

About the Party in Power

Brief Review of How Democrats Have Fulfilled Their Before-Election Promises, Not Including War Tax.

At this time three years ago the Democratic politicians were telling us, "Put us in and we will fix it."

The people put them in, and they sure have fixed it. Poor old Bryan got disgusted with the job and quit. If he had remained until the end of the administration, he knew he would be as dead as a door nail. Having jumped the game, he hopes to come back.

Bryan did not quit because he objected to Wilson's way of dealing with Germany. That only gave him the excuse—and it was a very poor one, for the note to Germany that Bryan refused to sign contained nothing that was not in the one he did sign.

The distinguishing feature of the Democratic administration is the levying of a war tax in time of peace. So far as I know, this idea is entirely original. And we don't hear much about it. The plutocrats seem to find nothing wrong in it—although many millions are squeezed from the people annually by its operation.

The reason that so little complaint is heard may be found in the fact that the whole load, as usual, is saddled on the underdog. This war tax is chiefly laid on notes, mortgages, legal documents and beer. Beer is the poor man's drink. The rich drink champagne.

But the poor can get along without beer if they have to. But they can't get along under capitalism without their old bosom companion—the mortgage. Let Rube give a chattel mortgage on his growing crop, his cow or hog, and Rube pays the freight. He must furnish the war tax stamp on the note. And it is from this source that the greater amount of the "war fund" is squeezed.

But Rube don't care. He is in the hole and has been taught that "faith, hope and charity" are rare virtues. He has "faith" to bare, and he "hopes" that some day, things will come his way. Should the wind refuse to shift, Rube still has the assurance of "charity." And even if he should slip up on all of these and land in the poor house, Rube still has the satisfaction of recalling the advice of his minister: "Be good and contented and he will have his noodle docketed with a golden crown—after he is dead."

Fifty years ago they used to give Rube a little more satisfaction by preaching it that the rich would all go to hell. But they have cut that out. The eminent divines have discovered that the "needles eye" referred to in the bible was not intended as meaning the eye of a sewing needle, but that the smaller gates that entered Jerusalem were called the needles eye. In this way they have opened the gates of heaven to the rich, and Rube won't be able to escape his oppression even there! So what's the use?

But Rube is patriotic and pays the war tax, just as he pays all other taxes—and votes for more! But the war tax was not promised in the Democratic platform. What the Democrats were really about was to get a lower tariff. Are you satisfied with fixing the tariff?

They fixed it. And never was the country so flooded with unemployed and starving men, women and children as last winter. Bread-lines and soup houses were established in all the large cities, and in the smaller towns the provident associations and charity workers were helpless to cope with the situation. Prisons and insane hospitals were taxed to the limit and, in some instances, courts turned the victims loose—holding that they had a right to steal food to sustain life. Nothing like it had ever come under my observation before. We will have more of it this winter, in spite of our bumper crops.

Of course the defenders of the existing order of things had to have an excuse. They said it was the European war that caused it all. Yet, were it not for that war conditions here would be much worse than they are. We are furnishing the food, clothing, saddlery, harness, automobiles, horses, guns and ammunition for the allies. Without our patriotic assistance, that war could not go on—especially the allies' end of it. And yet the pious president sets days of prayers for peace, while demanding that our cargoes of war supplies be not molested!

We are not furnishing supplies to Germany because England has the way blocked. Our patriotic ammunition manufacturers would as soon sell to one country as another, for it is only the profits they seek. But the administration at Washington seems interested only in an "open door" to England. No serious noise or bluster has been heard about the closed door to Germany.

Our patriotic business men who are behind the administration at Washington have greater interests in England and France than in Germany. Not only is there a greater inter-change of stocks and bonds in the various American, English and French industries, but we have, for the past 50 years, been trading our rich daughters for English and French

titles. Also some Dago titles. Germany belongs to the Germans, and seems to be peculiarly independent of the capitalists of other nations.

But that isn't all that the Democrats have done—and are doing to us. They promised to "reform the currency." And they sure did it—and then some.

