

FOR WAGE EARNERS

THEY MUST AWAKE TO A SENSE OF THEIR INTERESTS.

The Whole Trend of Legislation Is to Aid Monopoly and Is Adverses to the Laborer and the Man of Small Means.

To the Editor of THE MAIL:

The avid nature born with the majority of men, has a tendency toward the accumulation of wealth contrary to the natural fealty of the human jurisprudence. This greed does not hesitate for an instant to form itself into an abyss for the reception of gain formed from a land slide of the laboring class and men of a small working capital. Such engulfments can be created at the pleasure of a very few men who control a million or more dollars.

The massing of the country's wealth in the hands of a few men is inductive of ill to the laboring part of humanity; it stimulates the increase of finances held by the millionaire with a retrograde force brought to bear upon the laborers. It is not the intent to decry the men of millions, nor to land the poor man, but to seek a medium for the obliteration of wrong committed by trusts, and monopoly in general, which the combination of various great fortunes produces when used to form stated prices which would exclude the small manufacturers and dealers from promoting the same line of traffic, also to modify the stock companies which deal directly with the consumer, and which are protected by a grant or franchise from the civil or municipal laws.

Capital and labor should go hand in hand, unbiased by reasons of contempt or embittered by jealous desires; but this will not form itself, and as a consequence the laws must be formed to mould that in which the personal man errs.

The mental and physical structure, known as man, is not of similar formation, which renders his capabilities for self protection at odds, therefore those who have been so formed and possess that faculty of accumulating wealth should be restricted by the laws concerning its commercial interests, where the investments would be derogative to public welfare.

To approach this end it would necessitate that the companies and trusts which come in contact with the consumer and public at large should receive attention. Under this head a list might be named as follows: Water works, lighting plants and street transportation. These should be owned and

controlled by the municipal and the railroads by the national powers. Being so controlled it would render an equalization of hours for labor, an increase of salary, and at the same time rendering a revenue which would exceed that of the property as taxed, allowing cheaper transportation and reducing the cost acquired by the use of water and lighting to a small ratio when compared with the prices set by monopoly, which as a rule governs such necessities.

Beside these stringent issues which must be rectified to meet the wants of those whom necessity pushes closest to the line for subsistence, and who earn their bread by daily labor, it would be well to institute a system of postal savings banks in connection with the post office department, and thereby establish a safe depository for the wage earners. With such a regulation for the protection of their savings connected with the modification produced by the change mentioned before, the local traffic would follow in a steady and safe channel. Results after this plan for the majority of the public benefit will fall on the people direct. They should use their utmost means to place only such men in office as would work for the public needed interests and not to satisfy the official greed and monopolist alone.

M. Condorcet, in his "Commentary on the Spirit of Laws" mentions that which is applicable to the present times, and to the future, viz:—"Men multiply and become more numerous, are more easily enlightened, and more wealthy—thus far we see only advantages; but see the inconveniences—having more means of acquiring knowledge and wealth, it is evident that some succeed less and others more, and that the greater inequality of fortune and talents is established among them;—now, inequality, under whatever it presents itself, is the greatest evil of mankind; inequality leads the spirit of servility, to many other vices and to a pernicious employment of accumulated riches, as we have seen.

"This I believe is the true explanation of the general slavery, not of rich people, but of people among whom there are great riches. This distinction is very essential for it may be remarked that the people in general are more rich in nations called poor than in those called rich; and when we are told of a nation enervated by luxury and riches, we must always understand that nine hundred and ninety-nine parts of the people of such a nation are languishing in penury and debased misery; so that when mention is made of effeminaey and corruption, inequality is to be understood thereby; and thus the key will be had to all the consequences that follow."

These changes in the mode, or ownership, from personal to public control, would naturally tend to place wages on a steady basis, insure eight hours of labor per day and give the laborer an assurance of his earnings. On the other hand, the revenues would be sufficient to reduce the rate of taxation now levied upon the people and thereby render a service to them.

It is not all probable that the office holders will adopt such measures, for the present system of "tipping" certain bills or ordinance through the various halls of legal cultivators for the capitalists, is by far too remunerative to be abolished. These revisions will necessitate a demand from those who are directly interested, connected with much work to overrule the force applied by capital at the ballot, and those who vote for policy and not principle, together with the bribe who hang like a halo around the politician for his patronage.

A class working and voting as the classer that the time are wanting to be diligent regarding the general

interest of monopoly, and farther from the general interests or public protection. It is to be lamented that the majority of our lawmakers seek for popularity by advocating principles which are not in accord with the allowance due the majority, and deviate from the first scruples of justice by framing laws to retard instead of promulgating them to restrict that which is bias to personal protection. Again, it might be worthy to note the diffidence displayed by those who have been placed in positions of political favor by referring to the congressmen who have displayed so much self assurance and discarded the duties which devolved upon them during the "call session," and their neglect of the public trust by departing from the duties which required immediate attention. They are ever ready to draw their salary and mileage, yet they find it more agreeable to while away the time at the seashore than to exert themselves in behalf of the country's welfare.

Until the wage earning people exert themselves by a vigorous research for proper men to fill the offices they can expect nothing.

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