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THE CAUCASIAN.

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A POINTER.
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State Library

CAN YOU AFFORD TO GIVE THEM ANOTHER CHANCE?

The Democrats went into office promising to remove the tax from the necessaries of life. They took the tax off wool which the farmers produce and they lowered it on silks and fine brandies, but they doubled the tax on molasses, added to the tax on horse-shoes, and taxed your sugar to the tune of $40,000,000.

SENATOR STEWART ON FREE SILVER.

THE RECORD OF THE OLD PARTIES ON THE MONEY QUESTION AND HOW THE DEMOCRATS USED THEIR "CHANCE" TO "RELIEVE" THE PEOPLE.

THE PEOPLE WERE PROSPEROUS UNTIL THE GOLDBUG REVOLUTION WAS INAUGURATED—NO COUNTRY HAS SUFFERED DEPRESSION EXCEPT WHERE THE CRIME OF DEMONETIZING SILVER HAS BEEN COMMITTED.

The old Parties use Tariff Tinkering Claptrap Battles to Side Track the People from Financial Reform—The Country tried a Republican Tariff and it has tried a Democratic Tariff to cure the Disease of Contracting our Money to the Gold Basis and Obtained no Relief—The People's Party is the only Party in Favor of Remonetizing Silver—It is the only Party in Favor of the People.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 22, '94.

To the Editor of THE CAUCASIAN:

The transfer of the Republican and Democratic parties from the people to the money powers by Senator Sherman and Mr. Cleveland, has resulted in a retrograde movement in Europe and America towards the conditions of the Dark Ages. If these two gentlemen and their coadjutors can make the title of the gold combination to the masses of the people as good as they have already done to the old gold parties, free institutions must give way to gold barons and serfs.

The demonetization of silver has destroyed more than one-half of the metallic money of the civilized world, doubled the value of money in the hands of the banks and other members of the gold combination, and reduced the price of the property of the people more than one-half. The iron hand of contraction binds the limbs of enterprise. The interest and extortion are absorbing the wrecked fortunes of the sons of toil. The contract between the boundless wealth and ostentatious grandeur of the gold combination and the masses of the people struggling for food and clothing, marks the approaching end of free government.

The reduction of the world's metallic money to gold alone, is the most radical financial revolution in history, and is the moving cause of universal distress. When the revolution was inaugurated, unexampled prosperity existed in Europe and America. Twenty years of abundant harvests and profound peace cannot be the cause of universal distress. The disaster is the result of no natural cause. No such cause has been or can be assigned. Vicious legislation and maladministration are the only possible causes for the disaster of the present time. The distress is universal in Europe and America, and the vicious legislation and maladministration must have been equally so. Tariff laws have been constantly changing in all the nations involved in the present disaster. The results of such changes are limited and confined to a few interests involved.

Hard times prevailed between 1810 and 1850, when gold and silver mining was interrupted by the Spanish-American wars. Times were good from 1850 to 1873 while the supply of gold from California and Australia was abundant. During each of these periods there were frequent tariff changes in the United States and in every country in Europe. The effects of those changes were not local, not universal, and what effect the tariff has locally has always been and still is a disputed question.

Since the demonetization of silver until the last session of Congress we had a Republican tariff, and times constantly grew worse. We now have a Democratic tariff, and times are no better. Neither high Republican tariff nor low Democratic tariff will relieve our distress. It certainly will not materially affect the people of Europe. The disaster which is impoverishing the people of the United States and Europe at the same time and in the same manner is not the tariff, civil service reform, prohibition, or any other question local to this country. The United States and all Europe have demonetized silver, doubled the purchasing power of gold, and reduced prices more than fifty per cent. This legislation is common to all the countries which are not afflicted with falling prices, hard times, want and misery. No other cause of the distress is common to all the afflicted countries. No country which has not committed the crime of demonetizing silver has suffered depression. India was more prosperous than ever before until silver coinage was suspended in that country a year ago last June. Before that time she had no difficulty in promptly paying $80,000,000 to pay in gold as interest on her bonded debt, because of the increase of her productions and her growing exports under the benign influence of a sufficient value of money to prevent falling prices. Since the suspension of coinage, she has been compelled to borrow $50,000,000 to pay interest on account of decreasing production and declining exports.

