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PATRONIZE HOME INDUSTRY.

OREGON CITY, JAN. 26, 1900.

A MEETING of the populists will be held at Mulino Grange hall on Saturday, February 3rd, at one o'clock, p. m., to elect a precinct chairman.

CORNELIUS VANDERBILT has just expended \$25,000 in dogs. Twenty-five thousand little children go to school without any breakfast in New York city.

The British embargo of Delagoa bay does not decrease the business of the makers of ammunition in New York city, who ship it as groceries or provisions.

The poor devil who steals some scrap iron from a railway track to buy bread is locked up in jail. The genius who steals the whole railroad we send to the United States senate to make laws for us.

Wives in Tanganyika are considered a luxury, and even in Zululand they cost from \$150 to \$300, but on the Tanganyika plateau one can be had for five or six goats. One goat equals 15 to 20 cents, therefore one wife equals \$1.20.

The 100,000 Boers, with over 200 cannon, are meeting in deadly onset the 125,000 republicans somewhere in the southern end of the Dark Continent. That's about all there is to the British Associated Press dispatches for over a week.

WHEAT has gone down to about 45 cents, at which Williamette valley farmers cannot afford to grow it. Freight rates to Europe are high. The 3,000,000 starvelings in British India are praying against hope for our superabundance.

The town of Orea, Sweden, has an annual income of \$150,000 through municipal ownership and operation of tree planting. As a result of this socialistic enterprise, there are no taxes. Railways, telephones, schools and many other things are free.

The socialists of Germany form a power that the kaiser can intimidate but is powerless to control. They own 73 newspapers and at the last election cast 2,200,000 votes. Some of the ablest minds in the empire are at the head of the socialist movement.

The Russian bear is keeping his eye on the tail of the British lion. If the Boers pull this a few more times, the bear is liable to jump on his back through the Afghanistan back door. The bear is certainly very willing and has already sharpened his claws.

EMPEROR WILLIAM's new stables will cost \$2,000,000 and will provide room for 270 horses and 300 vehicles. The average rate of wages in the German empire is less than 40 cents a day, and out of these starvation wages labor must pay for "Crazy Bill's" personal pleasure.

The Boers will make short work of the property rights of the English mine owners, in case they conquer. They have formed plans for working as state monopolies both the diamond and gold mines. That impersonation of the arch fiend, Cecil Rhodes, will then be only a five-cent devil—if he isn't hanged.

OREGON CITY needs the public building that its leading citizens through Representative Tongue have asked congress to give them. It will probably get it in due time, which the appropriation committee is likely to think is not this year. However, a good beginning has been made, and, on the hypothesis that "well begun is half done," our suburban neighbors of the city by the falls may well feel encouraged at the prospect.—Oregonian.

The British claim the right to dictate in governmental affairs in the Transvaal because they outnumber the Boers in Johannesburg. Why, then, don't they allow the Americans to dictate the government of Dawson? There are twice as many United States citizens there as British subjects, yet the Canadian government holds sway, and taxes miners heavier than they were ever taxed in South Africa.

The Boers have little trouble in swelling their army. When General Majier entered the territory of Natal on the march to Ladysmith and followed the fugitives from Dundee, he had but 700 men. When he arrived below Ladysmith, where he headed off any retreat from that town, he had over 7000 men in his little band, and had not been recruiting from the Transvaal, but from the Natal farms as he passed them.

On account of Gov. Geer's folly, Clackamas county will pay this year a few thousand dollars more of state taxes than last year. He vetoed the bill of Senator Mulkey, of Polk, providing for a state board of equalization consisting of the governor and two other state officials, who were to serve without pay. This left the equalization of taxes to the sweet will of the officials of each county. Multnomah took advantage of the situation by placing her taxable property last year at \$11,000,000 less than in 1898, thus decreasing her state taxes.

The recent announcement of the American Woolen Company that prices of clay worsteds for the coming season will be increased 40 per cent—is in keeping with the general advance that is being made in the price of articles controlled by the industrial despots. The announcement has been made by the worsted combination that the price of clay worsteds for the coming year will be as follows: For 12 ounce goods, \$1.25, against 90 cents a year ago; 16 ounce goods, \$1.57½, against \$1.10; 18 ounce, \$1.72½, against \$1.20. The advance in the price of kerseys ranges from 20 to 40 per cent. Iron has doubled in price, and paper is advancing so rapidly that it is difficult to predict where the rapacity of the combination will ultimately find its check.