When Senator Aldrich tried to do the same thing, none were so severe in denunciation as Wm. J. Bryan. In those days it was denounced as the "Central Bank" scheme. According to all Democratic authority, it was the most brazen attempt to put the government in the hands of the Wall Street bankers yet devised. It would destroy every vestige of government by the people. The scheme was viciously denounced in the Donkey platform of 1912.

What did the Donks do when they got at the trough? Oh, they did just exactly what the Republicans had been afraid to do because of the mouthings of Bryan and others. They established the Central Bank scheme under another name. They call it the "regional bank system." Allen L. Benson describes capitalist state-manship as follows:

"Twenty years ago and more, when I was a newspaper reporter in San Francisco, I was sent one Sunday to report a butchers' picnic in San Jose. The picnic was held in a park, the day was all that a California day should be and the place was crowded. Most of the crowd was around a pea-and-shell man until it began to dawn on some of the more observant that the pea-and-shell man was winning all of the money. Then he was chased out of the park. It was not considered good form to ask the people to play a game at which they could not win.

The pea-and-shell game has a bad name. In time, all swindles gain bad names. The present method of running the world will sometime have a bad name because the present method is a swindle. It is a swindle upon the working class because there is no way by which the working class can win at it. The chips with which the working class play are the days of their lives—and one by one, they stake them all. The players are permitted to win just enough to keep them alive while the men who are running the game take the rest. It is a grand game—but only for the men who run it.

Let us consider a little recent history. Let us consider some of the plays that the working class were urged to make to win from the gaming table of capitalism some portion of fortune. May we not begin with the tariff?

Mr. Wilson and his party, in 1912, assured the working class that if the tariff were reduced, the cost of living would also be reduced and the task of getting a living would be decreased. If you are one of those who voted for Mr. Wilson and a lower tariff, do you feel that you have won? Are you satisfied with the tariff game as Mr. Wilson advised you to play it?

Mr. Wilson and his party also advised the workingmen of the country to place a bet on the currency. Workingmen were told that if the Democratic party were placed in power, the currency would be "reformed" (whatever that means), business would be taken out of its straight-jacket and the working class made the beneficiary of a vast revival of industry. Have you noticed the revival? Do you consider that you have "won" when you took Mr. Wilson's advice and played a wager on the currency question?

Mr. Wilson also advocated a series of laws (of which two are already mentioned) which he somewhat proudly called the "Constitution of Peace." The purpose of the laws, in brief, was to right the economic wrongs of the country, so far, at least, as Mr. Wilson had the wisdom and the power to right them. Do you consider that the economic wrongs of the United States have been righted? Can you point to a single problem in your task of getting a living that was made a particle lighter by reason of the legislation that Mr. Wilson and his party have brought about? Do you feel that you won or lost when you placed a bet on the "Constitution of Peace"?

Mr. Wilson has hired and you are paying the salary of a very handsome gentleman with nut-chop whiskers who officiates in Washington as the head of the department of commerce. The name of the bewildered gentleman is Redfield. Mr. Redfield is the official optimist of the administration. Just now he is filled with joy and pride because American exports, for the year ended June 30, exceeded the imports by more than a billion dollars, thus breaking all previous records. This means that the American working class, last year, shipped away more goods than other nations shipped here. Who got the billion dollars? Did the working class get it or

did the capitalist class get it? How much of it did you get? If a big trade balance in our favor is of value to the American working class, how big would the trade balance have to be to increase your annual income to the extent of \$1,000? It is easy enough to figure out. If you got \$100 of the billion we have just collected from Europe, a trade balance of ten billions would be required to give you \$1,000. Did any nation ever have a trade balance of ten billions—or two billions? Never. Do you consider, then that your hope of prosperity lies in enormous trade balances in favor of this country? Does it seem probable that Mr. Rockefeller and Mr. Morgan get more out of trade balances than you do? Do you consider that you are ever when you looked to great trade balances to help you?

Many wise gentlemen told you, when the war in Europe broke out, that the war would result in unexpected prosperity in the United States. Where is the prosperity? The ammunition factories are running full blast, but how about the other factories? Furthermore, to whom do you understand the great profits of the ammunition business are going—to the workers or to the owners of the factories? Do you call it "great prosperity" just to be employed at wages sufficient to enable you to pay your bills? Is that what the owning class call great prosperity for themselves?

