

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER

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WHERE ARE WE AT?

Why Do Our Rulers Talk Peace and Prepare for War at Same Time?

The great mass of people do not realize the alarming state of affairs in this country. Only the Socialists on the one side and the ruling powers on the other are aware of the nearness of an eruption. While the ruling powers deny its approach, yet they are quietly preparing for it.

What means all this continuous preparation for war by the government—and we at peace with all the world? In St. Louis, recently, I found but two places where employment could be had. One was at the old government building on Third street, where a big sign hung out: "Men wanted for the Army and Navy." The other sign was at a factory: "Girls Wanted."

The government wants the men. The factory wants the girls. Last week the Missouri troops were in camp at Nevada. All over the United States they are drilling the state troops. What for?

Since the civil war of the '60s we have had no need for soldiers—except to steal Cuba, the Philippines and Hawaii for the Sugar and Tobacco trusts and Panama for the grafters who had formed an alliance with the old French Panama company that got forty million of our money for its worthless junk. This is what our army and navy has done for us outside.

But inside? Well, that is where the army is absolutely necessary to the protection of "our liberties." Find a plant that employs a large number of men, and next door you will find a company of the National guards. Go where you will in this "free" country and you will find this is true.

If the slaves ask their masters for better living conditions, shorter hours or more pay—they get bullets instead.

Some well meaning people really believe that the people rule in this country. Never was there a greater deception. The army rules. And the army is directed by the master class.

Of course we have courts and civil officers and all that sort of ornamental flub-dub to make us believe that we have popular government, but these, too, are the tools of the masters to be used in holding the masses in subjection. And when these fail—then comes the army. When you resist the decree of a justice or the peace of a constable you are in the last analysis resisting the United States Army. Can you see how foolish it is to resist an officer? We Socialists understand this and that is why the only strikes that are ever won are those led by Socialists. In such strikes the only violence is that committed by the hired thugs of the masters who are armed and commissioned as deputy sheriffs or special police. By the capitalist press their crimes are always charged up to labor, but the people are beginning to understand this.

A few years ago Victor Berger, in an article in a Milwaukee paper, gave it as his opinion that when the working class by their votes, overthrow capitalism that the capitalist would resist—just as the slave power did in 1850. He suggested that work people put armies in their homes to protect their ballots—IF NECESSARY.

When I read it I thought the advice a little harsh. But subsequent developments have convinced me that his fear was well grounded. The constitution guarantees to every citizen the right to have arms. This clause was inserted for the express purpose of preventing such a condition as Mr. Berger fears. Yet the plutocracy had a great deal to say about "Bullets Berger."

But the plutocrats are gradually overcoming this constitutional guarantee by cunning. What means all these anti-hunting laws if the purpose is not to cause the masses to dispose of their guns? The few guns the farmers yet have are old and out of date. He will hardly buy a modern gun for which he has no use except to kill hogs. He will walk a mile or two and borrow an old gun of his neighbor.

What means all these gun clubs that are springing up all over the country in the villages? In most cases even the participants do not know their object. They shoot at clay pigeons and targets. The clubs are mostly composed of the leisure or ruling class, and their guns are of the latest pattern—pump-guns. I believe they are called.

What means all this training of boys in the schools, and even in the churches, in military tactics? They are called "boy scouts" and their training is that of the soldier—to be obedient to authority, and to shoot.

How ridiculous it is to do all of these things in the name of Christianity. The spirit of murder instilled into the minds and habits of the young. Not a Christian minister of capitalism will dare condemn it. If he does he loses his job—just as would a capitalist editor who protested.

At first it cost \$5,000 to be caught with a gun concealing it on your person. Then the victim raised to \$50. Now it is \$100. There is no defense for a gun. But I want to

to it that carrying a pistol was a felony until after the rich of the cities got to searing the teams and running over the farmers. In St. Louis county several farmers took shots at reckless drunken automobilists—and that had to be stopped. It is all right for the farmer's team to run away and possibly cripple or kill members of his family or himself—but don't shoot at the automobile. You might hurt a plute.

Of course the "law and order" crowd will say that the farmer has recourse in the courts. That is exactly where the plute is at home—behind his fortification—the bulwark of "our liberties." In many cases the victim does not know whose automobile hit him. And even if he does know it does not seem to help him much. As proof I refer you to the case of Steve Rodgers, who was killed near Cross Plains. If the authorities had worked as diligently on that case as they have worked to get a judgment against me, they could have gotten the facts.

