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SOUNDS LIKE A JOKE.

Eli Ake Says the Wilson Administration has Made Everybody Prosperous Excepting Poor Wall Street.

POOR WALL STREET.
For the business man, the Federal Reserve act; for the farmer, the rural credit system; for the manufacturer and merchant, the Federal Trade Commission; for the Wall Street speculator, nothing. That is the record of the first four years of Wilson's endeavors for better business.—Ironton Register.

During of years Bro. Ake gets mighty sarcastic and becomes almost a rebel, but when the party whip cracks Uncle Eli falls into line and gives his readers the regular dope. Just now his paper is carrying hundreds of dollars worth of court house printing, which may, to some extent, account for his warped vision.

It is just too bad that those poor Wall Street fellows haven't been able to make ends meet since the Democrats got in. The business man, the farmer, the manufacturer and mechanic have been in high clover, according to Bro. Ake, but those poor Wall Street fellows got nothing. He knows that there never was a time in the history of this nation when Wall Street prospered as during the past two years. He knows that steel common has risen from pure water to almost par. He knows that the steel trust cleaned up eighty million dollars during the three months prior to its last financial statement. He knows that other Wall Street enterprises have fared correspondingly well.

Then why does he put out such stuff for his readers? He says that the Democrats have given the farmers the Rural Credits act. Can he point to a farmer in his own county, or anywhere else, that has been benefited by it? Only the banks will be benefited, if anybody benefits. The borrower must pay for the use of this "emergency currency" just the same as for any other credit, and the bankers get the profit.

But he does not tell the farmer how this will help him. He omits details and disposes of it in a single line.

When the Republicans tried to put thru their "central bank" scheme the Democrats howled against it to beat the band. Especially was Mr. Bryan loud. But when the Democrats got to the pie counter, they gave the thing a different name and put through for the banks what the Republicans had been afraid to stand for.

Bro. Ake must have been napping when he penned the lines above quoted. Otherwise he would have known that the Federal Reserve law had served its purpose, so far as the farmer is concerned, and that congress had fixed up a new dose to fool him with this fall.

The new gold brick that will be handed the farmer is the farm credits bill, or rural credit. The bone-heads who run this government admit that the farmer is just about a goner, and they think that by getting those who yet have a little something deeper in debt, it will save them.

The state is also to have the land bank. The farmer is to be supplied with all kinds of money—provided he can furnish the security. But that in no way helps those that most need help—the tenant farmer, the wage earner, or the small business man.

Neither the Federal law nor the state law will be of benefit to the masses, for they have nothing to put up as security. But whether the federal farm credit, or the state land bank does any business will not matter. It will provide soft jobs at high salaries for many patriotic politicians. And that is the chief function of capitalist government.

The Federal reserve act, which was heralded as the savior of the farmer, is no longer claimed as his savior—not even by Bro. Ake. He remembers the "cotton pool" of two years ago. He says it is for the "business man." It is for the Big Business man. The government furnishes the money, the banker loans it and pockets the profits.

Of course the farm credits bill is loaded down with red tape, just like the postal savings banks. There is no danger of either the national or state government interfering with the business of the bankers, so long as the banks are the government. You may rest assured that after the fall election the farm credits bill will be as little heard of as the postal savings bank has been.

The federal and state farm credits system both provide that not exceeding six per cent interest may be charged. And you may bet your boots that the limit will be applied. Yet, today, farmers who have the necessary security can borrow from insurance companies at that rate, and even less.

Here is a question I want Bro. Ake to answer: If the government can let the bankers have money for the mere cost of printing it, and at the same time pay the bankers interest on the bonds

put up as security for the money, why should the farmer pay the interest? Why can't the government let the farmer have money as cheaply as it lets the banker have it? Can you explain this in any other way than that it is because the bankers are the government—no matter which old party is in control.

The Farmer and Stockman is an ably edited farm journal. The editor says he has been receiving large numbers of letters from farmers who are interested in the federal farm credit law. In his last issue he explains its workings and he does not seem to think that it amounts to anything. The farmer who cannot borrow now, cannot borrow under the new law. Not only that, but before he can borrow he must become a stock-holder in the rural credits bank, of which there will be twelve. He writes:

"In our eagerness to do everything possible to increase farming productivity and efficiency, we must not make the mistake of assuming that any new legislation is going to change human nature or bring about the agricultural millennium. Farmers who cannot get loans under the existing financial system will not be entitled to them under any new system that might be created for no law can make a dishonest man honest or increase the efficiency of the shiftless. I want to print here a little editorial I found in one of the big eastern papers. It is quite to the point:

