

IT IS COMING.

Nationalism is the Highest Plane of Co-operation.

EDITOR ADVOCATE:—It is only a question of time when nationalism will necessarily come through the evolution of civilization. It is a system for organizing all mankind into an industrial army, each working for all and all for each. It substitutes a co-operative system of industry for a competitive one. It solves the vexed questions of finance, land and transportation, that are being discussed at the present time.

It is a progressive form of socialism. We are at the present time enjoying socialism to a limited extent. Our government is founded on socialistic principles, deriving its just powers from the consent of the governed; our postal and public school systems are socialistic, our churches, secret societies, and all other organizations are socialistic in nature, and the same can be said of the family, which is the natural unit of human society. Co-operation is essential for the success and life of all these institutions. Nationalism is but carrying co-operation to its ultimatum.

We are told that the "love of money is the root of all evil." If society was so organized as to make all exchanges of labor and labor's products, by the aid of service certificates, would we not be able to tear out the tap root of evils from our civilization?

"Fifty men in these United States," says Chauncey M. Depew, "have it in their power, by reason of the wealth which they control, to come together within twenty-four hours and arrive at an understanding by which every wheel of trade and commerce may be stopped from revolving, every avenue of trade blocked, and every electric key struck dumb. These fifty men can paralyze the whole country, for they control the circulating currency, and create a panic whenever they will"

When fifty men have it in their power to control the circulating medium, which is the life blood of our country, and create a panic at their pleasure, is it well for the masses of the nation to convert the wealth they produce by their labor into money coined from one or more of the precious metals? In this age of steam and electricity, when railroads are the great national highways they should be owned by, and operated for, the good of the people.

The experiment of government control of railroads has proven that railroads control the government. For our present civilization the telegraph and telephone have become one of the necessities of life, nearly as much so as the mail service; and while we quietly submit to their being controlled by corporations and cheerfully pay exorbitant prices for their use, we might search all over our globe to find a man idiotic enough to suggest the idea of putting our postal system into the hands of a corporation.

With telephones \$3 per year in Sweden, where the government owns them, and \$240 per year in New York city, where corporations own them, we find here a lesson in governmental ownership, but like all good things mountains of prejudice must be overcome in order that it may be attained.

We boast of American independence, but I predict that when future historians reveal to the coming generations that the people of the latter part of the nineteenth century permitted conditions to exist whereby fifty men with twenty-four hours' notice could block every avenue of trade, public opinion will then class us with the idiot and the insane.

Our lands are fast becoming the property of foreign landholders, corporations and syndicates. Three fifths of Kansas land is already in their possession and is being monopolized by them, to the loss of the homes of our state. The last mad rush for valuable homes from Uncle Sam's domain has been made and our only relief from these private monopolies is to organize a national monopoly of the land, which differs from a private monopoly in that the former benefits all, while the latter benefits only the few. The only redeemable feature of the latter is that they have been object lessons, teaching the people the power of united action. The crushing effect upon the masses will compel them to organize for self-protection under the nationalistic system. Co-operation and the use of improved machinery that is obtainable through organized industry has proved profitable to the manufacturers and beneficial to their employees. The advantages derived from the results of inventive genius should be used to lessen the burdens of all mankind. With the farms arranged as they would be under nationalism the steam plow and other improved machinery would be as far superior to our present implements as those now in use are above the pointed stick of wood formerly used by the Mexicans for a plow. While nationalism should never invade the sanctity of home, it would break the monopoly that the majority of wives hold over the cook-stove, wash-tub and ironing-board. Co-operation has taken the spinning wheel and loom out of the household and will eventually remove the kitchen and the laundry. The edict went forth years ago that man should earn bread by the sweat of his face. Under our present competitive system the idle man of luxury will put on a sanctionious face like the Pharisees of old and quote scripture to the hungry man who has tramped for weeks to find employment to earn food and clothing for himself and family.

Nationalism would insure every citizen an honest living, then no woman would be compelled to seek a life of shame to keep soul and body together; then would none of the departments of our national government be filled with women clerks who have sold themselves body and soul in order to gain their position and are holding only by submitting to the lust of some representative of "the dear people" who are so blind with party ties that they believe their national law makers are enacting laws for the good of the nation, when in fact they are working for the trusts and combines that are sapping the very life of our nation.

Temperance is not confined alone to the drinking of intoxicants. An intemperate amount of work wears the body prematurely, dwarfs the intellect, and converts a human being into a mass of uncontrollable nerves. An over supply of idleness leads to dissipation and a pauper's grave. Nationalism would provide for the feeble, aged, sick and infants and compel all able-bodied citizens to do their share in the hive of industry.

The world was created by an All Wise Heavenly father, and the poorest beggar is as much a child of His loving care as the wealthiest aristocrat, and should not be deprived of his inheritance through trickery and management of the few, any more than should the child of the household be deprived of food and clothing because through some misfortune he may be feeble in mind or body; but on the contrary he needs equal opportunities with his fellow men.

The fullness of the earth provides bounteously for man's wants, and it is only our own willful ignorance that will permit the selfishness of the few to monopolize the blessings intended for all.

Mrs. BINA A. OTIS.

HOME INDUSTRIES.

An Address by the Topeka Trade and Labor Assembly.

HALL OF T. AND L. A.,
Topeka, March 23, 1894.

