

The Farmers Journal

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

Vol. 7. No. 8.

ABILENE, TEXAS, WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 1910.

Weekly, 50c a Year.

ONLY A SCRAP OF PAPER, BUT THE TRAIL OF THE SERPENT WAS OVER IT.

In an out-of-the-way place the editor of this paper noticed the other day a torn scrap of paper blowing around loose. It looked to be part of a personal letter, and through the idlest sort of curiosity he picked it up and read it. The closing words and signature were simply this: "As ever, SISTER." It was in a fairly good state of preservation, and the following was easily made out:

"And with it all, this old house we live in was about sold last week, and the agent was begging us to make arrangements to give possession by December 1. So now if we don't get out then, we KNOW we will have to move by the first of January. I know it is a sin, but I can't help but feel sometimes what a happy exchange it will be when the Master says, 'Come home.' And I almost pine for the time when we all can meet in the Father's house of many mansions."

Reader, this is no invention of ours. We have that scrap of paper, and the above is a true copy of what was written on it in a neat and correct feminine hand. HEAVEN'S CURSES ON A SYSTEM THAT MAKES OUR UNOFFENDING SISTERS WRITE LETTERS LIKE THAT TO THEIR UNINFORMED, PARTY-BLIND BROTHERS!

"Much of our land has not yet felt the modifying influence of human skill in shaping its agricultural destinies," sagely remarks the Texas Commercial Secretaries Association. Well, don't you know why? It's because too much of it has felt the damning influence of animal cunning and barbarity in monopolizing it to reap the fruits of others' labor. Socialism will restore the land to those who work it. To them, under God, it has always belonged.

TOM HICKEY'S COLUMN

(Written for The Journal.)

ANDREWS AND WATSON.

My promised remarks on "Communism" will hold over for a while. This week I shall give way to our candidate for governor of this state, the inimitable Reddin Andrews of Smith county. Some friends asked him as an old southern Pop to say something about the dead one from Georgia. In response he got off the following excellent skit:

T. A. HICKEY.

I CHALLENGE

Thomas E. Watson, Rockefeller, Harriman (dead, but may be found), Baer, Morgan, Belmont, Schwab, Frick, Bacon, White (dead, but may be found), Thaw, Taggart, Ryan, McCarren (dead, but may be found), Corey, the Astors, the Vanderbilts, the Goulds, Rogers (dead, but may be found), Cleveland (dead, but may be found), Taft, Roosevelt, Aldrich, Payne, Hale (dead, but may be found), Elliott, Platt (dead, but may be found), Snell (dead, but may be found), Edward VII. (dead, but may be found), Lord General Roberts, scores of congressmen, according to the testimony of Kilgore, Jones, Howard, Smoot, Morton, Tammany Hall, many of the bon ton in every town and city of the world, Diaz, Alfonso, four millions of mulattoes and octoroons, one hundred thousand prostitutes and their paramours, monarchs, kings, czars, shahs, sultans, emperors, presidents, autocrats, aristocrats, plutocrats, oligarchs, grafters, thieves, robbers, gamblers, trust magnates, monopolists and the devil. I dare them to prepare, sign and publish a declaration of the meaning of capitalism as to the following:

1. The Marital Relation—the two million divorces in this country during the last thirty years; the millions of waifs and bastards, the white slave traffic, etc.

2. The Private Ownership of Land—when one man owns from 1,000 to 22,000,000 acres; when 75 per cent of the tillers of the soil are renters while God says, "The land shall not be sold forever, for the land is mine;" "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof;" "The profits of the land shall

be for all the people;" "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread;" when 95 per cent of the people living in the great cities have no lands and no homes, but live in rented shacks, disease-breeding, crime-breeding mangers and slums; when nearly two million children work in the factories, sweatshops and mines, and millions of others work in fields that do not belong to them or their parents; when millions of people, industrious and eager to work, are unemployed and starving.

3. Racial and Social Equality—Name the Socialist (?) parents of the millions of mulattoes, waifs and bastards in the United States, in Cuba, in Jamaica, in Hayti, in South Africa and elsewhere!

4. Religion—Name what religion they prefer of the more than 1,000 religions; what form of the more than 100 kinds of the Christian religion that have no reference, God knows, to Christ and his teachings; expound the Ten Commandments, one by one, the Golden Rule, Matt. 6:12, 19, 24; 7:13, 14; 19:24, special; Luke 6:24, 15; 12:21; James 5:1-6; Prov. 28:22.