"Any farmer who is plowing rented land will make a mistake if he acts on the assumption that under the new rural credit law he will be able to raise money to buy land. Under the new law, any farmer who owns his own home may mortgage it. Probably he should feel grateful that the new law at least does not take from him any of the privileges he formerly enjoyed. The fact remains that his privileges are not increased. The primary purpose of the act, as explained by the Agricultural Department, is to permit agricultural prosperity by enabling farmers to borrow money on farm mortgage security at a reasonable rate of interest and for relatively long periods. There are to be twelve of these land banks. But the basis of these banks is the co-operative organization of farmers which will pass upon the credit of those who seek loans. NO FARMER CAN BORROW UNLESS HE IS A SHAREHOLDER, and for this reason many farmers will prefer to borrow without investing in bank shares. As a matter of fact, farmers are already well supplied with mortgages on reasonable terms. The insurance companies have \$646,961,371 in farm mortgages at an average rate of 5.55 per cent. The new law says that the Federal banks shall not charge above six per cent. The farmer will have to give the same kind of security he formerly gave, and the new system will not make a good borrower out of a poor one.

Bro. Ake, why didn't you tell your farmers just what the Democrats had done for them? Farmers are beginning to want details. Why didn't you tell them that in order to enjoy the blessings of the rural credits act they must first become members of the national farm loan association. A local association must be composed of at least ten members who will apply collectively for not less than \$20,000. If the loan is granted they only receive 95 per cent. For the remaining five per cent they are given bank stock, and must sign a liability contract of double the amount of their bank stock.

The principle is all right, but the high rate of interest and the ocean of red tape will not make the law attractive to the farmer. Nor was it intended that it should. The bankers must be taken care of first, whether Democrats or Republicans rule.

Strange that Bro. Ake failed to mention the Clayton law enacted by congress. The Democrats haven't overlooked anything that will serve to catch the votes of the workers.

The Clayton law was heralded as a great victory for organized labor. Some 20 years ago congress set out to bust the trusts and the Sherman anti-trust law was the result.

Up to date, the only trust that this law has been able to find is the "labor trust." Among others, the Danbury hatters felt its weight and were fined a quarter of a million dollars because they urged their friends not to buy hats made by Lowe & Co.

When the Democratic congress met, Sam Gompers and his labor lobby were on hand to have this law changed so as not to apply to labor unions—which was never intended. Gompers is a labor leader of the past century, who refuses to recognize the class struggle and supports capitalist candidates. He had supported Wilson and felt that he was entitled to something.

So the Clayton law was prepared and enacted. This law declared that labor is not a commodity or property, such as merchandise, and therefore did not come under the Sherman anti-trust law. If congress was right, then the supreme court that robbed the Danbury hatters was wrong, and their property should be restored to them.

But congress was wrong. Labor is a commodity that is bought and sold. However, an old party statesman or a last century labor leader, imagines that if you take an ox and write him down in a law book that he is a cow, the ox will immediately become a cow.

Another thing the mossbacks are slow to learn is that it is our courts and not our legislative bodies that makes our laws. Unfortunately for the Democrats, the courts are making mince meat of the Clayton law before their spell-binders have a chance to tell the unionists what had been done for them. The other day the following press dispatch appeared:

Bridgeport, Conn., Aug. 25.—Attachments were placed on a dozen homes of striking molders by members of the Bridgeport Manufacturers' association in an action for \$200,000 alleged damages by a strike and picketing of plants.

The actual plaintiffs are the Pequannock foundry, J. A. Taylor company and Monumental Bronze company. The suit is based on the decision of the Danbury Hatters case.

The men named as defendants are members of Local No. 10, International Molders of North America. A sheriff has been busy for two days attaching real estate and money in local banks belonging to members of the union.

See what can happen in this

"free" country, Bro. Ake? The employers of labor can blacklist and boycott to their hearts' content and no court will punish them. But let Labor try it, and the "majesty of the law" is right on the job.

Labor will never be given anything it is not strong enough to take. To hope for anything from capitalist politicians is all moonshine. For a quarter of a century Labor has had its agents at the state and national legislative halls begging for relief. What good has it done? Commenting on the Connecticut affair, the Milwaukee Leader says:

"The Clayton law was called a great victory for organized labor by Samuel Gompers, who should know better. The law ruled that labor should no longer be treated like any other commodity.

Under this ruling no labor union nor any individual union member, was hereafter to be prosecuted under the anti-trust laws. Not another case like that of Danbury hatters would now confiscate the savings and homes of union folks, said Gompers.

Now that the Democratic campaign managers need a labor leader to steer the labor unionists into the Democratic pen, Gompers' Hughes, the Republican candidate for president, for his part in the decision that robbed the Danbury hatters. At the same time Gompers praises Wilson for his efforts to get labor laws like the Clayton act passed by the Democratic majority in congress.

