

THE SCOUT

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To Those That Dig for Their Living

BY T. A. HICKEY

That the position of the vast majority of the people of Texas who work the land is a desperate one can not be denied by a truthful man and won't be denied by an able-bodied old party liar when you present him with the facts in the case; facts that are known to all intelligent men who work on the farm for a living.

The first great fact that stares one in the face is this :

Before the war renters in Texas were as scarce as hen's teeth. An immense domain, an empire in fact, was open to the men who were willing to work the land and with their kith and kin, their flesh and blood, they could sit in peace beneath their own vine and fig tree

After the war immense tracts of land were given away to the railroads and other corporations and then renting commenced in earnest. In 1870 about 5 per cent. of the land was operated by renters of the third-in-corn and fourth-in-cotton type. Speculation in land began to develop; the panics of '73 and '93 made matters worse; the price of living climbed all the time; tools, lumber, stock, clothes, freight rates and food, and all things the small farmer had to buy or use went up by leaps and bounds while cotton, that the farmers had to sell, sank as low as four cents with the inevitable result that the vine decayed, with the pests of capitalism upon it, and the fig tree was uprooted in this financial storm. Hence we find on examination of the digest relating to agriculture of the 12th Census (1900) that in that year 50 per cent. of the land of Texas was operated by exploited renters.

Since 1900 a steady and continuous increase in renting has gone on until today it is within the line of truth to say that in all probability the 13th Census will show 75 per cent. of the land of Texas operated by renters who find the burden ever harder to be borne; the future looming up blacker than mine darkness and the vine and fig tree swept completely out of sight, of hearing and of hope.

* * *

To make matters worse, there are two factors at work that under the present capitalist system will always prevent the renter from gaining any measure of economic freedom. The first is the fact that the present holders of immense tracts of land in Texas have placed the price of land that they, in most instances,

secured as low as from 3c to \$1 an acre, at prices that are prohibitive to the 75 per cent that rent their land on shares. These land owners reason and correctly, that the tide of immigration from the east will, through the mere force of pressure of population send the land values soaring ever higher.

The second fact is that the competition among the renters has become so severe that in their struggle to secure a place to live on they have given cash bonuses to the landlords amounting in some instances to \$2 an acre; and \$1 per acre is quite common. This with the third and fourth of corn and cotton is such a beautiful piece of "dividing up" that the poor wretch who gives it can only in the nature of things have a slim living from year to year until the poor farm stares him in the face in his declining years; while those whom he has outbid drift onto public works where they may compete against the convicts which a democratic administration has farmed out to private individuals and corporations. Thus we see the great bulk of the land workers of Texas rendered homeless and impoverished under Democratic capitalist rule and witness the great tragedy of this great state with its 245 counties turned in the short space of forty years into two hundred and forty-five Irelands with its rack renting and all the other evils that flow therefrom.

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As this is written for small farmers and renters who, with their families, make up the majority of the people of Texas, I shall not touch on the miserable conditions under which the producers of the bulk of the wealth of Texas dwell. The miserable weather-beaten clap board shacks in which Bailey would not keep his dog; the sameness of the coarse food; the shoddy clothes and cotton suiting; the four months schools with inadequate teaching; the grinding toil without hope of reward; the indignities constantly showered on the renter such as in Nolan county, where the roofs of the rent houses are adorned with great red paint numbers, thus numbering the renters like convicts; of these things burned into your daily life I will not write but will instead come to the remedy.

THE REMEDY.

First and above all things any man who has as much sense as God gave geese will know that

the old party politicians have lied to you; deceived and fooled you for two generations. As well expect purity in a brothel as help from the Democratic party. The politics of every county in Texas is run from the business men and bankers offices in the courthouse square with the assistance of the courthouse ring in the center.

Turn then to the Socialist party which has, by its clean-cut, unswerving attitude of hostility to the powers that be, earned the sympathy, admiration and support of all thinking men and women. Learn that we hold the solution of the land question by demanding that the land held for speculation purposes shall be taxed out of the hands of the present owners and that the only title to land shall be that of use and occupancy. Learn that we are the only party that has built up a world-wide literature and philosophy; that has encircled the globe so that the sun never sets on our flag. That in all lands and climes the Socialist party is the party of the common people, the worker, the producer of all wealth. Learn that we are not a party like others that have gone before, that went up like a rocket and came down like a stick; but that on the other hand we are advancing as the people learn and are sure to win as tomorrow's sun is to shine.

Read Socialist literature.

Hear Socialist lectures.

Attend Socialist debates.

Join the Socialist party.

THEN FOR THE SAKE OF THE WOMAN YOU LOVE AND THE CHILDREN YOU HOLD DEAR, WHOSE FUTURE IS JEOPARDIZED UNDER THIS CANNIBALISTIC SYSTEM, VOTE IT OUT ON NEXT ELECTION DAY AND YOUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN WILL RISE UP AND CALL YOU BLESSED.

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

"Old farmer Brown ought to be arrested for working on Sunday."

"Well, I'll agree with you, provided Banker Smith is arrested at the same time."

"Why, what has Smith got to do with it?"

