

SOCIALISM EITHER BLESSING OR EVIL

Challenge for Joint Debate to Discuss Questions Issued by F. Dundas Todd - Effect Upon Family and Morality of Principles.

Editor Daily Tribune: Reply to the letter of F. A. S. in your issue of February 6 was deferred in the hope that he would also answer mine and thus save space by taking up both communications at once.

F. A. S. proves Socialism to be a delusion by the following facts: First, it is repudiated by the American Federation of Labor; second, that it is an importation from Europe; third, because Mr. Wilson asserted that communism was the custom among the early christians, which F. A. S. denies; fourth, because Socialists believe in mutual consent being the essential feature to matrimony.

These need but a short shrift. The last is the one that F. A. S. harps the most upon and uses so vague a phraseology that one has to guess what he is driving at. I pointed out in my previous letter that "mutual consent" is the essential to matrimony in this country at the present time.

Institution of the Family. This is a simple question of fact, any lawyer will promptly put a good club in the hands of F. A. S. if I am wrong. The trouble with your correspondent is that he does not know the meaning of the words and phrases he uses so glibly. I suppose what he means to say is that under Socialism "promiscuous intercourse" would be the rule and that the little social group known as the family would cease to exist.

In history we find that the institution of the family has gone through many forms, and even the saints of the Old Testament had domestic conditions that would not be tolerated in the civilized world today. But letting that pass, under Socialism the world will be peopled with the same kind of people that live in it today and I fancy they will be just as clean, just as fond of their spouses, just as full of love for their offspring as the modern parent, and so we may safely leave to them the care of all that concerns the sexual relationships. F. A. S. is strong upon these matters, but would he like me to give an exact description of the status of promiscuous intercourse in this so-called christian country today. The thought of such a thing is simply nauseating.

Indians Most Moral. He is strong upon what christianity has done in the interests of sexual purity, but here is a curious fact that perhaps he can explain. Mr. Mosen, who has lived the best part of 29 years among the Navajo and Moki Indians, assures me that these people are the most perfect in moral matters on the American continent. Sexual impurity is absolutely unknown, as are also theft and lying. Just think, ordinary heathen savages are morally at the stage of advancement that civilized christians hope to attain at some remote future time.

The fact that the American Federation of Labor repudiates Socialism is no proof that the latter is wrong. By the same logic christianity is wrong because the members of unions in large cities are notoriously indifferent in church matters. The church attendance census of our large cities shows an amazingly small percentage of the population at religious services. And yet for 2000 years millions of hired preachers have been telling the worker that christianity was his only means of salvation, both in this world and the one to come. Twenty thousand missionaries are carrying the gospel to the heathen, but the heathen responds but little. By the logic of F. A. S., christianity must be wrong. Will he accept the conclusion?

Socialism Not Communism. Communism and Socialism are not the same. Communism was the rule in all forms of society until the pastoral period, which is so beautifully described in the Old Testament. It was the rule among the slaves of both the Greek and Roman empires for almost 1900 years, in fact the labor unions of that period are the wonder of historians, and it is only in recent years we have got any trace of them. I am not surprised that F. A. S. has not heard of them, but if he or any one interested will call at the free reading room on C street he will find there a most interesting book entitled "Ancient Slavery," which deals with this period. And, best of all, he will find translations of the original documents, in this case, many thousands of which are now in the museums of the world. As a rule history may be best defined as fiction founded on fact, but in this particular instance we have the original documents. F. A. S. would give a great deal to be able to say as much for the books of the christian bible.

Origin of Socialism. If he wants to go still further, I will gladly lend him out of my own library the second volume, entitled, "The Origin of Socialism," in which he will find positive proof that christianity was propagated through the labor unions and that it originally stood for the very things in essentials that Socialism stands for today.

to equally apply to christianity; in fact, the latter must be the greater offender since it came from Asia, which is the home of supposed barbarians. I would be glad to know a single new idea in philosophy that has been originated in this country. Even the fundamentals of Christian Science I discovered recently are set forth in Butler's "Hudibras," which was written about 250 years ago. Truly there is nothing new under the sun.

Is Economic Proposition. It will be observed that F. A. S. refuses to fight Socialism for what it really is, namely, an economic proposition, which is fast spreading over the world. It is accepted by all sorts and conditions of men. One of the ablest actuaries of my acquaintance—a power in the insurance world—accepts it as being the actual revelation of Jesus Christ, while another in the same department who rejects christianity also objects to Socialism. It has got nothing to do with religion, but much with bread and butter.

Now, to quiet F. A. S. forever on the sex question, let me quote from Dr. Albert Schaffie, former minister of finance in Austria, who spent six years of his life studying Socialism in order to be able to annihilate the doctrines for all time. On the sex question he says: "There is nothing in the main principle of abolition of private ownership in the means of production which would necessitate the disappearance of free demand, and free household arrangements, nor yet the destruction of family life."

