

# The Silvertown Journal

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J. E. HOSMER, Editor.

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This paper stands for freedom of thought, free-  
dom of the press, freedom of speech, equality of  
opportunity and the religion of righteousness. It  
is radically opposed to every form of superstition  
and tyranny, or licensing or permitting any form  
of evil.



## RELATION OF MONEY-GETTING TO-CRIME.

WHEN WE READ from a back number of McClure's Magazine (April, 1907) that twenty million dollars is made in one year by prostitution in Chicago alone, we begin to think for sure that the Bible doctrine of love of money being the root of all evil is about right. It is said that of the large army of prostitutes in the United States, at least three-fourths of them are trapped, bought and sold as a matter of financial gain.

The people who love money more than they do the happiness of the human race, are getting it all. Money is a representative of wealth. It is no good in itself, but it is a convenient way of carrying houses, horses, land and big timber around in our pockets. When a man steals a hundred dollars, he steals a horse worth that amount, or an acre of land, or a poor country girl who can be "trapped" for that sum, or that part of a working man's life which it takes to earn it. It has been said that there is only one right way to get wealth and that is to produce it, or its equivalent, and perhaps if we could do away with every method of getting it otherwise, we might solve the great problems that are up to us children of the first half of the twentieth century. What other ways besides producing wealth, or stealing it, are there of obtaining it? One is by inheritance, one by profit or speculation, one by interest, and one by rent. After a man or woman is fifty years old he or she ought not to be obliged to work, therefore it might be well to pass a law that all between the ages of twenty-one and fifty can have nothing unless they produce it, or its equivalent, and that those past fifty are to be allowed to inherit wealth, get it through interest, rent and profit of those under that age, and to steal it, the only punishment, in case of getting caught stealing, being for not putting the stolen property to some good use.

The editor is past fifty year old, you see, and wants to get some kind of a chance to even up on some of the fellows who have got ahead of him in the race for wealth.

But, seriously, isn't there some just way by which we can stop the awful prostitution and poverty, the child labor and crying women, the growth of all kinds of crime and the ever-increasing tyranny of wealth? If the love of money is the cause of all this, we certainly ought to do away with the money making system and turn the money makers' abilities into some other channel that would be productive of more happiness for themselves and for everybody else. Perhaps after all Frances E. Willard's idea of changing things is nearer right than most people thought when, after a life-time of endeavor in the ranks of reform, she said that she would take into the hands of the people, not by force, but by the process of lawful acquisition, all that which labor has produced in the four hundred years since Columbus wended his way hither.

If Uncle Sam should thus become rich enough to give us all work, and the magnificent reward of all we produce, poverty would vanish as well as millionaires, and all would be rich in opportunity, and the workers rich in fact.

## A REVIEW—EDITORIALS OF 1909.

THE FOLLOWING are selected from editorials written for "The Silvertown Leader" of five years ago. It may be of interest to our old standby subscribers to know that they express in a general way the editor's ideas at the present date. After studying them over carefully we might state some things a little different, but for hastily written newspaper editorials, they stand approved. We notice that a number of those whose names are mentioned in the locals of the same issue, are forever gone from the land of the living and this reminds us that life is very uncertain and short at best, and that we who really desire to do something to make the world better, should "be up and doing with a heart for any fate."

### "A Universal Desire.

"The Christian Scientists have an idea, in common with many individuals of other denominations, that prayer is "desire." The writer rather likes the idea for it seems quite practical that if a thing is possible of accomplishment at all, it can be done by a strong desire for its accomplishment.

"No individual can do things worth doing unless he or she has a desire to do them. The desire to become an artist is, we believe, one of the prime requisites in becoming a Michael Angelo. Perhaps it is really what we usually call talent. At least, it must be a large part of it, as without it no man or woman could ever rise to that condition which we call great.

"What wonders could be wrought in the production of the good, the beautiful and the true if there was a universal desire for these things? It may be that we could not make it rain whenever we so desired, but in the field of moral, social and intellectual development of the world, the results are beyond the comprehension of those now living in a world of almost universal selfishness and deceit. Let us pray!"

