

THE HICKORY DEMOCRAT

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When Whole Cities are Swept by Fire



What reason have you to expect that it will never visit your home or place of business? There are only two ways to protect yourself: By making your building perfectly fire proof, which is too expensive, or by taking out fire insurance. The latter is the practical way. We issue liberal policies in leading companies. Low rates. Quick payments.

LIFE INSURANCE—Just as important, if not more so. You protect your property, why not your family? We issue the most modern form of contracts in the Southern Life & Trust Co.

LOAN DEPARTMENT—We act as your agent loaning your money for you. We guarantee you 6 per cent interest and the principal when due. Come in and let us explain our method to you.

Hickory Insurance & Realty Co.,

J. A. LENTZ, President. W. A. HALL, Vice-President. M. H. GROVES, Sec. Treas. H. E. McCOMB, Ass't Mgr. Real Estate Dept.

NEW FIRM

We have opened our

Mammoth Grocery at 1334 Union Square

We carry a full line of

Groceries, Fresh Meats and Everything to Eat

GIVE US A CALL.

Hammond & Johnson,

Phone 86

New Goods Arriving Daily!

Our Mr. Sledge is just back from the Northern Markets, where he purchased the most up-to-date and stylish line of

General Merchandise

that we have ever carried. Dress Goods, Cloaks, Furs, Ready-to-Wear Suits, Skirts, Underwear, etc., of the latest styles.

On account of delays in getting some goods, we have postponed our Millinery Opening until **Thursday and Friday, Oct. 1st and 2nd.** We cordially invite you to see the fine display of Fall and Winter Hats on the above dates.

Miss Harrison is again in charge of our Millinery Department, which assures satisfaction.

You Are Always Welcome

in our store, and we wish you to make it headquarters.

Yours, &c.,

Sledge & Pleasants.

Wanted to be Remembered.

The lawyer was drawing up Enpeck's will. "I hereby bequeath all my property to my wife," dictated Enpeck. "Got that down?" "Yes," answered the attorney. "On condition," continued Enpeck, "that she marries within a year." "But why on that condition?" asked the man of law. "Because," answered the meek and lowly testator. "I want somebody to be sorry that I died."

Prosperity talks into an empty dinner pail ring hollow to the ears of the out-of-work working-man.

If anybody tells you that there will be a panic if the Democrats win, you tell them that there is only one class of people who would be in a panic—that there will be a panic among those who have their hands in other people's pockets and the panic will continue until they take their hands out.—From one of Mr. Bryan's Ohio speeches.

Taft says he "kicks no man while he is down." He doesn't need to: His manager is doing all the kicking for him.

The "square deal" of the Republican party is the rare deal.



WHERE IS THE FULL DINNER PAIL NOW?

Where is the "Abounding Prosperity" Promised by the Republicans.

Former Congressman Robert Baker has sent a sharp reply to the suggestion from the New York Leather Belting Company that industrial interests support the Taft-Sherman ticket to the end of restoring business activity. Mr. Baker, always an ardent Bryan man, is now the president of the Austin Rotary Engine Company, a young corporation that is marketing a new rotary engine recently invented by a South Brooklyn friend, William K. Austin.

The Austin Rotary Engine Company a few days ago received a letter from the New York Leather Belting Company offering Republican campaign cards to be posted in industrial establishments, bearing the promise of "full time" on the strength of Republican victory. The method of campaigning for Republican votes through the corporations is resented by Mr. Baker, who asks why the factories are not on full time now, in a Republican administration. The correspondence is self-explanatory. The letter received by the Austin Rotary Engine Company was as follows:

"New York July 22, 1908
Gentleman.—We have tacked this notice upon the walls of our factories in Brooklyn and New York.

"Believing that the election of Taft and Sherman means a safe and progressive business administration, the day following their election we shall start this plant on full time and keep going.

"If you believe with us that by relieving any uncertainty as to what the wage earner can expect in the event of electing men who will secure the business prosperity of this country, we should be glad to have you follow our example.

As members of the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Hardware Manufacturers' Association, the American Supply and Machinery Manufacturers' Association, the National Credit men's Association, the Manufacturers' Association of New York, the New York Board of Trade and Transportation, and other commercial bodies, if you will kindly fill in and return to us the enclosed card, we will supply you with a 'full time and keep going' card, such as we have posted, and notify all these associations of your harmonious attitude.

Regardless of politics, once the manufacturers of this country join universally in this movement depression will cease.

Lend us your help and post

the card. 'Full time and keep going.'