5. The Home, as We Know It—Yes, all of you tell all that you all know of all the homes, as you all know them. That will be a-plenty!

The names selected are among the most prominent and representative of American and foreign capitalists and victims of capitalism. There is confusion about the hell that capitalism has made, is making and is going to make, and a full, positive declaration covering or concealing the five points above enumerated will not settle the question. I call upon the gentlemen and ladies named to accept the challenge and publish the declaration.

I JUST DARE THEM TO DO IT!

Now watch them grin and frown and higgie and squirm and fume and sputter and slobber and spit on the floor and stamp it with their feet. I JUST DARE THEM!

THOS. E. WATKINSON.

Immense crowds are expected at the big Socialist Encampment at O'Brien, Haskell county, August 5 and 6. The best speakers in the state will be there, and extensive preparations are being made for the entertainment of the people.

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.



RESTORATION.

Last week we had a word to say in favor of Socialists preaching the doctrine of Restoration in lieu of Confiscation. After the paper was printed, but before it had been carried to the post-office, we received the Oak Valley Socialist of Gainesville, Tex., containing a very fine article from Mrs. Belle Williams of Texarkana, in which the same idea is expressed. Mrs. Williams says:

Just how the change from private ownership will take place no one knows. One thing is sure: labor has created and built all these public utilities, and for that reason RESTORATION is the only Christ-like way to make the change.

That has the ring that sounds good to The Journal. RESTORE to the people that which is their own. To confiscate is to take for public use something that BELONGS to a private individual. Do the railroads, for example, BELONG to the Goulds and Hills and Ripleys and Yoakums? Did these men furnish the brain or the brawn necessary to BUILD the roads? If so, the roads or their equivalent in value are, and of right ought to be, their private property; and to take such property for public use would indeed be confiscation. But if the PEOPLE, in their capacity as thinkers and workers, have built and are maintaining the roads, then the roads are the property of the people by RIGHT, and the transfer of title to the people would not be confiscation, but RESTORATION. Any word should be expunged from Socialist literature that puts the people in the attitude of saying to the kings of finance and the captains of industry, "We are going to take your property." That doesn't sound good. It would turn millions against us. Rather let us say, "We are going to take OUR property."

Yours for the RESTORATION!

LATEST FROM THE MAN WHO WROTE "MEN AND MULES."

"Lions and Lambs; or, Co-operative Farming," is the title of a 64-page booklet just out. It is from the facile pen of W. F. Ries, Box 66, Station F, Toledo, Ohio, the widely-known author of "Men and Mules," "Monkeys and Monkeyettes," etc. This latest book gets right down among the tillers of the soil as no Socialist book has ever done. And the price is only 10c; cheaper in large lots.

In looking over a copy of "Lions and Lambs" ordered by an Abilene comrade we were greatly surprised and much gratified to find that the author had inserted on third page of cover our leaflet, "Can You Sign This?" credited to the Farmers Journal, Abilene, Texas. That will put Abilene and The Journal on the map of the earth, for Ries' pamphlets circulate literally by the millions.

THREE DEMANDS.

Another plank in the proposed platform of the Socialist party of Texas reads:

"That the state purchase all land sold for taxes in this state, the same to become part of the public domain."

Another reads:

"That non-resident land owners assess their own lands, the state reserving the right to purchase such land at its assessed value plus 10 per cent."

Another reads:

"A graduated land tax on all farm lands held for exploitation or speculation."

Such demands would look silly in a national Socialist platform, but in a state platform they simply show that we are determined to "get all we can and can all we get."

DON'T NOTICE THEM.

Over in the regions north-east of Abilene some creature of the baser sort has started something about the moral uncleanness of the Journal man's private life, and some of our friends in that section are wrought up over it.

Don't notice it, please, and thus help them play their game of sidetracking Socialism, any further than to say it's one of the lies that some anti-Socialists (not all) trot out in lieu of argument, partly because they have no argument, but chiefly because they love a lie for its own sake.

We have lived in Abilene nearly twenty years, have reared a large family here under stress of economic disadvantage, and we agree that you may select the jury in our case from among our political enemies who live in Abilene — not in Breckenridge or Crowell.

Keep pressing Socialism upon them, friends.

