

TAINTED POLITICS

By Peter Radford.

This country is suffering more from tainted politics than from any other malady at the present time. There is scarcely a campaign speech made, a platform demand written or a measure enacted into law that does not carry the taint of personal gain or some politician or political faction thereof.

There is more "blue sky" in campaign promises of many politicians running for office than was ever contained in the prospectuses of the boldest promoters of chimerical business schemes. There are more secret combinations formed by politicians in the name of "My Country" than were ever formed under any and all other aliases. There are more political rebates hidden in the phrase "Be it enacted" than were ever concealed under any and all other disguises.

The inordinate thirst for political power and unrestrained passion for mastery has caused more distress in this nation than the greed for gold, and it ought to be regulated by law. No business combination ever pursued their competitors as relentlessly or visited more heartless cruelty upon their customers than a political party that seeks to make junk of an industry, or cripple a business for party success, through tariff measures, political supervision and oftentimes destructive legislation. Many political platforms are as alluring to the voter as the story of the rainbow with its pot of gold and their consumption about as far-fetched. Self-gain is the first law in politics. There are many men in office today who, if they could not shake plums off the tree of American liberty or cut a melon taken from Uncle Sam's commissary, would have less desire to serve the public.

The country is suffering with patriots, who will bare their breast to bullets in defense of their country, but there are few men in public life who will bare their breast to voters or run the gauntlet of party disfavor in defense of agriculture or industry. No representative of the people, who will permit personal prejudice to dethrone justice, party success to disfranchise reason or the rancor of a political campaign to influence judgment can render capable service.

The preservation of our prosperity depends upon wisdom, courage and honesty in government, and the American voter should seek these attributes as implicitly as the Wise Men followed the Star of Bethlehem and they will often be found to rest over the stable; the plow or the staff of the Shepherd. The surest cure for tainted politics and machine rule is fresh air and sunshine and these important elements are most abundant upon the farm, and when farmers, bankers and merchants are elected to membership in legislative bodies, much of the trouble in government will disappear.

WATERED SECURITIES

By Peter Radford.

Much has been said and more written about the evils of watered stock in big business concerns and the farmers of this nation believe that every dollar written into the life of any business organization, should be able to say "I know that my Redeemer liveth," but farming is the biggest business on earth, and there is more water in its financial transaction than that of any other industry. There is as much water in a farmer's note drawing eight or ten per cent interest when other lines of industry secure money for four or five per cent per annum, as there is in a business paying a reasonable compensation upon the face value of securities representing an investment of only fifty cents on the dollar. The only difference is, the water is in the interest rate in one instance and in the securities in the other.

The promoter oftentimes takes chances and his success is contingent upon the development of the property involved but the investor, as a rule, takes no chances and his success cripples the property involved. There may be industries that cry louder but none that suffer more severely from financial immorality in both law and custom than that of agriculture.

The farmers of America today are paying \$200,000,000 per annum in usury on real estate and chattel loans, and this interest capitalized at five per cent, represents \$4,000,000,000 of fictitious values which the farmer is paying interest on. This sum of money is almost equal to the annual value of crops produced in the United States.

The earning power of the farmer's note based upon his interest rate very nearly divides like the earth's surface—three-fourths water and one-fourth land. The largest body of water that floats upon the financial hemisphere now rests upon the farms and its waves are dashing and its billows are rolling against seven million homes threatening ruin and disaster to the prosperity of the nation. Will our public servants who understand how to drain the liquid off industrial properties turn the faucet and let the water off the farms?

It is an admitted economic fact that there can be no permanent prosperity without a permanent agriculture.

Agriculture is recognized as the greatest of all industries and a prosperous, progressive and enlightened agricultural population is the surest safeguard of civilization.

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THE PENALTY OF CARELESSNESS

By S. W. English, Fire Prevention Expert.

Every time you hear the cry of "Fire!" you can be almost absolutely safe in thinking that someone has been careless. Fires don't happen. They are the inevitable result of combinations of preventable things. When analyzed to the last equation it will be found that carelessness is the root whence spring nearly all fires.

What a penalty industry pays to carelessness! Fire is the great destroyer. The wealth of a generation can be wiped out in but a brief hour. Why not fight fires before they start? Why not so conduct your habits and so keep your premises that when the fire demon wants to offer your savings as a sacrifice he will pass you by, just as those of Egypt of old were passed over when the sign they had been told to place over their doors, were seen?

Too often when those who are responsible from fire cry out they are the victims of bad luck, they are but paying the natural penalty for their own carelessness.

If you want to keep down your fire insurance rates, wage eternal warfare against those things that ever breed fires.

RURAL SCHOOL TERM SHOULD BE EXTENDED

By P. P. Claxton, U. S. Commissioner of Education.

In most States school days for country children are fewer than for city children. The average length of school term in cities of the United States is one hundred and eighty-five days; in rural communities one hundred and thirty-eight days, a difference of forty-seven days. In some States the difference is much greater than this average. In many counties the average length of the rural school term is less than one hundred days, and in some districts it is less than eighty days. On the other hand, in the States of California, New York and Connecticut, the country schools are in session one hundred and eighty days in a year, and in several other States almost as long. The country schools of Rhode Island are in session one hundred and ninety days in a year.

If all children are to have an equal opportunity for education we must even up the school terms of the country and give to all country children at least as many days as are now given to city children. One hundred and eighty-five days of schooling a year for all children will not be too much. There are countries in which the schools, both for city and country, are in session from two hundred and twenty to two hundred and fifty days or more in the year. American children need as much education as those of any other country, and this applies to the rural as well as urban districts.