### "Bribed and Bamboozled.

"If you were elected to a high office, say to the senate of the United States, and you were offered \$100,000 to vote against what you thought was right, would you take the money? Yes? Well you ought to be put in the penitentiary if you did, and as it is, you are a dangerous character to run at large. Don't you know that that is just what is the matter with our country today?

"And don't you know that when you have once sold yourself for gold, you can never, as long as you live, be happy again, unless by some hook or crook you can really and truly repent and find a little satisfaction in trying to repair the injury done your fellow men?

"We want men who will not violate their conscience for any amount of money; and if you are not that kind, it would be well for you, and for the world, if you would get back to the first principles of manhood and learn to be true to yourself. Simple honesty will conquer the world and make it a paradise, and in your individual work, no matter what your calling, it is the strongest weapon in the fight for success. Colton truly says:

"Nothing more completely baffles one who is full of trick duplicity than straightforward and simple integrity in another. A knave would rather quarrel with a brother than a fool, but he would rather avoid a quarrel with an honest man than with both. He can combat a fool by management and address, and he can conquer a knave by temptations. But the honest man is neither to be bamboozled nor bribed."

### "It Is All Right.

"Our political evolution from the old barbarous days of war-club rule up to the initiative and referendum has been all right. All the suffering and torture and poverty and slavery has been all right. Whatever is, is right, because it has been absolutely necessary to teach us, or rather to pound into us the ideas of liberty. There is a great deal of what we think is wrong now, but it is all right. How would we ever know what a horrible thing it is to have one man own \$800,000,000 while millions of our children are starving, unless we had the practical demonstration? Of course, it

seems pretty tough, but we individuals are only atoms in the great evolutionary process of building the most powerful future civilization and it is all right for us to take our place wherever we find ourselves, and if we are ground up into mortar for the foundation, it must be all right, for a foundation must be built and we are no better than any one else. But it would be all right if after enough material is ground up, and there has been a lot of grinding going on since Adam was a little boy, if we would commence on the main building. Don't we know enough by this time to run our own business? If we don't, it is all right to let King Rockefeller and his senior nobles of the United States senate and the supreme court, backed up by its big chief of police, called the president, run it a while longer. Fall off the brake-beam and get cut in two. That is all right. You don't know how to run a railroad and you don't want to ride very far anyway. The railroad companies knew how to get the land, and we didn't know how to keep them from it, so it's all right. Some men who milked cows when they were boys, now own most of the United States and some who milked cows and were really smarter and better boys, are in the penitentiary for stealing less than \$29,000,000 worth of coal or oil or food. O, it's all right, but the women and children, who are giving their lives to the master class, are being dwarfed and driven into all kinds of wrong-doing, and their sins will flow in the veins and brains of coming generations. It is awful, but all this makes us think, and it is all right to think, and when enough of us have thought, it will be all right to act."

## THINK MORE OF TRUTH AND LESS OF SUCCESS.

FINANCIAL AND SOCIAL SUCCESS is no success at all, if purchased with deceit or a silent lie. To promote truth and to be forgotten, to help the world to be better and to suffer at the hands of those benefited is a thousand times more of a success than to blossom out into a big business that produces great wealth or to be hailed as chief among the smart set. "You will lose all your friends if you tell the truth," is the warning of many well meaning, but misguided associates. Which do we want, the self-respect and the happiness that comes from knowing that we have helped in the great advance of the world toward the golden age of righteousness, or the so-called friends purchased at so great a price? The world is dying of deceit and selfishness. One real man or one real woman is worth more to the world and to themselves than a whole "generation of vipers," who crawl around in the dark recesses of social debris, skulking to cover for fear of losing friends who are usually worth less than honest, humane enemies.

Washington said that "the thinking part of mankind do not form their judgments from events; and their estimate will ever attach equal glory to those actions which deserve success and those which have been crowned with it." In this fight against the great evil of Catholicism, we do not expect the support of Jesuits or Jesuitical hypocrites under other names, and therefore we are not going to undertake to make friends from such. We do believe, however, that there are enough real, true American people who will gladly help keep our presses running when they know about our work, and if there are not, and we must choose between liberty and the slavery of trying to make friends by being a sycophant and suppressing the truth, then we say with Patrick Henry: "Is life so dear, or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death."

