

The Farmers Journal

Work Creates Wealth. Workers Should Own the Wealth They Create. Socialism Is the Only Way.

Vol. 7. No. 2.

ABILENE, TEXAS, WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 1910.

Weekly, 50c a Year.

THEY FOUGHT FREE SCHOOLS.

Robert Hunter, in one of his Socialist press articles that are too long for our pages, quotes numerous extracts from many of the most prominent papers published some 75 years ago, showing that the identical arguments used today against Socialism were used in that day against the public free school proposition. We give a couple of those extracts:

The government cannot provide for the interests of the people. It is they who maintain the government, not the government the people.—Philadelphia National Gazette.

Free education would mean dividing up wealth.—Connecticut Courant.

The Courant went on to say that a public school system would be a compulsory application of the means of the richer, for the direct use of the poorer classes; that incentive would be removed and the scheme of state and equal education be thus a premium for comparative idleness. "It has been well observed," said the Courant, "that compulsory equalizations pull down what is above but never raise what is below, and often depress high and low together beneath the level of what was originally the lowest."

Another paper said: "There will ever be conditions of distinction, of capacity, of knowledge and ignorance, in spite of all the foul conceits which may be indulged or the wild projects which may be tried to the contrary."

So you see, friends, how the people had to join issue with the enemies of Socialism in order to get public free schools for your children. Don't be discouraged.

The Democrats in Texas are not going to depend entirely on your honor this time. They are fixing to yank you up on a charge of perjury if you go into the primary and then go back on the ticket and vote for whom you please in November. If that isn't what they're up to, why are they going to make you SWEAR that you'll stick to the ticket?

TOM HICKEY'S COLUMN

(Written for The Journal.)

A DEBATE.

I am proudly wearing a new \$5 Stetson, presented to me by some good comrades in Stamford, Tex. The presentation occurred on Monday, the 11th inst., and was a result of a struggle that I had on Saturday with a scholarly gentleman from Haskell county named A. C. Nicholson.

The debate occupied two sessions—afternoon and night. Excitement ran high and partisans on both sides came in from five counties. Standing room in the big hall was at a premium, and all hands enjoyed the intellectual battle.

Unlike a good many fellows who defend the Democratic party, my worthy opponent did not stoop to the level of a gutter snipe. He made a clean-cut defense of his position, and was warmly applauded by both friend and foe. One of these days, in self-protection, the powers that be in the Democratic party will relegate to the ash pile the hysterical shriekers of the Reverend Ham type and put forward instead men of intellectual attainments of the type of Mr. Nicholson; and then decent men and women can attend joint discussions without danger of being poisoned by the stench of the Demo mud-slinger.

The subject was the national platform of the Socialist party. My opponent did not assail one of its planks, but made a magnificent defense of what he called "representative government." My contention was that, given a state of society in which food, clothing and shelter, on which all life and civilization rest, is found in the possession of one class instead of all the people, then that class, to maintain itself, must own the government or perish. Hence it happens that United States Senator Flint, of California, represents the Southern Pacific railroad; Pyles, of Washington, the lumber trust; Root, of New York, the interests of Morgan and Ryan; Lorimer, of Illinois, the beef trust; Dick, of Ohio, the railroad and brewery combine; Penrose, of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania railroad; Oliver, of Pittsburg, the United States Steel Corporation; Lodge, of Massachusetts (Roosevelt's crony and chummiest chum), the Boston and Albany railroad

and the cotton mill and factory interests of New England. And so on down to Bailey, of Texas, representing oil, lumber and railroads, with his name in large capitals on the secret code of Standard Oil at 26 Broadway.

In the light of the above record I proved that representative government had broken down; hence the common people, of whom Lincoln said: "God must have loved them, he made so many of them," have completely lost their grip on government officials, and that, accordingly, representative government under capitalism was a fraud, a delusion and a snare.

When the cheers died away my opponent came back with a spirited attack on communism. He claimed that we Socialists believed in communism. Although this was stretching the subject to the breaking point, I did not interfere with the gentleman's argument and was glad I did not do so, because the most brilliant passage of arms in the debate occurred over this question. I will be glad to write up that side in next week's issue of The Journal, as out of the clash of "Communism vs. Socialism" a whole flood of light from a historical and philosophical standpoint was revealed to the intensely interested audience.

When we finished, at 11:30 p. m., the audience seemed loth to go. They had enjoyed an intellectual treat. There were no appeals to passion, but instead, two white gentlemen debated one of the most important questions before the people of the earth—that of government, which enters into every phase of our daily lives—in a sober, candid spirit; and they filed out of the opera house in Stamford as the clocks struck midnight, feeling that they were better citizens because of the clash of wits that they had witnessed.