Yes, it is a felony to carry a pistol, and if you live a thousand years you will never hear of a plute suing over the road for violating that law.

Do they violate it? Well, if you think they don't just get into a scrap with one—if you are a worker—and you'll find out in proportion to their numbers the gun toters are far more numerous among the "better class"—but the authorities can't get any "official knowledge."

I have been in Scott county thirty years. During that time I know of many serious crimes—including several murders—that were committed by members of the propertied class. There was no punishment. In some of the worst crimes the perpetrators were not even indicted.

The prisons and the gallows are for the servant class. Next week the Kicker will tell you about the single tax. On the week following will appear an article forecasting how we will slide into Socialism, smoothly—and without violence. The fact is, we have already begun the slide. Every Socialist official elected means that we are that much farther on the road.

SOME WISE IDEAS.

Sometimes I read the articles that appear in the plute press in opposition to the single tax—even if it is tiresome. Last week I took the trouble to read a column and a half in the Jackson Item by one who signed himself Rip Van Hooligan. This queer being must be a relative of Rip Van Winkle, for he has evidently been asleep. Among other things, this specimen just from his cave asks: "Are you going to join the drones in the human bee-hive and ask the working bee to pay your taxes?" He doesn't seem to know that the "working bee" now pays all the taxes.

This freak goes further and says: "Everything is ruled in the world of trade by the supply and demand." Bro, kites ought to make a search on the forests and see if he cannot discover a tribe of Tree People to which this fellow belongs. Even Democrats know better than that—for they are trying to restore competition.

I want to mention here the attitude of the cross-roads newspapers that are always looking out for the interests of the "dear peepul." I get quite a batch of them every week, and not one of them favors the single tax.

Why? Well, the cross-roads papers, like the big dailies of the cities, are edited thru their advertising columns. The bankers, the merchants, the lawyers and the politicians control them—if they do not own them. If the average citizen will do just the opposite of what capitalist newspapers tell him to do, he will be right just about ninety-nine times in a hundred—if not oftener.

The degree of ignorance the organs of plutocracy assume their readers to have is certainly a fright. The Socialist platform is kept prominently before the people for their inspection. It contains, in the plainest of language, what the Socialist party stands for. There can be no excuse for ignorance concerning it. Have you ever known of a plute paper attacking a single plank in that platform? Oh, no; but they put up instead a man of straw of their own creation, label him Socialism, and then proceed to demolish him. Great sport!

The banks, trust companies and other corporations go right on declaring increased dividends. Their organs tell only of prosperity and good times. But how about the "horny handed sons of toil"? At which end of the horn do their dividends come out? But there is nothing like giving them a plenty of what they vote for.

Since there are no contests in the primary, except among a few Democrats, there won't be much doing. The "doings" will be in November—so far as Scott county is concerned.

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IN A NUT-SHELL.

Webb Watkins, editor of the Dexter Messenger and mayor of that city, has performed a great public service. What the people are much interested in now is the single tax proposition. Webb has rolled it all up in a little ball and handed it to his readers in a nut shell. He says:

"The whole meat of the question can be illustrated by the following supposition: Take two men and give them \$10,000 each. One has the spirit of progress and improvement and opens up and develops a farm; the other becomes a money-lender and gets his living thru idleness by drawing on the sweat and brawn of the people thru interest. The former is a useful member of society and a public benefactor; the other is a parasite. The single tax idea is to tax this farmer and pat the other fellow on the back and say, 'go on; we respect your money so much we are not going to ask you to pay one cent for the support of the state!'"

Great head—that! This editor puts in a single paragraph what it took Henry George and other great thinkers a life-time to unravel. But a fellow that is so accustomed to giving us "facts" about the tariff is liable to break loose on anything.

Say, Webb, ain't you afraid of losing those bank advertisements by speaking of money-lenders as "parasites"? When did you get that idea into your head? So far the Socialists have had a monopoly on that.

The way Mr. Watkins presents the question has been considered such a knock-down argument that it has been reproduced by the organs of the landlords and bankers in many localities.

But Mr. Watkins slipped. Funny that the defenders of the present order of things can bump their heads against a stone wall without knowing it. Does not Mr. Watkins, editor and mayor, know that the single tax has for its express object the protection of that "useful member of society" who "opens up and develops a farm?"

Does he not know that the opening up and development WILL NOT BE TAXED, as now?

