SCOTT COUNTY KICKER

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THE FARM ADVISER.

Since we Must Pay Him, Why Not Give Him a Fair Chance to Show What He Can Do.--Co-Operate.

Let it be remembered that the Kicker was the FIRST and ONLY paper to advocate a farm adviser for Scott county, and I am not yet ready to say it was a mistake. But I did not take fully into consideration the unfavorable conditions that exist here.

Farming is a business just the same as merchandising or railroading. Its success depends on getting the greatest results from the least expenditure of energy and money. In other words, every edge must be made to cut. The farmer cannot remain stationary. To be successful he must keep up with the progress of the times.

At present farming pays less than almost any other kind of useful labor. A recent report from the government agricultural department tells us that when interest on the land value and equipment is figured, only about 15 per cent of the farmers beat the game, while the remainder fall about $500 per year short--on an average. That these figures are not far wrong is proven by the rapid increase in tenantry. Home-owners are becoming tenants. And the young? For them there is little hope outside the rank sof tenants. None can buy a farm and pay for it from his labor. It is as difficult to pay interest as rent.

The politicians and their organs tell you that the farmer is the "backbone of the nation." That is true. And th e powers that be have, perhaps too late, discovered that they have broken the "backbone." Therefore the nation, the state, the higher schools and the railroads have all set out to reset and patch up this back-bone.

The surest and only cure is for the parasites to get off the farmer's back. But they are not willing to do that. So they prescribe remedies by which they hope to keep the patient going for a while longer, and one of these remedies is the farm adviser.

And while I probably know less about farming than anyone else, and since they must pay the adviser anyway, it is my opinion that the farmers should use him to the limit and see what he can do for them. He can do nothing without their co-operation.

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In Cape county, I am told, the farmers are well pleased with their adviser. But conditions there and here are quite different. The farmers up there are largely home-owners. The landlords don't want hills that wash. The tenants wont keep up the washes. Hence the landlord hasn't got Cape county.

Here we have two very distinct evils that interfere with the farm adviser. The purpose of the farm adviser is to increase production by modern or scientific methods. That this can be done there is not the slightest doubt. In Europe the population is much more dense than here, and he who owns a ten acre farm is fortunate. But he gets more off of it than we get off a forty acre farm. That is called intensive farming. It is this increase in production the farm adviser is presumed to work toward.

But in this county there are two stumbling blocks which, I think, Mr. Deer will admit if he is not afraid to. One is tenantry. This exists all over the south half of the county from the Mississippi to Little River. It covers the level land. To increase the product would not help the tenant. The more he raises the more the landlord will demand in rent. However, the landlords claim that it would increase land values. But that would only make conditions more hopeless. Hence the tenant farmer may be excused for his lack of interest in increased productions and higher land values.

The other stumbling block is in hills. These farmers are mostly home-owners, yet many of them are mortgaged. They are an industrious lot, and by living economically, and by the help of the women and children in the fields, they keep their heads above water by denying themselves almost every luxury.

Twenty years ago there was not a piano in that community, and I doubt if there was a screen door. But conditions are changing even there, and many are beginning to desert the darkness of the cave for the light of the 20th century.

If the introduction of a farm adviser means anything, it means the application of science to farming—or scientific farming. Science is based on established and demonstable facts. No guesswork or superstition about it.

In dealing with animal and plant life, which concerns the farm, science rests upon evolution. Plants are male and female and breed the same as animals or humans. While science is nothing more than plain, common sence, yet to understand it requires a FREE MIND. It will not mix with ghost stories and miracles. It recognizes as truth only that which can be proved. So long as a matter is in doubt, it is not a scientific fact.

In the community of which I speak the education and training of the masses has been just the opposite. While their education was purposely and designedly very limited, yet the little that the people got was of a kind that caused them to shun and disbelieve science. "What always has been always will be" is the foundation of such education, and has nothing behind it but BELIEF. Just why a priest should favor the use of a farm adviser I do not understand—unless he has greater concern in his land-holdings than in his religion.