Hughes deserves all that Gompers gives him, of course; but why does not Gompers also remember that President Wilson, when signing the Clayton act, silenced the fears of business men by the hint that there were plenty other ways to get at the union treasuries?

Prosecutions under the anti-trust laws are not the only way to confiscate the savings and homes of union men and of unions for the benefit of business men.

The Iron Molders' union in Bridgeport, Conn., has just found this out at the very time when Samuel Uttermeyer, the great corporation lawyer, is delivering lectures on commercial law, in which he praises the Clayton law

as a mark of progress in labor legislation.

While Samuel Gompers and Samuel Uttermeyer are feeding the gullible in the organized labor camps on the husk of words jugglery, the iron molders in Bridgeport have been told by a court that they are forbidden to touch their own savings until the courts give them permission.

The iron molders have been on strike, and the firms touched by the strike have sued for damages. It is the Danbury hatters' case all over again.

ONLY A DAY LABORER.
From the Boston Journal.

A young Boston man named Jeremiah Murphy died yesterday from injuries received when he was in the act of obeying the highest law of all humanity and all religion. He was trying to be kind.

There was a nest of baby birds high up on the roof of the building where Jerry worked. The nest fell into the street, and Jerry, like a good citizen of the world, wanted to do what he could toward setting things right. A mother bird is only a bird, of course; but then, she's a mother, too. Somehow it seemed as though that mother ought to have a fair chance to raise the little family that she had worked so hard to keep alive in the miserable existence of city roofs. So Jerry climbed. And he fell—nine stories.

It's a strange balance—a man's life for a bird's happiness. We lords of the earth don't think much of the little lives around us.

But it wasn't such a bad way to die, after all. Kindness is kindness, whether it feeds a multitude or rescues a fledgling.

Don't we rather feel that we'd like to have known Jeremiah Murphy?

HELPING A LADY.

"Jack, I wish you would come and see me occasionally."
"Why, Vennessa, I thought you were engaged to Algy Wombat?"
"No; but I think I could be if I could get up a little brisk competition.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Meaning of War.

New Yorker Explains Why the War Dogs Were Unchained in Europe.

The other day I received a neatly printed little book entitled "The Meaning of War," by James W. Johnson, New York.

Now, that was the book I was looking for. All sorts of explanations of the present world war have appeared, and none of them were entirely satisfactory. But Mr. Johnson of New York, in his introduction assures the reader that he has the correct dope and I started to read it with unusual interest.

Mr. Johnson goes over all the ground and refers to the different reasons given for the war, such as commercialism, expansion, jealousy, greed, etc., but he assures us that none of those are the basic cause.

Mr. Johnson conceals his secret until near the middle of the book. As he demonstrates, one at a time, the various reasons that have been given for the war, I was very impatient to learn the truth. And no, until I reached the 14th page did Mr. Johnson's theory begin to unfold. He starts off:

"War is nothing more than the punishment of God upon unfaithful, ungodly people who will never obey until they are compelled through suffering, to turn from their selfishness and loathe to the souls last resort, God. The punishment may entail rivers of blood and oceans of tears, but the means are justified by the end, at least in this case. Furthermore, no other means have ever been found adequate.

Now, what do you think of that, in this, the 20th century? Banks like that used to go on about when the masses could neither read, write nor reason, but only last week the submarine beatniks finished her trip across the ocean under water. Mr. Johnson goes on:

"No, there is nothing in history that will controvert the assumption that war is a good way of bringing nations and races to a proper understanding of the fact that this is the world and if kings, princes, rulers and people will live in it in accordance with its laws, but insist upon intruding those laws, by the very nature of the case retribution must follow. The more severe the punishment the shorter it may be. The horror of the present war has never been equaled. But the sins of the nations have never been so great.

What a handy God the pharisees have. All their crimes they will charge up to him. If Mr. Johnson's contention is correct, then death is from such a crime and unjust God, who slaughtered the masses because of the sins of their rulers.

Why Mr. Johnson please explain why his jungle God has seen fit to cause the slaughter of millions of the common people, while the rulers sit in their palaces and never miss a meal? How many bullets have penetrated Kaiser Bill's Car Neck of King George?

Then there are the innocent little children? What has-e-e they done to be thus punished by the "Wrath of God"? It seems to me that if any human being would become "wrathful" and put off the stunts that the orthodox pharisees charge up to their God, he would be jailed or sent to an asylum.

I don't know what Mr. Johnson's occupation is, nor does he say, but I suspect that he is one of those "eminent divines" in the pay of Wall Street. However, the book comes to Missouri at a particularly unfortunate time.