The single tax is a capitalist measure, but the people are interested in it, and next week the Kicker will try to make it plain why the bankers don't want to be relieved of paying taxes on the stocks and bonds, etc.

They who imagined that Roosevelt's third party would not amount to anything may have reason to revise their figures. With the Steel Trust and the Harvest Trust behind him he can "come back." Behind Taft are the Sugar Trust and Standard Oil. Unless a compromise can be effected there will be something doing. Anyhow, it is the end of the G. O. P. Wilson will probably be elected. That will give us "four years more of Grover"—and that will settle their hash. By that time the workers will be sufficiently educated to take charge of the government.

Schenectady, N. Y., has a municipal water plant. The Socialist administration held that if the city had the right to furnish the people of the city warm water they also had the right to furnish them with frozen water. So an ice plant was established and the citizens were furnished with ice at half the price charged by the trust. The ice trust appealed to mamma—and down came the injunction. Hence you see the Socialists can do but little until they get control of the courts.

The biggest ice plant in Memphis has put the price of ice down to ten cents per hundred. There are several smaller concerns that can not meet the drop. This means a brief war, and then the big plant will swallow up the little ones. But the little fellows are all good Democrats who believe in competition, and haven't got sense enough to see their finish. They continue bucking the octopus. Capitalism is such a lovely game. Equal opportunities for all, you know.

McGuire, of the Jackson Cash-Book, is queer. "The issue at Baltimore was between Wall Street and the people," he says. Well, who did not Wall Street's ninety-Tammanyites vote for Wilson—as well as Roger Sullivan a 56 Illinois Indians and Tobacco Trust Ryan's Virginia delegation? Did Wall Street surrender to the people? Or did Wall Street try to fool "the peepul?"

The master had a property interest in his black slave and saw to it that he was well housed, fed and clothed. In sickness he got the best care—the same as a valuable horse. But the master has no such interest in his wage-slave. Therefore he turns him out to starve when there is no profit in working him.

Why is it that they who produce the necessities of life have so few of them? Figure that out and you may be able to understand why Socialism is said to be agit religion. Socialism demands that they who produce the good things shall also enjoy them.

Why are your hands horny and rough, and your clothes shoddy, and your food of the poorest? If you will use your head a little you can change that.

THE DIVIDE UP.

When the tenant farmer delivers to his landlord a third or more of what he produces, that ain't dividing up—oh, no!

That is RENT.

When the farmer's wife brings 50 cents worth of eggs to town and gets in exchange 25 cents worth of shoddy merchandise, that ain't dividing up—oh, no!

The difference is PROFIT.

When the farmer goes to the bank and borrows \$100 and, three months later, pays back \$102, that ain't dividing up—oh, no!

That is USURY—for which the plute word "interest" has been substituted.

Socialism will abolish rent, interest and profit. But the average worker don't want that—for he would have nobody to use up his surplus for him. And it would be "free love" and "agin religion" to use it on himself and family.

WOMAN'S WORK.

Shall woman be granted the franchise? The answer invariably is: "No; woman's place is in the home."

Yes, indeed, woman's place IS in the home, and because she loves that home, and for the protection of the dearest place on earth to her, are women taking an active interest in the political and economic questions of the day.

Yes, woman's place is in the home, and in the business world fighting daily a hard-fought struggle for existence. It is a sad travesty upon our boasted Christian and civilized society that seven million women in the United States alone are wage-slaves!

What a menace to future generations is the drudgery and enslavement of woman! It begets deformities, sickness and mental weakness. The poor toiler in the mills and sweat-shops the weary wife of the poor laborer, bending over the cradle of her sick babe, watching it die slowly for want of food and medicine, realizes this system is radically wrong; that she may not understand the complex and scientific forms of government, the scientific side of the question is brought home to her with terrific force.

We will know the ballot will not bring about the ideal condition for woman, but suffrage will help in a measure to place her on a higher plane and tend to liberate her from the abject position in which she is placed by man and the usages of society.

Behind every movement for progress and reform stands the woman; to better child labor laws to improve the condition of the working class are they striving. Who can limit her power or influence?

The mother well knows when her son goes forth into the world to begin the battle of life, the saloon, the gambling den, the pool-room, with all their hideous vices, wait to drag him down to degradation; she knows that for the young daughter just budding into sweet womanhood awaits the white slave and the house of prostitution; and in every dark shadow lurks the social leper.