PROPOSED LAND PLANK.

That the state rent to landless farmers unoccupied farm land now in its possession or hereafter acquired, at the prevailing rate of rent shares. As soon as such rent shares amount in the aggregate to a sum equal to one-half the market value of the land at the time of application, rent to cease and the state to issue to such tenant a permanent right of occupancy.

That is one of the planks submitted by the platform committee to a referendum vote of the members of the Socialist party of Texas. We can easily see why individuals who hold large tracts of land to rent out or sell for a profit, and who care for nobody's welfare but their own, will oppose a political party that makes such a proposition. We cannot see how any man who works other people's land can look at his big landlord, then at his poor family, then at this platform plank, and stay out of the Socialist party.

WORKERS NOT ENTITLED TO MUCH.

"The wage earner is not entitled to an equal share in the profits of industry, for that would be to put no premium upon the ability to plan, to organize, to operate and administer. But he is entitled to a fair wage for his service and to a generous reward for excellence of labor, loyalty of spirit and faithfulness of trust."

Guess what paper said that? It has a dull, dead lack of tone like the stuff we get in some labor union organs—especially that "fair wage" talk—but it comes from the Fort Worth Record of July 17, and was thrown at the Socialists, of course, although it was not so stated. The writer of it displayed the customary ignorance of the Alpha and Omega of Socialism. Nowhere nor under any conditions does Socialism belittle the importance of brain work. At no point is it intimated that such work should not be rewarded with a compensation fully commensurate with its value to society. In our partly socialized postal system the men who do the planning and organizing do not get a profit from the business, out of which to pay a "fair wage" to those who do the work of carrying and distributing and delivering the mails. All hands, brain workers included, get salaries; nobody gets profits. (All leaning upon the government for support, too, please notice, with their individual ambition, initiative and incentive going glimmering!) Could we not in like manner substitute salaries for profits throughout all industry? But why shouldn't the Record have stated it this way:

"Those who plan and organize in the affairs of industry are not entitled to an equal share, for that would be to put no premium upon WORK. But they are entitled to the consideration of a fair wage for their service and to a generous reward for excellence of planning and organizing, for loyalty of spirit and faithfulness of trust, and the rest of the profits of industry, THOUGH IT BE MILLIONS AND BILLIONS, should go to the workers."

Eh? How would the same old shoe feel on THAT foot?

Dollar for your county paper, dollar for big state paper, and neither of 'em on your side in the fight for existence.

Call for State Mass Meeting.

Corpus Christi, Tex., July 20, 1910.

A state mass meeting of the members in good standing of the Socialist Party of Texas, who have paid their poll taxes or are exempt, is hereby called to meet at Corpus Christi, Tex., Tuesday, Aug. 9, 1910, at 9 a. m., for the purpose of nominating candidates for state offices, to announce a platform of principles, to elect an executive committee for the ensuing two years, and to transact such other business as may legally come before the meeting.

H. L. DREYER,
Chairman State Ex. Com.
Socialist Party.

Attest: E. R. MEITZEN,
State Secretary.

"The money which is flowing into our state will treble and quadruple the price of land, and the investor is sure of a comfortable fortune through the natural increase in land and without effort on his part," says the Texas Commercial Secretaries Association. All right. But if you are going to get a comfortable fortune out of land without effort on your part, you want to get on the job pretty pronto. Under Socialism you won't get a fortune that way, and Socialism is coming.

The Texas Commercial Secretaries Association, in a little pamphlet, says: "The astounding possibilities for investment and advancement draw the tendrils of industrial and commercial life of the nation toward Texas, where all can share the heritage of a beneficent Creator." That's pretty. Sounds like a sweet girl graduate's composition. But when you say "all," you mean all the investors. To talk about working people inheriting anything from the Creator would be a joke.

One of the "immediate demands" of the Socialist party of Texas, it seems to us, should be the wholesale and unconditional repeal of the Terrell election law, and the reinstatement of the election law that was in force prior to 1906, with some minor alterations. The present law is not needed to enforce the poll tax amendment to the constitution. The amendment itself says: "This provision of the constitution shall be self-enacting without the necessity of further legislation." The official ballot is costing the people a million times more than it is worth to the people. Give us back the old-fashioned ticket and let each party do its own nominating in its own unhampered way.