Japan and Mexico, and all other silver standard countries are more prosperous than ever before. These examples show that any great gold standard country, and particularly

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THE LEGISLATURE OF 1893.

HOW IT BETRAYED THE STATE AND ROBBED THE PEOPLE.

THE FACTS CONCERNING THE WILMINGTON & WELDON RAILROAD "COMPROMISE."

The State Robbed of Over a Half Million Dollars—The Last Legislature Served a Monopoly Instead of the State—What an Honest Legislature Would Have Done—The W. & W. R. R. Would Have Paid all Back Taxes and Been Glad to do so, if the People had Been Represented at Raleigh—Why Corporation Judges are Springing up—Judge Russell Writes a Bold Letter and Gives the Facts.

[Re-published from THE CAUCASIAN of Aug. 2nd.]

The following letter to Hon. D. L. Russell and his reply explain themselves and besides give to the people of North Carolina some important and valuable information.

Goldsboro, N. C., July 20, '94.

Hon. D. L. Russell, Wilmington, N. C. Dear sir:—Knowing that you were employed by the city of Wilmington in its effort to collect taxes due from the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad, and having learned through parties who are in a position to know that youa gve a very thorough investigation to the whole matter of the liability of the railroad for present and back taxes, we take the liberty of asking you in the interest of justice to give to the public through the columns of THE CAUCASIAN a statement of the liability of the company for taxes, and also your opinion of the action of the last Legislature in compromising the matter for what seems to be a pittance of what was due and collectable.

Yours very truly,
THE CAUCASIAN.

JUDGE RUSSELL'S REPLY.

Wilmington, N. C., July 24, '94.

EDITOR THE CAUCASIAN, Goldsboro, N. C.:—Yours of July 20th received and duly considered. At the risk of being boycotted and outlawed by corporate capital and its myrmidons I will give to the people through your paper as you request a brief statement of the enormous fraud which the last Legislature inflicted upon the taxpayers of this State by the so-called "Compromise" of the taxes due by the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad Company to the State and to the counties and towns along the line of its Main and of its Branch Roads.

This Railroad Company is almost entirely owned by a lot of non-resident Northern capitalists who are the originals or the successors of a crowd whose capacious fingers stretched out to grab it during that carnival of corruption which followed closely the end of the war and in which both political parties were more or less implicated. The Railroad then belonged to the State of North Carolina, to the city of Wilmington and to various individual citizens of the State.

These enterprising aliens, looking Southward across the Patomac for any thing laying around which Sherman might have left, discovered this valuable property; obtained for a small sum the control of it, and then by the perfectly legitimate and highly honorable methods so well known to railroad wreckers and lawyers proceeded to "run down" the property until they got the minority shares from citizens of the State for little or nothing.

The railroad company was chartered in 1834. For nearly sixty years it paid no taxes under the claim that by its charter it was exempt from taxation. During all this time it was legally liable for taxation upon all property owned by it such as stocks or bonds of other companies, cash on hand, investments of all kinds—indeed it was liable for taxes on all its property except the main line from Wilmington to Halifax and such rolling stock, material and equipments and station houses as were necessary for the proper operation of the road. And as to this claim there was serious doubt whether it was entitled to any exemption in excess of $800,000, a sum largely less than its value at any time. In 1893 when it ordered its strikers, who were holding seats in a Legislature to which they were not elected, to give it a "compromise," it was in arrear and in default for taxes and penalties to an amount so large that nobody has even undertook to compute it. Upon the best available evidence without going back more than fifteen years and without charging them with penalties, it was made to appear that the just claims of the State and counties and towns against this railroad were not less than $700,000. Treating them as "common folks" are treated and thus enforcing penalties and int rest the sum would run up into millions, equal perhaps to the value of the property. Instead of collecting this debt so justly due to the people and out of which they had been cheated the Legislature "compromised" it for sixty or seventy thousand dollars.

