

The Farmers Journal

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

Vol. 7. No. 11.

ABILENE, TEXAS, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1910.

Weekly, 50c a Year.

Jefferson and His Colored Offspring.

LAST WINTER the editor of The Journal chanced to hear of an old out-of-print book entitled "The American Slave Code," containing information to the effect that Thomas Jefferson was the father of children whose mother was a negress. We were interested in that book, of course, because we had so often been placed under the necessity of refuting the groundless charge of "nigger equality" hurled at Socialism by Tom Watson and others—Watson more especially, the editor who so idolizes Jefferson that he gave his publications the name of that great figure in revolutionary history. So with small hope of ever finding the old book we began a correspondence with that end in view. We were referred by this one and that one to old junk shops in Chicago and other cities where there might be a possibility of obtaining it, and finally succeeded in locating a single copy of it in a St. Louis house that makes a specialty of old-time books and periodicals; and while the price was quite a consideration, we landed it safe and sound, by way of the Pacific Express, last Thursday morning.

The American Slave Code is a book of over 400 pages, and was written and compiled by William Goodell in 1853. It is a sort of synopsis or compendium of all legislation touching the subject of chattel slavery in the United States, with comments on same. No disposition is manifest on the part of its author to exaggerate or to under-state anything. It is simply the record, horrible record though it be. In a chap-

ter dealing with the fact that slave legislation robbed even the slave owners of some of their liberties—the liberty to confer freedom upon their slaves if they chose to do so—the author, on page 375, says:

Look, then, at the dying Thomas Jefferson, penman of the declaration that "all men are created equal," now penning a clause in his last will and testament, conferring freedom on his own enslaved offspring, so far as the Slave Code permitted him to do it, supplying the lack of power by "humbly" imploring the legislature of Virginia to confirm the bequests, "with permission to remain in the state, where their families and connections are"—then dying, under the uncertainty whether his requests would be granted or his children sold into the rice swamps! One of his daughters, it seems, was afterwards sold at auction in New Orleans, at the harem price! And his granddaughter was colonized to Liberia—"coerced" perhaps by the "cart-whip!" A land of liberty for white people—for slave holders, is it—where a JEFFERSON cannot bequeath liberty to his own children! In Georgia, had he lived and died there, the "attempt" would have been an "offense," for which his estate would have been subjected to a fine of a thousand dollars, and each of his executors, if accepting the trust, a thousand more!

We haven't space for extended comment. It is not necessary, anyway. Thomas Jefferson, the father of the Declaration of Independence and of the Democratic party, was also the father of a number of mulatto children. It is not with pride that we dig up this record and lay bare these facts which time and the politicians had covered up. We do it only to hush the mouths of those Democrats who, having no real argument with which to meet the logic of Socialism, seek to make it odious with repeated chapters, editorials and speeches in which the burden of their song is "NIGGER EQUALITY and FREE LOVE!"

Extra copies, see fourth page.

DIVES LOVES DARKNESS.

In the year 1818 the newspapers of the city of Savannah, Ga., published the following:

"The city has passed an ordinance by which any person that teaches any person of color, slave or free, to read or write, or causes such persons to be so taught, is subjected to a fine of thirty dollars for each offense; and every person of color who shall keep a school to teach reading or writing is subject to a fine of thirty dollars, or to be imprisoned ten days, and whipped thirty-nine lashes."

Now, that looks and sounds just awful in this day of public free schools, negroes included, doesn't it? But, mind you! the spirit and purpose that prompted that ordinance was precisely the same as the spirit and purpose of the masters of the wage slaves today in seeking to have Socialist literature excluded from the mails. The slaves who make their wealth for them must be kept in ignorance, you see. Even Tom Watson said some time back that he knew things on some Socialist papers, and later on might render some material aid in having them barred from Uncle Sam's mails—or words to that effect. The states of Georgia, South Carolina, Louisiana, and presumably other southern states, had laws prohibiting, by severe penalties, any person to teach slaves to read and write. From the American Slave Code, page 321, we learn why such laws were passed:

"The reason for this law, assigned in the preamble, is that 'teaching slaves to read and write tends to dissatisfaction in their minds, and to produce insurrection and rebellion.'"

