

WHEN IS FOR REFORM

Nation Sick with Corruption, Says Oklahoma Senator.

BEFORE ETHICAL CULTURISTS

Machine Control of Party Government Makes Impossible the Passage of Laws for the Protection of the Physical Health of the Nation, He Declares in Address.

New York, March 20.—In an address before the Ethical Culture Club at Carnegie Hall to-night Senator Robert L. Owen, of Oklahoma, pointing out the relation between the initiative and referendum and the political and physical health of the nation, declared the trusts so long as the trusts controlled the government.

The political health of the nation is justly had in many of the States where corrupt machine politics, operating as an agent of selfish interests, both political and commercial, has obtained control of party government, nominating machine men committed to selfish interest at the precinct, in county conventions, and in State conventions, nominating officials, from constable to governor, by machine methods," he said.

"The people appear to rule through party machinery, but do not rule in fact, because the party machinery is in the hands of corrupt machine men, controlled by the interests of the few and against the interests of the many. The remedy is to restore popular government and to overthrow machine government, and the initiative and referendum is the open door by which this can be done, by which it has been gloriously done in Oregon.

Needed Laws Prevented.

"Machine control of party government, among other evil results, makes impossible the passage of laws needed for the protection of the physical health of the nation, notwithstanding the urgent demand of the people, expressed through medical and sanitary associations from the Atlantic to the Pacific for twenty years.

"The physical health of the nation depends upon the prevention of epidemics, upon purity of water supply, upon clean air, pure foods, sanitary conditions, reasonable hours of labor, protection of children and infancy from exposure. The people of the United States lose 600,000 persons annually from preventable causes. These lives could be saved by good laws; they are lost because of bad laws.

"I wish to point out to you the relation between the initiative and referendum and the political and physical health of the nation.

"The political health of the nation and the physical health of the nation cannot be raised to its highest efficiency until the people of the nation and of each State in reality and in sober truth actually control their own government. So long as machine politicians make the nominations for both parties, patriotic citizens register their votes for such nominees in vain. They have only a choice of evils.

The doctrine of Boss Tweed, in New York, might be expressed in these words: Let me select the candidates, I care not who elects. Selection is more vital than election.

Results to Be Expected.

"When the insurance companies and the gigantic corporations raise millions of money to corruptly influence the elections; when they use the huge strength of financial authority, with its far-reaching power, to affect votes in an intensely commercial nation, you may expect white machine methods prevail that the nominations in both parties will be favorable to the selfish commercial interests, and that such interests will exercise corrupt and sinister influence over those chosen to administer government in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the government.

"The initiative means that a small percentage of the voters, usually 5 per cent, can initiate any law they please, and require it to be submitted at the next regular election for a vote of the acceptance or rejection.

"By the initiative, the people of New York State might initiate a mandatory, direct primary law, a corrupt practices act, and compel a vote in spite of the failure of a legislature to pass such a law as the people wanted.

"We do not need the present exposures at Albany as evidence of what it means. Everybody knows who is not imbecile.

"We do not need Tom Platt's alleged contribution of \$20,000 to the Harrison campaign as evidence, nor did we need the exposure of the insurance companies by Gov. Hughes to tell us what the grossly corrupt system means. We all know.

"There is no intelligent man in the country who does not know enough of the evils of machine politics to agree that the time has come in the United States for the correction of these evils by both parties and to restore to the people of this country the right to directly nominate their own political servants by direct primary, the right to initiate their own laws by the initiative action, and the right of veto to any act of their servants in the legislature of the referendum.

"Carb for Undesirable Laws.

"The referendum provides that when the legislature passes an act not acceptable to the people of the State, a petition within ninety days after the passage of the act, signed by 5 per cent of the voters, will operate to suspend the law until the next regular election, at which the people will vote upon the law, whether it shall become a statute or whether it shall not. Is it possible that any man of sound mind and good character will pass an act and make it effective over the people of the State against the direct vote of 1,000,000 men?

"The right of the people to veto an act of the legislature by the referendum is as self-evident as my right to veto the act of my servant, who proposes to commit to an offensive proposition. The Americans are still a free people—in theory, at least.

In Oregon, if they pass a law the people don't want, the people veto it through the use of the referendum. This term of government is called the People's Rule; and what citizen, when he understands it, will vote against the initiative and referendum; will vote against his own right to rule his own state by his own vote; will vote to deny himself the right to select and nominate a standard-bearer of his own party?"

"When it comes to barley crops, Russia leads, with the United States second."

NEWS OF PEOPLE ON MANY TOPICS

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT IT?

Napoleon.