I am making no attack upon Mr. Wilson. I am attacking the system for which he stands. Mr. Taft stood for the same system. Mr. Roosevelt stands for the same system. Every president we ever had stood for the same system. It is the system that makes the natural resources and industrial equipment of the country subject to private ownership. In George Washington's day there was not much industrial equipment in the country. Now there is a great deal. All of the railroads and all of the great industrial plants are part of such equipment. All of us depend upon these industries. The capitalist class operate them. The working class are denied a voice in their operation. The capitalist class takes the profits. The working class must have a chance to work or starve. The capitalist class says nobody may work unless there be a prospect of a profit to the capitalist class because of such work. The needs of the working class is nothing. The greed of the capitalist class is everything.

When these needs and greeds can both be satisfied, there is work. When they cannot both be satisfied, millions are denied a chance to work. Every measure that is proposed in congress or in the white house is but an effort to satisfy both needs and greeds. That is what Mr. Wilson is doing. That is what Taft and Roosevelt did. They made a sorry mess of it and Mr. Wilson is making a sorry mess of it.

INVESTIGATION "DANGEROUS." Modern investigation is ripping many of the old traditions into shreds. Many of the stories our fathers thought were miraculous are being explained in a commonsense way, while many others are found to be based on a tissue of fraud and enlarged upon to suit the convenience of superstition peddlers.

The latest revelation is from a tablet unearthed from the ruins of Babylon. Dr. Steven Langdon, of Oxford University, has translated the hieroglyphics. He says this tablet is a thousand years older than the Genesis account of creation in the Bible. It makes no mention of Adam and Eve.

According to Dr. Langdon, this tablet tells us that Noah was the chap who caused us all to be "born in sin." It locates the fabled Garden of Eden on the east coast of the Arabian Gulf, about one hundred miles from the source of the river Euphrates, and people had lived in this paradise for hundreds of thousands of years before the flood. They didn't wear any clothes and were innocent and happy. No landlords and no tenants.

Just then along comes Noah and spoils it all. He was made supervisor—an embryo landlord of the Garden—and was cautioned by the Goddess Nintu (who claimed to have created man from clay) not to eat of the fruit of the cassia tree. Being human, Noah had a longing for that which was denied him—just as a fellow has for booze in prohibition territory and Noah did eat of the forbidden fruit. And there has been a lot of trouble ever since.

The advantage that this account has over the story in the Bible, is that it don't blame woman for the fall of man. Noah did it all by himself and never tried to shift the blame on his wife. Perhaps at that early day man had not invented a holy plan by which woman could be held in subjection.

According to Dr. Langdon, this tablet places the flood 35,000 years before the Christian era, and gives accounts of events for over four hundred thousand years

previous. Now, if the foregoing does not happen to dovetail with your prejudices, jump on Dr. Langdon. The Kicker is only telling you what one of the leading investigators and educators of the day says about it. And nobody will accuse him with being a Socialist. All along scientists have claimed that the human race has inhabited the earth for hundreds of thousand years, and if they keep on they'll prove it.

THE "FRIEND OF LABOR." Just before elections all the capitalist politicians and candidates are great "friends of labor." You can tell it by their speeches and mushy talk when pleading for votes. To prove their sympathy for the working class, quite all of them remind us that they were "raised on the farm." And the workers swallow the bait.

During the session of the Missouri legislature last winter J. A. Phillips was the legislative representative of the Order of the Railway Conductors at Jefferson City. Organized Labor had several measures they wanted action on and the various unions had representatives on the ground in the hope of coaxing the "friends of labor" to do something for them. In his report to his organization Mr. Phillips says:

"The Forty-eighth General Assembly has finished. It will live in history as the 'do-nothing' legislature. From the first day's session to the very end there was a determined effort on the part of a well-organized group in both Senate and House to prevent the enactment of any important legislation for the people.

"They were willing to legislate in the interest of fish, birds and game as well as bees, dogs and horses, but when a matter of vital interest to human beings—to workingmen—came up for consideration it was disposed of quietly and quickly. Day after day was spent in debating unimportant matters, such as the number of ducks, or quail, a hunter might be permitted to kill. But the several good liability laws which have been introduced, and which would have helped so many human lives, were never given a moment's consideration. No amount of prodding could even get one of them out of committee. It might be well to ask the next candidate for the legislature from your district whether he considers human life as much value as the welfare of the finny tribe.