The Dallas Times-Mountaineer says: We have a personal complaint against trusts—especially the one which controls the paper output of the United States. The International Paper Company has gained control of the principal mills of the country, therefore preventing the possibility of competition in the paper market. It controls 35 per cent of the paper mills in the United States, and has so manipulated affairs that through an understanding with mills it does not control, it has been able to advance the price of news paper 60 per cent and the price of other papers from 60 to 100 per cent. Because of this, we have an especial complaint against the principles that make the paper trust possible—the tariff of \$9 a ton on plain news paper and a correspondingly higher tariff on wood pulp and other commodities that enter into the manufacture of paper.

Now that John Myers has left us, we cannot refrain from reflecting on the rugged virtues of the man—the old and familiar friend of thousands of citizens of Clackamas county. In every contingency, in public as well as in private life, in prosperity no less than in adversity, he acted in accordance with duty; justice to his fellow men. If the affairs of mankind are kenned by the denizens of the mysterious brighter world, it must be a solace to him that, resting from the toil and moil of earth, he is remembered with affection and regret by those amongst whom his lot was cast. The good that this strong man wrought will never die. It will grow and expand in the minds of generations yet to be. Thus every great soul immortalizes himself by weaving threads of gold into the woof of human history. On the other hand, the influence of the evil perishes, for evil is self-destructive. Right is always on the throne of the universe.

"The Lord alone will determine the end. He is the Lord of heaven and earth. Pray that he may give us wisdom and power for victory, in order that the devil and the whole world may acknowledge that the hand of God is holding the sword." With these words Paul Kruger closed his address at the open grave of General Kock in the Pretoria cemetery. General Kock had been severely but not dangerously wounded in the battle of Elands Laagte and taken prisoner by the British soldiery. The English, savages that they are, killed him by slow torture. Roasting to death would have been more merciful, because quicker than starvation. On the battle field the wounded general was robbed of his clothes and money. Taken to a tent after a surgical operation, he received no food for two days, and the British savages would allow no one to bring him any. He would have recovered if he had not fallen into their hands. They starved him to death. Other Boer prisoners received rations of raw meat, thrown to them as if they were dogs. A civilization(?) whose progress depends on the success of the British armies has many of the traits of devilism.



WASHINGTON GLADDEN.

Rev. Dr. Washington Gladden, one of the leading ministers of the Congregational church and a close student of social and political conditions, recently said:

"With much of what the socialists are saying, every philanthropist must be in closest accord. The criticisms which they have uttered upon the cruel and destructive tendencies of our industrial system have been timely and in part true. The competition, when wholly unrestrained, must tend to make the rich richer and the poor poorer; that the growth of plutocracy at one end of the social scale and a proletariat at the other, are the natural and inevitable result of being left alone—all this is evident today and socialists have helped to keep it before our thought. "The growing chasms between employer and employee; the increasing frequency of depressions in trade, every one of which pushes a crowd of poor laborers into actual pauperism,—all these ominous signs, to which the socialists keep pointing us, are evidences that something is wrong with the industrial machinery."

CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY.

Let us take Rockefeller as an example. What we say of him is true also of Whitney and Sage—and of the Goulds, Vanderbilts, and all the other big capitalists. Rockefeller is, primarily, the head of the Standard Oil Company. It would seem that he had a large job on his hands in "directing" that business alone—from the extraction of the crude petroleum from the earth to the delivery of the refined kerosene, gasoline, benzine, naphtha, paraffin, and all the other products to the consumers. But Rockefeller does not confine himself to this. He is one of the great railroad kings. To really "direct" the railroads that he controls would be quite sufficient to occupy his time. But he does not stop here. He is a street railway magnate. He is a coal baron on a large scale. He is a great miner and manufacturer of iron and steel. He is at the head of the copper combine. He is a gold miner in the Coeur d'Alene district—and incidentally he "directs" the Bull Pen there. In New York he "directs" the production and distribution of illuminating gas. And even this is only a partial list of his activities; for by means of hired men, he has multiplied himself as "director" a number of times. The wealth, amounting to \$20,000,000, that Rockefeller annually receives is created by the tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of men who work for wages.

SOMETHING WRONG.

