

Destructive Politics Decried

Cure for industrial evils lie in sane and rational investigation, and the application of just and humane law, says Attorney J. O. Stearns, Jr., in address before Advocates of Bonville 99-Year System.

Continued from last week.

In the days before machinery came so generally into use there was true competition among individuals, and the laws of economy, unhampered by artful contrivances of ingenious minds, very largely directed the demand and production of manufactured goods, and likewise a more equitable distribution of wealth. But with the machinery came the need of large capital, for machinery cost money, and the poor artisan could rarely afford to buy it. It was utterly impracticable that he should have, for every machine was able to do the work of many men, and if every workman had become a factory owner the factories would have become as numerous as the homes, and over production would have known no bounds. Such a condition of affairs would be impossible, to say the least; so let us dismiss the thought. And so capital very naturally became the owner of the machinery of production, and most of the former independent workers became mere wage earners, industrial slaves who turn the wheel and move the lever, while men called Capitalists guide the affairs of big business, and each Saturday night pay to their employees the wage it suits them to pay—a living wage, no more. Don't blame the employers—they could not have prevented all this had they cared to, and tried never so hard. Capital is an impersonal thing, without a body, and utterly without a soul. It must grow, or it must perish. And so it has grown, and reckoned not the cost in human lives and human misery. And today it stands, huge and overgrown, a menace to our freedom, darkly threatening that sacred institution, the family, by the standard of which all nations must ultimately grow and thrive or fall into ruin and decay. But let us not idly long for the conditions that existed before modern machinery came into use. Were we to find ourselves in such a predicament, realizing what we had lost, we would bewail it as a most terrible evil—and so it would be. Let us seek rather a way, not to destroy capital and machinery, or either of them, but to make the giant subservient to our, the people's, will. For to us he rightfully belongs, whenever we can intelligently control and direct his mighty strength. But again I say, be careful. Nothing is easier than to destroy ourselves while we seek to enslave the master, capital.

Let us not do like the Irishman, who, while working in the garden, accidentally swallowed a potato bug, and fearing ill results, rushed into the house and drank a pint of paris green. He killed the bug, and also himself. We are too impatient of the men who administer our laws, who direct the affairs of government. Why do we not seek the reason of our distaste of the laws as they stand, rather than blindly condemn the men who administer them? The laws are ever behind the needs of the day, and necessarily so, since we make the laws to meet certain conditions that need mending, but only after those conditions have become facts. We legislate for the present, seldom for the future. And even then we are loath to change existing laws, for we naturally cling to outworn ideas and outgrown customs, decidedly disliking them, but hating to part with them, possibly for the sake of the intimate relations they bear to the past, but more likely because man, taken collectively, is naturally conservative and slow to move and act. This is exemplified in every walk of life, every day and all about us, so that it need no forceful illustration or striking comparison to bring it home to ourselves. We still cling to many laws that were well enough when they were enacted fifty or a hundred years ago, and we must continue to cling to them until we make better, but many of them no longer fit us, and others should be fashioned in their stead; the relations of men have changed so radically since the advent of modern industrial machinery and the conditions which are its complement, that we have not been able to legislate laws, proper laws, fast enough to meet these changed conditions.

So let us not be too impatient, but let us proceed deliberately, using investigation and thought for our guides. Six hundred years before Christ Confucius, the great Chinese philosopher, had to say, referring to the political situation of his country: "Thought without learning is dangerous." Undoubtedly there is a great deal of truth in these words, and especially do they

come home to us when we use the word "learning" to designate political wisdom; for it is most dangerous to rush to this conclusion or that conclusion when we deal with the destinies of a nation.

As I said before, my friends, there must be a sane solution for the industrial evils that beset us today. Perhaps it is with us now. I do not desire to draw any comparisons that might possibly give offence to any one present, and no more do I seek to have it said of me that I have been guilty of uttering empty compliments for the purpose of tickling the ears of my listeners. But it occurs to me that men have a queer habit of looking for genius only among those who have attained eminence in the world, never pausing to consider that these same geniuses were once humble and unknown. Christ, the divine Evangelist, whose sacred word is destined to live throughout the ages, who fashioned material for the greatest book ever written, was but a humble workman, a carpenter, who, if he walked to earth tomorrow unknown would doubtless be treated with amused scorn by the average man, were he to propound in modern language the message of brotherhood he taught so many centuries ago. Mohammed, the founder of a religion that claims half the civilized world, could neither read nor write, dictating his thoughts to one who inscribed them upon the whitened shoulder blades of sheep, and yet he had within him that divine spark that kindles great truths and inflames the hearts of men to action.

You men and women are gathered here tonight to listen to one who brings you a message. A message that may in the future cleave deep into the history of this nation—the history of the world. I would admonish you to listen carefully to what he has to say, and if, after mature thought and careful deliberation you reach the conclusion that his message is a message of truth, then I say to you: Work for the idea that it embodies, make it a part of your daily lives. Carry its message to your neighbor and insist that he examine it. This system, as I understand it, is fashioned to work no bloody revolution, nor disturb the grand principles of equity and righteousness one iota, but rather to preserve and enlarge them, by giving to every individual citizen his due, and by lifting from off the land this terrible menace of abject industrial slavery which today invades the mills and factories where our workmen toil, and at night follows them home to their beds, where in slumbers they live again through the nightmare drudgery of the day.