Editor The Washington Herald: One thing has abominably disgusted me, and that is the quantity of deceit, lies, and devilry it takes to keep a modern ruling nation on its feet. I am led to this remark in thinking of old Napoleon Bonaparte, especially.

There was a man! "Puss in Boots," one lady at first sight called him. But an eminent English divine, on hearing the result of the battle of Waterloo, said: "I feel as if the world had stepped back six centuries." "Puss in Boots" had subdued the snobocratic and protuberant royal degenerates of the world when they needed it. Yes, it was a disaster of terrible consequence, was the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo, viewed on the opposite of the British side, in the light of Napoleon's explanation and the dictatorial conduct of his enemies and the enemies of progress and worldwide liberty.

It pleases me very much when some person is bold enough to step forward to vindicate the conduct of Napoleon. Napoleon would the day would come when people would understand what he fought for. But under the weight of opposition and deceit of the powers that rule or ruin honest explanations and just estimates come slowly. "Napoleon was a self-seeker and bloody butcher" and "Shakespeare stole sheep" will hang fire so long as the Middle Ages keep us haltered.

But the best genius of the world is sly at work quarrying truths out from the old debris of falsehood days. It is the theater we have to thank for much enlightenment as to the manner and motives of those great characters without which humanity would have completely rotted long ago. It seems to me.

ORVILLE H. KIMBALL.

Humane Society.

Editor The Washington Herald: Much do I dislike to see my name in the newspapers. I want to plead guilty of having asked, not infrequently, of the Humane Society to send an agent to certain places of business, from where building material, such as bricks, sand, and gravel, was being hauled daily, during hot weather, past our home.

The hauling was almost altogether toward the northwestern part of the city, and the starting point South Washington, therefore, upgrade continually.

I will tell of one instance only—one of many. It was on a very hot afternoon last summer that I saw a driver beat two mules, which were slenderly built, most unmercifully, because, with every muscle standing out, their hoofs sliding on the smooth asphalt, under their efforts to pull a wagonload of bricks—300 bricks!

It was told by a youth who sat with the driver, up our street, upgrade, as I have stated.

The result of my interference was a third animal, which was brought from somewhere, and the wagon moved on. Of course, I could not follow the wagon, and from what other observers tell me, matters are pretty bad all along the line. Next day the occurrence repeated itself, and again ended up with a third animal being brought. If the Humane Society had not sent an agent to that place of business and insisted on either a smaller load or more "horsepower," I should have withdrawn from its membership.

However, all during that hot spell three horses, or mules, pulled those loads up our way, and, apparently, all the way. In cases like this—one of many—where does the stench come from? A Humane Society agent may make a mistake now and then, but how much better is this than no interference so many times when it would be almost a crime not to interfere.

E. KLAKRING.

Religious Liberty.

Editor The Washington Herald: The advocates of true religious liberty in these times have for their objects the preservation of the blessings of freedom of conscience and that of exposing every encroachment upon the religious rights of the people. A few facts will suffice to demonstrate that the warnings they are heralding are not false alarms.

Many people are sincere in thinking that the chief dangers are from those who make no profession of Christianity; but a few facts will convince the most incredulous that there are dangers arising from other sources which are even more destructive, than those from the avowed enemies of Christianity. Multitudes of Christian people, seeing the terrible increase of crime, and being deeply concerned over the situation, are anxiously seeking to find some effective remedy for the situation. Not being able to discover one sovereign remedy, they have concluded to apply a number of lesser ones.

One of the lesser remedies proposed is that known as civic reform, or civic righteousness, often denominated, Christian people in this country are laying aside, to a large extent, the primitive methods of saving men by the power of God, the Gospel, moral suasion, and the work of the Holy Spirit, and are appealing to the civil arm for help.

We need not question the sincerity of those who have adopted these methods, for they have been influenced by the idea that in this way the ailments which are such a terrible menace to society in these modern times can be remedied. In the light of history, which has made plain to us the evils invariably attending the union of church and state and all efforts to make men righteous by law, in all sincerity, will not the remedy thus proposed ultimately prove worse than the evils they are endeavoring to eradicate?

For a long time the masses of the church always insisted on the old radical way—through regeneration of heart and life by the operation of the Holy Spirit, individual by individual, and that only—but now they seem either to be joining with the friends of the new idea or else standing aside awaiting demonstrations.

In somewhat critically examining this situation we shall perhaps need to analyze the remedy offered. Civic righteousness and Christian citizenship are spoken of on all sides as though they were interchangeable terms. Let us make sure about this. Civic righteousness is constituted by self-sacrificing devotion to demands and interests of state, and can be and is manifested by millions on millions of non-Christians; this, therefore, is too low a term for the church's use, Christian citizenship is that devotion to state which is impossible in any except the true Christian; this, it will be seen, demands qualities entirely unpossessed by millions of the civic righteous, and

Food Investigation.

