

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER

Vol. XIV

BENTON, MO., MAY 1, 1915.

No. 14.

THE ROBBERY EXPOSED.

According to a recent report of the interstate commerce commission, in reference to the business of the principal express companies of the United States for the month of November, 1914, there was a loss of \$175,845 as compared with a very large profit in November, 1913.

For the five months ending with November, 1914, the companies net profit was \$72,951 as compared with a profit of \$1,722,000 in November, 1913.

Evidently the parcel post has put an awful dent in the business of these companies and bids fair to put them out of business in a short period of time.—Boiler-makers Journal.

See what the government can do? It has put a cork in the draft of the express robbers and thereby is saving to the people over two million dollars a year! And the parcel post is only in its infancy.

For a quarter of a century efforts were made to introduce the parcel post in this country as it is elsewhere. But the powerful lobby of the express companies, aided by ye cross-roads merchants, were powerful enough to prevent it until a few years ago.

But this is only a small graft that is being checked to be finally wiped out. We have hundreds of just such useless and parasitic corporations feeding on the sweat and toil of labor. And the service that they perform could be far better performed by the government, and at one-third the cost.

The question that has so worried so many as to how the government would get control of industry is being solved every day. Hereafter the cities have been robbed by light and water corporations. Today all progressive cities are installing their own light and water plants.

Do you notice any severe joints as the government is taking over the express business? Works as slick as you please. Call it "confiscation of property" if you want to, but when the sheriff rounds up a thief he is less polite than the government in relieving him of his plunder.

Turn about is fair play. The corporations have been confiscating our property until a majority of our people have none. And morally their method of operation is no better than that of the common burglar. The only difference is that the big thieves have been able to make their methods appear respectable because of their control of legislation and education.

ASSET OR LIABILITY.

Menomonee, Wis. Mirror.

This question was asked Prof. Ely in open meeting at the assembly chamber on Feb. 12, after his discourse on the Wisconsin university, in which he showed, or attempted to show, what an immense asset this institution is to the tax-payers of the state.

The question was asked by Carl Pieper, a member of the assembly from Dunn county, after the presiding chairman of the meeting had invited the audience to ask questions which Prof. Ely would be glad to answer.

The first question asked by Mr. Pieper was, "How many students graduate from our law department at our university each year?" Prof. Ely, who has been a professor at our university for 25 years, admitted that he did not know, and he would not even make a guess at the number.

When Assemblyman Pieper further asked the professor what he considered the financial value of each lawyer so graduated to the tax-payers of the state, he flatly refused to answer.

The "gentleman from Dunn" holds that if the state of Wisconsin would pay every student that graduates from our law department at the "U" the sum of \$25,000 upon the condition that they leave the state and not return during their natural life, the state would be money ahead.

Now, who can prove the value of a lawyer as an asset to the state of Wisconsin?

THERE IS PLENTY.

There is plenty of bread and meat; plenty of cotton and wool; plenty of coal and wood; plenty of space, fresh air and sunlight.

The earth—the large, calm and patient mother—is inexhaustibly rich. She is a good mother and gives her children whatever they ask for with the hand of honest labor.

There are unused lands, closed mines, idle machinery, locked-up shops, wheels that do not turn, dead fires and silent engines.

There are also jobless men and idle women anxiously asked for the clothes they spin and weave; homeless surrounded by the houses they build.

Let us turn over to the people the means of production and distribution and all will have enuff of the necessities and comforts to sustain an ample and joyous life.

Read the unmuzzled Kicker.

CAPITALIST POLITICS.

To one who stands off and sees it as it is, there is nothing quite so disgusting as capitalist politics—nor quite as rotten. Over in Indiana it seems that about all of the respectable people are headed for the penitentiary because of bribery and election frauds. There are many "prominent citizens" in the clutches of the law, but the law only gets the tools, and never the sounders higher up who are responsible for it all.

In capitalist politics there are very seldom any clearly defined issues of any consequence to settle. And when a clear issue is submitted to the voters, the masses are so thoroughly befogged by the kept press, the politicians and the muzzled clergy that no intelligent expression can be had.

Four years ago a proposition was put before the people to so amend the state constitution as to tax land held out of use for speculation the same as the land the farmer tills, and to exempt from taxation all machinery and live stock and improvements on the farm.

The purpose of this amendment was to force land held out of use by speculators on the market, so that your boys now coming on might have a chance to own a farm and not be forced to become rent-payers. Had they understood this, not a farmer or working-man would have voted against it.