The country has had prosperity; is having it yet. It is actual, not fanciful. But what sort of an age are we living in, and what sort of an industrial system are we working under, that prosperity should mean adversity, and that every brief season of national welfare must beget its tragic reaction? It is easy to blame the recklessness of the speculators and gamblers. It is easy to say that the late unusual crash was caused by the folly of an unusual number of people who got drunk on the "good times" and plunged, and that they had no business to do it, and deserved their punishment. But what of the innocent depositors who lost their money in the banks that failed, and what of the wives and children of the speculators on the wrong side of the market, who have been reduced to penury and want through no fault of theirs? Must a season of prosperity always

mean a speculative riot, with wasted capital and misdirected credit? Must public welfare always have its victims? Must the brief, unstable well-being of the few always demand the sacrifice of the many? Perhaps so; but recent occurrences in Wall street are almost enough to shake the confidence of the complacent philosophers who hold that the existing industrial and social orders can't be improved, that individualism, competition, is the ne plus ultra of civilization.

A PEOPLE'S TRUST.

At Burley, Washington, on Puget sound, a socialist colony was started last summer, whose polity is receiving serious consideration of thinking men. Financially it is a success, for it is self-sustaining. Its resident membership is 150, but non-resident members are found in many cities of the Northwest. The fundamental principle of this movement being "indefinite expansion," it is the intention of the Burley colony to found similar colonies in many other localities; in short, this is a socialistic advance "all along the line" against the trusts—a people's trust pitted against the millionaires' trust; the proletariat against the aristocracy.

The Co-operative Brotherhood of Burley is managed by a board of trustees and a board of directors, both elected by the members. Full membership is secured by the payment of \$120, but the payment of \$13 within one year's time after having joined the organization will secure the guarantee of employment and of support in case of misfortune. However, this guarantee carries the condition that a certain limited time is needed in which to build homes for non-resident members who wish to become residents. The funds received from non-resident members are expended for this purpose and in buying more implements and machinery. The colony has cleared 60 of its 1000 acres of land, established a sawmill and work shops and will erect a flouring mill. A steamboat will soon be procured and the industry of ship building will be added.

Excepting in transactions with the great world outside the colony (the enthusiastic founders cherish the idea that it is not going to remain outside), it has no use for metallic money. The pasteboard labor check, worth \$1, is the only medium of exchange. One of these checks will buy ten meals at the colony hotel.

The organizers of the brotherhood are establishing "temples" in the cities and enlisting the interest of leading citizens. Dell Sturt, a prominent attorney of Portland, is credited with expressing the opinion that the brotherhood "will absorb all wealth." The donation has been offered of 6000 acres of land in Santa Clara county, California. Socialist colonies are no longer Utopian dreams. That at Ruskin, Tenn., is a success in every way.

The financial possibilities of this socialist polity are staggering. During the past five years the fraternal organizations of this country have paid out about \$170,000,000, and the mutual insurance companies about \$68,000,000, or together about \$238,000,000. When the members of these orders once realize how much more profitable and how much more advantageous it would be for them to put their money into co-operative industry, which will enable them to enjoy it while they live and protect their loved ones after they are gone, is it not likely that "temples" and co-operative communities will spring up in every part of the land? The Co-operative Brotherhood guarantees real life insurance, its members not being compelled "to die to win," nor are payments to be continued over an indefinite period, terminating when one's coffin is lowered into the grave.

ance, its members not being compelled "to die to win," nor are payments to be continued over an indefinite period, terminating when one's coffin is lowered into the grave.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP.

The question of public ownership of public utilities is fast absorbing attention, and many are rapidly reaching the conclusion that it affords a solution to many problems. In the first instance, it would be one of the most effective means that could be adopted for doing away with much of the prevalent political corruption, by removing the most prolific source of temptation. As long as as legislatures have power to grant special privileges in the way of valuable public franchises, or have control over corporations holding such franchises with power to extend or curtail their powers, the temptation on the part of corporations seeking such franchises to buy them or extend privileges by bribing legislatures, or the temptation on part of the irresponsible legislatures to sandbag corporations, will exist; also the temptation on the part of such franchise corporations to control elections in their own interest will be prevalent. Then the temptation to corrupt juries and judges, to avoid paying damages in damage suits, such as now exist, would be destroyed.

These are the most fruitful sources of corruption in our political system affecting all legislative bodies, from the insignificant town boards to congress itself. Secondly, the principal has an underlying success of monopoly—namely, railway rebates and discriminations, without which but very few monopolies could exist—would be destroyed. Standard Oil and the oil combine undoubtedly owe their existence to discrimination in their favor by the railroads and other transportation lines. The same is true of others.