Editor The Washington Herald: The committee of Congress investigating the high cost of living has not, to date, elicited one word of truth.

It has cited to appear and give evidence only those who are interested in suppressing the truth, viz: the wholesale and retail sellers, the cold storage and trust agents, but never the consumer.

What would you think of a court that only took the evidence of the accused? A retail dealer says that a family of six can live well on \$30 per month. The cold storage man says that they only equalize prices. The retailer's statement is so absurd it requires no answer, while the cold storage man equalizes prices by buying up all he can when the new crop is first produced and creates a scarcity almost from the start, and "equalizes" by keeping prices at the highest point for the balance of the year.

The trusts boost prices by a constant sufficient supply to meet the demand, and often compelling a Washington dealer to patronize their Baltimore branches, the supply here being purposely short. The insolence of the trusts is best illustrated by the fact that prices have advanced much more rapidly since the investigation began, thus showing their contempt for the committee, and the public as well.

The retailer is another robber in the roost. For example, with potatoes selling at 15 cents per bushel, he sells at 15 cents per half-peck, making over 10 per cent per day, while the reviled 10-per-center only gets a measly 10 per cent per month for the money he loans.

The less said about commission merchants, the better for them.

I have visited the markets every week day for years, and pay strictly cash, and could furnish much interesting information.

If table supplies have doubled in price in the past five years, what is to prevent their doubling present prices in the next two and a half years?

The American people are long-suffering and permit abuses to exist for a long period, but when they do arise in the majesty of their wrath, "something else a guine to drop"—and that time is near at hand, is the opinion of

W. C. SEVERUS.

Cost of Living.

Editor The Washington Herald: The cause, or causes, of the increased cost of all the necessities of life seem to be as hard to find as the traditional cost of wisdom. The trusts say, "It is not in me," and the Home Market Club, speaking for the tariff, "It is not with me."

"We have heard a rumor thereof with our ears," say the labor leaders, "and we think it is due to the exactions of Wall street." No individual or combination of individuals will admit complicity.

Wheat corners have not affected the price of bread, nor the oleomargarine tax the price of butter. After a laborious inquiry, the Board of Trade of this city reports that the increase is in no way due to the commission, was the alleged New York has found that the alleged live poultry trust does not exist. All the combines, probably, the poor old Standard Oil excepted, will have no difficulty in proving an alibi. "So, uncle, there you are."

Meanwhile, the markets keep playing queer pranks, if nobody has anything to do with prices. Concurrently with a threatened repeal of the oleomargarine tax, butter dropped 6 cents a pound. After the appointment of a commission of inquiry, it as suddenly jumped back to the old figures. Had some straight tip been handed out, or, after the appointment of the commission, was it sufficiently certain that there would be no repeal of the tax this year?

Now, inquiry at the market shows that butter sells at from 23 to 28 cents, 10 cents of which is added by the tax. Sold on its merits for what it purports to be, in free competition with butter, the price should average 15 cents. It is a clean, perfectly wholesome article of food, more palatable than much of the butter in the market. The tax was imposed for the purpose—nearly accomplished—of driving it out of the market. Has this tax any relation to the price of butter? The elimination of the one product increased the demand for the other, or, if you choose, decreased the supply, the substitute, answering the use of butter, necessarily increasing the price. In other words, price depends upon the relation of supply to demand.

The same principle is at work in the tariff. The only difference is that it is a foreign product which is partly or wholly excluded from our market, decreasing the available supply. We thus see that Congress ought to begin its investigation at home, since the greatest and most pernicious combination in restraint of trade is Congress itself.

A carefully scrutiny will show that all prices are in some way dependent upon the law of supply and demand. In case of the monopolies and partial monopolies, the supply is artificially decreased, just as much of a commodity being placed on sale as will be taken at a given price. If it is a strict necessity, the consumer must pay whatever is asked. Of course, there are no complete monopolies in this country—such as the government monopoly on salt in Italy. Even the Standard Oil has always had competition.

Even if, as held by many economists, there is no real increase in the price of commodities, the apparent increase being due to the depreciation of gold, the principle can still be traced. It is simply that the supply of gold has greatly outrun its limited demand as a medium of exchange.

According to the figures of the Bureau of Labor, the wages of the skilled laborer have advanced 28 per cent since 1890, the advance of food products being 18 per cent. Now, it is not a question whether this advance of wages was necessary or consequent upon the general advance in cost of living, but it is a very evident that in itself it is a leading factor in the increased price of commodities.

