

The Oregon Statesman

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G. X. FIRES A VOLLEY OF QUESTIONS

Editor Statesman: I have wondered whether my fellow farmers might mistake my attitude on the Non Partisan League.

It has been said to me that only a "positive program" can lead us to the political light—like, for instance, perhaps, the career of Jesse James or the Kaiser, who said they were being oppressed or menaced, and were only striking in self defense! And yet their "positive program" righted no wrong, established no moral principle; chiefly it established them as colossal egotists, drunk with mistaken argument. And we know what the disgusted world did to them.

To be helpful, any "positive program" must be honest. I do not believe that the Dakota plan, in practice, is honest or admirable even in what it intends to do; for it was conceived in sly selfishness, and when born was nursed to gigantic hog-hood by an incredible swarm of leech-like lackeys and flunkies and political wolves who saw easy picking in the multitudinous state jobs. The reason the failure was not more colossal, and a national disaster, rests in the fact that the people at large wouldn't stand it all. They rebelled against its intolerances and blood-sucking officialism, far more strenuously than men rebel against the prohibition enforcement; so while the League was nominally in control for a few years, in actuality it never dared go one-quarter its intended length. And yet its potential destructive powers were there—powers that we do not want here in Oregon.

Personally, I do not desire to give up my own farm, which I have worked hard to pay for and own. I believe that some form of land ownership is desirable for the good of humanity. Perhaps the later comer, after the land is all appropriated, is out of luck; but he may be compensated by an increasing state responsibility to look after him. Maybe he does not appreciate this alms-house attitude; yet the perpetuity of the food-producing industry that keeps mankind alive, could hardly be trusted to miscellaneous tenancy. So I must believe in land monopoly, that may make me rich and my neighbor a starved shadow or derelict.

And yet, to be honest, I must recognize that a thousand other lines of human endeavor stand on an almost identical footing. How can I, with a monopolistic, profiteering farm deed in my pocket, point the finger of suspicion, the sword of execution, against my neighbor who unfortunately owns only a railroad or a mine or a creamery?

If the League is to be honest, it must make a clean sweep, and proscribe every monopoly, including its own. If it is not honest, and proposes only a brutal robbery of other men while keeping its own spoils, then that's that! And yet I do not believe so ill of any class of good Americans, as to allow that they are following this League understandingly. If they knew that the League program, honestly interpreted honestly enforced, should mean the instant extinction of every private land title, including their own farms, they would hardly be Leaguers! If they understood that, once the League is formed, it would be possible for the majority who are not farmers to combine and instantly deprive them of their own farms, by the very legal processes they invoke, and the moral argument they adduce, they would not be shouting for a League!

I venture to put some of my League observations into questionnaire form; believing that, with each point definitely presented, it will be possible to reach a definite judgment of what the League really is:

- Can man live without the products of the soil?
- Does not "land ownership" presume the right to control, for use or for disuse, its products, and perpetual control of its title by sale or bequest?
- Can later generations, coming after the land is once appropriated, create or discover or develop other lands, even though mankind must have land products, or starve?
- Can humanity insure itself against the starvation of a land strike, any more than the annoyance of a railroad or an electrical or a coal strike, without taking absolute control of the land?
- If you do not trust the "monopolist" or the "profiteer" in other lines of production, could you honestly trust a monopolist in land which is infinitely more vital to life?
- Is not land ownership a "profiteering monopoly" under the terms of the Non Partisan League interpretation?
- If "monopoly," meaning the control of any article necessary or desirable in human life, is ever bad and rightfully subject to state control, should not the most pernicious monopoly be controlled first?
- If any state control or abrogation of monopolistic or profiteering titles is to be instituted, should not the most essential monopoly be eliminated first—the private ownership of land?
- Did not the North Dakota creed declare for the state control of creameries, elevators, mines, railroads, bank credits and other businesses now carried on in private hands? If the organizers here have talked only North Dakota and what they have done there, must we in Oregon not believe their whole creed?
- If these enterprises should be so taken over, or regulated, would it not be a legal confiscation, not competition, with all the law on the side of the competing state?
- Would not this confiscation, or state competition, force the former private owners into wage servitude, if they continue in the business to which they have been trained?
- Few men can change their line of thought or ability, after having grown up in one special activity. Will not the man, deprived of his ownership, or the employee who had hoped for an eventual ownership, be a wage slave to the state?
- Where, indeed, or how, can any man in these proscribed pri-

