

## EDUCATION, COÖPERATION, LEGISLATION

(1) Education to Develop Power, (2) Coöperation to Multiply It, and (3) Legislation and Good Government to Promote Equal Rights and Human Progress—Plain Talk About Men, Measures and Movements Involved  
By CLARENCE POE

### The Workers Will Inherit the Earth

ON THIS Education, Coöperation, Legislation Page this time I am going to present chiefly not my own views, but the views of other people. Every week I read scores and perhaps hundreds of papers from all parts of the South, and I now find on my desk such a wealth of unused material in the form of clippings that I must pass some of it on.

Two of our exchanges are much perturbed because in their sections while the white people are as busy as bees on the farms, and even the women helping in the rush, the Negroes are going to baseball games and listening to the trial of cases at court. But that doesn't disturb us one-tenth as much as would a reversal of these relations. Vagrancy among Negroes is not one thousandth part as dangerous to the white race as vagrancy among our own people, and heretofore we have had too much idleness among people of our own race. The folks who work are the folks who will inherit the earth. The saying of Dr. Edward A. Steiner's cannot be too often emphasized:

"So long as men are ashamed to do nothing, and not ashamed to do anything which needs to be done, so long as the worker is honored and the shirker dishonored, a nation is young and need not be afraid of death. There is no truer sign of our growing old, suddenly old, than when men regard carrying pick-axe and shovel as degrading, and carrying golf-club and tennis-racket as ennobling. . . . The future belongs to the workers, the purposeful men, the purposeful women."

### White Settlers Needed but Not Japanese

DOWN in Louisiana the papers have been vigorously discussing a proposition to bring a colony of Japanese to that state, resulting in a general demand that the Legislature follow California's example and prohibit the sale of land to Japanese. As the Gulf States Farmer says:

"Louisiana has had one race problem to fight and to solve, and should make every effort to avoid a second one. The Japanese in many instances, and particularly those who are employed as farm laborers, are scarcely civilized. They subsist on a few cents a day and work almost twenty-four hours, thus coming in contact with American labor and working a hardship upon the less fortunate classes who reside in our rural districts. It is pleasing to note that all the large land companies now operating in Louisiana are opposed to such immigration, and have signified their intention of using every effort to forestall the establishment of such a colony."

The South needs immigrants who will raise our average standard of living. We do not need a single immigrant who will depress it. Good white settlers would raise the standard, but we need no Mongolians.

### Study This Rural Credits Law

NUMBERS of states are also making attempts to give some relief in the matter of rural credits. In the Missouri Farmer Hon. Frederick D. Gardner, the author of the measure, describes "the Missouri State Land Bank bill passed by the last Legislature, which provides for a moderate system of state aid." The bill, he says, takes cognizance of the drift to the towns, the general dissatisfaction with rural conditions, etc., and assumes therefore that—

"The state is justified in organizing a corporation known as the Missouri State Land Bank; and in order to start this corporation, the state is justified in making a temporary loan of one million dollars as capital stock, the first \$500,000 to be loaned at a fixed rate of 4.3 per cent; to this 4.3 per cent is added one-half of 1 per cent to provide for a sinking fund and to care for all expenses; and there should be practically no expense, as all the machinery and all work is done by state officials now in the state's employ without further compensation. To this we add 1.7 per cent on account of principal and we have a total of 65 per cent per annum which will retire the loan in full in 25 years. (No commission.)"

"Now after having loaned \$500,000 of the original million dollars capital, retaining always \$500,000 cash on hand, the bank issues debenture bonds for \$500,000 against the \$500,000 loans previously made. These bonds are sold wherever money is cheap in any market in the world; and at whatever price is realized

for the bonds the money is to be loaned to the farmers at that same rate, plus always one-half of 1 per cent sinking fund, and enough added to the principal to make the loan amortize or retire itself within the number of years desired by the farmer, the maximum being 25 years."

The bill containing the foregoing provisions passed the Missouri Legislature, but we understand that it cannot be put into operation until a constitutional amendment authorizing it is approved by the people at the next election. We also find upon reading the bill that it provides for loans from \$250 to \$10,000, preference being given loans under \$5,000; loans not to exceed half the appraised value of real estate and to be made only "(a) to increase the production of the land mortgaged; (b) to make useful improvements thereon; (c) to pay off liens and encumbrances, or to make part payment of purchase price where the borrower is paying part of the purchase money; (d) 25 per cent of the amount lent may be used for the purchase of stock and machinery."

### Tackling the Marketing Problem

EVERYWHERE the marketing problem is getting increased attention. In the Florida Legislature, as the Pensacola Times reminds us, a bill that will probably pass provides for a state marketing commission:

"The measure was recommended by Governor Trammell in his message to the Legislature and the bill will be approved by him if passed. No one thing is needed more than a better marketing system. The farmer's problem is not ended when he creates his product. As a matter of fact, it is more important to sell the article for what it is worth than it is to produce it."