TESTIMONIALS.

This is one of the many things that I like about the Bonville 99-Year System: If every one went the limit and purchased all the stock that the "System" allows in the last sixty per cent—using a million dollar company as a basis of calculation—the controlling interest, or last sixty per cent, or six hundred thousand shares, would be in the hands of at least six hundred people; because a one thousand dollar investment is the largest that can be made by any one person after the first forty per cent has been disposed of under the above basis of calculation. In all cases, after sale of the first forty per cent of the company's stock, including the promoter's share, or ten per cent, the balance, or last sixty per cent shall have a specified initiation (as mentioned above) of the largest possible investment that can be made in the same; only one purchase being obtainable in the last sixty per cent, and stockholders in the first forty per cent of a company shall be strictly prohibited from investing in this aforesaid last sixty per cent.

I am a staunch believer in the principles of this System, and have given considerable time and financial aid to promoting the same. I have been in business for over seven years, being proprietor of the Carlson Printing Company, and am a tax payer.—Arthur B. Carlson.

To whom it may concern: My advice to the readers of this letter is to be sure to compare the Bonville 99-Year System with the old system of organizing corporations before having anything to do with stock buying, and ask yourself the following questions: Why is this new system the greatest move of today before the civilized world?

Here are two of the many reasons: It will stop wealth from centering in a few people's hands. It will do away with stock gambling and fake promoters. Surely a promoter will not promote a fake corporation when he will receive stock only in said corporation in return for his services, and is allowed only the earning capacity of his stock as a recompense for said services. Ten per cent is all the promoters is allowed for signing up the first sixty per cent of the capital

stock. I have been acquainted with this 99-Year System ever since it started, and have spent considerable time and money in helping promote it, and am still doing it, and only wish that I could do more. I believe Mr. A. Porter is right when he says that this system is "a gift to the nations." I have been in the business fifteen years for myself, being at the present time connected with the Portland Fireproofing Company, and am a property owner of this city.—J. R. Sellick, Builder's Exchange, Portland, Oregon.

ORDINANCE NO. 514

An Ordinance Declaring the Cost of Improving Central Avenue from the Northwestern Side Line of St. Johns Avenue to the Southeastern Side Line of Bruce Avenue, in the City of St. Johns, Oregon, and Assessing the Property Benefited Thereby, Declaring Such Assessment and Directing the Entry of the Same in the Docket of City Liens.

The city of St. Johns does ordain as follows:

That the council has considered the proposed assessment for improving Central Avenue from the northwestern side line of St. Johns Ave. to the southeastern side line of Bruce Ave. in the city of St. Johns, Oregon, and all objections made thereto, and hereby ascertains, determines and declares the whole cost of said improvement in manner provided by Ordinance No. 480 to be the sum of \$4,772.67 and that the special and peculiar benefits accruing to each lot or part thereof of or parcel of land within the assessment district, by reason of said improvement and in just proportion to such benefits, are in the respective amounts set opposite the number or description of each lot or part thereof or parcel of land in the following annexed assessment roll, and said assessment roll, which is numbered 87, is hereby adopted and approved as the assessment for said improvement, and the recorder of the city of St. Johns is directed to enter a statement of the assessment hereby made in the docket of city liens, and cause notice thereof to be published as provided by charter, which assessment is as follows:

Lot	Block	Addition	Amt.
12	27	Holbrook's	\$57.69
13	27	"	69.32
14	27	"	67.87
15	27	"	62.98
16	27	"	55.41
17	27	"	61.32
18	27	"	75.90
19	27	"	75.73
20	27	"	60.43
21	27	"	57.07
22	27	"	66.86
23	27	"	35.34
12	32	"	64.41
13	32	"	69.45
14	32	"	51.78
15	32	"	44.95
16	32	"	56.61
17	32	"	81.70
18	32	"	97.35
19	32	"	100.83
20	32	"	91.86
21	32	"	66.79
22	32	"	57.11
10	33	"	111.27
9	33	"	47.51
8	33	"	45.41
7	33	"	52.13
6	33	"	72.81
5	33	"	87.89
4	33	"	96.81
3	33	"	88.23
2	33	"	64.33
1	33	"	67.21
14	32	"	100.28
15	32	"	77.04
16	32	"	88.96
17	32	"	96.16
18	32	"	97.67
19	32	"	87.68
20	32	"	76.80
21	32	"	51.06
22	32	"	50.66
23	32	"	53.58
24	32	"	36.24
10	33	"	98.45
9	33	"	104.33
8	33	"	107.44
7	33	"	109.58
6	33	"	105.05
5	33	"	92.06
4	33	"	80.36
3	33	"	56.61
2	33	"	45.07
1	33	"	48.62
12	38	"	51.66
11	38	"	70.44
10	38	"	73.42
9	38	"	67.71
8	38	"	57.77
7	38	"	76.97
6	38	"	91.08
5	38	"	80.29
4	38	"	74.80
3	38	"	67.23
2	38	"	63.08
1	38	"	44.17
Total			\$4,772.67

Passed by the council this 12th day of Nov., 1912.

Approved by the mayor this 12th day of Nov., 1912.

Attest: A. A. MUCK, Mayor.

F. A. RICE, Recorder.

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