See? Reading the Appeal to Reason, for instance, "tends to dissatisfaction" in the minds of the wage and rent slaves. Hence, in a more refined but no less hell-inspired way the masters are today seeking to blot out the light of the lettered page wherever that page threatens to interfere with their OWNERSHIP OF LABOR.

The Farmers Journal.

J. L. HICKS . . . Editor and Publisher.

Office upstairs, E. Side Pine St., 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.



As yet the Socialist party has no state organization in Georgia, but the National Bulletin reports charters recently issued to locals at Brunswick, Fitzgerald, Dalton, Eastman, Gainesville, Macon, Rockwood and Center Hill, in that state. Tom, you said you weren't going to let anything like that happen in your diggings.

When we were a boy we learned how to load a shotgun by getting kicked across three corn rows. But it was better than going to an expert to have the gun loaded every time we wanted to shoot, and the squirrels and things we got in the years following more than compensated for the kicking. And it may be that under the initiative and referendum the people will flatten themselves out a few times before they learn how to govern wisely, but one consoling thought is that they can't get much flatter than they are under the present government by experts.

Did you know that before the war, in some of the southern states, negroes were forbidden by law to hold meetings for religious worship? As a sample, we quote from the American Slave Code, p. 331: "The legislature of Virginia passed a law in 1831 by which any free colored person who undertakes to preach or conduct a religious meeting by day or night may be whipped, not exceeding thirty-nine lashes, at the discretion of any justice of the peace." But we are told that capitalism is the friend of religion, and that industrial freedom, or Socialism, would destroy it.

THERE'S A REASON.

The iron industry at Rusk, owned by the state of Texas, according to the statistics, has lost the state for the last nine years the sum of \$530,037. This is a pretty good sum to lose for the tax payers.—Home and State (Dallas).

And a large part of this sum was "lost" under the management of an employee of the state who afterwards wanted to buy the industry and pay a nice sum for it. Why did he want it? If he couldn't make it pay the state, how could he make it pay himself? You may catch on when you are told that he declined to buy only when the state stipulated that the plant should never be consolidated or have any connection with any other industry of like nature.

Eh? Why did he balk at that?

Because it headed him off from turning the whole works over to the United States Steel Corporation, a concern with a national monopoly.

Let the nation own all such industries, and then there will be no Schwabs to dicker with government employees.

Oh, yes; there's generally a reason.

The net personal income of John D. Rockefeller from Standard Oil alone for the past five years totals one hundred million dollars. If he has done anything to earn it except to play golf we haven't heard of it. As long as a majority of working men vote for a few idle men to get millions that way while their own families get sow belly, sorghum molasses and corn bread, we don't blame the few idle men. That's what the working men may expect as long as they vote the old party tickets. At least that's what the old parties have given them so far.

"Every man who believes that wealth belongs to the one who produces it; who believes in equal rights to all and special privileges to none, and that what all the people use all the people should own, is a Socialist."—Cestos (Okla.) News.

A TWINKLE FROM THE STAR.

"Editor Hicks has another plan to cure all the evils of the times, and it is to abolish the private ownership of land."

We find that in the Baird Star. But the Star man is 'way off. There's no such thing as private ownership of land. Ask some man who has been waited on by a committee of appraisement or by the public official who looks after delinquent taxes. The public lets a man hold and control ITS land (not HIS land) until it needs the land, or as long as he pays the public its yearly rental—the tax. What we want to abolish, Brother Star, is not private ownership, but private control of more land than a man and his family can use. Don't you want that, too? If not, why not?

"Should there be a limit to campaign expenses?" asks an old party editor. Sure! Appoint a committee of three good party workers, to be known as the "Campaign Commission," with fat salaries, and "regulate" that little business. Nothing like plenty of "regulation." Limit? Yes, there must be a limit. We must make government less expensive if it costs us everything we can rake and scrape to pay for the "regulation."