Every despairing soul of the lost Madagascans shall cry out, every little hand of the child slave shall be raised in protest against the subjugation of woman.

As the home is created by woman with man's help, so that great creation, the State, will never be perfected by man alone, but with woman as the helper. And to woman is entrusted the divine mission of life creation; she shall indeed, pulsating down to countless generations, in which she shall stand, as man's co-worker in that perfect state, from which are banished, misery, slavery and degradation.

THE SHELL GAME.

Fifteen years ago the shell-game operator followed the circus and the fair. To the observation it appeared fair and victims were plentiful.

The game is played with two halves of English walnut hulls and a little rubber ball. The operator carelessly rolls the ball under one shell and then the other. Then he stops and offers to bet you any amount you can't guess under which of the two shells the ball is under.

Ordinarily this would be an even bet—even if you had your eyes shut. But you SAW it roll under the shell in his right hand—and you put up your money. He raises the shell and the little ball is—not there!

You lose. Instead of the ball stopping under the shell it passed on and he has it between his fingers.

While you are wondering how it happened he pushes the other shell forward and at the same time releases the ball to make it appear that it was under the other shell. You feel that your eyes deceived you, and you try again—with the same result. If you are a "dead game sport" you go broke. But when the game was exposed it had to go out of business.

There is another game in which the average man has about the same chance of winning as in that shell game. It is played with stocks, bonds, notes, title deeds, courts and the army. The game is called big business. It is being thoroughly exposed and within ten years will be as well understood as its side-partner—the shell game—and as unpopular.

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE.

There is a difference between the Socialist movement and all other movements ever inaugurated by the working class. It is different from the Grange, the Wheelers, the Farmers Union, the Trades Union, and all other kindred organizations of the working class.

In all of these movements the workers fought separately—the farmers alone, the wage-earners alone, and so on. Against them were the combined forces of exploitation backed by a strong government and the ARMY. The farmer did not see that his interests of the wage-earners of the industrial centers. In fact, the interests that rob both saw to it that a hostile feeling was created between them by their press.

In the trades unions, in the farmers' unions, and in all other like organizations the exploiters had—and still have—spies to create dissension and keep the employers posted on what was going on. These spies are generally shrewd and work themselves up as leaders.

The organizations are secret, and the discussion of the only thing that can help them—the political government—is out of order. Hence they groped along in the dark—following the "leader."

There is no secrecy about the Socialist movement. All of its meetings are open. All are welcome. We are not afraid of being betrayed by spies and spotters. These can join the movement—if they want to—but they can do us little or no harm. We are not blind followers of "leaders." In fact, we have none. And a traitor is soon spotted—and ousted.

If the ruling class could bribe or cajole "leaders" in the Socialist movement as they have in so many movements of the working class they would rest easy. But we have no leaders. We don't run after "the man."

While we have some very great and brainy men that we are very proud to acknowledge as comrades, yet these men have no more authority than the humblest toiler in the movement. It is the one movement not ruled from above—but by the rank and file. And it is the rank and file that furnish the necessary funds to keep up the organization.

And the rank and file cannot be bribed—and that is what is worrying the masters.

JUST A JOLT!

In Seattle, Wash., a few evenings ago, some of the professional patriots, thinking to stem the tide sweeping toward socialism, called a meeting to denounce the "red flag of revolution." G. E. Titton, an officer of the local branch of the Sons of the American Revolution, acted as secretary of the rally and started a near-riot by the emblem of universal brotherhood. Though not himself a Socialist, Titton could be as good a patriot as anybody, and he denoted that the red flag of Socialism stood for anarchy or revolution. He launched into a bitter attack upon present economic conditions, and pointed out that a mere handful of manufacturers of great wealth does, at their pleasure, throw the nation into a financial panic. Titton, interrupted at the outset, received respectful attention and those who followed him were quite temperate and even apologetic in their utterances—Cleveland Citizen.

PUBLIC SALE.

Saturday, August 3, at my place 3 1/2 miles west of New Hamburg on the New Hamburg and Caney Creek road. I will sell four work mares, a horse, a mare colt, two brood mares, six milk cows, three calves, 12 head of stock cattle, 45 head of sheep, 7 brood sows, thirty shoats, a binder, mower, hayrack, corn-harvester, two 3-horse plows, a 2-horse plow, sulkey plow, a lot of diamond plows and 1 double-shovel, walking cultivator, disc cultivator, disc harrow, two wheat drills, two wagons, buggy, sulky wagon, buggy and sulky harness, plow gears about 500 bushels clover and timothy hay, about 300 bu. corn, household and kitchen furniture, and many other things.