Therefore it seems to me the best thing to do would be to take charge of the farm adviser and use him to the limit. Give him a chance to do his best. The formation of farm bureaus has begun. Join them. It will give you a chance to mix with your neighbors and exchange ideas. The farm adviser will meet with you.

Give him close attention. Ask questions and keep on asking until what you want to know is clear in your head. He is your teacher. Use him.

Then, at the end of another three year term, you will know whether or not you have been benefitted and can act intelligently. You will be organized. And if you are still of the opinion that there is nothing to it, you Awill be in a position to act collectively and effectively.

The Kicker's position in this matter has not been against a farm adviser. My purpose was to show you how little the masses have to do with public affairs. There are about 4,500 voters in the county, yet the less than 50 men who set out to re-emply the farm adviser can and do "put over" anything they undertake—regardless of the remaining 4,450. I wanted you to take notice how "the peeple" rule.

The reason they can do this is because they know what they want, are few in number, and can quickly organize. They have a common interest and work to it.

The workers also have a common interest. But only in a hazy way do they understand. They are many in numbers, disorganized and, therefore, incapable of any unity of action. That is why they are politically and economically helpless.

DIDN'T CELEBRATE.

A number of Morley's citizens spent at least a part of the day on the 4th at Oran, but a majority of our farmers were too busy making hay while the sun was shining to lose the time to celebrate Independence Day.—Morley Banner.

That looks bad at a time when so much machine-made patriotism is afloat. Every lover of freedom should have waved a flag and given at least one lusty yell—even if he got in jail for it. The "preparedness" for such a jollification is about a quart under the belt.

In no othe' way can a working man feel that independence touched him. Which may explain why the Morley farmer stayed on the job.

Like everything else, our so-called Independence Day has been commercialized, and if there is no profit in sight there is no patriotism.

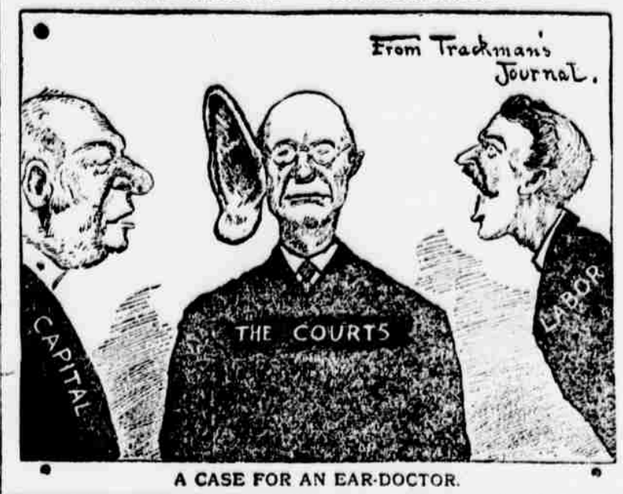
As a boy I attended a Fourth of July celebration in the neighborhood of where Bieda now is, at a place called Rock Springs. There was a splendid dinner and good, clean lemonade for all. Everything was free. It was a gathering of people from all over the county and each did his part to make the whole a success. The Declaration of Independence was read—something you never hear now—and appropriate talks were made—not by professional politicians, but by different citizens. None were very rich and none very poor. We were a county of home owners. All were comparatively equal. Not a soul present made a dollar out of it—nor wanted to.

But how is it today? Enter the grounds and you are annoyed on every side by those who want your money. The steam swing is there. The doll rack, the cane rack, the wheel of fortune and so on. If it is a church affair it is "buy a ticket!" "Buy a chance!" "Try your luck!"

At Kennett, in Dunklin county, Saturday afternoon, Slim Jones, a painter shot and killed his wife, seriously wounded her landlady with whom she was stopping, and then shot himself. Mrs. Jones had left her husband and he had call to plead with her to return. On her refusal he empted a revolver into her body and death was immediate. Mrs. King was attract- by the shots and as she came out of her room Jones re-loaded his pistol, fired two bullets into her body and then shot and killed himself. The bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Jones were shipped to Bloomfield for burial. Jones had been released from an insane asylum and it is presumed that he relapsed.