Yours very truly,
New York Leather Belting Co.
This is the reply sent by President Robt Baker of the Austin Rotary Engine Company:
Austin Rotary Engine Co.,
2nd Ave. and 8th St., Brooklyn, N. Y., July 25 1908.
New York Leather Belting Co.,
No. 51 Beekman Street, New York.

Gentlemen: We have yours of July 22, offering us copies of cards posted in your factories, which you say read as follows:

Believing that the election of Taft and Sherman means a safe and progressive business administration, the day following their election we shall start this plant on full time and keep going.

Permit us to say we do not understand. Why have you stopped your factories? Why is the Full Time and Keep Going plan not now in operation? Why has there been any shutting down by you and the other members of the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Hardware Manufacturers' Association, and the numerous other similar associations to which you say you belong? Did you not assure us that McKinley would insure a 'full dinner pail' to all who desired to work? Was not this assurance renewed when your several bodies endorsed Roosevelt and Fairbanks? Then what emptied the dinner pail of millions of men who are willing to work? What greater reliance be placed on this assurance than on the others? If you were false prophets before, how do we know you will not be again?

But why the closed factories? Why the idle mills? Why the unused freight cars? Why the maintenance of high prices in the face of falling demand? Where is the abounding, marvelous, wonderful, unparalleled, widespread prosperity? Haven't we got a Republican administration? Haven't we got a Republican Senate and House of Representatives? Haven't we had them uninterruptedly for twelve years? Haven't the Republicans made the laws, State as well as National, and haven't they been charged with their enforcement? Then what is the matter? If the laws are defective, why haven't they been altered? If defective now, were they not equally defective eight and four years ago, when you assured us, all is well, and leave well enough alone?

Why the depression, we ask? Haven't we had seven years of Roosevelt, who according to Re-

publican orators and assistant Republican, as well as Republican newspapers, is the greatest wisest and best President the country ever had? Haven't we had twelve years of standpatism with Hanna, Aldrich and Cannon sitting on the brakes to prevent the enactment of legislation not desired by the gentleman who are so conspicuous in their support of Taft and Sherman—Morgan, Rockefeller, Carnegie, Hariman, Schiff? Do these men ever make a mistake when they select candidates? Which is most likely to be misled, these men who say that Taft is all right, that he is a conservative, or the Western farmer who is told that Taft is a radical?

Where is the abounding prosperity? Wealth has certainly increased enormously, or at least, prices have been boosted to a point that ought to have satisfied the most avaricious. The fortunes of the few have become gigantic—bounded out of sight, Morgan, we are told, has three hundred or so millions, Carnegie as much, while Rockefeller is credited with a billion; a few thousand others having from one to a hundred millions each. These seem to have had their full time and keep going cards in operation while they are generally credited with having in October-November last gathered in nearly everything in a large way in the shape of banks, trust companies, industrial and railroad combinations, which had so far escaped them. In fact the bulk of the people have been set at a lively pace to pay the increasing prices for the necessities of life these and a few others control.

But what has happened to the masses, whom you and other boosters of McKinley and Roosevelt assured were to share in the prosperity? With a total estimated wealth of some one hundred and ten billions, if the per capita tables work out all right, there should be enough to go round, for that's equal to about \$7,000 per family. But who has it? How many of the millions of toilers have a tenth of that sum free and clear? How comes it that the bulk of the people are shy their proportion of this enormous wealth? Have they been lazy, thriftless, or improvident, during these twelve years? If lazy then who created the wealth? Has the average farmer, mechanic, salesman, clerk, teacher, or laborer, squandered their portion in riotous living? Did they spend it for automobiles, steam yachts, or even for diamonds? If not, what has become of it? Why haven't they got it, how did they lose it? What has been the unseen subtle but apparently all-powerful force that has taken it from them? Why have matters become so appalling in America that the so-called effete counties of Europe have felt impelled to take official cognizance of the deplorable con-

ditions in which so many of our toilers are compelled to live. The Italian Government (as a result of the shocking reports that reached it) having sent a commission to investigate. Most revolting conditions were shown to exist. Whole families were found crowded into one and two-room apartments, while not only the women, but little children not much more than babies, were found working in filthy, unhygienic quarters, helping to eke out a scanty living for the family. Overcrowding was shown to be the rule, not the exception. In one case seven adults and seven children were living in a dark middle room, and a large, bare rear room.

