

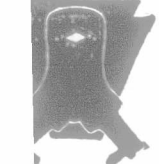
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trial currents and carried into the whirl-
pool of industrialism in our great centers
they do so in obedience to the great law
of supply and demand, and any attempt
to check or increase it will do more
harm than good.

So I would advise that this favorite
topic of keeping the boys and girls on
the farm be wiped off the agricultural
slate and its place taken by, "Keep the
wealth and produce on the farm."

CONCENTRATION OF WEALTH.

Richard Shiel, an Irish patriot, in
replying to some unfavorable comments
by Lord Lyndhurst on the conduct of
the Irish auxiliaries at Waterloo, has
given us one of the most eloquent
addresses our literature affords.
Among other things he says in depict-
ing the critical stage in the battle, "Tell
me, for you must needs remember,
when the destinies of mankind were
trembling in the balance." This state-
ment was quite effective in the connec-
tion in which Shiel used it. But let me
tell you ladies and gentlemen, that the
destinies of mankind never tremble in
the balance on the battlefield. The
destinies of governments may, but the
destinies of mankind, never. The great
struggle that decides the destinies of
mankind is fought not on the battlefield,
but on the economic field in the great
struggle against economic inequality.

Would the defeat of Wellington at
Waterloo have destined the British lion
to become that miserable creature we
see skulking about the narrow lanes and
alleys of Whitechapel?

Did the defeat of the Romans at
Tasminius and other great battles
destine that noble type of mankind
that we see in a Cincinnatus or Regulus
to become the miserable modern Italian
we see prowling among the ruins of
antiquity looking for a bite to eat?

Was it the fortunes of war that trans-
formed the men who filled the cohorts
of a Rameses or a Pharaoh into those
Egyptian Fallahs we see sitting lazily
around the base of the pyramids or
gazing listlessly into the face of the
Sphinx? Or was it the fortunes of war,
I ask you, that transformed those heroes
whom Leonidas led at Thermopylae
into the miserable, thieving, gambling
Greeks of modern days?

Now, ladies and gentlemen, if you
look back over the pages of history you
will see one prominent feature in the
life of the great nations of the past tell-
ing plainly the story of their degrada-
tion and downfall.

The downfall of Persia, Babylon,
Egypt, Greece and Rome were preceded
by a period of great concentration of
wealth in the hands of a few and the
impoverishment and degradation of the
masses. When the destinies of these
great nations were trembling in the
balance it is not flying banners, dashing
horsemen and deploying legions that
we see, but the sickening sight of the
demon of greed gnawing away at the
noblest virtues of mankind, and the
demon of want sapping the strength
out of heart cords that never quivered
in the shock of battle. This was the
condition. This, Sir, was the great
struggle that transformed the patriot
hero into the cowardly anarchist, and
the happy prosperous freeman into the
sullen degraded serf.

I have already said, Sir, that the down-
fall of these nations was preceded by a
period of great concentration of wealth
in the hands of a few. Persia went
down when one per cent. of her popula-
tion owned all her land. Babylon went
down when two per cent. of her popula-
tion owned all her wealth. Egypt
went down when two per cent. of her
population owned ninety-seven per cent.
of all her wealth. Rome perished when
1,800 men substantially owned all the
wealth of the Roman world. These are
portentous figures when we consider
them in the light of what is taking place
in our own day.

I have not had access to statistics to
show what is taking place in our own
country; but as conditions here are
similar to those in the great republic to
the south of us, the same argument will
apply.

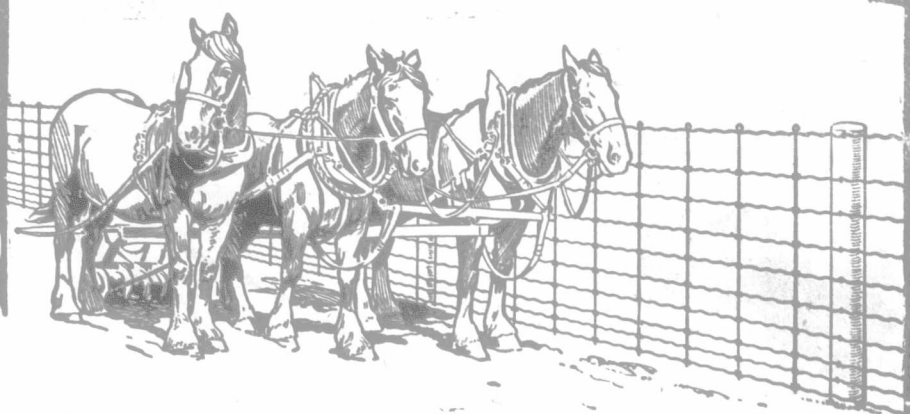
Fifty years ago the wealthy class in
the United States owned only one per
cent. of the wealth of the nation. Six-
teen years ago this class owned fifty-six
per cent. of the national wealth.
Today a bare one per cent. of the popu-
lation of the states controls ninety-
nine per cent. of the entire national

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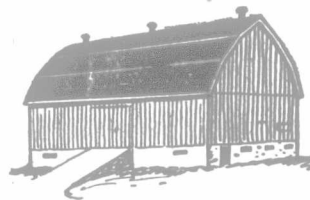
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