To the Public:

"The poor you have always with you" is a truism that flourished with the birth of Christianity, and succeeding ages have witnessed no amelioration of the then existing circumstances. The betterments of conditions have been the study of every generation, each at times gradually lessening the burdens of the various elements of society, but with constant lapses of effort, which have apparently retarded the good effects intended.

With none but the best intentions, and looking to the highest interests of all classes, the Trades and Labor assembly of Topeka desire to offer a few suggestions to the producing and consuming thinkers of Topeka. Among the diversified interests of the city it is difficult to briefly select from the number those of a possible comparative value to producer and consumer, but at a venture the flour and tobacco interests—both prominent Topeka industries—are selected, the one an indispensable necessity, the other, as may seem best, a necessity or a luxury.

The flour industries of Topeka are conceded to be without a peer, not only by its home and interstate patronage, but through the large demand which its excellent qualities have created for it in foreign lands. The manufacturers may claim they have no just cause for dissatisfaction; that their competition is legitimate, and that they get their just dues, yet is it to the credit of the consumer that for the saving of a paltry per cent. he transfers his patronage to a foreign territory which produces no returns to his city or to him? Would not the money forwarded to other sources for this one commodity, if spent for home productions, create a demand for increased works, a larger number of workmen, and following the sequence to the end increase Topeka's interests both numerically and financially—all this, too, with but a trifle of self sacrifice on the part of the consumer?

Of the tobacco industry of this city it is unnecessary to enlarge on the yearly consumption of home and foreign production. It is but a short time since that urgent appeals were sent broadcast for a fund for the establishment of a woollen mill in this city, which in the entirety of its employes will be but a drop in the bucket compared with the number who might secure employment in the single branch of cigar manufacturing were its interests properly looked after. The factories of this city might, with no monied assistance other than their just patronage quickly increase their working force over one hundred, thus bringing to our midst workmen who would contribute to the welfare of the city by improving business in various channels. Instead, how is it? The factories now maintain a struggling existence, oftentimes the proprietors, with a reduced force, carrying on their operations at a financial loss. And whose fault? Is it the consumer, who, for a fancied craving, prefers to contribute to the regions of Topobolambo rather than to look after the interests of his own household?

Or, is it the caterer who blindly selfish of all but his own interests, neglects to push forward those of his own city? Some of the latter may be carelessly negligent, while others are wilfully culpable, but, to their shame be it said, some absolutely refuse to deal in home-made productions, although of equal and oftentimes better quality than those in their possession. And that, too, while soliciting the patronage of the very men whom they so deliberately insult. What shall be said of this class of citizens who so anxiously desire the traffic which tends to fill their coffers, and ask their patrons to kiss the hand that smites them.

Their interest in the prosperity of the city or state is coincident with that of a prominent Kansas avenue fruit merchant, who a short time since was asked what he thought were the prospects of his fruit trade.

"Oh, it's all right," said the dealer. "the late frost will probably ruin the Kansas fruits."

"All right?" interrogated the questioner, "how is that?"

"Oh," responded the dealer, "I only deal in foreign goods and a good home product would ruin my trade."

Was he to blame or not? He was simply looking out for No. 1, and the person without sin is solicited to cast a stone.

These few citations apply equally to every industry in the city confines. We appeal to the thinking classes—to the opulent and the person of small means, whose positions may be reversed in a day—can you not assist one another even at the present?

Between producers and consumers there can be but one alternative—a unity or a fall. While neither desire nor should they have a Chinese wall about the city, the interests of all would suggest that charity should lean a trifle toward the home line. The citizen who goes from home to purchase what can be secured from his fellow townsman is equally culpable with the merchant who wholly ignores his home products, resting contented that his own interests do not suffer. Both elements fill a niche in society, but would to God we had less of them.

As members of the various affiliated labor organizations of Topeka we ask the mercantile interests to assist in pushing forward this labor of love, and appeal to the wage-earners to remember that the Lord helps those who help themselves, which liberally translated means, "Don't trade with Caesar unless Caesar trades with you."

Patronize your home markets, and thus aid in giving many an idle man in your city employment.

Reserve your dry goods trade from foreign territory and Topeka merchants must of necessity employ additional clerk hire, and their quick sales naturally mean smaller profits.

Patronize your packing houses and thus create a demand for supply which draws producers from the surrounding country, who from the products of the farm furnish the necessaries, and in turn contribute their mite toward keeping the wheels of industry moving.

Patronize your flouring industries they need no adulation; their fame is world wide, but crowd them with such demands that enlargement of surroundings and additional help must perforce follow and let foreign flouring industries see to it that Topeka's citizens are loyal to home industries.

Give to the cigar makers of Topeka their deserved patronage. Their facilities are unequalled—no market furnishes better stock and no industry a better class of citizens. See to it that credit be given where credit is due, and thus add to your midst that which will alike inure to the benefit and prosperity of the city.

Aid your printing establishments and enable the proprietors to furnish employment to a large class of wage earners, who will see that the natural channels of business quickly absorb the earnings to which you may have contributed.

And so on through the list of industries, all of equal value and all occupying their proper relation to each other. Let it be the aim of all to see that none suffer, but that each be pushed forward. Then bonuses for industries will be like angel visits—the industries will come of their own volition, and Topeka will secure a boom surpassing any in its history.

This is the belief of the members of the Trades and Labor assembly. Does it not accord with yours, fellow citizens? If not, we trust that upon reflection you may be led to agree with us.

Respectfully submitted,

WILL SULLIVAN,
H. R. JONES,
WILLIAM E. TRUE,
Committee.

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