Under public ownership it would be impossible for a few big firms in Chicago to get together every night, as testimony before the industrial commission shows they now do, to fix the price of grain for the next day, which can only be done through co-operation of the railways. It is true the interstate commerce commission and the laws are very pronounced in giving rebates, but the railroads secretly violate these laws.

It also stands to reason that public ownership would greatly reduce the cost of service. The vast sums which every railway and other public corporations now provide for the purpose of influencing elections, maintaining lobbies and bribing legislators, also the salaries of the high-priced lawyers, many of whom draw salaries equal to that of the president of the United States, the waste of competition, and especially the money which the roads must now of necessity earn to pay big dividends on enormous issues of watered stock, would be saved to the public.

WHERE IS BROTHER W. S. U'REN?

Hon. W. S. U'ren, of Oregon City, the recognized leader of the populists of the state, was in Astoria last Sunday and called at this office. He is not taking a very active interest in politics, but is interested in the initiative and referendum amendment which passed the last legislature, and which must be ratified by the next legislature before it can be submitted to the people. He says, the populists are very anxious that this amendment shall be adopted, and as both branches of the last legislature were strongly republican, he

hopes that the republicans will carry the next legislature. He is of the opinion that all members of the last legislature that are renominated this year, will receive the almost solid vote of the populists.

He came to Astoria to consult with the populist leaders here, Hon. J. N. Svendsen and Sofus Jensen, and several others, but both Mr. Svendsen and Jensen were out of the city. Just what instructions will be given the populists was not stated, but there is no doubt but that any member of the last legislature who voted for the initiative and referendum amendment, will receive the support of the populists in the various counties. Clatsop delegation voted solid for the amendment. While not known that they favor such an amendment, yet they are willing that it should be submitted to a vote of the people.

Mr. U'ren speaks in the highest terms of the record made by the republicans in the last legislature and says he hopes to see everyone of them returned. More and better laws were passed; the expense of the state curtailed and an unusual economic spirit seemed to pervade the legislature, according to his views, and as he watched the legislature of the state, his opinion is worth considering.

While Mr. U'ren did not state so, in so many words, yet it is evident from his remarks, that he believes the reforms advocated by the populists stand a better show of being enacted into laws through the republican party, than through the democratic party. He expressed the opinion that the republicans will carry the state, and if the same members of the legislature are nominated, there will be no doubt of their election in every county in the state, as they will no doubt receive the votes of the populists.

There are about 400 populists in Clatsop county and that number of votes added to the republican ticket insures an election of the legislative ticket by an overwhelming majority.—Astoria Herald.

OUR SHAKY FINANCES.

The promise of revenue expansion and accumulation of a surplus of revenues in the treasury are causing alarm. For if the money representing such surplus be taken into its vaults, out of the financial marts, a strain must fall on the financial world such as men at the head of financial institutions, and who know the strain they are already under, dread, aye, feel with the deepest of conviction would make inevitable the collapse, the financial crash, that threatens. "It is the unanimous opinion in financial circles," writes Holland, the New York correspondent of the Philadelphia Press, "that unless congress takes some action that will relieve the treasury department of the responsibility and remove the danger of financial stringency next summer, the administration will find itself compelled to accept one of two alternatives. Either the secretary of the treasury will be compelled to buy government bonds at the market price or else the administration must face the peril of entering a political campaign in which its own existence is at stake at the very moment when, owing to our financial system, there will be a severe monetary stringency entailing perhaps much more dangerous results than the brief panic a few weeks ago, while at the same time there is a congestion of money in the treasury department."

The worried secretary of the treasury is called upon to put the money now in the treasury within the reach of Wall street. The speculative bubble has been so inflated, and inflated upon loans made upon the basis of moneys deposited by the country in New York when there was not demand for such money in industrial channels, that the drawing away of these moneys leaves the whole great bubble, supported on loans, in danger of collapse. Unless money can be provided from some source to take the place of the money drawn away, so that contraction of loans may be avoided, there must be collapse.

Let the stock of money in the New York banks be increased, and they will build higher the inverted pyramid of credit. It is upon this pyramid of credit that speculation rests. Without a broadening of this inverted pyramid speculative inflation must be impossible. So it is that with congestion of money in New York, a congestion that inevitably follows industrial depression in the rest of the country, there will come credit and speculative inflation. And following such inflation there must inevitably come collapse whenever there comes industrial revival and a drawing away of money from New York to the industrial centers, a collapse that must injuriously effect industry, give a setback to enterprise, aye, lead to industrial depression and a starting again of a cycle of congestion of money in the financial centers, inflation, collapse and again depression.

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