Did I possess this book I would gladly place it at the disposal of F. A. S., but if he is interested I think I could find out the name of the publisher for him.

Either Blessing or Evil. Socialism is either the greatest blessing or the greatest evil that is to come upon the human race and ought therefore to be discussed thoroughly and dispassionately. If F. A. S. is really in earnest to ventilate the absurdity of the movement let him join issue with the Socialists of this city in public debate so that refutation of erroneous ideas may be made at once. Mr. Wilson stands ready to defend the doctrines, and if they are so foolish it should be an easy task to overthrow them. We will guarantee all expenses and will place at the disposal of our opponent all literature for or against that we happen to have.

Permit the Socialists of Medford to thank you for your courtesy. Yours respectfully, F. DUNDAS TODD.

ALARMING DECREASE IN CATCH OF CHINOOK SALMON

In his annual report, Master Fish Warden H. G. Van Dusen says that there was a decrease of nearly 5,000,000 pounds in the Columbia river salmon catch of 1907, as compared with 1906, and he attributes the reduction to the work of the fish wheels operated above tide water. He goes into a lengthy discussion of the history and causes of decreasing supply of fish and points to the fish wheel as the arch enemy of the salmon industry on the Columbia. He cites the satisfactory condition of the industry on coast streams, where no fishing is permitted above tidewater, as evidence that his theory is correct. He says in part:

"Comparing the chinook product of the Columbia river this year with the chinook product of 1902 or 1903, assuming the theory to be correct that the fish raised from the spawn of 1902 or 1903 would reach maturity and return to the stream of their nativity during 1907, we find that while it is only a trifle short of the 1902 product it has fallen 20 per cent or more below the 1903 pack. Whether this theory be correct or not it is very plain to be seen that such a condition of affairs is alarming in the face of the extensive hatchery work that has been carried on since 1901, and the matter should be looked to and the wrongs corrected by our people before it is too late and this valuable food product is lost to us and 4000 or 5000 of our best and most loyal citizens lose their principal occupation. In 1906 there was a shortage of 8 per cent over the year previous, but the product of 1906 showed a gain of more than 20 per cent over either the years 1901 or 1902, and every year since 1903 there has been a fair gain over comparative years, under the four or five-year theory, until this year, which, notwithstanding that the weather and water conditions for the Columbia were more favorable than for years, the product fell short."

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT. In re: the Estate of William Russell, deceased—Notice is hereby given that the undersigned administrator of said estate has filed his final account in said matter, and by an order of the county court the final hearing and settlement thereof will be heard on Monday, March 2, 1908, at 2 o'clock p. m. of said day. All persons interested therein are hereby notified to present their objection to said account in or before said time. Date of first publication, January 18, 1908. L. C. NARBERG, Administrator.

Passion Play at Bijou. The beautiful, sublime Passion Play presented for the first time at the Bijou last night. No performance has ever been put on in the city of Medford that met with better support, and a more hearty approval of the public. In order to accommodate the people the management was obliged to run a third performance. The same will be done tonight. The play, with the special program of sacred music, was pronounced by all to be most beautiful and impressive. The same production will be put on again tonight at the Bijou.

New Cases. H. E. Morrison vs. B. F. Whetstone; action to recover money. Colvig and Durham, attorneys for plaintiff. George M. Wheeler vs. Alvie G. Wheeler; suit for divorce. E. D. Briggs, attorney for plaintiff.

ORDINANCE NO. 144. An ordinance authorizing the issue of the bonds of the City of Medford, Oregon, to the amount of twenty-five thousand dollars.

The City of Medford doth ordain as follows: Section 1. That for the purpose of paving street intersections and completing City Hall there are hereby authorized to be issued the bonds of the City of Medford to the amount of twenty-five thousand dollars, which said bonds shall be dated the first day of February, 1908, and be in the denomination of one thousand dollars, and shall be known as "General Improvement Bonds," and shall be numbered from one to twenty-five, both inclusive. Said bonds shall be signed by the Mayor and countersigned by the Recorder. Said bonds shall become due ten years after date and shall bear interest, evidenced by coupons at the rate of six per centum per annum, payable semi-annually, and both principal and interest of said bonds shall be made payable at the office of the City Treasurer of Medford, Oregon, or at the banking house of Kountze Bros. in the City of New York, State of New York.

Section 2. The bonds hereby authorized shall be in substantially the following form:

United States of America, No.— State of Oregon, \$1,000. City of Medford.