"He holds a mortgage on Brown's farm, don't he?"

"Yes, I believe he does."

"Well, he lets the mortgage work on Sunday."
—Hope.

An individual may be justified in getting control of more land than 10,000 individuals can cultivate, but that does not justify the legal system that admits of his doing it. For him to hold that much land is for him to hold in his hand the very life of ten thousand of his fellow human beings. And is that right? The Socialist party is the only party that answers, NO!

—Hicks.

Good-bye, Small Farmer.

By Nat L. Hardy.

An invention that will revolutionize the cotton growing industry, if it proves successful in actual practice as it has in the experiments, is the Price-Campbell cotton picker. This machine, invented by Mr. Angus Campbell, a Texan who has been experimenting along that line for a number of years, is not yet on the market, but has been tried in many parts of this state and other states and has the testimonials of hundreds of practical farmers, as well as of dealer and prominent citizens in many parts of the country, to the effect that it does all that is claimed for it.

A thirty horse power gasoline engine runs the machine, which gathers the cotton by means of a number of steel spindles or fingers that revolve at a high rate of speed while they are passed through the plants on a drum; the staple sticks to the fingers and is elevated and placed in a carrier. The staple is picked as clean from the boll and as free from trash as the average picker picks it, and no injury is done to the blooms, small bolls or stalk. It will cover an acre an hour and is operated by one man.

In "good picking" it will gather 8000 pounds and in ordinary picking from 4000 to 5000 pounds per ten-hour work day and as lamps can be attached and the machine run at night it can be made to do the work of from twenty to forty cotton pickers. It has attachments for breaking land, cutting stalks, harrowing, planting and chopping cotton and the energy of the gasoline motor can be used for many purposes on the farm. It is claimed that it will do the work of "fifty men and thirty horses."

The landlords may now discharge the tenants and with this machine and a few hired men cultivate several hundred acres; reaping much greater profits. It will also give impetus to farming on a large scale, similar to that done on the Taft ranch, which has just begun in the cotton belt. As the machine is naturally an expensive one and the company owning the patent (the control of which is in the hands of Theodore H. Price, the notorious Wall Street cotton gambler) has a complete monopoly, it is evident that tenants and small farmers will not be able to secure them.

The general introduction of these machines will **cheapen the production of cotton** and the tenant farmer and the small farm owner will be literally **competed out of existence.**

Under a sane system of society the machine would take the women and children from the fields; but as it is now arranged the benefit of all inventions go to the owning class, therefore it will, for awhile at least, be a positive injury to the class that needs it the worst.

There is only one way for the workers to get the benefit of this machine, and all other machines, and that is to own them co-operatively; and that would be Socialism.

Happy Hits by Hicks.

By J. L. Hicks, Ed. Farmers Journal.

Labor is going to quit pulling off his cap to the capitalist and go to pulling off the capitalist.

* * *

The writer of these paragraphs may be an ornery scrub, but he never has been so ornery that he did not believe God made the land as much for him as for any son of Adam—or even old Adam himself.

* * *

To talk about a government of the people, by the people and for the people is to talk like a tinkling cymbal, as long as any one individual has veto power, pardoning power, appointing power or enjoining power.

* * *

If the Declaration of Independence had never been signed until all the details of democracy were arranged, the British crown would have continued to arrange the details for us even to this day. Don't you know it?

* * *

Mr. Farmer, you can drive over the bridge proudly without asking anybody the price, can't you? But it's pretty plagued near the only proposition you can drive onto without asking some guy the price, isn't it?

* * *

"In this democratic republic the people rule," did you say? Not much! They go through the motion of electing rulers occasionally, and then the rulers do the ruling to a brown finish. And you know it.

* * *

Some people say that before Socialism can be possible, human nature must go through some sort of regenerating process and be made over and purged of its impurities. Socialism is so immoral, you know!

* * *

According to a certain species of latter day wisdom, all that political row and racket kicked up by our revolutionary fathers, with its resultant loss of blood and treasure, was wholly unnecessary. They could have practiced democracy under King George just as well without it.

* * *

G. M. Knox, of El Paso, says in the Dallas Semi-Weekly News: "I have in mind a renter who has rented the same place for about fifteen years, and I believe he is worth more today than the man he rents from." Well, there seems to be some show of ethics (science of human duty) about his dividing up, since he is worth more than his poor master with whom he divides up. If a man just wants to divide when he doesn't have to, why, Socialism has no injunctions to serve on him. How many more such renters can you tell us about, Brother Knox?

Here is little dialogue somebody overheard between two mules (no reference to allusions): The gray mule said, "I want to go to town today, but I can't go." "Why can't you?" asked the black mule. "Got nobody to ride me," answered the gray. "Can't you strike out and go without anybody riding you?" urged the black. "What are you talking about?" snorted the gray. "Are you crazy? Who ever heard of such a proposition? You are an anarchist trying to kick down the very pillars of society." And another mule is reported to have said that it would be impossible for a mule to make a crop without some other mule to rent land from. Funny about mules.

THE TEXAS SOCIALISTS SCOUTS.