But they were lied to by the press, the politicians and the political pulpit, so that the very men in whose interest the measure was intended, voted it down.

The Kicker was the only paper in Scott county that dared to advocate the Single Tax—and the vile sheet has been declared by the "holy" men and politicians to be a gain religion.

The political conditions of a nation or community reflect all other conditions as a mirror. Rotten politics is possible only when all else is rotten. Clean people would insist on clean politics and would tolerate nothing else. Our loose politics reflects our loose character—and ignorance.

To a very large extent, what is commonly called a campaign is nothing more than a scramble between men, or groups of men for soft jobs—and power. There is really never anything for the voters to decide, except a choice between men they seldom or never see, and who have no convictions.

At all so-called important elections methods that a white slaver would balk at are employed by the rival politicians seeking jobs and power. There was a time when candidates would give as an excuse for seeking office that they wanted the office for the "honor" of it. But that was before the public understood so well how offices are secured.

FIGHT ON AND ON.

Every day furnishes fresh proof of the rapid growth and spread of the ideas we represent. On all fields there is tumult and unrest: The dawn of a fair day is drawing nigh with mighty strides.

Let us then ever battle and strive forward unconcerned as to "where" and "when" the boundary-posts of the new and better day for mankind will be set.

If, in the course of this great battle for the emancipation of the human race, we should fall, those now in the rear will step forward and we shall fall with the consciousness of having done our duty as human beings, and with the conviction that the goal will be reached, however the power hostile to humanity may struggle in resistance.

Ours is the world, despite all that is, for the workers and for woman.—August Bebel.

MASTERS AND SLAVES.

Was industry made for man or was man made for industry?

If man was made for industry, then it is just that industry should be the master and man the slaves. It is just that five hundred thousand men and women should be killed and injured annually while they minister to the industrial deity; it is fair that women toil long hours for a pittance; it is right that humanity writhe in agony under the goad of the industrial taskmaster.

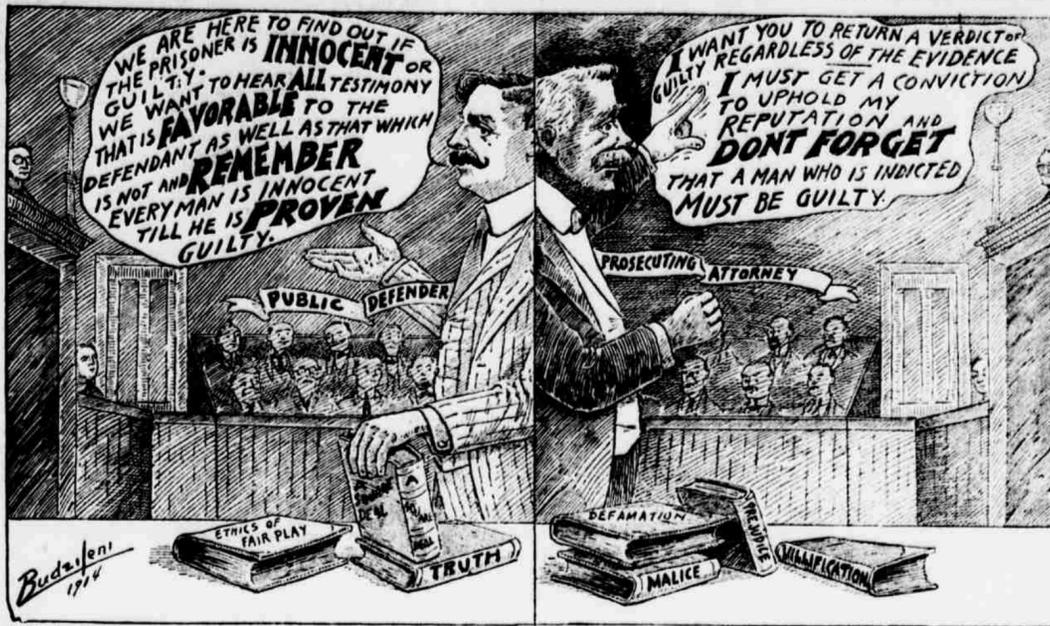
If, on the other hand, industry was made for man, then it is just that man should be the master and industry the slave. It is fair that any calling which crushes men's bodies, destroys the souls of women and little children, or takes a toll of life greater than its contribution to the happiness of the community, should be reformed or abolished.

Two thousand years ago Jesus rebuked the Pharisees and justified His teaching—who had picked corn on the Sabbath day—in these words: "The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath." The world listens for the modern prophet who shall proclaim: "Industry was made for man, and not man for industry."—Scott Nearing in Everybody's Magazine.