The daily press also tells us that since October, thousands of entire families have been out of work, as a result, they have used up all their savings, not their proportion—\$7,000, as above—but a paltry \$50, all they had been able to save during the years of boasted prosperity. The president of the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor R. F. Cutting, says: I cannot remember such a condition existing before. Not even in 1893 and 1894 did the depression persist so long! While, according to Senator Foraker, on July 1, 22,000 skilled workers are out of employment here in Cincinnati. Presumably the number of the unskilled was greater yet. These illustrations or unparalleled prosperity has been duplicated all over the country, no section has escaped the blight. There has been a tremendous exodus of those who could not find employment, a half million more having emigrated to Europe than have immigrated here.

Why the depression, why the blight? This marvelous prosperity seems to have been wonderfully efficacious in keeping the toilers poor. This unprecedented prosperity seems to have been monopolized by a few. They have gone on piling up millions, but the larders of the workers, it seems, have accumulated nothing, so that they now face starvation as their reward for the part they took in producing widespread prosperity. The bottom has dropped out of their full dinner pail.

Again we ask why? You say, regardless of politics, once the manufacturers of this country join universally in this movement, depression will cease. Who are they to sell to? How can the masses buy when their savings are gone? With wages reduced, how are they to pay monopoly prices and yet live? How are you going to bring prosperity to the toiler without destroying monopoly and special privileges? Using the force-pump won't alter conditions, the people want something more than wind. Why not prick the monopoly bubble, let out some of the wind and water, bring the necessities of life within the purchasing power of the people? The crop of millionaires may not grow, but an equitable distribution of the wealth produced according to the part that each has contributed to its production will bring happiness to millions and insure a natural—therefore lasting—instead of the force-pump prosperity you propose.

Let us chip the talons of monopoly, uproot special privilege, and economic conditions will improve so mightily that all will be able to enjoy the comforts of life and none will have to toil such long hours that life becomes a burden.

Finally, firmly believing in the fundamental Democracy of American institutions, we have no more right to dictate how our employees should vote than they have to coerce us.

Yours truly,
Austin Rotary Engine Co.,
By Robert Baker, Pres.

"WE WANT A CHANCE."

Adam Bede, famous as the House humorist and personally popular with men of all parties, but conspicuous as a Cannon lieutenant, went to the people of Minnesota and asked for reelection and the people said: "We want a change!"

John J. Jenkins, another Cannon lieutenant, went to Wisconsin and asked for re-election and the people said: "We want a change!"

Senator Fulton went to Oregon and asked for re-election, and the people said: "We want a change!"

Senator Hansbrough went to North Dakota for re-election, and the people said: "We want a change!"

Senator Kittredge heard it in South Dakota, from the people: "We want a change!"

Senator Long asked the people of Kansas for re-election, and the people shouted: "We want a change!"

Senator Hopkins went to Illinois and asked for re-election, and two-thirds of the Republicans of Illinois announced: "We want a change!"

Almost one-half of the Republicans of Iowa, even when asked by their distinguished Senator Allison, replied: "We want a change!"

Senator Ankeny went to the state of Washington and asked for re-election and the people said: "We want a change!"

The voice of the people is unmistakable. Wherever they have had a chance to speak, they have earnestly lifted their voices, saying: "We want a change!"

That sentiment is sweeping the whole country: "We want a change!"

Conover Letter.

Correspondent to the Democrat

Our community, a central one in the county is now doing a bit in politics. Saturday night Sept. 19th the Hon. M. H. Yount Democratic nominee for the legislature, entertained an audience of ladies and gentlemen with phonograph renderings of selections from Mr. Bryan's speeches. Following this he made a good speech himself, stating and maintaining the work and aims of the Democratic party in State and nation. After speaking, Mr. Yount assisted in organizing a Bryan-Kitchen club, with a large number of names. Marshall is a Conover boy, and the people were pleased to hear him.

The following Thursday night, our Republican friends also held a meeting at which a good speech was made by J. Yates Killian, Republican candidate for the legislature. The speaker advocated for the most part, things which the people and Democrats usually want, and referred to Thos. Jefferson as father of sound principles in popular government. Yates is a business man and a good fellow; as he correctly says he is no politician. It is not strange that he made some mistakes in what he opposed and favored. His leading mistake is in his choice of party.

Wednesday Sept 23, the body of Mr. Luther Moose was brought to Conover from near Columbia, S. C., where he had been doing business about ten years and where he died of bright's disease. He was a son of Elkana Moose, of St. James. His wife was a daughter of Wm. D. Shell a sister of his Mrs. Annie Hewitt keeps a boarding house at Conover. Rev. Bischoff conducted the funeral service.

Dr. F. L. Herman has improved his cottage at Conover and has returned to live in it, after spending a year or so at Newton. We are pleased to have him with us again.

Miss Lydia Mueffer of Asheville is spending two weeks at home.

J. S. K.