The Kicker prints what other papers must suppress—or move.

Modern "Justice."



A CASE FOR AN EAR-DOCTOR.

Cleveland, O., July 10.—Anything for delay is the plan of the railroads in dealing with the demands of the employes for an eight-hour day is charged in a statement issued today by the Transportation Brotherhoods.

Railroads are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to ask the public for their support on a proposition to refer the controversy to the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The public should know that the Interstate Commerce Commission only very recently and on two different occasions, have reported at some length and in considerable detail upon this very question. Its reports comprehend two wide spread investigations since 1910 and are the result of attemps on the part of the railroads to make use of increases in wages to induce the Commission to give its consent to increases in freight rates.

The whole subject of wages was gone into by the commission with much care and in great detail.

The railways were fully represented by counsel and large numbers of witnesses testified in their behalf.

Eminent counsel appeared in behalf of the opposition to the roads.

The attorney of the Commission also participated in the proceedings and prepared for consideration, a great mass of statistical information.

After a full hearing of the investigation upon all the facts and circumstances, the Commission held that there was no evidence before it which established the necessity for higher rates.

And again in 1914 the same elaborate and thorough investigation into the subject of wages as having a bearing on the necessity for increased rates, was held.

This federal tribunal said, "it is interesting to note that notwithstanding, wages constitute a large part of the Transportation expense, this item of expense has shown a relatively small advance as compared with other groups."

The Commission called attention to the fact that efficiency of operation and management are the most important things in the reduction of operating expenses, and, as an illustration, the Commission cited the statement of the General Superintendent of Motive Power of the Pennsylvania Railroad who lessened the cost of building locomotives between 1903 and 1913, although the rate of wages increased nearly 40 per cent.

The official utterances of the Interstate Commerce Commission answered authoritively questions raised by the railroads in their opposition to the present movement of the Railway Brotherhoods for an eight-hour work day for employes in freight train service.

These questions have been raised by the railroads and, by the roads through the Chamber of Commerce solely to confuse and perplex the public mind and in an endeavor to prevent the American people from securing a clear perspective of the social and economical significance of the establishment of a shorter work day, for some 350,000 train employes.

Railroad officials well know that the Interstate Commerce Commission has no power to fix the rate of wages after an investigation of the subject and the whole controversy would, after an investigation, be in the same condition as it is at the present moment.

Should however, the Interstate Commerce Commission recommend the granting of the demands of the employes, the Commission automatically be held responsible for any increase in operating expense s resulting from the granting of the demands; therefore would be compelled to assent to an increased freight rate, which is perhaps the very thing that the railroads are trying to secure out of the controversy.

DO IT YOURSELF.

No reform, moral or intellectual, ever came from the upper classes of society. Each and all came from the protest of the martyr and the victim. The emancipation of the working people must be achieved by the working people themselves.—Wendell Phillips.

The Kicker prints what other papers must suppress—or move.

THE BUNK PEDDLERS.

For the past month Cape Girardeau has been afflicted with a tramp preacher called an "evangelist." His name is Eli Forsythe. Like all of his kind, he is in the service of the capitalist class who guarantee him his price.

The purpose is to drum the work people into the "tabernacle" and pump them full of hot air about golden harps and crowns after they are dead—if they will only be good and contented and not revolt against conditions as they are. Every industrial center has them. Big guns like Billy Sunday and Gipsy Smith make the large cities, and the smaller fry like Forsythe and House hit the smaller cities. The newspapers that can be mastered into the service do the boosting. If the Cape Republican didn't get half of the gate receipts of the Forsythe show, it wasn't treated right.

And it was a show. Brass bands paraded the streets to attract the Rubes, and every other device known to the circus world was employed.