"The greatest consideration was given the hard-working, poorly-paid judges, from Supreme Court down to Circuit Judges. The Supreme Court Judges were increased from \$4,000 to \$7,500 per year. They did not have to even make a threat to strike in order to get a 90 per cent increase in their wages. All other judges were given similar substantial increases. The guards at the state prison weekly asked an increase from \$90 per month to \$100 per month. They were promptly turned down. If they had asked for \$150 per month their chances would have been better. Moral: It never pays to be a piker.

"The two-house system of government is also a factor that demands consideration. It is a relic of the sixteenth century and no modern institution except the state could exist under such a system. Such an undemocratic, inefficient arrangement would not be tolerated for a day in a trade union, and should not be continued in our city, state or national governments.

"In addition to the weakness of the lawmaking system, our own system of business lawyers, bankers, insurance men and politicians to make our laws, their paying one of our members to go to the capitol and 'beg' for laws is not satisfactory. There are nearly 150,000 union men in Missouri and only one was elected to go to Jefferson City as a lawmaker. The unions recognized the need for laws by sending eight representatives to stand on the outside and pursue their 'begging policy,' but fail to stand together before the election and send a delegation as lawmakers who would have a voice and a vote on every measure. This condition must be remedied. We must elect workingmen to office in order to get laws in our interest, and they must go as our representatives, free from the domination of the old party boss.

"In every other civilized country on the face of the globe Labor has its own political party and sends its own members to participate in law-making. In this way only can we ever hope to get a full measure of justice. For Labor to preach solidarity 364 days in the year, and then, on election day, divide its strength between two opposing political parties, is stupidity of the rankest type. Let us fill our legislative halls with men of our own class. Men who know what Labor needs, and who will get on the floor and tell others."

WHY? It is stated by partisan authority that \$318,730 of the school moneys will be paid back by the administration if Supt. Gass will dismiss his mandamus suit.—Portageville Missourian. So! But Supt. Gass claims that something like a half million is due the school children. Is it an established rule among officeholders to return only part of the loot, after they have been "caught with the goods?"

Read the unmuzzled Kicker.

KING ROCKEFELLER. Well, I reckon Rockefeller, Jr. is really in Colorado to see, for the first time, the mining properties from which he has drawn millions, while starving, jailing and murdering the men, women and children who created this wealth for him.

The plutocrats have been boiling over with spite about how he shares the corn pone and beans with the workers, and before they get through, I guess they will picture the Oil King in overall digging coal. Ivy Lee, the Rockefeller press agent, knows his biz. Of the affair the Milwaukee Leader says:

"Repeated investigations by impartial inquirers have proven that John D. Rockefeller, Jr. is responsible for a system that murdered men, women and children in Colorado. The horrors laid to his door exceed any others in the long history of outrages against labor in America.

Murder and mayhem, bribery, corruption of courts, legislatures and militia, are a few of the crimes brought home to him by the private and government investigations that have followed one another in Colorado.

Now he has gone to the spot to kiss the babies, pat the older children on the head, make speeches to the schools, "share the food of the miners," and generally spread mush and piffle thru the blood of those he is now flatter-

This outburst of gush and guff comes only when the United States Commission on Industrial Relations has so piled up the evidence of his complicity in brutal crimes that even his paid press can no longer save over his guilt. It comes, also, only after the local, state and national authorities under the corrupting influence of the Rockefeller interests, have been shot, imprisoned and terrorized the mining organizations almost out of existence.

His visit purports to be for the purpose of discovering what he can do for the miners. The answer is easy. Call off the thugs, uniformed and otherwise, the hired judges, sheriffs, police and governors, and permit the miners to exercise the rights supposedly guaranteed by the laws and the constitution.

When the organizers of the United Mine Workers are no longer shot, clubbed and jailed for exercising their rights as citizens, they will not ask Rockefeller to do anything for them. They will then do for themselves. They will raise their wages to the point where they can provide their own amusement and education without any of the Rockefeller assistance.