I believe that all such debates in the near future will be carried on in a similar way, and that hysterical mud-slinging will be stamped out and all the people will be benefited.

T. A. HICKEY.

A two-days Socialist picnic is announced for Big Spring, Tex., July 22 and 23. It is of the basket variety, and a good time is anticipated.

The Farmers Journal.

J. L. HICKS Editor and Publisher.

Office upstairs, East Side Pine Street, No. 139½.

Entered at the postoffice at Abilene, Tex., as second-class mail matter.

The Journal is not sent on credit. If it comes to you regularly, somebody has paid for it; and it stops promptly when time is out.

On account of limited space, contributed articles cannot be handled; but send notices of meetings, the speakers' dates, reports of party progress, etc.

Weekly, 50c a year; 6 mo., 25c; 10 weeks, 10c. In connection with Appeal to Reason or National Rip-Saw, 75c; with the International Socialist Review or Dallas Semi-Weekly News, \$1.25.



Keep out of the primary election of the Democratic party of Texas. Somebody may be nominated whom you cannot vote for in November and be true to your better self. Save yourself for November.

Editor Roosevelt wrote a long article in the Outlook last week on the subject of prize fighting in which he came within a split hair of not saying anything, "which way nor t'other." But right at the wind-up he laid the prize fight across the rope. Hit him again, Ted!

Armed with power to make laws, a lot of partisan Democratic incompetents in the Texas legislature have gone to the idiotic extreme of prescribing certain things that political parties shall or shall not put in their platforms. Are you going to affiliate with such a gang by going into their primary?

Drs. Rankin and Gambrell and their political allies may have to vote for Colquitt and liquor next November. And the voters of German nationality who go into the Democratic primary may have to vote in November for Cone or the old Judge, and—P-r-o-h-i-b-i-t-i-o-n! Better keep away from the primary.

"Unless the legislature at its special session gives the county the right to condemn land for a viaduct site, the city commissioners will be petitioned to exercise their powers of condemnation to secure the land wanted," says the Dallas News. And this is land ownership under capitalism. The officials of government hustle you off whenever they want your land for society's use. Yet, Tom and Ham tell us that under Socialism "nobody wouldn't own no land of their own."

OUR STATE PLATFORM.

The platform of the Socialist party of Texas, as drafted and submitted for referendum vote by the platform committee, is a strong document.

The first thing it demands is the biggest thing of all—government by the people. Six per cent of the voters, according to this platform, may initiate any measure into the law making body; eight per cent may, by petition, have any measure referred to the people for approval or rejection, and on petition of fifteen per cent of the voters a vote may be taken to recall from office any official of government. There's pure democracy in that platform.

There are many other good features which we will comment on later. Keep out of the old party primary and hold yourself ready to step upon this people's platform on the 8th of November.

The Journal does no general book and literature business. For the good of the cause we asked our readers to send 5c to Allen Cook, Canton, Ohio, for a copy of his pamphlet, "Socialism and Its Message to the Church," and now they are sending to The Journal for them. PLEASE DON'T! Unless it is plainly stated that The Journal can deliver books and other things mentioned in its columns, you will confer a favor by ordering direct from the authors or advertisers, and NOT from The Journal. Please remember this!

Tom Watson ought to come all the way from Thomson, Ga., to Abilene, Tex., to watch the street work for awhile and get inspiration for another chapter on "Nigger Equality."

GRAND SALINE ENCAMPMENT.

We have received literature announcing the Seventh Annual Socialist Encampment to be held at Grand Saline, Tex., August 15 to 20 inclusive. Everything indicates that this is to be the biggest and most successful of all the encampments held in historic old Van Zandt, the hot-bed of Texas Socialism.

As to speakers, a long list of names appear, including many of the most widely-known national, state and local speakers, and doubtless the platform work will measure up fully to the size of the crowds that will assemble under the trees to listen.

Plenty of good water, plenty of shade, plenty of wood, plenty of everything to make a week's camping-out pleasant—and the moon will shine all night.

Address all correspondence relative to this encampment to Richey Alexander, Grand Saline, Tex.

Starting home after sunset the other evening the Journal man was headed off by a string of automobiles reaching half a mile, returning from a spin. While waiting for them to pass he just thinks to himself: These people live in Abilene. What they get (no matter how) they get it here. But it is not produced here. This long procession of luxury represents value produced on the farms around Abilene. Yet, those who produced this value don't own automobiles. The farmers are dividing up, all right, and some of them still voting the old party ticket.