The counties of Robenson, Cumberland, Harnett, Johnson, Wilson and others on the branch lines got about $19,000, while they were entitled to more than $50,000, to say nothing of the penalties and interest. The State got about $27,000, while it was entitled to about $200,000. The city of Wilmington, according to the best estimates, was entitled to $300,000. It got $960.

Now for the defense, or rather excuse for this plunder of the people and spoliation of the State: The Wilmington& Weldon Railroad Company in consideration of receiving this loyal bounty, some $630,000, which it owed to the people, agreed to surrender its clame to exemption from taxation in the future. As a part of the $70,000 already mentioned, about $16,000 was paid to the counties along its main line, Pender, Duplin, Wayne, Wilson, Edgecombe and Halifax. In the next few weeks you will have a lot of machine made roosters crowing around about the big money "THE PARTY" got out of this railroad for the counties. Now for the answer which shall put them down. The Petersbug and Weldon Railroad Company is an indespensable link in the Chain of the Atlantic Cost line of which the Wilmington & Weldon is the richest and greatest member. The owners of the Wilmington & Weldon are the owners of the Coast Line. The Petersburg and Weldon was in 1891 in the articles of death by reason of the expiration of its Charter by lapse of time. The Legislature of 1891 refused to renew it except for two years. In 1893 the Wilmington & Weldon and Coast Line people were at the mercy of the State. By refusing to extend this charter and by proper restrictive Legislation the State could have annihilated the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad Company and the Coast Line. An honest Legislature would have said to this band of foreign capitalists, who had for 25 years enjoyed the benefits of the State's protection, the use of its courts and police without contributing one dollar to help bear the burdens which fell on the people: "We have you in our power. You shall pay the taxes to the last dollar which you owe the State and counties and towns. We may or may not enforce the penalties and demand interest as would be done with ordinary citizens under like conditions. Before you can come here asking for favors and for franchises without which you can not live, you

Continued on second page.

EVERY LOYAL REPUBLICAN

WILL SUPPORT DR. THOMPSON FOR CONGRESS IN THE 3RD DISTRICT.

THIS IS WHAT THE REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SAYS.

The District Committee and the State Republican Committee Say That Mr. Spears Must Come Down. They say that His Continued Candidacy Endangers Co-operation and Helps the Democratic Party.

HEADQUARTERS REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL EX. COMMITTEE, THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

Kenansville, N. C., Oct 26, 1894.

Whereas, It is the policy of the Republican party outlined by the State Convention August 20th, to co-operate with the People's party for the purpose of securing the repeal of the unjust and iniquitous election laws whereby the ballot box is debauched and thousands of our citizens disfranchised through the unlawful usurpation by partisan Registrars appointed for this purpose; whole townships and counties thrown out without excuse; false cirecificates of election issued, and the will of the majority suppressed; centering the power in the hands of county commissioners to refuse to induct into office those declared elected without the right of appeal or trial by jury. And,

Whereas, If the policy had been defined before the Convention convened no nomination would have been made. And,

Whereas, The continued candidacy of Hon. Oscar J. Spears is, in the opinion of this Committee, without hope of election and can only operate to the interest of the Democratic candidate and greatly endangers the Co-operation movement, therefore

It is the opinion of this Committee that the canvass of Mr. Spears be disontinued and that he withdraw from the contest, and that every loyal Republican give his support to Hon. Cyrus Thompson as the Co-operation candidate for Congress in this, the Third Congressional District, and use every honorable means to secure his election.

A. R. MIDDLTON,
Chairman of the Republican Executive Committee of the Third Congressional District of N. C.

APPROVED: By order of the State Executive Committee. October 27th, 1894.

A. E. HOLTON,
Ch'm Rep. State Ex Com.

ANOTHER DEMOCRATIC CIRCULAR EXPOSED.

Their Efforts at Deception Deceive Nobody but Show That the Machine is on its Last Legs.

BUCKHORN, N. C., Oct. 27, '94.

Mr. Editor:—One H. R. Novitzky a drygoods dealer in Fayetteville has sent out hundreds of secret circulars to the farmers, giving the number of bales of cotton made for the years 1883 to 1894 and prices. The figures given by Novitzky are gotten for campaign purposes, and are false and full of deception. He says in his secret circular: "These figures are official, and correct, and the entire commercial base their business deductions from them.