"After all, there is plenty of everything for everybody," says Collier's. It required work to make this "plenty." Then if the workers haven't plenty, they have been robbed of what they have made. It won't figure out any other way. Will they submit to this robbery forever?

The Cotton Belt at all points on its lines in Texas will sell, on August 14, 15 and 16, final return limit 21st, round trip tickets to the Grand Saline Encampment at one and a third fare. Texas and Pacific the same, all points between Weatherford and Marshall.

SPELLER OFFER WITHDRAWN.

The offer of a copy of the old Blue Back Speller with each yearly sub and renewal is withdrawn. We will continue to supply the old Speller in lots of one dozen at \$2 per dozen, postpaid.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch asks: "Have we been driven to the border of Socialism by the trusts?"

LAST WEEK'S APPEAL.

No honest person who is even half-way informed will deny that the lack of opportunity to earn a decent living in a decent way is what has driven to the bad ninety out of every hundred of the white girls who have gone down into the under-world. Greed for profits on the part of the owners of the industrial plants has made working conditions so hard, has sent wages down so low and the cost of living up so high that a large percentage of humanity are forced to break over the barriers of law and respectability in the scramble for sustenance. Hence the crowded condition of the court dockets and the prisons; hence the disappearing of increasing numbers of girls into the red light districts.

The most terrible indictment of our system of private monopoly of the lands and industrial machinery that ever fell under our eyes was last week's Appeal to Reason, No. 764, in its fearless and merciless expose of the white slave traffic as revealed by Senate Document No. 196, which document had been suppressed for political reasons and never would have been heard of again but for the Appeal. Any man in any way connected with the affairs of national government who would lend himself to the suppression of Senate Document No. 196, or in any way seek to prevent its being given the very widest possible circulation, would sell your daughter to the keeper of a brothel for five dollars if he were sure he would never get caught.

Most men who print papers and are dependent upon those papers for a living try to boost their circulation at the expense of other publishers seeking to occupy the same field, but if there is such a thing as truth on earth, the editor of The Journal has done a good deal of hard studying in the way of devising plans whereby his little sheet might be of more service in the cause of social purity, and of greater value to the world's enslaved workers, through getting people to read the Appeal to Reason who might not otherwise be brought in touch with it.

Under Socialism newspapers and periodicals will consist of news and views. Expensive ads setting forth "bargains in boots" will be as scarce then as ads are now on "slaughter stamp sales."

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 Fifth Annual Socialist Encampment for Stephens county, Tex., will be held at Wayland, August 1 to 6 inclusive. Many of the most forceful speakers in the movement will be there, and the camping facilities are unexcelled. The comrades, in giving a list of desirable things that there are plenty of, wind up with "Plenty of fine fish in the creek." Let's all go!

BUSY AT AMARILLO.

Comrade F. L. Borland of Amarillo writes that his county (Potter) has put a full Socialist ticket in the field, and that the vote next fall is going to surprise the natives. He sends \$3 for 600 extra copies of this week's Journal. In connection with this announcement of their ticket the following lines are deemed appropriate:

DON'T SCAB AT THE POLLS.

When there comes a call from labor,
You should rally to its aid,
Do not wait to be conscripted,
Show the world of what you're made,
Have some honor, don't be numbered
With the poor, misguided souls
Who are fooled by corporations—
Don't go scabbing at the polls.

Union men, assert your manhood,
You have much to overcome,
Don't place future generations
'Neath the profit grinder's thumb.
With those who won't be plundered
Have your name upon the rolls
To unlock the doors of freedom—
Don't go scabbing at the polls.

Men of labor, stand united;
You have everything to gain,
Remember you have naught to lose,
A fact that should be plain.
In the fight for right and justice
Occupy the highest knolls;
Just think of your obligation—
Don't go scabbing at the polls.
—Thos. H. West.

"Did you notice," writes Wm. W. Brownfield of Brentwood, Ark., "that William J. Bryan made a speech in Washington Hall, Omaha, May 17, and that the awfully big crowd that went to hear him numbered exactly 391, admission free? Shortly before that, in the same place, Debs spoke to 1,700 people who paid 25c admission to hear him."

Business Mention.

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

FREE HOMESTEADS from 40 to 160 acres land in Ala., Ark., Fla., La. and Miss., given away by United States government to successful applicants. Send 25c for information and application form. DIXIE HOME CO., Naranja, Fla.

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