

# Goodwin's Weekly.

Vol. XIII

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, SEPTEMBER 12, 1908.

No. 19

## The Trend of Socialism

DEBS has been here and made his talk. He is the only Presidential candidate that has so far honored us by a visit. What he said must be judged first by his words and next in the light of the platform of his party. He was full of denunciation and ridicule of both Taft and Bryan. He affected to hold them as both under the dominion of accumulated wealth, both under the restraint of laws which were framed in the interest of wealth. The natural conclusion is that until there is a general smashing of laws and a new adjustment, Justice will wander desolate and have no home in this Republic. Some naturally good men, who personally are scrupulously honest, believe in and endorse Eugene Debs. This perhaps is not strange. This glamor of the dream of that impossible time when there will be no more poverty nor want and when things will be so adjusted that there will be no temptation to commit crime, is doubtless very sweet to men who believe that some changes in legislation may bring around such a result. But the rank and file of his followers, the great majority are men who are quite willing to eat bread that they never earned and who are not disturbed about the equities of this world in the least so long as they personally are favored.

The very foundation of the Debs creed is a false one, to-wit: that all that is has come of manual labor. The manual is not put in, but that is how the great mass of the party construes it. Hence, immediately comes the first conclusion that one man is as good as another, and, in the general shuffle, is entitled to an equal reward with all other men, and that all will be that way when the government takes them into its employ. That is of course the leveling of all the men and women of the world to one plane. Under such a regime what would become of the homes of the country? Mr. Debs tells of the hundreds of thousands of fallen women in the land. But when all are reduced to one level is that going to interpose a shield between women and vice? He assumes that most of these have gone astray through want. He ought to know enough of the world to realize that this is the exception and not the rule. The keepers of bagnios in this city report that they are continually besieged by young women wanting admittance. And yet it is almost impossible to secure the services of women to do common house work at the highest wages.

And still a competent woman can get steady wages here, through which with ordinary prudence she can lay up more money in two years than had either of any twenty families of those men and women who cleared the forests and made homes between the Atlantic and the prairies. An army without order and discipline soon becomes an irresponsible mob. Break down the rules which make men responsible for their acts and chaos will come. Take from men the incentive to achieve something more than mere bread, or a petty office, and progress will stop in a day and degeneration begin.

Again, Government ownership is a hobby with Debs. Now there is not one public utility that is worth having that has not reached its present position through the work of masterful intellects. We have been hearing for years that men pay too much for fares and freights on our railroads,

Railroads, at least some railroads, have perpetrated many wrongs on the public by way of discrimination and by being run, not as common carriers, but as private property. That is now in process of being cured by law, but even now it is all that the majority of the roads in the country can do, to keep out of the hands of receivers.

There are a thousand wrongs that should be remedied and which will be in time by natural action of law, but never by a general smash-up and division of the world's wealth among the people, millions of whom have never tried to better either the world's condition or their own by any honest effort on their part.

Progress has never come through such methods and never will, and when the incentive to make homes for themselves and their children is taken from men, from all the men in the land, then that race will soon be as are the nations who perished because they were not fit to live.

## The Watson Program

HON. Thomas E. Watson, the Populist candidate for President of the United States, in a current magazine, gives his reasons why he is a Populist, and why he is keeping up the Populist party. He says: "Previous to the outbreak of the Civil War the principles of Jeffersonian-Jackson Democracy were dominant. As a consequence the country was prosperous and happy. Andrew Jackson paid off the national debt, there were no funding schemes, periodically robbing the tax payers. There was not a national bank in existence. The constitutional system of money was in force, and the tariff had been reduced to a revenue basis by the Walker act of 1844. These were the years in which a visitor from abroad, Charles Dickens, for instance, could write home to his friends in England, expressing his astonishment at the universal prosperity, whose evidences were visible on every side. Those were the years in which he could use the oft-quoted expression that 'a blazing sword suspended from the sky would excite no greater astonishment than would the sight of a beggar on the streets.'"

That is all true, and it is not all true. It is true to this effect. In the north there was unlimited land on which men could settle and could raise the necessities of life, so that absolute poverty only belonged to the improvident, but there was no great wealth. In the south the slaves did the work, and the young men grew up with the idea that work was not good for them, that their business was to fill the professions, and, if necessary, to fight the battles of the republic. The currency system was as bad as could be. Wild-cat banks were flourishing and breaking in every state. Every state had its own currency. There was no stability in financial affairs, and the tariff for revenue, which Mr. Watson praises, was, in great part, the cause for the panic and disaster of 1857, though in the previous eight years the gold from California had doubled and quadrupled the volume of all the money in the country, but which, unfortunately, had been sent away to Great Britain and to France, with the result that our warehouses were choked with foreign goods and our skilled workmen, for the first time in the history of this republic, were forced to eat the free soup of chari-

ty. To describe those as halcyon days is a mistake. The evidence that those in power were not skillful enough to handle the financial affairs of this nation, with ability, was made too plain and the seeming prosperity in the later years of that period came simply from the credit which the discovery of gold in California had given the entire country. Men could get up a wild-cat railroad project, they could place the capital stock at \$40,000 a mile, on that they could borrow \$25,000 in any of the foreign countries of Europe on bonds. With \$25,000 they could build the roads anywhere across the prairies of the west, have \$10,000 left as plunder and at the same time own the road with only the debt of the \$25,000 against it.

There were doubtless few beggars in the south but there were plenty of beggars in the north. The immigration from the old world always brought its quota of beggars. Then Mr. Watson goes on to explain that during the Civil War the corporations took advantage of the necessities of the government and special favors of all sorts were demanded and secured. That, we believe, is true. The necessities of the war, the expense of the war, which made it imperative to put out endless quantities of what then was irredeemable paper money, gave the opportunities for combines such as no country ever had before. After the war there was too quick a desire to call in as much as possible of this currency and it was called in so fast that the people who had been doing business on it and the value of whose property was established by it, found they had no money, found their property falling on their hands, and there was loss and confusion. Then he describes the rise of the greenback party. The greenback movement was both right and wrong. It was right so far as its demand upon the government to reissue that paper money to give the people something to do business on until there should be a return to specie payments.

Then Mr. Watson complains of the repeal of the income tax, in which we think he is dead right. As long as the government owed a vast sum of interest-bearing money it was right to tax special industries and corporations.

Then he complains that the tariff duties were carried to monstrous extremes, which gave the manufacturers practically a monopoly. There is this to say of that, that when the Morrill tariff was laid the country was in the throes of dissolution almost, revenues had to be raised, the interest on the debt had to be met in gold or silver. The only thing to be said against it is that when the war was over and business assumed its normal condition, the reductions on that tariff ought to have begun. He says: "Railway corporations were allowed to have their way until our people were taxed for dividends for seven billions of fictitious capitalization." That is, in part, true. There ought to have been a check on the railroads long before there was, they ought to have been taxed at what they were worth. And their discriminations should have been stopped. At the same time, there ought to have been a commission to have adjusted rates so that they would only have paid a fair interest on what they were worth.

Then he praises the Farmers' Alliance movement and forgets to state that where there was much to be commended in that movement, there