Terms—\$5.00 and under, cash; over \$5 a credit of 6 months will be given, purchaser giving 7 per cent note with approved security. No interest charge if paid at maturity. THEODORE DIEROLD.

PUBLIC SALE.

Wednesday, August 7, (in case of rain then on Thursday, Aug. 8) at my place, better known as the John Morrie place, 4 miles west of New Hamburg on the New Hamburg and Caney Creek road. I will sell three work mules, a horse, cow, two sows, two shoats, two farm wagons, a top buggy, two sets buggy harness, buggy pole, a lot of other harness, two Milwaukee binders, a Deering mower, Hoosier disc drill, Hoosier corn drill, Hoe drill, hayrack, disc harrow, two section harrows, 2 harrow, a 3-horse plow, two horse plows, three 1-horse plows, two double shovels, about 200 fence posts, two bales barbed wire about 200 bushels corn, about 200 bushels hay, a hay frame, etc., etc.

Terms—\$5.00 and under, cash; over \$5 a credit of 6 months will be given, purchaser giving 7 per cent note with approved security. No interest charge if paid at maturity. CHARLES BURGER.

The rich own the nation and the laborers are voting for them to keep it.

THE ONE LIVE ISSUE.

There is one live issue before the people today, and that is Socialism. It is the one thing that everybody is discussing, and it is the one that is keeping the plutes awake at nights. They don't know how to go about it to head it off. And the more they try to head it off, the faster it grows. It is the one thing the "bulwarks of our liberties" can't enjoin.

In all other movements that promised relief, such as the farmers' alliance, the wheelers, the populists, etc., the main spring of the affair seemed to be the getting into office. With the Socialists that is only a secondary consideration. The first is the education of the masses to a realization of their power and their needs.

And as the Socialist grows in intelligence he learns that his vote is never thrown away. Every one counts. The plutes take notice, it is a protest. In the 1912 Socialist platform appears this plank: "The separation of the present

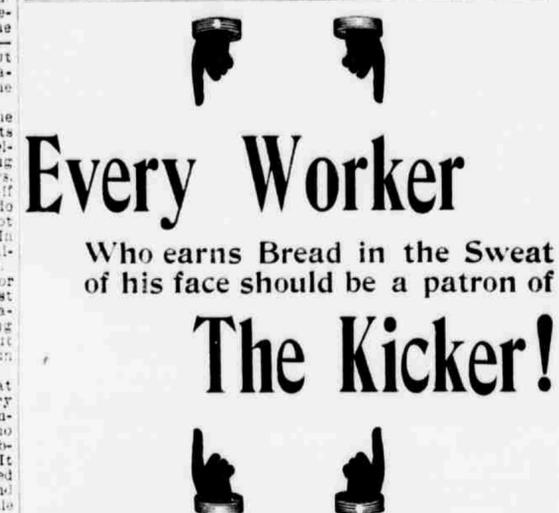
bureau of labor from the department of commerce and labor, and its elevation to the rank of a department."

Last week the house passed a bill creating the new department.

A Socialist vote is NEVER lost. The bigger the Socialist vote, the more rapidly the plutes will become "progressive"—hoping thereby to stem the rising tide by offering substitutes. Two million Socialist votes next fall will probably give us old age pensions by the next congress.

The Democrats and Republicans it seems, have not yet got their editorial factories in good running order. The "canned" dope that is being furnished to cross-roads editor who will publish the silly stuff is mostly about Socialism—or what they claim is Socialism.

When the rich fall out the poor fools get guns and shoot each other.



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He has a fighting record for humanity. He killed the notorious Vanantwerp Bragg & Co. \$10,000,000 school book trust at an expense to him of \$5,000. He educated more than 200 young men and women at an expense to him of \$10,000. He taught political economy for twenty-five years and now challenges his opponents for congress to debate the issues of today. He is a great admirer of LaFollette and Bryan, but not Taft and Roosevelt. He is a member of the John A. Logan Grand Army Post. He graduated more than 5,000 young men and women in the famous Business, Normal, Music and Art school of which he was president

for twenty-five years. He would be a fighter in the lower house of congress for an honest government. Drop him a postal and get some of his campaign literature. Address: George W. Michael, Campbell, Mo.

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