General Improvement Bond. Know All Men by These Presents, That the City of Medford, in the County of Jackson and State of Oregon, acknowledges to owe, and for value received hereby promises to pay to bearer the sum of one thousand dollars lawful money of the United States of America on the first day of February, A. D. 1918, together with interest on said sum from the date hereof until paid, at the rate of six per centum per annum, payable semi-annually on the first days of February and August in each year, upon presentation and surrender of the interest coupons hereto attached as they severally become due. Both principal and interest of this bond are hereby made payable at the office of the City Treasurer of Medford, Oregon, or at the banking house of Kountze Bros. in the City and State of New York; and for the prompt payment of this bond, both principal and interest, the full faith and credit of said City of Medford are hereby irrevocably pledged.

This bond is one of a series of like tenor and is issued for paving street intersections and completing City Hall pursuant to and in full compliance with the charter of said city and under and in accordance with an ordinance of said city, duly passed. And it is hereby certified and recited that all acts, conditions and things required to be done precedent to and in the issuing of this bond, necessary to make the same legal and valid have been properly done, happened and been performed in regular and due form and time as required by law, and that the total indebtedness of said City of Medford, including this bond, does not exceed the constitutional and statutory limitations.

In testimony whereof, the said City of Medford has caused this bond to be sealed with the corporate seal, signed by its Mayor and countersigned by its Recorder, and caused the annexed interest coupons to be executed by the facsimile signatures of said officers this first day of February, A. D. 1908.

Approved: J. F. REDDY, Mayor. Counter-signed: BENJ. M. COLLINS, City Recorder.

ORDINANCE NO. 143. An ordinance amending sections three (3) and nine (9) of Ordinance No. 133, of the City of Medford. The People of the City of Medford do ordain as follows: Section 1. That Section 3 of Ordinance No. 133, entitled, "An Ordinance to provide for the prevention of fires and the protection of persons and property endangered thereby; to regulate the construction, alteration and repair of buildings and to establish fire limits in the City of Medford, Oregon," approved December 3, 1907, be and the same is hereby amended by adding thereto the following proviso: "Provided, however, that in that portion of the said fire limits included between D street and F street, buildings other than as in this section specified may be permitted to be erected by a majority vote of the whole council, when the council deems it for the best interests of the City of Medford, but no such permit shall be granted until the plans and design of such building shall have been submitted to the council, together with specifications showing fully the materials to be used in the construction of such building and the manner of construction thereof, and such plans, design and specifications have been approved by said council; and no person shall erect any building other than as specified in this section until all of the provisions of this section and of this ordinance have been complied with, and such plans, design and specifications shall be embodied in such permit, if issued."

Section 2. That Section 9 of said Ordinance No. 133, be and the same is hereby amended so as to read as follows: "Section 9. No cornice of wood shall be placed upon any building within the fire limits, except as provided in Section 3 of this ordinance."

The foregoing ordinance was passed by the council February 13, 1908, Trowbridge voting "aye," Wortman "aye," Eifert "aye," Merrick "aye," Owell "aye," Hafer absent.

Approved: J. F. REDDY, Mayor. Attest: BENJ. M. COLLINS, City Recorder.

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No Fire in the Kitchen Range No Hot Water in the House. Then is the time you appreciate the convenience of ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS. Attach a plug to the nearest lamp socket and turn the switch. PINT, QUART, TWO QUART AND LARGER SIZES. Clean Safe Simple Durable. CALL AT OUR OFFICE. CONDOR WATER AND POWER CO. Phone 885. Office on Seventh Street. Opposite the Big Electric Sign.

FRUIT TREES. Surplus stock, 500 Bartlett pears, 200 De Anon, 25,000 Spitzenberg, 6000 Newtown, 1000 Crawford's (early peach), 800 Muir peaches, 600 Elbertas. We are now prepared to furnish and pick coal at the mine, five miles east of town, in any amount desired. \$7.50 per ton. Inquire of L. B. Warner. PACIFIC COAL CO.

CATALOG HOUSES ARE NOT MERCHANT TAILORS. They drain the towns of money and neither give the fit, style nor distinction to your clothes that your own city tailor can. PATRONIZE HOME INDUSTRY. The clothes I make are the kind that "carry distinction," that bespeak the man, that keeps your money at home and are superior in every detail to the "sweatshop" goods of catalogue houses. KEEP YOUR MONEY HOME. EIFERT FRENCH DRY CLEANING AND REPAIRING NEATLY DONE. The City Tailor Medford

SPREAD THE NEWS Colonists' Rates. Colonist Rates from all points East to Oregon from March 1 to April 30, 1908. The Southern Pacific Railroad. Announces that rates in effect March 1, 1908, will be \$38 from Chicago, \$35.50 from St. Louis, Mo.; from Missouri River common points, Council Bluffs to Kansas City, Mo., including also St. Paul, Minneapolis, \$30; from Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo, \$30. For further information call on or address A. S. ROSENBAUM, Agent, Medford, Or.

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