vate lines, live except in some form of public wage servitude? Is there ANY line of human enterprise that under paragraph one, even of the "modified" Oregon platform, can not be declared a profiteering monopoly for the state to destroy? Does not the Non Partisan League believe that the multiplicity of present taxes comes from inefficiency in public office? Is not this criticism directed against partisan politics?

Following the argument of the Dakota League, that "parties" are corrupt and that a Non Partisan administration is the remedy, is it not true that an organized Non Partisan party is the only remedy? But—is not the Non Partisan party a "political party," with every objection thereto that can apply to any party? Will not the extension of partisan public service, to include all of the activities actually enumerated even in the emasculated Oregon platform, build up an organized, non-producing army of highly-paid, powerful politicians who will ride the state as no previous political party ever had one-third the numbers or one-tenth the power to do? Is it not true that under the exact wording of the Oregon League platform, defining the attitude towards "profiteering," it would be possible, without adding a single word or thought, for the League or any organization in power, to declare any medical practice, any invention, any business, any artistic employment that men can enjoy, as a monopoly to be restrained or destroyed? Does not the second paragraph of this platform provide state authority for raising funds to carry on any such anti-monopoly campaign, after the party in power had proscribed its victims?

Does not a subsequent paragraph expressly provide for excessive taxation of proscribed businesses, to pay war or presumably other bills, one of which would be financing state competition to ruin themselves? What could be a more glaring example of "surplus wealth" than a farm, appropriated or bought cheaply from the government, paying its way all its life, always a monopoly, and increasing in value by the birth of every luckless, landless babe, until it now sells or is held for a valuation up to \$500 or even \$1000 an acre? The League platform, plank six, would tax war costs to "surplus wealth" by income and excess profits tax. Would it not be fair to the landless late comers, to include "unearned increment" as a just taxation basis, as a profiteering that the state should control? Is it the truth, or is it a lie, to declaim against "monopoly" and "profiteering," and destroy the fruit of other men's industry and development, while retaining similar monopolistic rights for one's self? Was not Ananias, the master-liar and thief of history, slain for a similar self-righteous declaration? Is he an honest man, or a thief or merely a mistaken zealot, who calls another man with railroad, or power, or elevator, or mine rights, a robber and an oppressor, yet who holds for himself an infinitely greater monopoly carrying the power of life or starvation over all mankind, whose title was not a shade better than the man who develops a railroad or a mine? —G. X.

SLAUGHTER SIDE-STEPS; WANTS NAME OF G. X.

Editor Statesman: In your issue of September 8, 1921, "my new found friend" G. X. in his effort to discredit the Non Partisan League of Oregon, opens the flood gates of his vocabulary and pours forth a torrent of words in the form of names, epithets, assertions, conjectures and assumptions that I can not hope to equal. As a word juggler, I confess, I am not in his class.

Some one has said that we see what we look for, and I fear that my friend is looking for butcher knives and bull dogs; and seeing them where none exist. Imagination is a good thing, but needs to be controlled.

It seems to me that my friend is unnecessarily harsh in his designation of those who may not see things from his viewpoint. I would suggest that it might be well to remember the words of the New Testament relative to calling another a fool. Again, is it not just possible that one might differ with G. X. and still be honest? G. X. says: "I hold that he is a fool who believes that the announced program outlined by Mr. Slaughter is the full program intended." The program quoted was in full and not a mere outline. It is the full program and will continue in its present form until such time as it shall be changed by the members of the League, who are citizens of Oregon. No one expects the Republican platform to remain unchanged in its present form. Then why rave about possible changes in the Oregon League program? Why not discuss the present program without rancor, vituperation or misstatements of fact? Asserting that something is a lie, or that some one is a liar, proves nothing unless evidence is submitted to prove the truth of the assertion.