THE PHILANTHROPIST.

From Rochester Post-Express.

"What is a philanthropist?" asks Gilbert Chesterton. We do not know just what the British definition of a philanthropist is, but over here he is a man who employs girls at \$3 and \$4 a week and gets his picture in the papers every time he contributes \$30,000 to aid in the work of raising the ethical standard of indigent Hot-tentots.



Oakland, Calif.—The most notable guest at the annual convention of the California Bar Association is a young Stanford man named Walton J. Wood, Los Angeles. Wood holds the position of the only public defender in the United States.

His appointment, which marks an epoch in penal history, came 10 months ago when a man named David Evans, a free-holder, proved to his fellows that the new county charter should try to give the defendant an equal show before the law.

Evans argued that while the spirit of the law held the district attorney to be a judicial officer, it has come about that he is now nothing but a public prosecutor, and that against him and his big machinery the defendant without money or influence has mighty little chance.

The new office was placed in civil service and young Wood was appointed. Today right across the hall from Dist. Atty. Fredericks' office is an office just as big, housing the public defender, with four deputies acting in civil matters and three in criminal matters.

"We have handled 352 felony cases, or nearly one-half of all

the criminal cases on record in the last 10 months," said Wood in an interview. "The fact that practically every man accused who is unable to hire a lawyer has asked for our services shows how badly we were needed. Our motto is not to get people off. It is to give them a square deal."

"We have handled case after case of migratory men who stole because they were starving. We are different from the probation officer, for when we take a case the defendant feels that we are not a part of the district attorney's office, but that we are his counsel."

"Thus we can get at the motive better than anyone else. "We have done more to prevent punishment than to prove people innocent. But the most surprising thing is that we have actually saved the county money. We have prevented delays, expensive jury trials and appeals."

"But, best of all, we have done away with that band of cheap and venal shysters who infest the courts, waiting for an appointment from the judge to defend the friendless and poor."

"I believe it impossible for a prosecutor anxious to fulfill his duty, to act with equal fairness

to the accused and the accused," continued Wood. "In every criminal prosecution one citizen is arrested at the instance of another, and the law provided an officer to take the side of a complaining witness."

"It can not be doubted that the public demands convictions from the district attorney. Indeed, were it true that the district attorney could adequately represent both sides there would be no need for either prosecutor or defender, for the judge could handle the situation alone in nearly every case."

Wood has many stories of down-and-outers who would have undergone severe penalties had not his office found the real facts in the case.

One was that of a modern Jean Valjean, who pleaded guilty to burglary and was about to be sentenced for felony when it was found through the defender's office that he had been living on oranges for two days before he entered a house to steal something to eat. The court released him on probation and he has since made good.

Wood once defended a man who was willing to plead guilty to murder, although he had killed

his opponent in defense of his own life and was legally justified in committing the act. He was entirely ignorant of the law and was entitled to have competent advice upon the subject. He was acquitted.

Another case was of a 16-year-old boy named Ross, accused of burglary. Wood found him dying of tuberculosis in the city jail, although he had been before the court on a preliminary hearing.

His plight was brought to the notice of the Superior Judge and he was sent to the country to recuperate. Lucy was a similar case. He was a friendless negro and would have died of his disease had not the public defender secured his release and found friends for him.

These are a few of the cases that have justified the existence of Wood and his deputies. The civil department is also very important and many a family has been saved from the clutches of the loan sharks and heartless landlords through this branch of Wood's office.

It is probable that a law will be presented at the next legislature creating such offices in every county in the state, or at least in the 10 largest counties.

WOMAN'S WORK.

By Mrs. G. L. Wolfe.

Shall woman be granted the franchise? The answer usually 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 not out in the business world, fighting daily a hand-to-mouth struggle for existence! It is a sad travesty upon our boasted Christianized and civilized society that seven million women in the United States alone are wage-slaves!

What a menace to future generations is the drudging 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; tho' 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 well 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 slaver 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 intrusted the divine mission of life creation; she shall indeed bring forth a newer, higher life, pulsating down to countless generations, in which she shall stand, as man's co-worker in that per-

fect state, from which are banished, misery, slavery and degradation.

AN UP-HILL BUSINESS.

To educate the masses is no easy task and requires much patience and sacrifice. From the beginning of the time when the system of the few living in luxury off the labor of the many set in, the workers have been taught that it was their lot to serve—that God ordained it so—and that they should be good and contented, and not complain. It was so under the slave system, the feudal system, and is so today.