"Study them, and when X Roads' Solomon tells you that any political party is to blame for it, ask him to explain why the prices vary with the size of the crop under all administrations, Democratic or Republican."

Novitzky in his table says that in 1889 there was made 7,653,000 at 13¼ cents and 1893 7,549,000 at 7 cts. per pound, and in 1894 "estimated to be 10,000,000 at 5¼. Also in 1891 Novitzky gives the number of bales 9,473,000 and sold at 10 cents per pound. Now, why don't Novitzky explain why there is 4¼ cents difference between the crop of 1891 and the crop of 1894 with the difference of only 527,000 bales.

The crop of 1891 was sold according to his figures at $378,920,000 and the crop of 1894 at $250,000,000, a loss to the farmers $12,8820,000.

The machine has run down and are now trying to deceive the voters by using such men as Novitzky.

D. C. DOWNING.

CAPT. BRADY SETS MR. SMITH RIGHT.

Smith Made False Charges in his letter to the News & Observer and did not Know What he was Talking About. Capt. Brady Confronts him with the Records and the Law in the Case.

Editor CAUCASIAN.—Considering the great education of the people, and a journal in which the people can always find the truth, as such, I ask a small space in it for which we consider information for the people, in reply to an article by Mr. L. L. Smith published in the Raleigh News and Observer of the 22nd of September last headed "Third party book-keeping." In this article Mr. Smith says that the "leaders of the Third party in this have found a mare's nest." In correction of this statement of Mr. Smith's we wish to inform the people that the Third have not found a mare's nest, but they have found a money nest with Mr. Smith trying to cover this nest. The money in this nest or in the first nest is the sum of $236,548,85. In the second nest we find the sum of $274,866,78. In the third nest we find the sum of $282,778,51. Mr. Smith says "the false statement was first made that according to the report $191,626,83 was not accounted for at all." This statement of Mr. Smith's is false as can be proven by any number of witnesses as good men as are in the county. The statement first made by Third party book-keeper was this, that $191,626,83 of the school fund of 1892 did not reach the schools. Again Mr. Smith says that "when the author of the statement was faced with the report, which showed that every cent was accounted for that all reached the schools except of about 5 per cent." In this statement Mr. Smith shows that he himself is a very poor book keeper, and a worse mathemetician as is proven by the state Superintendent's report which shows that more than 30 per cent. of the school fund collected in 1891 and in 1892 did not reach the schools but was held on hand.

The Third party book-keeper sees in Mr. Smith's statement of only holding 5 per cent. of the school fund that he is more ignorant than we had attributed to him, or he is still laboring to deceive the people. He says "the holding of the 5 per cent. is the record of economy that deserves special attention and commendation" We think ere this he is convinced that the holding of any per cent. is contrary to law, and has received condemnation rather than commendation.

State Superintendent's report, "June 30th 1891.

Amount received for the school year ending June 30th 1891 $714,696.-27. Amount on hand at last report $236.548.85, making a total of $951.-515.12.

Amount disbursed for the school year ending June 30th 1891 $676.-629.21, leaving a balance on hand of $274.866.78."

Report "June 30th 1892, amount of school funds received for the school year ending June 30th 1892 $765.449.63. Amount on hand at last report $267.378.09, making a total of $1.042.827.63 of this amount they pay out $760.991.04, and held in their hands $282.778.51." It will be seen that this balance kept on increasing every year.

Any per cent of this school fund kept on hand or held over and not applied to the schools in the same fiscal year in which it is collected is a violation of the law, and stands condemed by the law. State Superintendent Finger's report school law of 1891 page 5 section 8 we find these words. "Generally speaking the winter is the most leisure season; if the school's are taught then, there is no reason why the money should not be used during the same fiscal year in which it is collected." "This is really what is intended."

Section 34 chapter 199 laws of 1889. "No school can comprehend parts of school years." Mr. Smith admits that they held in their hands 5 per cent. of the school fund. The State Superintendent's report shows that they held in their hands over 30 per cent of the school fund found by the Third party book-keepers in this money nest. We see from Mr. Smith's own statement that he has failed to cover the nest. As the money was held we do proclaim with great indignation that interest ought to be paid on this money.

