be Reduced, and the way to accomplish this is to make the price so the goods will move.

THESE PRICES ARE FOR CASH ONLY:

Table listing various farm machinery and hardware items with their reduced prices. Items include National Low Wheel Wagons, High Regular Wheel Wagons, Weber & Danne Wagons, and various drills and plows.

IN DRY GOODS

We have one of the best stocks to be found in Scott county which we are going to reduce and want to do so just as soon as we can.

MILLINERY!

Well, if you need anything in this line, you can't afford to pass us by. We have instructed our trimmer not to order any more goods in this line, but to sell what she has at prices that will make them go.

SEWING MACHINES

The Standard is the best machine sold by us. Get our prices.

Remember this Sale takes the Cash and Nothing but Cash, as that is why we

Are making these low prices. The sale will continue indefinitely—until we get the stock reduced to where we want it.

MOORE & STUBBLEFIELD, ORAN.