

country up into five different "spheres of influence" and have planned to take all that the people produce aside from what is necessary to support themselves and perpetuate their kind. These gentlemen "control" 160,000 miles of railroad upon which the lives and business of the people depend. These "spheres of influence," as the diplomats say when they are talking about China, are known as the Morgan-Hill system, the Pennsylvania system, the Gould system, the Rock Island system, and the Rockefeller-Harriman system. The Rockefeller-Harriman system covers lines running from Boston to San Francisco, Portland, Ore., down to Los Angeles and back east through Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Louisiana to New Orleans. It has also a heavy mass of roads lying west of lake Michigan, running to St. Paul, Milwaukee and out into the Dakotas.

The Hill-Morgan system includes lines running from Boston, along the southern shore of the lakes to Chicago, then out through Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas, with lines along the northern border of the United States to Seattle, together with a group of roads lying in the Carolinas, Georgia and other southern states.

The Pennsylvania, Gould and Rock Island systems cover the whole heart of the country, the lines being thick from New York west to Chicago and in the states of the Mississippi valley. That is the way this vast empire of 80,000,000 of people is divided up between the ten men of Wall street. All its mines, its fields and its factories are dependent upon the orders of these ten men.

As to how they got this power: They do not "own" this 160,000 miles of railroad, but they "control" them, they have the absolute management of them. Rates go up or down, taxes are paid or not paid, men are sent to congress or the United States senate or kept by the orders of these ten men.

They got "control" through the banks and the money power of which they themselves are the principle part. It was by manipulating the money of the people, deposited in savings and other banks and insurance companies that they were able to "finance" these properties said to be worth three billions of dollars. These men got hold of a road and then put a first mortgage on all the real property to its full value. That mortgage they handed over to some trust company to hold as security for bonds issued to the full value of the road. Then stock was issued, preferred and common. Of course this stock being nothing but water capitalized, the roads being mortgaged for all they were worth before it was issued usually sold a long ways below par. All that was necessary to get "control" of the roads was to get a majority of the stock. That is what these ten men of Wall street did. They got a majority of the stock of this 160,000 miles of railroad. They didn't even get a majority, for there are hundreds of worshippers of these "captains of industry" owning stock in these roads who always send their proxies to be voted as these ten men wish. It is probable that not ten millions of money was put up by these ten men to get the "control" of property valued at three billions.

And these ten men are much more powerful despots than is the czar of Russia. They could at any time starve any city into submission to their will by raising rates. They can transfer the business of handling export grain from Chicago and New York to New Orleans and Galveston. They can take the value out of land by a stroke or two of the pen, by ordering high rates on the products of that land. They can put value into land by giving a certain part of the country favorable rates on its products. They can in fact do almost anything they wish. Upon the whims, likes and dislikes of these ten

men the fate of the country depends more than any country ever did upon the whims of a king.

Highest Wages on Record

The bricklayers of New York have made a contract with the contractors for the coming year. The bricklayers are to receive \$5.60 a day, for a day of eight hours. This is the highest wages ever paid to that craft, but it in no wise settles the industrial problems of New York. If the bricklayers and contractors have gone into a trust, and agreed to divide between them all that can be squeezed out of the syndicates that are building the big hotels and apartment houses of greater New York, that will not give employment to the unemployed, or in the least relieve the hard lot of those who live in the apartment houses. If the cost of building goes up, rent will rise also. The only parties that will benefit will be the steel trust that furnishes the structural steel, and the banks that furnish the money to contractors at high interest. Two sets of men, each enjoying a special privilege, will be benefitted and that is all, namely, the money power and the tariff grafting steel trust. Organized labor must get a wider view of things than simply raising the wages of the members of the unions, before it is entitled to be called "patriotic."

Fighting for Work

A good many people have looked upon the pictures of suffering in the eastern states as drawn in The Independent as too highly colored. A good many workers in charity in the west have so intimated to the editor, but the editor was in New York last winter and again last summer and knew whereof he wrote. Even here in Lincoln there have been more applicants for help than there ever has been before since the charity society was organized. The Independent invites those who thought its pictures of suffering down where the millionaires flourish by the aid of a paternal government, were overdrawn, to read the following Associated Press telegram:

New York, Mar. 2.—A newspaper advertisement offering a day's work to fifty snow-shovelers brought such a crowd of applicants to a point in Fifth street today that the police reserves were called out to check a scramble for work checks. More than 300 men who came in answer to the advertisement were in waiting before daylight, when the man with fifty checks, each of which would entitle the holder to a day's work, appeared on the scene. The sight of the checks was the signal for a rush, in which every one of the 300 joined. Men were tossed right and left in the scramble to reach the holder of the checks, and within a minute every one of the bits of pasteboard had been given out. This did not stop the trouble, however, and when the police reserves, who had been summoned at the first rush appeared more than a score of individual couples were fighting hand to hand for the right to shove all day for \$2.

Did men now past middle life ever dream that the time would come in this country when men would fight like famishing wolves for the "chance" of a day's work? European conditions are sweeping as a tidal wave over this country. "Corporations are being enthroned in power and all liberty lost." Think of it! Starving men by the hundreds fighting for the "privilege" of a day's work! Has the time indeed come when the right to work has become a "privilege" to be dispensed by the few? Slavery was better than that.

It should be apparent to wage-earners that whatever advantage they have secured through organization, that alone will not stop the onward drive of these conditions. Ten per cent of the wage-earners, they say, are organized. What is to become of the millions of unorganized laborers? One writer calls attention to the fact that while trades unionism can keep up the standard of wages; it can not guarantee employment. A member of the strongest union may be "out of a job," while the unskilled laborer and unorganized labor of all

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forms is even more liable to that desolate fate. The better the class of work which a man is capable of doing the more difficult is it in many cases to find the right opening, or any opening.

If the wage-earners are to be saved from a fate like the dispatch above quoted describes, there will certainly have to be other measures taken than labor organization to get better wages. Unless there can be found some way in this land, that could support in comfort the population of the whole world, to give every man an "opportunity" to work, the curse of God will rest down upon it and it will go the way of Babylon, Egypt and Rome.

Clear Cut Reform

The people's party has a distinct line of reform, clean cut and differing from every other party in existence. It does not agree with any of the other parties. It is neither democratic, republican nor socialist, yet some of the things that it advocates are advocated by these other parties. Taken as a scheme of government, or as a plan to overthrow trusts and destroy special privileges, it stands out well defined from all other political organizations.

In the first place it believes in just one kind of money, for rich and poor and all who use money. It declares that every dollar should be as good as every other dollar, that it should be issued by the general government and not by the banks, and should always be as far as the power of government can make it go, of the same value year in and year out. It believes that every dollar of money put in circulation should be a legal tender. It can see no sense in the government creating a situation in which men will be constantly seeking to swap one kind of dollars for another kind. Whenever that occurs there are two kinds of dollars for another kind. Whenever that occurs there are two kinds of money, one of them deemed better than the other kind.

In the second place the people's party stands for the government ownership of every sort of natural or artificial monopoly. Where competition leaves off, government ownership should stop. On this point it stands in sharp antagonism against republicans, democrats and socialists. It can't "affiliate" with any of them.

The people's party demands a parcels

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