When I saw this I wondered what Jesus would say to such a performance.

It is the mission of these bunk peddlers to keep the masses on a blind trail. The work people are beginning to see very clearly that they have nothing, while they who do no useful work have everything. It is the job of the "evangelist" to chloroform them and muddle their brains.

Unfortunately for this particular "revival," the Reverend B. Wade Hampton, a Cape preacher and active assistant of Forsythe, departed between two suns. As is getting to be quite common among such holy men, the Rev. B. Wade tackled the wrong woman.

Like the politicians on the tariff, the evangelist never forgets to hammer the saloon and charge all our ills up to that. So long as he can keep you believing that the saloon is the cause, you wont discover the "money changers." Says the Cape Tribune: "You have no sin here in Cape Girardeau that is not caused by the saloon," shouted Eli Forsythe in his sermon Thursday night. Was the saloon responsible for the acts of B. Wade Hampton, one of Mr. Forsythe's assistants? Hampton fought the saloons as vigorously as Forsythe is fighting them. It is not the saloon that caused Mr. Hampton to rush out of the city under cover of darkness. Two other ministers, who were just as bitter against the saloon as Mr. Hampton was, left Cape Girardeau a few years ago, charged with crimes similar to those committed by Mr. Hampton."

THE LAND BANK

The politicians are always GOING to do something for the people. Just listen to any of them before an election, and if you believe what they say, it matters not which get in—the country is safe. All of them lay awake o' nights to look after the welfare of we uns.

A measure with some merit is the Gardner Land Bank bill. The principle is correct, and may be considered as an opening wedge to something that will give real service in time—sorter like the postal savings bank. Perhaps in 25 years the postal bank may be of some service—provided the people keep hammering at it by increasing the Socialist vote.

The Gardner measure, as I understand it, will be of no benefit to the vast majority of people. It is a middle class measure and will help only those who have land on which to borrow.

There is nothing in it for the relief of the homeless—and it is they who mostly need relief.

A few hundred years ago, when the world was ruled by superstition, it was considered a great feat for a sail boat to cross the Atlantic ocean in from four to six months on top of the water. Since the invention of steam ships cross in seven or eight days. But the feat of feats has just been accomplished by a German underwater craft arriving in this country with a cargo of a thousand tons of dye stuff. It was the giant submarine Deutchland.

The Morley Banner says that judging from the number of canteloup baskets being hauled out of Morley, the farmers must be expecting a bumper crop.

ABOUT MEXICO.

Well, I guess we wont clean up Mexico just yet. The muzzled press tells us that Carranza's reply to Uncle Sam's bluff was very courteous and satisfactory. The truth is that Carranza has never sent us any other than courteous documents. He has been exceedingly patient and has only insisted on what everybody knows to be the rights of the Mexicans.

Carranza has not changed his position in the least. He insists that our troops in Mexico can only inflame the Mexican people, and that the proper place for them is on the American side of the border—if our purpose is to prevent bandit raids. And he intimates that these raids are the results of the activity of Americans who have interests in Mexico, and who want intervention.

Carranza's note didn't stop our crazy war-like movements. It was the thousands of protests, by letter and by telegraph that swamped both the president and Carranza. The great mass of people in the United States understand pretty well what is wrong in Mexico, and they protested vigorously against using our boys to recover the plunder of the plunderers.

In addition to individual protests came the protests of Labor organizations and of the many local state and national organizations of the Socialist party. The National Socialist Committee representing a million voters, sent the following to the president:

"Mexico's national wealth amounts to seven billion dollars. Of this wealth, four billion is owned by Americans. The Socialist party sees a connection between these facts and the fact that American interests for several years, have been trying to force your administration to enroll the two countries in war—the evident purpose being the subjugation and annexation of a part of Mexico.

"We protest against the exchange of American blood for Mexican gold. We have what we believe is reliable information that Mexican raids upon American territory are inspired by and paid for by American interests. We believe our frontier should be protected, but we believe it should be protected by troops stationed upon our side of the Rio Grande.

