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YOUNG MAN ABSALOM IS ALL RIGHT.

"Is the young man Absalom safe?" is the text of a recent sermon of Candidate Bryan, wherein he populistically and socialistically bewails the fate of the American youth, as doomed by the trusts and combines and gold standard and money power and other and sundry octopi and troglodytes to perpetual poverty and wage slavery. We have met with no better answer to Bryan's demagogical rant—although it was written before Bryan's sermon—than the following wholesome words of Ambrose Beare, in the San Francisco Examiner; about the last place, by the way, one would expect to find anything wholesome. Mr. Beare says:

This is not a country of equal fortunes; outside a socialist's dream no such country exists nor can exist. But as nearly as is possible this is a country of equal opportunities for those who begin life with nothing but nature's endowments—and of such is the kingdom of success.

In nine instances in ten successful Americans—that is Americans who have succeeded in any worthy ambition or legitimate field of endeavor—have started with nothing but the skin they stood in. It may almost be said, indeed, that to begin with nothing is a main condition of success—in America.

To a young man there is no such hopeless impediment as wealth or the expectation of wealth. Here a man and there a man will rise, so abundantly endowed by nature as to overcome the handicap of "artificial advantages," but that is not the rule; usually the chap "born with a gold spoon in his mouth," puts in his time sucking that spoon and without other employment. Counting possession of the spoon success, why should he bestir himself to achieve what he already has?

The real curled darling of opportunity is the youth born with nothing in his mouth but his teeth—he who knows or is likely to know what it is to feel his belly sticking to his back. If he have brains aplenty he will get on for he must be up and doing—the penalty of indulgence a famine. If he have not, he may up and do the uttermost satisfaction of his mind and heart, but the end of that man is failure, with possibly socialism, that last resort of conscious incompetence.

It fatigues, this talk of the narrowing opportunities of today, the "closed avenues to success," and the rest of it. Doubtless it serves its purpose of making mischief for the tyrant trusts and the wicked rich generally, but in a six months' bound volume of it there is not enough of truth to float a religion.

Men of brains never had a better chance than now to accomplish all that it is desirable that they should accomplish; and men of no brains never did have much of a chance, nor under any possible conditions can have in this country or any other. They are nature's failures, God's botchwork. Let us be sorry for them, treating them justly and generously; but the socialism that would level us all down to their plane of achievement and reward is a proposal of which they are themselves the proponents.

Opportunity, indeed! Who is holding me from composing a great opera that would make me rich and famous?

What oppressive laws forbid me to work my passage up the Yukon as deckhand on a steamboat and discover the gold along Bonanza creek?

What is there in our industrial system that conceals from me the secret of making diamonds from charcoal?

Why was it not I who, entering a lawyer's office as a suitable person to sweep it out, left it as an appointed

justice of the supreme court?

I have had a dozen years to prove to the proprietor of this newspaper that he can afford to pay me \$25,000 a year?

He is just a languishing, good man, to give it to me; I have only to show him that my services are worth it. What prevents me from making the proof? And what prevents you, most excellent of all possible cobblers, from beating me out of the field by writing like an angel with a reed?

The number of actual and possible sources of profit and methods of distinction is infinite. Not all the trusts in the world combined in one trust of trusts could appreciably reduce it—could condemn to permanent failure one man with the talent and the will to succeed.

TEDDY ANSWERS THE BRYANITES.

While at Lexington, Neb., the other day Governor Roosevelt gave the following answer to those Bryanites who have been urging that if he were sincere in his opposition to the New York ice trust he had the remedy in his own hands and as governor of the state had the power to destroy it. To this the governor replied:

"That is hardly correct as a matter of governmental knowledge. I cannot call out the militia to destroy a trust. What can be done is to have the legislature pass and the governor sign a law to do away with the trust, and then have the attorney-general proceed under that law to enforce it, according to the best of his capacity.