Is the name of the new state-wide literature army. Any person, man or woman, boy or girl, can become a member by sending in the following application, together with 10c for a year's subscription to The Scout:

.....1911.

E. R. Meitzen, State Secretary, S. P.
Hallettsville, Texas.

Dear Comrade:—You are authorized to enroll my name as a member of the Texas Socialist Scouts to serve "for the war." Upon receipt of instructions, button, etc., I agree to distribute copies of "The Scout" or similiar leaflets or other literature in my voting precinct at least once each month, and further agree to report once each month to the county secretary if the county is organized, otherwise to the state secretary, on report blanks to be furnished me. In case I can not cover all my voting precinct, I shall cover a definite part thereof or else have other comrades enroll as Scouts and assist me. Wherever and whenever convenient I shall do anything else that will serve to build up the Socialist movement in my voting precinct.

Name
Address Name of
voting box in Co
Will you be responsible for all your voting
precinct?
If not state definitely for what part of your
.. precinct you will be responsible
How many copies of the Scout can you distribute?

"A neighbor agreed to debate the subject of Socialism with me. I lent him a copy of the Thurman-Hamilton debate. It converted him to Socialism. Therefore I will never have the opportunity of teaching him the way of the Lord more perfectly."—Rev. E. F. Stanton, Wellington, Tex.

For sale at this office at 25 cents postpaid.

THE SCOUT

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E. R. MEITZEN, EDITOR, Hallettsville, Texas.

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Hallettsville, Texas, pending.

The Scout for this month is a FARMERS EDITION. The farmers of Texas and of the South are ripe for revolt and every last one of them should have a copy of this edition.

Purpose of The Scout.

The purpose of The Scout, of which this is the first issue, is apparent. Presenting the truths of Socialism in as brief, plain and strong words as possible, suited to Southern conditions it is just the thing to hand out to the busy farmers and wageworkers of Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma and adjoining states.

It was designed by the Texas state office primarily to aid in forming and keeping busy the great statewide literature army known as the "Texas Socialists Scouts"; but this will, by no means, prevent The Scout from being used for propaganda purposes by any and all comrades everywhere. Subscription and bundle prices will be as follows for the present, though in a month or two we expect to greatly reduce bundle prices, depending on the amount of orders received:

Single copies, one year to one address, 10c.

Bundle rates: 25 copies of one issue for 10c;
100 for 25c; 1000, \$2.25.

Every liberty-loving citizen sympathizes with the Mexican revolutionists. **SHOW YOUR SYMPATHY.** Either as an individual or as secretary of a protest meeting, write your congressman and U. S. Senators **TODAY** about as follows: "We ask that you introduce resolutions recognizing the Mexican revolutionists as **BELLIGERENTS** and protesting against the favoritism being shown Diaz by the federal authorities."

Give fools their gold and knaves their power;

Let fortune's bubbles rise and fall;

Who sows a field, or trains a flower,

Or plants a tree, is more than all.

—Whittier.

According to Census reports each farmer and wageworker produces an average value of about \$3,000 per year. Did you get it? If not, why?

Afraid of the People.

In state and in nation the politicians are wildly trying to keep down the resistless trend toward a greater measure of popular rule. The common people are coming out of their trance, slowly but surely. All the hypnotic passes of a Bailey, Taft, Roosevelt, Lorimer, Colquitt et al, won't put them to sleep again, for they are being kept awake by the everlasting din of the bad Socialist agitators and muck-rakers.

A case in point was the storm of protest that broke loose in Texas when our corporation owned governor, forgetting his local self-government howl, vetoed the Texarkana charter bill because of its initiative, referendum and recall provisions. Also when a Pro. legislature was whipped—with the aid of Joe Bailey—in-to performing the remarkable stunt of eating from "Oscar Budweiser's" hand and sustaining his veto.

In a sophistic defense of his veto Colquitt says, chiefly, that the initiative, referendum and recall is Socialistic—which is cheerfully admitted.

He also complains that it would "place unfettered and absolute power in the hands of a majority." This states clearly the issue by which every Socialist in every part of the world is willing to stand or fall.

Yes, we want the "absolute and unfettered" rule of the majority, as well as the unfettered right of all to obtain the full fruits of their labor.

A person that opposes majority rule goes definitely on record as favoring the "absolute and unfettered" rule of the minority.

The so-called "Democratic" party of Texas has gone on record that it is afraid of the majority of the people; while the Socialist party stands and has ever stood flat-footedly on the proposition that a majority of the people can be trusted and a minority can't.

Take your choice.

Lorimer, the Illinois senator, elected by bribe money from the coffers of the lumber and beef trust is being defended by both Democratic and Republican senators, among them our own spotless Joseph. Oh, it's a great farce the old party politicians play for the benefit of the common herd. Seemingly they fight like Kilkeny cats about election time; but between campaigns they are as thick as two in a bed. But kindly remember that both of them fight the Socialist party all the time.

Governor Harmon, of Ohio, "Chay Purp" Morgan's candidate and the man that showed his love for the workingman in the Columbus street car strike, will very likely be the Democratic nominee for president. The worst "slam" on him is that he has been endorsed by the Texas legislature.