"The Mexicans are a proud people. They have but to read the memoirs of our own General Grant to learn that in his opinion the United States once waged an unrightous war against them and robbed them of half of their country. Naturally they resent the presence of Americans on their soil now. Naturally they are suspicious. The Socialist Party believes they have abundant reason to be suspicious. We demand the protection of our frontier by soldiers stationed only on the American side of the Rio Grande, but we also demand the capture of the Americans who have inspired Mexican raids across our border."

President Wilson has blundered again—just as he did when he sent our war ships to Vera Cruz. While he warned others not to believe the reports sent out from the border—that these reports were manufactured by "sinister interests"—yet he seems to have fallen the victim of them himself.

There never has been anything in all this hub-bub—except in the controlled newspapers. We never have had, and have not now, any valid reason for invading Mexican territory with our troops. That the Columbus raid, which gave us the excuse for invading Mexico, was planned and paid for by American investors, is not only generally believed, but is the statement of the Washington correspondent of the New York Evening Post. The Department of Justice at Washington is said to be in possession of the names of the conspirators.

It was another case of the blowing up of the Main in Havana harbor, which caused us to declare war against Spain—although Spain disavowed responsibility and no one at all familiar with the facts believes that Spain had anything to do with it. What could Spain gain by it? She could not have dealt herself a harder blow? Only the American plunderers of Cuba and the Phillippines could profit from such a crime—just as they would profit from the annexation of Mexico.

But the Columbus affair gave us the excuse for enlarging the army, and this may be needed to keep the workers in order. The possibility of a nation-wide strike of railroad employes is disturbing the slumbers of the Wall Street pirates.

MONEY MASTERS MAN.

Robert G. Ingersoll.

There is not a man in the city of New York with genius enough, with brains enough, to own five millions of dollars. Why? The money will own him. He becomes a key to a safe. That money will get him up at daylight; that money will separate him from his friends; that money will fill his heart with fear; that money will rob his days of sunshine and his nights of pleasant dreams. He cannot own it. He becomes the property of that money. And he goes right on making more. Wha tfor? He does not know. It becomes a kind of insanity.

If you want the truth, you must read the unmuzzled Kicker.

SIR ROGER CASEMENT.

Irish Patriot Tried Under 14th Century Statute, Found Guilty of High Treason and Sentenced to Death.

Sir Roger Casement, an Irish patriot, has been sentenced to be shot in England. A hand-picked jury and a 14th century court convicted him of violating a 14th century law. But there is nothing strange about that. All of our courts and laws hark back to the Dark Ages when it meant death to oppose church or state. Had the English been able to get hold of George Washington and his followers in 1776, they, too, would have been put to death as traitors. Casement was convicted of treason.

For centuries the Irish people have been oppressed and robbed by English landlords. Although they produce in plenty, and the island is one of the most fertile in the world, yet the farmers have starved to death by thousands. The English landlords, through the powers of government take from them the food they need.

Ireland is a dependency of England. In other words, England is giving Ireland the protection of her flag, just as the United States is giving the protection of our flag to the Philippines and several other little countries in the oceans. This sort of "protection" is a twin brother to the protective tariff. It means the right to rob those whom it pretends to protect.

A couple of months ago a rebellion broke out in Ireland against the tyranny of England. England had Germany and several other countries hammering at her, but she gave them no heed consideration, and went after the Irish rebels and suppressed them.

No ruling class has any more like the fear of a crazy loo as it fears an uprising within. If the enemy from without had captured King George of England, Crown Kaiser William would have seen to it that King George got the best of treatment and th e best entertainment that money could buy. But if the Irish rebels had got hold of him, he might have been treated as he treats captives of the ruling class.

Did you ever think about that? In a war among rulers, let the rulers or their high officers be captured, and their so-called captivity is no captivity at all. No jails and dungeons and firing squads for them. Do you remember how royally we treated the Spanish Admiral Cavera we captured in Cuba? He was highly entertained by our officers and escorted home at our expense.