"Now, are not these the only things that can be done? Well, I have done them both. In the first year of my term as governor we passed a very severe anti-trust law, and now the attorney-general is proceeding under that law against the ice trust. The difficulty comes in the delay caused by the trust counsel, as they are appealing, as they have a right to appeal, to every legal technicality, and are making every effort to stop a decision on the merits of the case. The people who are responsible for the action of the trust's counsel are the stockholders of the trust, who are, among others, Mr. Richard Croker, the leader of the democratic party in New York, and Mr. Van Wyck, who was my opponent for governor of New York two years ago, running on an anti-trust platform, and who is now one of the biggest stockholders in the ice trust.

The attorney-general is now proceeding against the ice trust, and if Mr. Croker, Mr. Van Wyck and the associates who are members of the trust were not employing the best counsel in the state to delay action, we should have had a decision of the court long ago. The republican attorney-general is pressing that action under that law, introduced by a democrat, but passed by a republican legislature, and signed by myself. We are opposed by Mr. Bryan's ardent supporters in New York, the heads of the democratic party of the state.

LET THE VETERANS SPEAK.

From the Portland Telegram we learn that it is proposed at an early date to call together the veterans of the Civil war, as well as those who fought for the honor of their country in Cuba and the Philippines, for the purpose of securing an expression of sentiment in reference to the administration's Philippine and Cuban policy and ascertain their position in reference to the American flag planted on foreign soil.

Those who have fought for their country and the honor of its flag, whether at home or on foreign soil, are believed to be entitled to a respectful hearing. They have demonstrated by their services what their sentiments were in the time of war, and it is desired now to obtain from them an expression in time of peace. It is barely possible that a declaration from the nation's defenders may have a material bearing upon the action of voters who are in doubt whether to sustain the administration in its determination to protect the American flag in the Philippines or to repudiate its policy by voting

with the party that is in favor of pulling the flag down.

General Summers, of the Second Oregon, has the matter in hand and expects to call a meeting in a few days to be held in some centrally located hall in Portland. The decision of the veterans will be awaited with interest. It may not have the effect of changing the opinions of a great number of people but it will have a tendency to materially strengthen the cause it favors. By all means let us know what the veterans think of expansion and how badly they are scared at the bogey of imperialism.

TRUSTS IN POLITICS.

A writer in the New York Sun gives out the following sensible remarks on the illogical and thoroughly demagogical way business combinations are treated in the United States, as contrasted with the way they are treated in the countries of Europe. The illogical attacks of Mr. Bryan and his party upon business combinations astonish the nations of Europe. Their experience with trusts has extended over a far longer period than ours, but they are not accustomed to a demagogical treatment of the question. These combinations flourished in all the great trading countries of continental Europe long before America knew them because the conditions that made them desirable existed in Europe long before they appeared in the western world.

But European demagogues have not succeeded in dragging trusts into politics as has been done in this country. Even in Austria-Hungary, where there has been some sort of organization against business combinations, the people will not follow the lead of the anti-trust agitators. The reason for this is Austria-Hungary as in Germany is, as Consul-General Mason writes from Berlin, because trusts are regarded by the people as giving steadiness and regularity to business and as necessary under conditions that tend to stimulate fierce and reckless competition which is ruinous alike both to the selling and buying public.

The European nations regard trusts as a purely business matter, serving legitimate purposes and subject to regulation by law so that the interests of all may be conserved. Trusts, both in Europe and America, acquire and retain a large volume of trade only by the merits and cheapness of their products.

Our democratic friends themselves have repeatedly defined and indented those views on trusts that are held by intelligent men the world over. The Hon. B. T. Clayton, democratic congressman from Brooklyn, for example, said in the house last winter:

"I would not advocate or assist in passing any law that would injure legitimate business or prevent combinations, whether of men or of capital, for honest and proper purposes. We must protect capital when used to develop our resources, to establish and carry on our manufacturing establishments, our railroads, our various industrial enterprises, and our commercial business. It is only necessary that laws should be passed to prevent the abuse of the power that comes from the combination of large interests and to remedy those evils that now exist."