Just now the "good" people are very busy chasing the breweries and saloons out of Missouri and will try to vote them out in November. The American Issue is the name of their official organ.

As an argument in favor of prohibition the American Issue prints a table of figures showing the amounts put into breweries and churches for each year since 1905 in the United States. Since capitalist civilization is about the same in all so-called Christian nations, it is fair to assume that the same figures will hold good in other countries.

According to these figures there was spent for breweries \$14,449,078 in 1905, and only \$5,159,940 for churches—or nearly three dollars for breweries to one for churches.

From 1905 on down to now, the amounts invested in breweries declined until in 1915 less than half a million is spent, while the amounts invested in churches grows, grows, grows, until in 1913 we put 21 million into churches; in 1914, 19 million and in 1915, 16 million. I presume the slump during the past two years was due to the war. No doubt people began to ask themselves, "What's the use?"

But returning to Mr. Johnson, he tells us that the "wrath of God" is responsible for the war. What more could God expect of us than to quit building breweries and put our money in churches? In 1905 we spent nearly three dollars for breweries to one invested in churches. But we have reformed, and during the past four years we have put out for-

ty dollars in churches to one in breweries. In 1905 we had no army invading Mexico, nor had we a hundred thousand soldiers on the border. Neither had we recruiting stations at every cross-roads, besides making a recruiting station of every post-office.

Neither had the churches been converted into recruiting stations. All over the country the protestants are organizing the boy scouts. The reason for this, I presume, is because Jesus was a militarist. Now the Catholics are going at it. Arch-Bishop Glennon's ten million dollar cathedral is to set the pace. In Friday's Globe-Democrat appeared this:

"One hundred boys in the new parish school of the New Cathedral, just completed, will be taught military maneuvers with the opening of the school, September 5. Rev. Francis Gillilan, the pastor, said yesterday that a leader will be selected for the boys who has been an officer in a military school. The drill is to be introduced into each one of the eight grades, if possible. The boys will don khaki uniforms. The various companies of cathedral boys in their military work will be known as Cathedral Cadets. While the drill may be similar to that carried on by the Boy Scouts the work will not be incorporated with that movement, but will be independent."

No wonder so-called "preigion" is losing its grip among the masses. Their eyes are opening to the fact that a counterfeit Christianity is being worked off on them. If Christ came back today he would chase the profit-mongering priests and preachers from the temples as he chased them nineteen hundred years ago.

I agree with Mr. Johnson that the sins of the nations have never been so great. But whose fault is it? This Mr. Johnson does not attempt to explain. Surely it is not for want of costly churches and "eminent divines"—for these seem to grow in exact proportion as our sins! And the breweries, to which our "good" people charge up all our sins, correspondingly decline, according to the American Issue.

Recently, in Waco, Texas, a city with 39 white churches and no brewery, a half-witted negro boy was taken from the court room by a Christian mob. He was taken to the open street where the "law and order" crowd unsexed him, stuck knives in him and fearfully mutilated him. Then they tied a rope around his body and dragged him through the streets behind an automobile.

While the automobile show was going on, they built a fire under a tree on the public square. Then they hung the almost lifeless body over the fire to roast. And the mayor, who could see all this from his office, is said to have used some cuss words because he feared the tree would be injured by the fire!

After the body had been nicely roasted, those people who support 39 so-called Christian churches, cut off fingers, toes and so on, to take home as souvenirs!

Yet we shudder at the mention of the wild tribes of cannibals in the South Sea Islands who eat human flesh!

WOMEN AND THEIR FIGHT.
E. V. Debs in Riprap.

Woman's battle for the ballot is being waged with increasing intensity in every state of the Union. Eleven states have already wiped away the stain and given woman the ballot. A number of other states have granted a limited franchise.

This is an especially important year for the women in their fight for their political rights. Four Eastern states, to-wit, New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New Jersey vote on a constitutional amendment this fall to grant women their political rights. This amendment is being fought viciously by all the powers that maintain sweating helms and the white slave traffic.

Every socialist and every one else capable of realizing the cruel injustice done to woman in depriving her the right to vote and to have a share in the government under which she lives, will appreciate the importance of this issue and work with all their energy to have the amendment which wipes out the dishonor of these states adopted by an overwhelming majority.

The man who is so wanting in sense of fairness and common justice as to deny to woman the rights he claims for himself is a living certificate of the absolute necessity of releasing woman from the ignorant and brutal domination.

There are only three ways of acquiring wealth: First, to create it with your own labor; second, to have it given to you; and third, to steal it. Those who create it with their own labor rest their case here; the multi-millionaire can now take the stand and explain how he got his'n.

Stick to the unmuzzled Kicker.



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