In 1776 a body of Quakers in North Carolina, under the conviction that slavery was wrong, set their 134 slaves free. Thus they were going to practice Socia—practice freedom. But what did it amount to? Those Quakers saw those same freed slaves re-enslaved, and belonging to other masters. The next time a Tom Fool wants you to practice Socialism, tell him about those good old "Quakes."

You can buy liquor or let it alone—The Journal would advise you to let it alone. But when it comes to grub and clothes and a place to stay, it's different. You HAVE to have these things, yet they are cornered by capitalists. Which is the greater issue?

FIGHTS POPULISM.

Tom Watson turned himself loose against the initiative and referendum amendment to the state constitution of Arkansas, and for this alleged reason:

By virtue of that amendment the Socialists could capture a town or county, confiscate private property and help themselves to everything in sight.

We'd have one high old time, wouldn't we, Tom? Youbetcher boots, we'd put on a show what was a show! But say, Tom, just imagine the initiative and referendum applied only to state-wide affairs, and the Socialists should capture the whole state instead of the city or county! Just imagine such a calamity! Now, in American politics it takes a majority to capture—at least that's the theory—and are you not willing, Tom, dear old Populist Tom! that the majority shall rule under the initiative and referendum? No, you are not, unless that majority is composed chiefly of Tom Watson. As you view it, the initiative and referendum principle is unsafe except when every measure is to be initiated by, and referred to, Tom Watson. In truth, you never have had the principles of democracy abiding in your heart. You never was a genuine Populist. You have always been a dictator and an imperialist, and the great pity is that you cannot get off to one side and look back at yourself and see yourself as your old-time admirers have finally seen you. In view of the bad breaks you have made of late, it was an outrage when you were put on the presidential ticket with so good a Populist as Bryan.

This little publication could not have weathered the storms for the past six years were it not that its editor sets type and "does the dirty work." Might as well say that the renters and wage workers should have no voice in the Socialist party as to say that this paper should not have the patronage of every Socialist—at least in Texas—who can take it a dime's worth.

The Texas Railway Journal, Fort Worth, says that "the Socialists are gathering strength all the time," and that "so long as the old parties permit the commercial desperadoes to continue to dictate the affairs of government, the Socialists will continue to gain strength." Our guess is that the "desperadoes" will continue to dictate as long as they own the government, or until the Socialists (the people) own it.

"Great big taters in sandy land." Yes, and we sandy land hillbillies raise 'em, pay freight on 'em to Baltimore, where they are canned and a lot of fancy color printing stuck on the cans, and then pay freight on 'em back to Texas. An Abilene groceryman showed us one of those Baltimore cans of sweet "taters" last week. He said he couldn't help it; his job was to sell what people called for.

We have received the first number of the Coming Nation, Girard, Kan; A. M. Simons and Charles Edward Russell, editors; J. A. Wayland and Fred D. Warren, publishers; weekly, \$1 a year. It is a high class Socialist publication from every point of view, and needless to say it will grow better as it grows older.

In most of the slave states in ante-bellum days a master could not grant his slave freedom except by legal process. Millionaire Post must have had that in mind when he sought by injunction the other day to restrain the Buck Stove and Range Company from granting their slaves a wee bit more freedom.

Judge McLean, of the United States Supreme Court, once said: "Statutes against fundamental morality are void." Think of that after supper if you have time—if you have any supper.

Many local county papers will accept Socialist articles that are well written, cool and sensible.

A man can be a Socialist and believe that the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages should be prohibited. He can be a Socialist and believe that the traffic in such beverages should be free from all legal restrictions. But he CANNOT be a Socialist and believe that the railroads, mines, factories, idle land, etc., should be private property.

"Now watch the jokesmith get to work on the Hokesmith," says the Norfolk Landmark. Perhaps it may as well be conceded right now that Hoke is no joke.—Mineral Wells Health Resort. "Hoax Myth" is what the Pops used to call him.

A reader who has been sorter Socialist and sorter not, but more sorter not than sorter, says that the story of the "Boytown Railroad" which we printed last week was enough to open the eyes of a man who was born blind.