E. D. Griffin of Flint, Tex., orders 250 Speakers' Handbills and says: "We have just organized a local with 20 members, and will carry our box at the next election."

"PULL HIM OFF."

At the last meeting of the Retail Dealers Hardware and Implement Association of Texas President Shive, in his annual address, gave the stove and buggy peddlers a few swats and predicted that the next legislature will take them off the road. He maintained that the retailers are entitled to this business.

"I think the greatest enemy and the most hurtful one to retail dealers is the price-cutting dealer," said President Shive.

There goes another stab at competition, by the very people who try to retard Socialism by howling, "Competition is the life of trade." We are of the opinion—and so is everybody else—that competition which does not cut prices is no competition at all, from the standpoint of every one who is supposed to be benefited by competition. Competition with price-cutting left out is Hamlet—all except Hamlet. When the consumer finds the dealers all selling the same things at the same prices, one would naturally expect to hear him say something like this: "If Socialism can go any farther than these capitalist dealers in doing away with competition, it can 'go some.'"

Why is it that the hardware and other dealers, like most voters, stand up in public and at the ballot box and defend things which, at all other times and everywhere else, they try to knock down and destroy? Socialists are the only people whose preaching is consistent with their profession. They preach against the competitive system, but under that system they are forced to compete in order to live. Capitalists preach long sermons on the merits of the competitive system, while under this system each is forced to do all in his power to destroy his competitor.

We don't like the word "Government," for the same reason that we hate the words "Master" and "Boss." It's the correct word, however, under the present system of the rule of the few. When Socialism comes, instead of calling it the "Government," people may decide to call it the "Agreement."

You might get many a man started on the road to Socialism through the inducement of the old Blue Back Speller who couldn't be started any other way.

GOOD SCHEME.

The Socialists in one Texas county are figuring with The Journal on printing in one issue their entire county ticket, in regular ballot form, at so much per name, and then having 1,000 extra copies of that issue printed and sent to them for distribution over the county. What's the matter with that scheme?

We offer to print such tickets in one issue for \$1 per name, and then furnish 1,000 copies of that issue for \$5 additional, with carrier charges prepaid.

Thus you will not only get your ticket before the people of your county, but you will at the same time get some convincing Socialist logic before them.

Do you think the statute book is the place for a long rigamarole about political parties and how and when they shall nominate candidates for public office? If you are a Democratic politician operating in Texas, you may think so. If you are a plain honest worker in the ranks of humanity, we don't believe you indorse the principle of partyism made compulsory. Rebuke the Democratic party, author of the "Terrible" election law, by keeping away from the primary.

If the railroads justly belong to the people because of the fact that the people have paid for them four times over, then the transfer of the title from the private holders to the people would NOT be confiscation. It would simply be RESTORATION—a restoring to the people of that which is rightfully their own. Let's call it restoration. It sounds better than confiscation, is a more accurate word, and is more easily understood. Yours for the Restoration!

On Saturday afternoon and night, July 9, at Stamford, Tex., a debate between a Democrat and a Socialist called out very large audiences, and it was the public sensation of the week. The Stamford News devoted this many lines to the occasion—000. The Stamford Tribune had the following number of lines on the subject—000. When people buy local news they ought to insist on getting their money's worth.

The Appeal to Reason makes a strong appeal to Socialists everywhere to drop the capitalist daily papers that oppose Socialism and transfer their subscriptions to the two daily Socialist papers—the New York Call and the Chicago Daily Socialist.

Abilene and a dozen other towns are putting in their claims for Debs meetings in the fall. This dozen towns will be joined by scores of others. Texas is going to put Debs on the map, if the expression is pardonable.

Just too late for last week's issue we received notices of mass meetings at Abilene, Roby and Baird, to be held on the 23rd, to nominate or ratify county Socialist tickets.

"Personally, I do not believe the morals of the city will be injured by the fight pictures," says the Chicago chief of police. Maybe not!

R. C. Smith, Rockwall, Tex., renews for two years. "I like the way you handle Tom and Ham," says he.

H. H. Donbrava of El Campo orders 1,000 Speakers' Handbills for use in Wharton county.

Thanks to J. F. Obannon of Lingleville for yearly subs and renewals—\$2.50.

You think The Journal ought to be a bigger paper than it is, in order to be an honor to the Socialist movement. We could furnish a bigger paper if the profit seekers would seek buyers for their goods by advertising in it. But they seem to think you have no money. Maybe YOU need to be bigger, too.