This is just what Rockefeller fears. It is not because he wishes to do something for the miners that he has substituted rush for guns in dealing with them. It is only because violence having been used until it became dangerous, failure is to be substituted as a means to the same end.

For the moment the mailed fist is to be covered with a velvet glove. But the steel remains underneath, and John R. Lawson is still in prison, and the only organization that can fight the battles of the miners continues to be illegally outlawed in the territory where Rockefeller is playing at philanthropy.

RUSHING TO REPUTATION. From the Milwaukee Leader. Upward rises the towering burden of debt. Great Britain's already exceeds \$11,000,000,000. This is five times the debt of the United States at the close of the civil war.

The other nations are groaning beneath loads of relatively equal weight. Not one of them can compete in the international market carrying the handicaps that will be piled upon them at the close of this conflict.

Every financial paper is already discussing the possibility of repudiation. Henry Ford is only one of many men powerful in the capitalist world who prophesy repudiation.

If America can be encumbered with a portion of this loan, several objects will be accomplished—all much to be desired by the warring nations and much to be feared by Americans. Such a debt held in the United States will give the ruling class of this country a "stake" in the war. It will bind them to any effort that may be made to enforce payment of the debt against the wishes of the European workers.

If the Socialists of the old world should rise in revolt against the bonds that are being forged upon them and their children, capitalists in America will demand that this government go to the rescue of European monarchs to enforce payment. We will then hear much of "widows and orphans" who are threatened with expropriation—and there will be a cry to make more widows and orphans among the workers who are seeking to escape from bondage.

GOOD MOTIVE. "You admit you are guilty then?" thundered the judge. "Ah do, judge. Ah's guilty. Ah stole dem pants. But, your honah dere ain't no sin when de motive is good. Ah stole dem pants to get baptized in." San Francisco Star.

It is far easier to drive a soft-headed nail than a hard-headed man.

IN THE SOUTHEAST.

What the People are Doing in Other Counties that are Near.

In the Bloomfield circuit court Weaver Kirby was acquitted of crime by a jury after having pleaded guilty to the judge. Kirby is of the Pyle neighborhood and was accused of carrying a pistol. He expected clemency, but when he heard the recommendations of the prosecuting attorney he withdrew his plea of guilty and demanded a jury trial. At a dance Kirby had taken a pistol from a companion who was drunk to keep him out of trouble. Kirby carried the pistol home with him, and for this "the law" got after him. The jury happened to have more sense than "the law" and held that Kirby acted in the interest of "the peace and dignity of the state" and let him free. Looks like even a prosecuting attorney would have known that much.

Country merchants are up against the mail order house and they don't know what to do with it. They can't do anything. The mail order house is simply a development or evolution of the retail system. The action of a West Plains business concern shows to what extent the rural retailers are alarmed. The store put on a booster contest and offered prizes to girls who got the most votes, and offered votes for catalogues of all mail order houses, and as a result they have just about cleaned the county of catalogues. From this one section about 5,000 catalogues were gathered. And by Christmas the store can start another contest—for that country will be as full of the catalogues as ever. The people order them.

Campbell Citizen.—One day last week Jas. Martin of St. Francis, Ark. let his dray team of blind mules run away with a load of wood. They ran into the St. Francis river, which was nearly full of water, and would have drowned but for the aid of two men in a boat. The boatmen succeeded in getting the team by the bridle bits and piloted them to the opposite side. In the scramble just before reaching the opposite shore, the boat sank, but the two men saved their lives by clinging to the branches of willow trees. All ultimately landed safely on the Missouri side.

Cape Tribune.—After picking up a giant rattlesnake when reaching for a tool in a repair pit at the street car sheds, J. H. Price, foreman at the car shed and widely known leader in the Yeoman Lodge, yesterday afternoon narrowly escaped being struck by the fighting reptile and brocaded with the rattlesnake. A section of the car shed was being repaired and the snake was lying in the repair pit virtually three quarters of the day before the reptile was encountered.

It is always so. The Caruthersville Argus is a "reform" paper and, at the last city election, got what it wanted. In its last issue appeared this: "It is probable that the present city administration will have some explanation to make when it comes time for re-election in the spring. Starting out on a progressive propaganda, it seems to have wobbled along in some manner and got into the hands of the standpat saloon party, much to the disgust of some persons who were enthusiastic supporters in 1914."