This is a fair statement of the views and policy not only of the republican party, but of the great business and commercial interests on both sides of the ocean.

At Ashland last Saturday night Governor Geer made the remarkable and gratifying statement that the number of convicts in the Oregon state penitentiary has decreased nearly one-half during the last four years. In fact the number has become so small, the governor says, that there is hardly men enough to run the institution. Four years ago Bryanites talked much of the relation between poverty and crime. They are not saying much along this line this year—at least not in Oregon.

Capt. Ben Tillman's tongue has not lost its cunning and it has been putting in some of its finest lies in Missouri. At Trenton in that state he said that democratic senators were bought to vote for the ratification of

the treaty of Paris and that "the devil would roast them for it in the next world." Meanwhile the captain is roasting them in this. He said that "the pension department is a rat hole into which millions of dollars are annually poured and wasted," and he made this graceful appeal to the foreign-born voters: "There is one sentiment which is ground into my very bones and mixed with the lime, America for the Americans and to hell with all others." Capt. Ben must be making votes, but perhaps he is not making them for his own side.

The deglutition of Washington populism by the Bryanites of that state has been at last accomplished, that is to say all but the tail, which refuses to be swallowed, and instead of wagging the Washington democratic canine as formerly, will now hitch itself on to the nether extremity of social democracy, commonly known as Debsism. At the middle-of-the-road state convention, held in Spokane Tuesday, it was decided not to place a ticket in the field and resolutions were passed urging all populists to oppose the fusion ticket and support the social democracy. This is the natural drift and tendency of populism which is only a step nearer socialism, whose end is anarchy and ultimate perdition, than Bryanism.

REV. MR. KRUGER DENIES IT.

Not Being a Minister of United Brethren Church, He Was Not Expelled.

Saturday's Oregonian contained a dispatch from Spokane which stated that Presiding Elder Rhodes of the United Brethren denomination had lately publicly announced, in that city, that Rev. Paul Kruger, now pastor of the Christian church at The Dalles, had been expelled from the United Brethren church "for sufficient cause" and was not a minister in good standing. The Chronicle did not print the item, suspecting, as is nearly always the case that there were two sides to the story, and because we would ten times rather print something good about a minister of the gospel than something evil. Here is Mr. Kruger's side of the story as it appears in the Oregonian of this date, Oct. 3.

Rev. Paul Kruger takes issue with a recently printed statement that he has been expelled from the United Brethren church. In a letter written to the Oregonian from The Dalles, he emphatically asserts that he was not a member of the church, and that the statements made by Presiding Elder Rhodes, at Spokane, are wilfully false. In this letter, Mr. Kruger makes a vigorous attack on the character of persons associated in the management of Huntsville Seminary, of Washington. Trouble between him and these men, he says, over what he regarded misconduct of theirs, is at the bottom of the declaration of Elder Rhodes.

"The article was written with the intent to injure me," says Mr. Kruger. "In Elder Rhodes' communication he uses the term 'for sufficient cause,' but fails to state the cause. It is just to me and to the public that the cause be stated, or if he cannot state the cause, keep silent altogether. He attacks my character, and would like to make it appear that I am not respectable. I am willing to have any one investigate my character.

"I do not deny the fact that I worshiped with the United Brethren church at Huntsville, Wash., as well as in Nebraska, and I also preached for them, but only because the church of my choice was not represented there. Not feeling willing to stay away from church, we worshiped with them. But the real reason of the attack is that I was at one time financial agent for the Huntsville Seminary, and had difficulty with a part of the board."

Mr. Kruger says the trouble grew out of his charging certain members of the board with un-Christian and ungentlemanly conduct. In the contest following the charges, he says Elder Rhodes upheld the members of the board.

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