Now we come to Gates county to which Mr. Smith made no allusion in his article.

State Superintendent's report for Gates county school funds received by county Treasurer for the school year ending June 30th 1891, $3,847.-41 balance on hand at last report $1,713.65, making a total on hand for the schools of $5,561,06 which should have been applied to the schools in that scholastic year, of this amount they paid out for all purposes $3,766,86 leaving $1 794.20 in their hands and over 46 per cent. of the school funds. The amount held on hand is $46.20 for each school district in the county. If the whole school funds collected in 1892 with the balance on hand from 1891 would have given each school district in the county $142.00. This amount would have run the schools the full time required by law, and the schools were run only about 8 weeks. Mr. Smith further states that the Third party book-keeper wishes to know where the money is, that is represented by these balances." Again he says "that is either a very foolish or wicked position for any sane man to take." Anybody that has any sense knows that $1.794.20 is more than 5 per cent of the school fund collected in 1892.

Mr. Smith proclaimed, that these balances were in the hands of the county treasurer. The treasurer replied promptly that the money was not in his hands. The balance held in their hands of $1.713.65 from the fund of 1890 added to the amount collected in 1891 would have run the schools in 1891 the full time required by law, and they only run the schools about 8 weeks. We ask Mr. Smith what went with the money. There is another item we wish to call Mr. Smith's attention to, a matter to which he does not allude. This charge is for $191.38 for other purposes. What was these other purposes? "laws of 1889 section 2560. He shall also designate by items the sums paid to teachers of white and colored children respectfully, and for school-houses and school-house sites in the several districts, and for all other purposes specifically and in detail by items." Mr. Smith has shown by his statement that he is still to deceive the people.

John Brady.

Gatesville, N. C.

DELIGHTED THAT SPEARS HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN.

The Republicans of Onslow Will Vote For Him to a Man, and Call Upon all Voters of the District to do the Same.

TAR LANDING, N. C., Oct. 29, '94.

EDITOR THE CAUCASIAN,

DEAR SIR:—The Republicans in this section are delighted that the Congressional and State Committees have decided to have Mr. Spears to withdraw from the race for Congress. We have feared all along that if he and Dr. Thompson both staid in the field that it would result in the election of Mr. Shaw, the Democratic nominee. Dr. Thompson is very popular with our people down here, we will vote for him to a man, Onslow will give him a big majority. The Republicans of this county call upon the Republicans of the district to help us to elect him and beat Shaw by 5000 majority

V.

PALMER FOR SOLICITOR.

Warren County Proud of her Candidates and Will Give Them a Large Majority.

WISE, N. C., Oct. 30.

Mr. Editor:—Every Reformer in this county will be proud to vote for Malvin H. Palmer for Solicitor. It gives especial pleasure to his home people to know that he has been nominated by the State Committee unanimously. He is a law pardner of Hon. Walter A Montgomery and the county of Warren feels proud to have them both on the Judicial ticket. He is a talented rising young lawyer and the State will honor him with a still higher position.

L. N.

A COWARDLY STAB IN THE BACK.

An Anonymous Circular Attacking the People's Party and its candidates Sent out by Some Sneak in the Interest of the Democratic Party.

SUNSBURY, N. C., Oct. 27.

Editor CAUCASIAN:—I am glad to see that you have denounced that infamous and cowardly circular which is being sent through the mails attacking the People's party, its leaders and its candidates. I received one of these circulars on last Thursday. It was postmarked at Raleigh, but nobodys name was signed to it. The cowardly scoundrel was where it did not have the manhood to let the people know who he was. It is a cowardly stab in the dark and in the back. It will do no harm in this section. Our people down here believe in a manly foe. We can respect a man who opposes us if he stands up and fights to our faces or if he signs his name to personal attacks and abuses. But we have nothing but contempt for a sneak or a coward. These are the kind of men that stab you in the back. If the Democratic machine is having this done it has certainly got very low and deserves the contempt of every decent man.