An exchange commenting on the general movement to prohibit the reproduction of the Reno prize fight in moving picture shows says: "A great deal of money has been expended in preparing the films, but it is far better that the money should be lost instead of human lives." What? How can you sanction such confiscation? If you go that far, why not say: "A great deal of money has been expended buying up land to speculate on, but it is far better that the money should be lost than that the generations of workers, present and future, should be renters"?

"If Socialism, international, revolutionary Socialism, does not stand staunchly, unflinchingly and uncompromisingly for the working class and for the exploited and oppressed masses of all lands, then it stands for none, and its claim is a false pretense and its profession a delusion and a snare. Let us stand squarely on our revolutionary, working-class principles and make our fight openly and uncompromisingly against all our enemies, adopting no cowardly tactics and holding out no false hopes, and our movement will then inspire the faith, arouse the spirit and develop the fiber that will prevail against the world."—Eugene V. Debs.

That the rulers of this country regard labor as a commodity, same as lumber, hides or any other commodity, was never brought out more plainly than when Taft forced the lower house of congress to reject the amendment to the sundry civil bill which sought to exempt organized labor from the operations of the Sherman anti-trust law. The "captains of industry" are crowing over it, claiming that if they are denied the right to conspire together to raise the prices of lumber, shoes and other commodities, the union members should likewise be denied the right to conspire together to raise the price of labor. Socialism would wipe all such cases off the political docket.

LEUDERS

Everybody knows where Leuders is. In the beautiful Webb Park, on the Clear Fork of the Brazos, in the northeast corner of Jones county, Texas, four big annual Socialist Encampments have been held. The fifth will be held on

August 8, 9, 10 and 11,

and nothing will be left undone that can add to the pleasure or utility of the occasion. The West Texas Encampment was to have been held at Abilene this year, but on account of continued drouth and scarcity of water it was moved back to Leuders, where water never fails. The speakers for this occasion will be

**Reddin Andrews,
T. A. Hickey,
Mary O'Reilly
W. S. Noble,
W. L. Thurman,**

and other well known speakers whose names are a guarantee that the message of Socialism will be clearly and fearlessly presented. The dates for this meeting have been fixed by State Secretary Meitzen, which means that the party machinery of the state is pledged to the success of this Encampment.

Shade and Water.

These are the two things that are essential to the success of all summer camp meetings, and Leuders has an abundance of both. The Texas Central railroad makes it accessible to all the world, and the river furnishes the water, and the tall, spreading wild chinas and elms that heavily fringe its banks for miles above and below furnish the shade.

For Stand Privileges

and other matters pertaining to local arrangements, address the local manager of the Encampment, W. M. WILLIAMS, Leuders, Tex.

(Advertisement.)

The lazy, loafing hobo has one boast coming over the working man. He can point proudly to the Rockefeller-Carnegie wealth and say, "I didn't help make it for 'em."

Some of the Democratic candidates over in Stephens county are kept busy denying the rumors that they are Socialists. All of which is right funny.

Business Mention.

RATE—ONE CENT a word each insertion, cash with order. Initials, numbers, etc., count as words.

I SWEAR TO THIS.

The first half of 1910, from 72 S. C. Brown Leghorn hens (average weight 2½ pounds), we got 7,410 eggs, 617½ dozen, 926¼ pounds, over 4½ times the weight of the hens, in six consecutive months. Mr. Cyphers, New York, got nine times her weight from one Leghorn in one year, and sold her eggs at \$1 each. Each hen in our flock so far has averaged as good, and we sell eggs at 5c each. If any break shipping, express company pays you. We have cockerels sired by Missouri King. He got first at Missouri State Fair in St. Louis. We have others from our breeding fully as good. For beauty and usefulness our Leghorns are second to none, and our price for eggs so low any farmer can buy them. Five cents each for August and September hatching. Let me book your order now. (Cut out this ad, it may not appear again.)

Wm. W. BROWNFIELD.

Brentwood, Ark.

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SUB CARDS.

We can send you postal sub cards, ready stamped and addressed for return, for 50c yearlies or 10c 10-weeks subs. Mighty convenient for sub hustlers to have on hand.

Some of the Socialist campaign speakers have asked us if we could allow them a per cent on subscriptions. We cannot. The offer we have just made of the old Blue Back Speller with each yearly subscription and renewal makes the hole in the doughnut still bigger by the time it gets to us. Besides, The Journal is boosting every speaker who is boosting Socialism, and we are not asking for a "per cent" of what little he gets on his rounds, either. Send on your speakers' boosts.

Remember that the offer of The Journal one year and the Dallas News eight months for \$1, will be out on the last day of this month.

"The Populist party, as an organization, is dead," says Tom Watson.