The Baird (Tex.) Star thinks that the remnant of the old Pops had better make haste to copyright the "imperative mandate" and the "subtreasury plan" or Bryan will swipe them, too.

"In North Carolina, to teach a slave to read or write, or sell or give him any book (Bible not excepted) or pamphlet, is punished with thirty-nine lashes."—American Slave Code, 1853.

"Two hundred years of legislation have sanctified and sanctioned negro slaves as property," said Henry Clay in 1839, in a speech in the United States senate.

"Would like to see The Journal larger, but, as it is, it is a bang-up good paper. Here's my 50c for another year."—D. C. Bennett, Southington, Conn.

What Reddin Andrews will say in The Journal of October 12 ought to be put up to the old party voters by every Socialist in Texas. See page 4.

REDDIN ANDREWS EDITION.

Socialist Candidate for Governor Will Give Out His Letter of Acceptance in The Journal of October 12.

Our issue of October 12 will be the "Reddin Andrews Edition." About three-fourths of that issue will be turned over to our candidate for governor, to outline his policies and say whatever he may choose to say in behalf of the cause whose advocates have put him at the front. This letter of acceptance, as we might call it, from Reddin Andrews will be the most important document of the campaign, and ought to be given the widest circulation. It will win votes; it will strengthen our state ticket; it will be the strongest force to put behind our county tickets, and a little money will go a long way in spreading it. How many will your county take? How many will your local take? How many will YOU take?

Now, comrades of Texas, we are going to offer extra copies of the "Reddin Andrews Edition" of October 12, wrapped in bundles and bundle addressed to one person, at the lowest figure we can make, and that figure is

Forty Cents Per Hundred.

We will send any number wanted at the uniform rate of 40c per 100 copies, postpaid. Please get orders to us as early as possible, so that we may know in advance how big an edition to prepare for.

Our 5-weeks-for-5c offer applies not only to Texas, but to every state. Send us 100 or more names and addresses, properly grouped according to postoffices and plainly written in ink or typewriter, with 5c for each, and we will mail The Journal to each one for five weeks. If there is an old partyite in your neighborhood who can read this little spiel five weeks in succession without getting into trouble, then a lot of our friends are mistaken in their estimate.

Wants Drouth Sufferers to Write Him for Information.

To The Journal.

I wish to congratulate you for telling the truth about the drouth in west Texas. The press generally is locked down and not allowed to print the truth, and thus let thousands suffer in these barren districts. Oh, ye blind guides, how shall ye escape the damnation of hell? You lay burdens on the poor you will not touch with one of your fingers.

Now, we have a fair crop in this country, or a greater part of it, and you who are so poor that you have to be helped, come here. I think we can care for 1,000 families. You have got to be fed and clothed, and this people will do it. Write me.

Yours for peace and plenty,
JAS. W. DAVIS.

Asher, Okla., Rt. 1, Box 32.

Extra Copies This Week.

On account of matter in this issue that is somewhat out of the ordinary we anticipate a few calls for extra papers, so we are printing 1,000 copies more than the regular run, and will send them in packages at the rate of 40c per hundred copies.

The first money gets them, and if they are gone when your order comes we will apply the amount on your subscription, or send copies of future issues, as you may direct.

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Hickey's pamphlet, containing National Platform, review of Roosevelt's public life, etc., goes free with each yearly sub or renewal to The Journal. This applies also to subs and renewals under clubbing offers.	

A student in the East Texas Normal College at Commerce, Tex., writes: "There are many Socialists in this institution, and we are going to sow the place down in literature."

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Drinkard's Dates.

M. A. Drinkard, Socialist nominee for county judge of Scurry county, is making a hot campaign. Here are a few dates:

Dunn, September 22; China Grove, 23; Hermleigh, 24 (at 3 p. m.); Pyron, 26; Camp Springs, 27. All appointments at night except Hermleigh.

The Herald, of Lincoln, Neb., saw sufficient merit in our recent article, "Won't You Make a Start?" to reproduce it. The land question, properly presented, would arrest the attention of a greater number of disinherited voters than any other question—or rather, any other phase of the question. We all ought to study it harder and agitate it more.