The people of North Carolina will bury on November the 6th a party that stoops to such methods of warfare. That circular is making votes for us in this section.

JEFFERSONIAN DEMOCRAT.

JUST WHAT THEY WANTED DONE.

The Republicans of Bladen Will Rally to The Support of Dr. Thompson. The Co-Operative Movement Will Sweep the County.

ELIZABETHTOWN, N. C., Oct. 30.

EDITOR CAUCASIAN.

We have just received copies of the address sent out by the Republican State Committee. We will vote for Thompson as they request. Dr. Thompson has made a fine impression while canvissing this county. The Republicans of this county are willing to vote for any good man who is in favor of breaking down the infamous election law as used by the Democratic machine. The State Committee has done just what we have been wanting them to do. We will elect our co-operative county ticket and give Thompson a large majority.

S.

DEMOCRATS DISAPPROVE OF IT.

That Cowardly Circular on "Fusion" is Denounced even by Members of the Democratic Party.

Mooresville, N. C., Oct. 26, '94.

EDITOR THE CAUCASIAN:

I have just received a circular through the mails headed "Fusion." It contains slanders and charges on the People's party and its leaders. I enclose you the copy. You will see that nobody's name is signed to it. I have shown it to several Democrats around here and they say they do not approve any such methods of attacking an opposite party. It will not hurt us any for our people believe in fair play. I believe it will help us if they continue to send them out. I hope the People's Party will never do anything like this.

A VOTER.

TAXES NOT LOWER BUT HIGHER.

The Auditor's reports are very interesting books. We have two of them, one for 1878 and one for 1883. The party in power seems to think if there is any one thing they can blow and boast and crow over, it is the fact that they have lowered taxes. Well, have they? There are about as many acres of land in the state now as there was a hundred years ago—not many more nor many less. We find the figures in these two reports representing the tax value of the lands, not including town lots, are as follows:

1878	$74,221,398
1893	114,328,255
An increase of	$40,106,857

This is an increase of more than 54 per cent.

Then coming to the total amount of taxes paid on lands we find the figures as follows:

1878	$250,313.57
1893	285,820.63
An increase of	$35,507,06

Thus showing an increase of the tax on land from 1878 to 1893 or with a small fraction of 15 per cent. In 1878 your land was worth on the market three times what it would bring today. Still your taxes are increased. In 1878 it took but 4,267 bales of cotton to pay your land tax. In 1893 it took 7,622 bales of 500 pounds each to pay them, while this year with cotton at 5½ cents it will take more than 10,000 of cotton to pay your land tax. Valuing your land this year for taxes in the same proportion that it was valued in 1878, and paying the tax with labor as the farmer has to do, you can see at a glance that your burden is almost ten-fold heavier than it was fifteen years ago. Still you are told by those in office drawing big salaries, and desiring to remain in office and keep their salaries big, that your taxes are lighter than they have ever been. How much longer are you going to endure it?—Progressive Farmer.

THEN AND NOW.

One of the candidates for a prominent office in this county, only a few years ago whilest in an unterrified state, was constantly exclaiming "I am a white man and belong to the white man's party: I don't want any "nigger" to vote for me. A "nigger" is no better than a monkey. And the Radicals committed a crime when they gave him the right of suffrage." Now he is terrified and exclaims: "Come to my arms my colored brother, your interest and mine are the same, I am your true friend. We are in the same boat. Let us pull together. Save me my colored brother or I perish!"—Progressive Age, (Beaufort County).

THE PEOPLE'S WRONGS

Judge Lyman Trumbull's Eloquent Address.

A REBUKE OF THE OLD PARTIES.

Both Are Creatures of the Moneyed Corporations—Laws That Oppress the Poor, Radical Changes Needed if the Nation is to Exist—Stirring Appeal by the Venerable Patriot.

The following is the full speech of the venerable Judge Lyman Trumbull at the recent meeting in Chicago:

In addressing you I do not do so with the expectation of being able to propose a plan for securing to capital and labor the just rewards of each and to employers and employees the adjustment of disputes that will be satisfactory to both, but rather with the hope of making some suggestions that may tend to avert the conflict between the rights of man and the rights of property which now threatens the peace of the country.