The Times then goes on to tell us:

"In the Roberts-Gonzales community of this county the farmers are working out the marketing problem for themselves. They have decided to deal directly with the consumers of Pensacola by pooling their products and offering them for sale at a community market to be established at a central point in the city. As they will deliver their products fresh every day this arrangement should be satisfactory and profitable both to consumers and producers."

### Punishing Guilty White Men

A DISPATCH from Little Rock, Ark., tells of three white men sentenced to life imprisonment for the robbery and murder of a Negro, a new thing, it is said, in the history of the state. We are glad to see it. The Progressive Farmer believes in giving white neighborhoods a chance to limit future land sales to white people because we believe this is simple justice for the white man, and his wife and children. White men with their families do not butt into Negro communities, and Negroes should be prevented from similarly coming into white communities where they are not wanted. But we believe in being just to the Negro and protecting him in the just exercise of all his rights.

In this connection, too, we notice with some pleasure this statement in the Norfolk Journal and Guide:

"The courts of Tennessee have decided that a white man's Negro common law wife is entitled to his estate, and accordingly awarded a Negro woman and her children \$80,000 left by their white common law husband and father. A short while ago a Negro man in Granville County, N. C., sued a white man for alienating the affections of his wife and the jury gave the Negro a verdict for \$8,000."

This may not be just the right plan for dealing with a shameful situation, but some remedy for it must be found. By all means, if we can't have any more severe punishment for immoral white men, traitors to their race and blood, let them be made to suffer in pocket. We should like to see the last one of the guilty ones in future fined, imprisoned and disfranchised.

### The Land Question a Live Issue

EVERYWHERE in the South the land question, especially the question of absentee landlordism, is coming to the front as one of the big issues confronting the people. In Texas recently a majority of the members of the Legisla-

ture supported a proposed constitutional amendment providing for a graduated land tax—that is to say, to tax say the first 500 acres owned by any one man at the usual rate of taxation, the next 500 acres he owns at a higher rate, and the next 1,000 at a yet higher rate, and so on. A somewhat similar measure has recently been urged by the state administration in West Virginia, the West Virginia bill being aimed especially at undeveloped lands. As the Parkersburg Sentinel says:

"This bill should have the undivided support of all factions, not only because it will produce a large amount of revenue from interests entitled to pay it, but because it is just in principle. Vast acreages of coal and timber are held in this state, principally by outside interests, either for speculative purposes or in reserve for future needs, in each case retarding the normal development of the regions wherein the holdings are located. This constitutes a special privilege which should be compensated for by special taxation. Then usually this class of property is assessed at only a fraction of its real value, and is not only a detriment to the welfare of the state, but escapes its share of the tax burden."

The deplorable and shameful fact as the Sentinel declares, is that at the present time large estates and estates held out of use, so far from being taxed at a higher rate, are really assessed at a lower rate than the small holdings of industrious and struggling good citizens. As the Marshall Home says:

"More money has been made without work by land speculators than by all other speculative classes combined. And yet our method of assessing taxes lets the land speculator off lighter than anybody else. If you mention this criminal discrimination in favor of the speculative land parasites to the local assessors you are met with the response, 'Oh well, this land is idle, and isn't producing any income for its owner.' There is plenty of land within the corporate limits of Marshall that was bought for less than \$10 per acre, and it is held now as town lots at \$800 to \$1,000 an acre, and some of it is sold as business lots at the rate of \$5,000 an acre. And yet it is contended that it is wrong to assess it high, as it is 'non-productive!'"

Why isn't it productive? Simply because the owner puts a prohibitive price on it, meanwhile holding up the community and keeping out homeowners in order that he may get the benefit of the community's growth and development without even paying his share of the tax burden.

### What Man Will Serve the State Best?

FREQUENTLY the cry is heard in politics that a "business man" is needed for this office or that—Mr. Bruce Craven contributes a good point to this discussion by saying:

"The kind of business we need in public affairs is competence, economy and honesty. It is not a matter of occupation, but of attitude and character. Some of the best business men in the state today are preachers, teachers and doctors, and some of the worst have charge of the commercial enterprises that distinguish themselves only in the bankruptcy proceedings."

It's a bad sign in politics when support is asked for this or that man simply because of his occupation, or because he can make a pleasing speech, or because he is a member of this or that faction in the party. The real test is, **Which man will best serve the people's interest?** And here the tests are character, ability, and political principles. Unless a man (1) stands for something, dedicating himself heart and soul to some policy for the upbuilding of the state or county, and (2) has both character and ability to carry out his principles—unless he has these two qualifications the people will gain little by voting for him, no matter what his occupation, eloquence or factional alignment. Mississippi and South Carolina especially among Southern states seem to have been cursed with primaries without issues, and the Laurel, Miss., Leader does well to say:

"The real issue in the coming state campaign seems to be the offices. All else but place seems to have been entirely overlooked. It is unfortunate that in Mississippi we cannot have a pre-primary convention to proclaim a platform of principles on which the candidates can go before the people and ask for their votes, instead of denouncing the other fellow with vulgar phrases and oftentimes making false and slanderous charges."

The right to think, to know, and to utter is the dearest of all liberties. Without this right, there can be no liberty to any people; with it there can be no slavery.—Wendell Phillips.