## UNITE ON FUNDAMENTALS AND SAVE THE WORLD.

THOSE WHO REALLY BELIEVE in Jesus as the Savior of mankind, believe it is right, and an act of wisdom, to follow his example in everything as far as it is in a poor mortal's power to do so. He did one most wonderful thing that has gone farther to save the world than any other yet known, and that was his peerless work of uniting the warring factions of the thinking world by his simple teachings of forgiveness, sympathy and love.

In imitation of this great teacher and working-man Savior, the editor of The Silvertown Journal would very much like to have the honor and the happy satisfaction of uniting the warring factions of our time. The work is not yet complete, all will admit. Here Brother Methodist, Brother Christian, Brother Presbyterian, Brother Baptist, Brother Unitarian, Brother Lutheran, Brother Congregationalist, and every other brother who really believes in righteousness, let us reach way over the space that separates us and shake each other's hand. Let us be one in the battle for right, and soon all other men will understand the true message of the Carpenter and unite in a grand march to the New Jerusalem, the "Tabernacle of God," which is to be with men here on earth. Let us as individuals agree to disagree on those theological points on which the greatest minds of the world have disagreed and on whose rocks the great ship of civilization is still floundering, and all be willing and anxious to associate with publicans and sinners, if need be, to save the world from the same over-bearing power that was destroying the freedom and happiness of the people two thousand years ago. In doing this work, you true disciples may expect the modern Pharisees to say that you "casteth out devils through the prince of devils," but "the disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord."

## BUSINESS MEN MUST LINE UP.

THE PRESENT SYSTEM of competition and exploitation is productive of one very bad social result. It is the product of moral nonentities. The world is full of men—men especially, who stand for nothing that you can notice in the way of moral uplift. Taking any American city for example; how many business men are known by their firm stand on any moral question? Look at 'em! Isn't it appalling? Scarcely one! A few belong to church but are "attending strictly to their own business" excepting occasionally at Sunday school. Outside of the business men, a few are known to advocate and work for certain moral ideas but they are painted so black by the criminally inclined that their work is reduced to the minimum. Men and women, this won't do. Let every business man take a stand and be known as a worker for the principles of righteousness, and the world will take a flip-flop mighty quick. Oh, yes, we know that "business is business" and you must have all the business you can get, but the time is right at hand when the majority of the patrons of your business are going to understand the power they have to bring about a happier condition by concerted action and you "will not be in it" unless you take a stand for righteousness. You will be obliged to do this or get into the box with the criminals you are so afraid of offending. Get ready to line up!

In the great fight against evil, the worst enemy we have to deal with is our own prejudices. Taking the Catholic controversy for example, we can readily see that the greatest advantage in the world is gained by the Catholics if the hierarchy can keep all the Protestant denominations and the more liberal elements all "by the ears." If we should object to saving our country from a foreign invader because some of the soldiers who went to the front were not orthodox, or because they were orthodox, we would be playing the part of a fool, indeed. As soldiers on the firing line, let us not allow the enemy to split us all up into warring factions and then whip us in detail. What if some thing about the fight doesn't just suit us, let each one try to fix it right as far as possible, and cling together on the main issue in one solid phalanx against our common foe. Among ourselves we must learn to give and take. If there is anything in our "free press" that doesn't suit, make it better by writing an article that will make it better. "In union there is strength."

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE  
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I, the undersigned, recognizing the class struggle between the capitalist class and the working class, and the necessity of the working class constituting itself into a political party distinct from and opposed to all parties formed by the capitalist class, hereby declare that I have severed my relations with all other parties, and I endorse the platform and constitution of the Socialist Party, including the principle of political action, and hereby apply for admission to said party.

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Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Age \_\_\_\_\_ Citizen (YES or NO) \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ 191 \_\_\_\_\_