Poplar Bluff Citizen.—Robert Dunn, a Neeleyville young man, was painfully injured on Monday, when a young lady friend shot him. He was visiting with her and the two had been handling a revolver that had been unloaded. During the visit, Dunn loaded it and the young lady picked it up, not knowing it was loaded, she fired at Dunn. The ball passed through the flesh of the cheek.

Bloomfield Vindicator.—Henry Cupman, a farmer living between Advance and Brownwood was killed Tuesday morning at his barn by a mule. The exact manner in which he was killed is unknown, as no one knew he was injured until one of the members of his family saw him stagger from the barn and fall. He did not regain consciousness, and died in a few moments.

This was hard luck. The Pencilot Argus relates:—"John LaGrand, who escaped from the jail at Holland some weeks ago and was recaptured, came nearly escaping again Wednesday night. Somebody gave him a file and he had filed one lock off and nearly the other barring his way to liberty, when the file slipped and fell outside the jail."

It is reported that O. M. Stewart, who lives near Sweet Springs, Mo., has an envelope found recently among some old papers which bears a \$2.50 United States stamp. The word "postage" doesn't appear, the face of the stamp containing only "United States." A portrait of George Washington occupies the center and in each corner there is a star.

THE PEOPLE ARE DELUDED. John Boyle O'Reilly. The mass of poor, ignorant, disorganized, do not know the right of mankind upon earth and never realize that the world belongs to its population. A small class in every country has taken possession of property, and government and makes laws for its own safety and the security of its plutocrat educating the masses, generation after generation, into the belief that this condition is the natural order and the "law of God." By long training and submission the people everywhere have come to regard the assumption of their rulers and owners as the law of right and common sense and their own blind instincts, which tells them all men ought to have a plentiful living on this planet, as the promptings of evil and disorder.

THE KICKER CONTAINED AN ERROR last week concerning affairs in Dunklin county. It stated that the county court had agreed to accept \$3,000 in lieu of \$5,500 found short in the office of ex-Collector Douglas, and that a Republican prosecuting attorney had obtained judgment against Mr. Douglas for \$10,000 on another claim. The judgment was against ex-Collector Blakenore for \$10,570.66, and not Douglas. Defaulting officials are so thick that it is difficult to keep track of them and such errors are liable to creep in.

The county courts of Bollinger and Cape counties have ordered injunction proceedings to prevent the Little River Drainage district from cutting ditches across public roads, and the matter is being agitated in Stoddard county. This is done because the Drainage district holds that the taxpayers of the different counties should build and keep up the bridges. All along the Kicker has held that it is wrong to tax people to keep up drain bridges who have no interest in the district.

New Madrid Record.—The farm tractor demonstration in the St. Mary field, two miles north of New Madrid, last Tuesday afternoon, was witnessed by about 60 of our best farmers. The plowing was done in first class style, and showed that it could do lots of work economically. The tractor engine and plows cost \$1,000, and in a few years, when the price is reduced, there will probably be quite a number brought to New Madrid county.

F. J. Wilkinson of Charleston has a farm on which a wheat and corn crop was raised this year. After the wheat was harvested the ground was put in corn to be harvested for fodder. However, the season has been so favorable for corn that the corn will be gathered.

Some Oak Ridge young men went pissing hunting last week. One was rounded up and Bertie Probst didn't know it was pissing possum. He thought it was dead, picked it up and was bitten to the bone in both hands.

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Jackson Items.—Louis Schuette, who lives about a mile southeast of town, had a narrow escape Sunday night from being burned out. The children had been studying their lessons and when Schuette blew out the light and also retired for the night, Mr. Schuette as he was about to fall asleep he heard a queer noise and on investigating found the adjoining room ablaze. The lamp had exploded and the oil had been scattered over the table and floor. The fire was soon extinguished.

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WOMEN AND WAR. Men still die for their country and die as gladly now as they did in Rome or in the land of Canaan. But it is not always of the fatherland that they think when the death summons comes.