So far as I have been able to learn, The Non Partisan League state government of North Dakota has robbed no one "of as good title to the earth's products as the farm land owner's." If G. X. knows of any who have been so robbed, he should produce the evidence. The members of the Non Partisan League in North Dakota claim that they have nothing to hide and court the fullest publicity. Why not take them at their word?

Again, my friend says, "To restrain monopolies defined by the League, is to reduce both owners and workers to wage servitude." I regret that it should be thought necessary to submit such statements as a part of a serious discussion. Nothing of the kind has happened in North Dakota, and neither will it happen in Oregon; and I have confidence in the intelligence of G. X. to believe that he knows this to be true.

G. X. asks: "Would the gentleman argue the question?" If he will word his question so as to make it clear and make it pertinent to the issues involved, I shall be pleased to discuss it with him or find an exponent of the League to do so. No doubt "it would be wasteful to discuss every proposition brought up by Dr. Slaughter for wonderment." Yes, almost as wasteful as to attempt to name the various things discussed by G. X. that are not the issues under discussion.

My friend asks questions so involved and complicated that it is difficult to determine exactly what they may mean, or of such a character as to require for their structure premises that exist only in the imagination of G. X., and asks whether I will answer them "yes" or "no." In answer to this part of his cunningly constructed argument, I wish to say that I shall be delighted to give a simple answer of "yes" or "no" to simply constructed questions dealing specifically with the issues presented by the program of the Oregon League; provided, G. X. shall sign his legal name to such questions. If I am to answer questions, I wish to know who is propounding them. "As an honest man" my friend should not object to signing his name to his questions. If he does, why? Very sincerely yours,

—A. SLAUGHTER.
Salem, Ore., Sept. 9, 1921.

General Dawes, the maker of the budget, is a musical composer. Why not call his latest composition Helen Maria Dawes? The idea that "government" can carry on business has been generally abandoned by those who have kept close to the situation during and following the war. The hair of the average business man would be turned gray with some of the ventures of the government and, not only

that, but he would go broke. Sure thing. Of course, it is none of our business, but what was in "the kitty" when the oil men made that agreement with President Ozregon?—Exchange.

Why not trade some of that gold stacked up in the United States treasury for a bit of business improvement? That is one case where it is not profitable to have too much money on hand.—Los Angeles Times.

Manufacturing, slogan for next Thursday. Are you being overlooked? If so, please hold up your hand. Today or tomorrow. There are a lot of manufacturers in and around Salem. More than most people realize.

Elihu Root has declined all further public service on account of his advanced age. Elihu is but 75, and there are plenty of people in and around Salem older than he is who are just getting fairly started in the race of life.

It is announced that in spite of the tragedy at Hull, this government will go right on in its experiments with great dirigibles with a sailing radius sufficient to cross the ocean. The loss of life was most lamentable, but the march of progress is forward.

The proposition to appoint eighteen additional United States district judges to take care of the congested calendars caused by the flood of liquor cases sounds well, but it is not the best thing to be done. Give the United States commissioner jurisdiction of these cases, put him on a salary and the congestion will disappear. Ordinarily, he can dispose of a half dozen cases a day. No judge, with the machinery of the federal court, can do that.—Los Angeles Times.

NOT SKY GAZERS

Airmen who have flown over Jungles and big game country agree in saying that lions, tigers, leopards and other terrors of the wild never look up at an airplane. If the plane passes closely overhead, they may seek cover because of the noise of the propeller, but they never cast a glance at the machine itself. A self-respecting lion feels it beneath his dignity to notice a buzzard, and he appears to have made up his mind that an airplane is only an enlarged buzzard. The rhinoceros is about the only mammalian creature of the jungle to show excitement over an airplane. He can't see it, anyhow, and is naturally of an irascible and petulant nature. To think it is some huge tsetse fly that is about to sting him. When the airman takes to hunting big game from their planes, the wild animals will learn to fear and respect them.