AN AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL

By T. N. Carver, Professor of Economics, Harvard University.

Every city has its chamber of commerce or its Board of Trade. The purpose of such an organization is to study economic and business opportunities of the city and promote enterprises which will help to build the city. Does any one know of a good and sufficient reason why every rural neighborhood ought not have a similar organization?

In Germany they already have such organizations. They are generally called the "Landwirtschaftsrath" or agricultural council. Some students of the problem of rural organization are strongly of the opinion that such an agricultural council is necessary before much can be done for the bettering of rural credit or the marketing of farm products. There is no object, for example, in having more capital in a farming neighborhood unless the farmers know without any guess-work just how to use that capital so as to increase the production and the profit of their farms. If all the leading farmers of a neighborhood would lay their heads together and talk over the situation and study the opportunities for new investment, they would be less likely to make mistakes than if they work secretly, as separate individuals.

CIVILIZATION'S GREATEST TRAGEDY.

Extract from article by W. D. Lewis, president Texas Farmers' Union, opposing woman's suffrage.

"We are willing to join in every effort to elevate woman but will assist in none to drag her down. The descent of womanhood is the most awful tragedy in civilization. As she sinks she may, like the setting sun, tint the horizon with the rays of her departing glory. She may tenderly kiss the mountain tops of her achievement farewell; she may, like the sinking sun, allure the populace with her beauty as she disappears for the night but when she steps downward, the earth is as certain to tremble and plunge into darkness as death is to follow life."

Deafness Cannot Be Cured

by local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed, deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; since cases out of ten are caused by Catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

THE BATTLE OF THE TIRES

(Agricultural and Commercial Press Service) It is interesting to watch the forces of civilization battling for supremacy. The struggle now going on between the rubber and the iron tire promises to be the liveliest contest of the Twentieth Century.

The struggle is a silent one and there are no war correspondents to write vivid descriptions of the conflict but the results are more far-reaching to present and future generations than the war of Europe.

The rubber tire has been maneuvering for point of attack for several years and has captured a few important positions in traffic, but it has now pitched a decisive battle with its iron competitor by hurling a million "Jitneys" at the street railways and the battle is raging from ocean to ocean. Upon the result of the struggle depends the future of the rubber tire. If it is compelled to retreat, its doom is sealed, but if it wins the battle it will revolutionize the transportation methods of this nation.

If the rubber tire conquers the street traffic its next struggle is with the railroads of the country, and then the greatest battle between economic forces ever fought out on the face of this earth is on, for iron is the undisputed master in transportation, and is fortified behind billions of dollars, and millions of men.

Stephenson applied the steel tire to an iron rail in 1814, but it was 1869 before the golden spike was driven at Promontory Point, which bound the country together with bands of steel. It took the iron tire fifty-five years to creep from ocean to ocean, but the rubber tire while warm from the creative mind of the inventive genius sped across the continent like an arrow shot from the bow of Ulysses. The roadbed was already prepared and therein lies the power of the rubber tire over that of iron, for government builds and maintains the public highway.

But iron is a stubborn metal and it has mastered every wheel that turns; has fought battles with every element above and beneath the earth and has never tasted the wormwood of defeat, and when rubber huris its full force against this monarch of the Mineral Kingdom, it may rebound to the factory stunned beyond recovery.

The rubber tire first made its appearance on the bicycle, but it proved a frivolous servant and was dismissed for incompetency. It has always been too much inclined to revel in luxury to be taken seriously as a utility machine and its reputation is not one to inspire confidence in heavy traffic performance.

But to those who care to wait into dreamland, it is enchanting to note that there will be a marvelous difference between a rubber and an iron age. The rubber tire will scatter the cities throughout the valleys for with transportation at every man's door, why a city? It will traverse the continent with a net work of Macadam highways as beautiful as the boulevard built by Napoleon. It will paralyze the law making bodies of this nation for how could the legislatures run without the railroads to operate on?

FEDERAL INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

By Peter Radford.

The recent investigation of the United States Commission of Industrial Relations brought together the extremes of society and has given the public an opportunity to view the representatives of distinct classes, side by side, and to study their views in parallel columns.

Capital and labor have always been glaring at each other over gulfs of misunderstanding and if the Federal Industrial Commission attempts to bridge the chasm, it will render the public a distinct service.

The farmer has been sitting on the fence watching capital and labor fight for many years and incidentally furnishing the sinews of war and it is quite gratifying to find them talking with, instead of about, each other. When honest men smile and look into each other's souls, it always makes the world better and far more satisfactory to the farmer, who in the end, bears the burden of conflict, than resolutions, speeches or pamphlets containing charges and counter-charges.

The love for justice makes the whole world kin. Understanding is an arbiter far more powerful than the mandates of government, for there is no authority quite so commanding as an honest conscience; there is no decree quite so binding as that of the Supreme Court of Common Sense and no sheriff can keep the peace quite so perfect as Understanding.

We suppose the time will never come when capital and labor will not be occasionally blinded by the lightning flashes of avarice or frightened by the thunder peals of discontent. But Understanding is a Prince of Peace that ever holds out the olive branch to men who want to do right. A man's income is always a sacred thing for in it are the hope, ambition and opportunity of himself, and family, but there is nothing in a human heart quite so divine as Justice and Understanding is its handmaiden.

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