But let a man who leads in defense of liberty and his people rise, and it is the dungeon and the firing squad for him. And it is only the leaders that get punished—just as in a labor strike.

England has already murdered a dozen or more of the leaders of the Irish rebellion, and now Sir Roger is sentenced to die by that good, Christian government. His crime is that he tried to imitate Jesus in being counted on the side of the poor and oppressed. Before being sentenced, Sir Roger declared he did not regard trial by Englishmen in an English court as a trial by his peers, to which he was entitled. He reviewed recent events in Ireland, when the English soldiers refused to obey the government's order to shoot down the Irish, and said:

"We have seen the constitutional army refuse to obey the constitutional government and we were told the first duty of Irishmen were to enter that army. Small nations were to be the first consideration. I saw no reason why Ireland should shed any blood for any people but her own.

"If that be treason, I am not ashamed to avow it here. If the Unionists chose the road they thought would lead to the Good side, I knew my road led to the dark side. Both of us proved right. So I am prouder to stand here in a traitor's dock than to fill the place of my accusers.

"Self government is our right. It is no more a thing to be withheld to us or doled out to us than the right to life and light, to sunshine or spring flowers."

"My lords, I have done. Gentlemen of the jury, I wish to thank you for your verdict. I meant no reflection upon you when I said this was not a trial by my peers."

With a sweeping gesture of his arm and with more feeling than he had shown before, Sir Roger continued:

"How would all men here feel"—his voice broke—"how would you feel if an Englishman had landed in England and had been taken to Ireland, if that man had been placed before a jury in a community inflamed against him, believing him to be a criminal?"

"There is an objection, possibly not good in law, but surely good on moral grounds, against the application to me here of this old English statute, 565 years old, that seeks to deprive an Irishman today of his life and honor, not for adhering to the king's enemies but for adhering to his own people.

"When this statute was passed, in 1351, what was the state of men's minds on the question of a far higher allegiance, that of man and his God to his kingdom? The law of that day did not permit him to forsake his church or deny his God save with his life. The heretic then had the same doom as the traitor. Today a man may foreswear God and his heavenly realm without fear or penalty, all earlier statutes having gone the way of Nero's edicts against the Christians; but that constitutional phantom, the king, still crawling up from the dungeon and torture chambers of the Dark Ages a law that takes a man's life and limb for an exercise of his conscience.

"If true religion rests on love, it is equally true that loyalty rests on love. The law I am charged under has no parentage in love, and claims that allegiance of today on the ignorance and blindness of the past.

"I am being tried, in truth, not by my peers of the living present, but by the fears of the dead past; not by the civilization of the twentieth century, but by the brutality of the fourteenth; not even by a statute framed in the language of the land that tries me, but emitted in the language of an enemy land, so antiquated is the law that must be sought today to slay an Irishman whose offense is that he puts Ireland first.

"Loyalty is sentiment, not a law. It rests on love, not on restraint. The government of Ireland by England rests on restraint, not on love; and since it demands no love, it can evoke no loyalty."

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Great God! That a man of such high ideals and lofty sentiments should be murdered in the 20th century by men of brute ideas and under a statute enacted during the Dark Ages, when no person was allowed to talk or think except as dictated by church and state.

And while the English were sentencing Sir Roger to be shot, the Germans sentenced Dr. Karl Liebknecht to 30 months in prison for having advocated peace at a May Day demonstration. Dr. Liebknecht is one of the 110 Socialists members of the German Reichstag which, among us means the national congress. He was also convicted of treason.

The fruits of centuries of bogus Christianity is getting rotten ripe.

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.

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 workingman 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 agin 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 groupes 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.

APPEAL TO REASONINGS.

It is all right to keep an eye on the future but one should not get so absorbed with the future as to forget the present. It is an old trick of the legalized porch-climbers of society to get the attention of their victims on some distant thing and then leisurely pick their pockets.