JACK OF ALL TRADES

General Charles Gates Dawes has the mental versatility of a Roosevelt. His book on the war is one of the best sellers, and the phonograph record of his composition for the violin has also made a hit with lovers of music. As a blunt and vigorous-spoken soldier, he furnishes one side of the picture and as a dreamy musician at his piano he presents another. He is also author, banker, manufacturer, business man and arbiter of the nation's budget. Between times he smokes a cigar that looks to be a foot long. He is one of the nation's most picturesque and capable characters, and yet he is always trying to avoid notoriety and the limelight.

THE GOEBER'S DANGER

The peanut growers of America in recent convention assembled, developed the alarming fact that their product was menaced by foreign competition of the most insidious sort. The oriental earth nut is said to be invading the peanut's field, and all the peanut's friends are asked to rally to its support.

The appeal for the peanut is based not only upon its long-established position as a popular refreshment, but upon its 100 per cent Americanism. The peanut is aboriginal; it was here before the white man. As Goebers it bears an indigenous name which smacks of the soil. It is the most American-made thing about our great American institution, the circus, which has gradually ad-

FUTURE DATES
September 17, Saturday—Constitution Day.
September 19, Monday—Circuit Court term begins.
September 21, Wednesday—Sells-Floto circus.
September 22, 23 and 24—Pendleton Round-up.
September 26 to October 1—Oregon State Fair.
September 28, Wednesday—State salary commission to open bids on \$2,000,000 bonds.
November 21, 22 and 23—Marion county Teachers Institute.

BITS FOR BREAKFAST

Fail nights. The road to Jefferson will be open just in time for the circus. Some one suggests that the road to normalcy ought to be paved, so as to make going easier.

Of course, Salem will do everything possible to help students get through Willamette university. There is need for concerted action.

Under the new tariff law being considered, skeletons are on the free list, including the ones in the closets. Patty Arucklee once played in Salem. Not that it is any credit; just a matter of news.

Willamette university will open next Monday; state fair the following Monday; Salem public schools the following Monday. Busy days just ahead for Salem.

The Non Partisan League has as much chance of getting control in Oregon as there is of building a railroad to Mars. The pity is that there are any suckers at all in this state who can be separated from their 18 per by that buccaneering bunch of bunko steers.

Senator La Follette has been allowed expenses amounting to \$5000 for defending his right to a seat in 1918. This is our way of throwing money away.

An English warship will bring home the American dead who per-

WRIGLEYS

"After Every Meal"

Get thrice-daily benefit from this low-cost aid to appetite and digestion

It keeps teeth white
and throat clear

Makes your smokes taste better



Still 5c

The Flavor Lasts

EDITORIALS OF THE PEOPLE

Stayton Postmastership
Editor Statesman: As one of the candidates for the postmastership at Stayton, Ore., I wish to substantiate the statement of one of the six taking the examination as published in your issue of September 10, as to the experience of E. B. Waters in postal work. First, that as a time-keeper at Idanha, I filled the office for a logging camp, that I worked in 1920 at Stayton, Ore., also in 1921 and that the statement that I served as postmaster at above mentioned place for the past year is erroneous. Second, that I served as assistant postmaster at Stayton, Ore. from 1896 to 1912 under my distinguished father and that I assumed full charge of the office work, making reports and the general routine work connected therein and that I am fully qualified for the duties required in the postal work.

Having been schooled in this work by the late Captain W. S. Waters of civil war fame and who was postmaster 15 years; that I came to Stayton at the tender age of 8 years; schooled in public and high schools at Stayton, Ore., graduating therefrom, attending college, taking normal course and hold state life certificate. Third, that my permanent residence has been here from 1882 save and except from November 1913 to June 1915; that I own my own home, pay taxes and vote in Stayton precinct.

Is this not qualification enough? Further, that it is the desire of a majority of the business men and the general public that I succeed to the office. Respectfully,
—E. B. WATERS.

Oregon State Fair

SALEM

Sept. 26 to Oct. 1

A wealth of agricultural displays. Magnificent livestock exhibition. Splendid machinery and tractor exhibit. Greatest horeshow in the northwest. Excellent races, and amusements. Special attractions, day and night. Good camping and parking grounds. Excursion rates on all railroads.

A. H. Lea, Manager, Salem, Or.