The ruling class always control the press, the pulpit and the schools, and direct their teachings. A pulpit or school that opposed the existing order would be considered as "dangerous" and would find it as difficult to exist as does the newspaper that attempts it.

Doans' Rule!

And when you refuse to worship at the shrine of the Almighty Dollar, you are declared to be agin religion, agin the home and agin the country. Of course they mean plute religion, the plute home and the plute's country—but they don't say it that way.

The most effective weapon that the rulers use among the workers is prejudice—HATE! Anything to create strife among them and keep them fighting among themselves while the pirates get away with the wealth created by the workers.

Race prejudice is often incited. Nationality is another strong lever. Then they are divided on the political field where they kill each other's votes. But the one prejudice that has served the rulers best and longest is religious prejudice. More blood has been spilled over this than over all else.

Only recently the Balkans and the Turks engaged in a "holy war"—the rank and file believing they were fighting for a holy cause—their religion—while it was only a case of one ruler trying to grab some of the territory of another. And look at Europe now!

Nearly all wars are fought under the cloak of religion. You no doubt remember how Providence and Destiny commanded us to grab Cuba, Hawaii and the Philippines. Nobody hinted that it was the sugar and tobacco trusts that wanted these islands.

Likewise in the bloody war between the north and south. The north said that slavery was immoral. The southern minister proved by the Bible that slavery was a Divine institution—and the flow-ers of southern manhood fell in defense of that teaching—and the slave-drivers' property."

Which reminds me of a Salvation Army sister who approached a passer-by saying, "Sir, I am

fighting for God." To which the passer-by replied, "My dear sister, God is able to take care of Himself and needs no one to fight for him. Why don't you fight for humanity?"

But there was one redeeming feature about the slave-owner. He and his sons got out on the firing line. But you will not see Morgan, Rockefeller, nor any of that tribe, nor their sons, setting themselves up as targets for bullets. They let deluded working-men do that job for them.

Hence, with these plutocratic ideas drilled into every child—the worship of gold, for instance, by teaching that heaven is paved with gold, and that angels play on golden harps, etc.—with these and a multitude of other ideas implanted in the minds of the mass of people, the opposition goes up against a stone wall that is almost impregnable. But the Socialist knows this and is therefore patient. If he is not, he makes no converts.

ABOUT THIS EARTH.

Sometimes this old world seems a rather large place, and occasionally one gets the idea that there are a great many people, but after all, there are only 56 million square miles of land on which we may build houses and grow crops and walk about, and there are only fifteen hundred million persons to do these things. If the earth's population was evenly apportioned to the various continents and islands, there would be twenty-seven persons on each square mile but, as it is, there are 101.2 to each square mile in Europe, 49.1 people on a like area in Asia, 14.3 in North America and only 1.5 in Australia.

The polar regions are the really lonely lands, however, for the population is only six-hundredth of a person to the square mile.

The total population of the earth at the death of Emperor August was not over fifty-four millions, about three-fifths the present population of the United States, and the total population of Europe did not exceed fifty millions before the fifteenth century.

The greatest depth of the Pacific ocean is said to be near six miles, and that of the Atlantic four and a half miles.

The people of the world, after much contention, have divided themselves into some fifty political divisions.

The average duration of a human life is about 33 years. One-quarter of the people on the earth die before reaching the age of six, one-half before sixteen, and only one person out of each hundred born lives to be sixty-five. It is calculated that every minute there are sixty-seven deaths, ninety-six thousand a day or thirty-five million a year. Births

take place at the rate of seventy a minute, one hundred thousand a day, or thirty million each year.

WHAT WILL THEY SAY.

What will your great grand children say when they read history and learn that in the 19th and 20th centuries a free people marched, shouted and voted for a system that enslaved them? The people of the "republic" of Mexico did it, and we are traveling the same road in a gallop.

The earliest form of enforced labor of which history tells us was slavery. One tribe or nation would conquer another tribe or nation and take the survivors and make slaves of them. But these conquered people had no voice in the affairs of government and did not vote for their enslavement. The United States was the last to abolish this form of enforced labor only fifty years ago—in the South. All other civilized countries had done away with it and entered upon the second stage, which was called serfdom.