Most of the years of my manhood have been devoted to the public service, with what success or failure it is for my countrymen to judge. The record is made up, and now near the close of life, with no ambitions to gratify and no purpose to serve other than my country's good, I come before you briefly to discuss the great problem of the age, how to secure to labor its just reward and restore to the masses the right to live and advance.

In this land of plenty, the fairest of earth, with a soil and climate adapted to supply the wants of man, under a free and enlightened government, where every man is supposed to be the architect of his own fortune and entitled to an equal start in the world, why is it that a feeling of dis-

JUDGE LYMAN TRUMBULL.

satisfaction and distrust prevails among the masses of our people? Is it not because they do not justly share, or think they do not justly share, in the division of what their hands have earned? This feeling is extensive and reaches among all classes of laboring people. Suffering as they think they do a common wrong, it is natural that they should become bound together by common sympathy; hence the formation of labor unions. We saw it manifested in the recent strike, where in sympathy with one class of laborers who thought themselves oppressed, and who struck for better conditions, other classes in no way connected with them struck also.

Various schemes have been suggested to reconcile this controversy between employers and employees, such as arbitration and the control by the government of the great corporations of a public character. I do not intend to discuss these schemes or attempt to point out their inadequacy to cure existing troubles. They are subject to many objections and at best do not go to the root of the evil or the cause of the trouble which many think make arbitration or governmental control necessary. To remove the cause of discontent and suffering among the laboring masses and bring them into harmonious relations with their employers is the great object to be attained. How can this be done? We must first ascertain the cause of the trouble before attempting to remove it.

What is the underlying cause of the discontent of the laboring classes? Is it not the poverty and want they suffer by reason of the inadequacy of the pay they receive for the labor given? They see around them, in the possession of favored corporations and the pampered few, all the magnificence and luxury which accumulated wealth can bestow, while they toil and even suffer for the means, the God given right, to live. Is it any wonder that discontent prevails among the masses, and that they act in concert in the effort to improve their condition when such a state of things exists? The happiness of a people is the happiness of the individuals who compose the mass. Laws which open the door to large fortunes by devise, by inheritance or by speculation have no tendency to promote the happiness of the people at large and often not even the happiness of those for whose benefit they are made.

Why is it that the wealth of the country, ample for the comfort and happiness of all, is rapidly accumulating in the hands of a few? It is perhaps partly due to modern inventions which have taken the place of manual labor and enabled one man, by means of capital and machinery, to do the work of many, thus leaving the country filled with laborers, but unable to find employment, and giving to capitalists who are able to purchase machinery the opportunity from the surplus of laborers to employ them at their own prices.

Rights of Man Are Superior.

But it is chiefly the laws of property which have enabled the few to accumulate vast wealth while the masses live in poverty. For many generations our laws have been framed with a view to the claims of property rather than the rights of man. For ages the money power has controlled legislation the world over, and, I am sorry to say, has exercised a controlling influence in our own land for many years. In the language of the Declaration of Independence, "All men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." If man has an inalienable right to life, then he has a right to the means which sustain life and of which he cannot be justly deprived by laws which permit one man or set of men to so absorb the means of life as not to leave sufficient to sustain the lives of all. If man has an inalienable right to liberty, then he cannot be justly deprived of liberty by another who assumes the right at his mere discretion to abridge it. If man has an inalienable right to the pursuit of happiness, then he cannot be justly deprived of that right by laws interposed in the way of its pursuit.

Do such laws exist? And, if so, how came they into existence?

In Great Britain, whence we have derived most of our law of property, the policy is to build up great estates. Hence by the laws of that country land descends to the eldest son, to the exclusion of the other children. The effect of this is to limit the ownership of land to a few persons. Thirty-four persons in that country own 6,211,000 acres of land. The Duke of Sutherland is said to own 1,358,000 acres, and a few other dukes and earls own a great proportion of the land of the United Kingdom. What has brought about this wide difference in the ownership of land? Certainly the few who own the millions of acres, from which they derive revenue in some instances of more than $500,000 annually in rentals, have not earned these vast estates by their own industry; but, on

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