Here is a very striking passage from a story of the battlefield which was lately given to Mrs. Philip Snowden, wife of the English labor leader in parliament, by an officer of the front:

"It is not always the shrieks of the wounded as they fall. It is not the sight of the dead as they lie there, but it is the cry of the wounded boys calling for their mothers, and there is no one to do anything for them. They are the boys of 16 and 17, and even younger. They may say, 'mother, mother,' but in their agony, all those boys call for the one who has given them the greatest care in their lives."

The greatest thing in the world comes to the front in death. The "mother country" is the country of the mother, and it is the motherland because it is her land. And at her fireside the mother is calling for the dying boy as desperately as the boy calls for her.

Yet women have no part in war, we are told. The men bear all that burden. Is it true? What an aggregate of heartbreak between the mother and the son, the wife and her husband, the sister and the brother, this gigantic massacre in Europe is inflicting upon the world!—New York Mail.

THE PEOPLE ARE DELUDED. John Boyle O'Reilly. The mass of poor, ignorant, disorganized, do not know the right of mankind upon earth and never realize that the world belongs to its population. A small class in every country has taken possession of property, and government and makes laws for its own safety and the security of its plutocrat educating the masses, generation after generation, into the belief that this condition is the natural order and the "law of God." By long training and submission the people everywhere have come to regard the assumption of their rulers and owners as the law of right and common sense and their own blind instincts, which tells them all men ought to have a plentiful living on this planet, as the promptings of evil and disorder.

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The county courts of Bollinger and Cape counties have ordered injunction proceedings to prevent the Little River Drainage district from cutting ditches across public roads, and the matter is being agitated in Stoddard county. This is done because the Drainage district holds that the taxpayers of the different counties should build and keep up the bridges. All along the Kicker has held that it is wrong to tax people to keep up drain bridges who have no interest in the district.

New Madrid Record.—The farm tractor demonstration in the St. Mary field, two miles north of New Madrid, last Tuesday afternoon, was witnessed by about 60 of our best farmers. The plowing was done in first class style, and showed that it could do lots of work economically. The tractor engine and plows cost \$1,000, and in a few years, when the price is reduced, there will probably be quite a number brought to New Madrid county.

F. J. Wilkinson of Charleston has a farm on which a wheat and corn crop was raised this year. After the wheat was harvested the ground was put in corn to be harvested for fodder. However, the season has been so favorable for corn that the corn will be gathered.

Some Oak Ridge young men went pissing hunting last week. One was rounded up and Bertie Probst didn't know it was pissing possum. He thought it was dead, picked it up and was bitten to the bone in both hands.

WOMEN AND WAR. Men still die for their country and die as gladly now as they did in Rome or in the land of Canaan. But it is not always of the fatherland that they think when the death summons comes.

Here is a very striking passage from a story of the battlefield which was lately given to Mrs. Philip Snowden, wife of the English labor leader in parliament, by an officer of the front:

"It is not always the shrieks of the wounded as they fall. It is not the sight of the dead as they lie there, but it is the cry of the wounded boys calling for their mothers, and there is no one to do anything for them. They are the boys of 16 and 17, and even younger. They may say, 'mother, mother,' but in their agony, all those boys call for the one who has given them the greatest care in their lives."

The greatest thing in the world comes to the front in death. The "mother country" is the country of the mother, and it is the motherland because it is her land. And at her fireside the mother is calling for the dying boy as desperately as the boy calls for her.

Yet women have no part in war, we are told. The men bear all that burden. Is it true? What an aggregate of heartbreak between the mother and the son, the wife and her husband, the sister and the brother, this gigantic massacre in Europe is inflicting upon the world!—New York Mail.

THE PEOPLE ARE DELUDED. John Boyle O'Reilly. The mass of poor, ignorant, disorganized, do not know the right of mankind upon earth and never realize that the world belongs to its population. A small class in every country has taken possession of property, and government and makes laws for its own safety and the security of its plutocrat educating the masses, generation after generation, into the belief that this condition is the natural order and the "law of God." By long training and submission the people everywhere have come to regard the assumption of their rulers and owners as the law of right and common sense and their own blind instincts, which tells them all men ought to have a plentiful living on this planet, as the promptings of evil and disorder.