In reality, wages are just as subject to the relation of supply to demand as commodities. The labor organizations have endeavored, and partially succeeded, in limiting the supply of labor, precisely as the trusts have limited the supply of products. It may be that the laborer is still insufficiently paid, but there is no doubt that it is the consumer—he being one of them—who pays his wages.

H. K. WARNER.

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WALL STREET NEWS

Restlessness of Speculators Keeps Prices in Motion.

SOUND BUSINESS AT BOTTOM

Depletion in Bank Reserves Seems Evident, Owing to Large Demands for Money from India and Russia. New York Feels Imminence of Approaching Crisis in England.

New York, March 20.—There was absolutely no pretense last week that changes in market values were due to any other cause than strictly professional operations. At the end of the first week in the present month prices had enjoyed a very considerable rise from the sharp depression that culminated a month previously. The extent of this advance was indeed surprising to many persons in the financial district, because quite beyond that which precedent indicated.

The customary rule in such things is for a security market, after a more or less violent fall, to rally sharply in a brief space of time, and then to sag back to the low point originally touched. This time, under the particular leadership of one stock, namely, United States Steel common, the rally in the market was so prolonged as to be not merely a rally, but a sustained upward movement. When this, in turn, had run to rather extraordinary lengths, speculators began to question the soundness of the move and to take profits freely. In the forepart of last week, therefore, and the latter half of the week before, the general tendency of prices was downward, but at the end of the week a second recovering movement had made considerable headway.

All these market ups and downs were in no way accompanied, so far as intelligent observation could discover, by any material change in the underlying financial and business situation, and in all probability our stock market just now would be excessively dull were it not for the restlessness of habitual speculators.

Prices Kept in Motion.

Men of this sort are never content unless prices are moving at a fairly rapid pace in one direction or the other, and the times of the year are scarce when such operators, or the greater number of them, are "out" of the market. More has been made in the last few days, and very properly so, of one decidedly unfavorable phase of financial affairs—the indications of firmer money here and abroad.

The Bank of England last week advanced its discount rate from 3 to 4 per cent, the directors of the bank declining to make "two bites of a cherry" by advancing the rate at the usual stages of one-half of 1 per cent. Last year, as will be remembered, the English bank got itself into more or less difficulty by delaying an advance in the rate longer than it should; this year the management of the bank has, as seems, set out to keep itself in a proper supply of funds from the beginning.

Time alone can show just what the general effect of the higher rate of the Bank of England will be. The primary reason for the advance is, apparently, the confused and unsettled state of English finances, owing to the complications over the English budget, which are still far from being unraveled. Sooner or later in the year something of a financial crisis is feared in England as a result of all this, and it is expected that the matter will be precipitated when an English budget bill does pass and a great collection of pent up revenues takes place within a comparatively short space of time.

DEMANDS FOR MONEY.

Aside from this a depletion of the bank's reserve seems to be going on, owing to large demands for money from India and Russia. In the case of Russia, this is due to the traditional policy of the Russian government in adding to its stores of gold, rightly or not designated as those of a "war chest," on every possible occasion, and the occasion at present is that Russia has benefited enormously in the last year through the fact that, along with Argentina, she has been practically the sole source of the wheat supplies of importing countries; that is to say, has profited largely by the abstention of our own country from the grain export trade. The whole affair as it concerns us centers upon the point whether the United States will be called upon to export gold at a time of the year when money is usually in active use in our country, both for agricultural and general mercantile purposes.

It appears to be undeniable that gold exports would have occurred before this and would now be in full swing, were it not for the large bond sales recently negotiated by our bankers. The circumstances that a great quantity of exchange was ready awaiting an advance in sterling rates here had the effect last week of stifling a rise in sterling that immediately set in as a necessary consequence of the advance in the Bank of England's discount rate. Whether a continuing supply of exchange from the source named will be still obtainable, and whether the securities sold abroad will be held there permanently or soon again be resold here are matters concerning which at the moment only uncertainty can be expressed. It must be noted, however, that many of our leading international bankers say in private that the European market for our bonds is now distinctly poorer than it was a few weeks and even a few days since, and that this is due, as it inevitably must have been, to the large offerings of securities made by us as soon as the European disposition to buy manifested itself.

Boy Hangs Himself.

Hanover, Pa., March 20.—The body of Ralph Wildasin, seventeen years old, was found suspended from a rafter in a barn yesterday by his father. The cause is not known.

Malcolm Manor Sold.

Old Malcolm manor, in Prince George County, Md., the ancestral home of the Beale family, has been sold to J. J. Haas, of Pittsburg, who will make the housestead his future home. The property was owned by Hunter Doll, and was sold by Edwin Daniels, a real estate operator. It is understood that \$45,000 was paid for the property.

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