The serfs were the workers and belonged to the land. Then the chief industry was agriculture. The owner of the land and the serf was called a "lord" and lived in a castle. The ruins of many of these castles are yet in existence in Europe. The serfs thought they were better off than under the slave system, for they could have a part of the time for themselves and have their own huts and families to reproduce more workers for the masters. They worked a part of each week for the master and the remainder for themselves. If two lords got into a quarrel, the serfs armed themselves and fought out the quarrel of their masters—just as the workers of today do. The landlord and tenant system of today is only serfdom in disguise—with the advantage that the tenant can change masters or has a voice in government—or thinks he has.

The slave and the serf had no voice in government and was not responsible for his condition. He was cowed by brute force. But how about YOU? You are told that you are a "free-born, American citizen"—the equal of any man! You are told that there are no classes, and that you have as much to say as Rockefeller or Morgan! And yet, with the advantage of all the wealth-producing machinery, a majority of you are go better off than were the slaves and serfs of old.

What will your great-grandchildren think of your stupidity when they read about it 50 years from now?

Do you believe that they would feel grieved or humiliated at being told that their ancestors were monkeys?

THE COMING CIVILIZATION.

From the Appeal to Reason.

Socialism proposes that the machinery of production and distribution that is socially used shall be owned by all the people and that industry and politics shall both be managed democratically.

The idea of such ownership and control is to make it so all may be master of their lives and their jobs. It is to make possible private property for all. The owners of a business control it; they automatically find employment in it; they receive the benefit of it, so that profit from the owner is impossible. The profit system will therefore end under Socialism and each worker will receive his full social product.

With all employed at productive labor all will have incomes sufficient to banish poverty from the earth; and more than is now made can then be produced in three hours each day. Six hours would provide such abundance riches would become universal.

The children will be released from the mills and placed in schools where industrial training as well as books will be taught. Women will find their place in the home, if they wish, and if they enter industry will receive the same reward as men.

Socialism will not interfere with your religious beliefs or with your home life except that it will make it possible for all to have a home and will protect orphaned and unfortunate children.

Socialism will end the barbarism of war, the profits that support prostitution and the liquor traffic; the dread of unemployment; the horrors of poverty; the arrogance of dominating capital.

It will afford all opportunity to work and to rest; to have homes, to travel, to get an education, to develop as they may wish, and to realize the good they dream.

It will lift the world to a higher plane of civilization and provide security, certainty and happiness for all.

There are just two classes of people in this country; the capitalist class and the working class. The capitalist class is united in its struggle for mastery over the working class, and the working class ought to have gumption enough to unite for their own protection.

IF YOU HAVE THE PRICE.

From The Rip-saw.

Civilization is a bully place to live in—if you have the price! You pay for everything in Civilization, and if you have the price you can get any old thing you are able to pay for it. It's all for sale, no matter what you want.

If you had in love with a girl and have the price, you can buy permission from a priest or preacher to live with her. If you take a notion after a while to fall in love with another girl, and want to get rid of the first one and live with the second, you can buy a lawyer to undo what the priest or preacher did—if you have the price. It all depends on having the price. If you haven't the price you get into trouble.

If you have the price you don't have to work for your living at all. You can make another man, who hasn't the price, do your working for you. You can swipe what the other man produces, if you have the price. If the man without the price sees anything at all he goes to jail. It all depends on having the price. If a young girl has the price she can purchase a foreign lord or duke to live with her, and it's real respectable. If a girl without a cent sells herself to a man who has the price, she is a harlot. It all depends on having the price.

A loafer that doesn't do a lick of work, if he hasn't got the price, is a hobo and criminal. If a loafer has the price he is a gentleman. It all depends on having the price.

Everything is for sale in Civilization, and everything has its price. You can buy pulpits or provision, courts or clothing, standing armies or stumping orators, workmen or wretched women. It all depends on having the price.

If you have the price, civilization is intended for you—if you haven't the price you had better take to the woods—this is no place for anybody without the price.

THE 20TH CENTURY WAY.

Miss Varney was trying to illustrate to her Sunday-school class the lesson, "Return good for evil." To make it practical she said:

"Now, suppose, children, one of your schoolmates should strike you, and the next day you should bring him an apple, that would be one way of returning good for evil."

A little girl, sitting in one of the front seats, raised her hand. "Well, Elizabeth," said the teacher, "what is it?"

"Then," said Elizabeth firmly, "he would strike you again to get another apple."—Ladies' Home Journal.

CHILD LABOR.

By Carlotta Perkins Gilman.

No fledging feeds the father bird. No chicken feeds the hen. No kitten mouses for the cat. This glory is for men.

We are the wisest, strongest race. Loud may our praise be sung—The only animal alive That feeds upon ITS YOUNG!

Read the unmuzzled Kicker.