







# THE LABOR ADVOCATE

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TORONTO, CANADA, JULY 31, 1901.

## THE LYING ASSOCIATED PRESS.

Readers of the daily press should be on their guard against the infernal lies which are being circulated through every possible channel against the Farmers' Alliance of the United States. Several very plausible statements, obviously intended to damage the alliance in the eyes of the public, have been given extensive currency by Canadian newspapers, whose conductors are either too ignorant to detect the evident animus of these falsehoods, or more probably too much in sympathy with capitalism to wish to print the truth. The Washington correspondent of the *Journal of the Knights of Labor* sounds a needed note of warning to those who are ignorant of the machinations of the monopoly parties and explains the methods of the campaign of "lander now" pursued. The dissemination of the principal machine is the Associated Press. The real nature of this institution, and the secret of its construction and manipulation of the telegraphic despatches published in the press is not understood by the general public. The Associated Press is a combination formed by the five leading dailies of New York, the *Herald*, *World*, *Tribune*, *Times* and *Sun*, for the purpose of procuring news. As first it was purely local in its scope, but was found to be such a saving of expense that the system was extended to other cities and towns. It finally embraced the whole country. Other papers wanting the news purchased the privilege of obtaining the despatches from the Associated Press which thus gradually grew to be an immense monopoly for the collection and selling of news by telegraph. The papers that own it are all identified with its money power and interested in maintaining every sort of capitalistic abuse, and through this machine wield an immense power. In addition to their own circulation they command the columns of nearly every important daily in the United States and Canada. Their agents are instructed to color everything to suit the views of the monopolists and to circulate anything which will injure any movement on the part of the people against the old capitalist parties. Nearly all the news respecting labor troubles which comes to us over the wires is a tissue of the most villainous falsehoods and misrepresentations. No dependence whatever can be placed on the Associated Press despatches in any matter in which the interests of capitalism are involved. Since the agitation among the American farmers which has resulted in the formation of the Alliance and which menaces more seriously the supremacy of the money power in politics and any previous movement of the kind, the paid lies of the Associated Press have been specially active in spreading falsehoods regarding it. They have as far as possible concealed or minimized

the victories won in State and local elections by the Alliance vote, and every day sees some fresh slander concerning the movement of its leaders dished over the wires. The Alliance has been repeatedly "broken up" in various states, and its creditable rumors respecting its leading men set afloat.

No doubt the Canadian newspapers which publish these false statements are actuated by the same sentiments as the Associated Press. The large daily newspapers are the same everywhere, the latter malignant enemies of anything which tells against the interests of the privileged class. The Labor Reformers who know how shamefully these hindings misrepresent local affairs when it suits their purpose, ought not to put the slightest faith in stories to the discredit of the Alliance and similar bodies telegraphed from a distance: in nine cases out of ten they are lies made out of whole cloth.

## THE CANT OF PATRIOTISM.

The Socialists of Germany are splitting into two factions. The older party still believes in the "patriotic" delusion and express themselves as being ready to fight for a government which regards the Spanish-like devotion of the masses with a bare existence and a pauper's grave after a lifetime of toil. The younger revolutionary element sees that patriotism and loyalty are misleading cries which have enabled the upper classes to keep the toilers in bondage by fomenting national jealousies. They hold that the true Socialist is a citizen of the world and that it is both foolish and inconsistent to care more for one country than another. The anti-patriotic party has recently shown the strength of its position in Berlin, where Babel, one of the patriots, was hoisted down at a Socialist meeting. Old superstitions die hard, but it is difficult to understand how men, whose eyes are opened to the injustice and villainy of existing social arrangements, should be willing to so much as lift a little finger in the quarrel of one set of brutal oppressors and tax-payers, calling itself government, against another simply because one gang of plunderers happens to have done the ruling and robbing in the country of their birth.

Does the patriotic wage-slave ever stop and think long enough to ask himself this question. Suppose the very worst were to happen and his country as he proudly calls it—though the poor devil may not own so much of it as a lot in the country—were conquered and overrun by a foreign foe how much worse off would he and his blood be than they are at present? He has nothing to lose but his life, and in these days of civilized warfare, conquerors do not massacre or enslave the vanquished. What does it matter to him what flag flies from the Parliament Buildings or the City Hall, so long as under any government which the flag represents, the owner of land and capital may sweat the workers for their profit?

Don't be a fool and rant and bluster about how you would like to kill invading Yankees or Russians who have never done you any harm, at the bidding of the people who own everything, and consequently can buy your labor for their own price. Leave the capitalists to do their own fighting and expose their own precious carcasses to the bullets instead of staying at home and working you, and idiots like you, up to the lighting point by flag waving and drum-beating and Dominionist stumpery. The worst enemies of the laborer everywhere are the capitalists and upholders of capitalism at home. His best friend ought to be the toilers of other countries who suffer from the same evils, and ought to be united in bonds of brotherhood which know no dividing line of country, race or creed with the workers of other lands. The cant of patriotism is a device of the comfortable classes to keep these natural friends and allies apart, and to distract their attention from the questions which really concern them by filling their minds with false ideas of honor and glory and Jingo prejudices. Ignorant workmen like other ignorant people will be deluded by it

for some time, but the most intelligent and progressive social reformers will have none of it.

## PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF RAILROADS

Public opinion in the United States in favor of the national ownership of the railways is becoming more and more pronounced, if we may judge from the number of able writers who are advocating that measure in the leading magazines. The *Arise*, for August, has an admirable paper, by Mr. C. Wood Davis, advocating the taking over of the lines, and setting forth the great public advantages that would result. The strongest point in favor of government railway management, considered from an economic standpoint, is the enormous saving it would effect in the waste and loss now occasioned by working under the competitive system.

As Mr. Davis points out, under national ownership traffic would naturally take the shortest route, and not, as is frequently the case at present, be sent by a roundabout channel, because low rates are offered for the purpose of diverting traffic. He estimates that the aggregate saving from this cause would be some \$25,000,000 per year. A great reduction in the staff of officials would be necessary by competition would result, and the need of keeping up separate depots, yards, freight and ticket offices would no longer exist. The expensive corporation lawyers employed by each road to look after their special interests would find their occupation gone. According to the writer's estimate the legal expense of railroad companies amount in the aggregate to some \$14,000,000, or about two per cent of the entire cost of operating the roads. Free passes to politicians, judges, officials, editors and others, who are now bribed to use their influence in favor of monopoly by being allowed to travel free at the expense of the public, would be abolished, effecting another great saving. The large commissions paid brokers and others who can influence freight traffic cost the people over twenty or twenty-five millions annually, and this leak can only be effectually closed by government ownership. A like figure is paid for keeping up general offices, with presidents, treasurers, secretaries and other officials who are absolutely useless so far as securing the practical working efficiency of the road is concerned, their part of the business merely being to maintain its position as an instrument of speculation. The maintenance of a horde of gamblers on the stock exchange, who live by betting on the rise and fall of railroad securities, is another heavy item.

Taking all these and other sources of needless waste and expense involved by the competitive system, the writer estimates that the American people would save \$160,000,000 per year on the cheapening and simplification of administration alone if the railroads were managed by the government.

But this is not all. The railroad user, in addition to paying for these unnecessary and extravagant outlays, also pays dividends on imaginary capital in the form of watered stock. Mr. Davis shows that, allowing an outside figure at the actual value of existing lines, they could be purchased by the nation, operated as efficiently as at present—interest on the cost paid and a sinking fund of \$50,000,000 per annum to cancel the debt provided—all at the cost of \$150,000,000 less than the present receipts of the railroads. Added to the amount which could be saved in operating expenses by substituting national administration for competitive, this would make an annual aggregate saving of \$310,000,000 in the cost of railroad management.

The argument is just as applicable to Canada as to the United States, and proves in the most practical way the folly of maintaining such a wasteful and costly system as private control of railroads, prove that a few men may become enormously wealthy.

It would not be continued for any length of time if it did not buy up politicians, judges, and other public or private

## THE STREET RAILWAY JOB

Recent developments in the judicial investigation into the City Council's action in selling the street railway franchise (and thence to the Kelly-Everett syndicate leave no room for doubt that bribery on an extensive scale has been practiced. On Tuesday Mr. A. J. Parker, a member of the Miller Bros. syndicate was examined, and stated that Ald. Hall, in speaking with him about the prospect that the Kelly-Everett syndicate would get the franchise, and the feeling of the Aldermen in favor of that tender, said to him "If you have \$50,000 to spend in this matter it might alter their opinion." On Parker asking Hall if he would handle the money he replied that he might do so. On being asked if it could not be done for less, Ald. Hall said "no," and added emphatically, that "it must be cash."

Does not this disclosure show emphatically that this man Hall was not only ready to sell his vote, but willing to incur even the yet lower degradation of angling for a bribe, and dicker between the different applicants for the franchise to find out where he could make his market to the best advantage?

But a yet more damning piece of evidence is the sudden stoppage of the investigation and the publication of Ex-Ald. E. A. Macdonald's remarkable letter to his solicitor, instructing him to discontinue the case, in which he states that as an inducement to do so he has received "consideration" sufficient to reimburse him not only for the cost in the case but for his outlay in several other actions of a public character. He says he made no promise of secrecy and simply agreed to drop the investigation.

Now the question which naturally suggests itself is, if there was no hoodlum in the sale of the street railway why should anybody think it well worth while to pay Ernest Albert Macdonald a considerable sum to hush the matter up? Who is afraid of the disclosures which would have resulted from a continuance of the enquiry?

If the open admission of Ex-Ald. Macdonald that he was paid money to call off his dogs and attend to his own business, does not open the eyes of the public to the fact that there has been rank corruption in the Kelly-Everett deal, and result in the postponement of all action in the matter of completing the sale until a full enquiry has been made—can we say it that the citizens of Toronto are a set of fools and cravens who deserve nothing better than to be swindled and humbugged by a Council of rascals to the end of the chapter.

DR. HENRY B. EVANS, of Picton, Ont., writes to the *Empire* "suggesting the formation of a body of loyal, patriotic and devoted men in an organization which he would call the 'Macedonian Guards.'" The object of the proposed order is of course to be the worship of the late Premier and resistance to Grifith and annexation. Pray, what is the matter with the Tory party, the Orange L-jigs, the Sons of England and the Imperial Federation League? It might have been imagined that with all these organizations vigorously doing themselves to propagating a spirit of true loyalty and denouncing traitors and annexationists the country was safe. Probably the real inspiration of the movement, if such it can be called, lies in the fact that quite a number of persons who belong to one or more of the aforesaid organizations have not succeeded in obtaining office or any fair chance at the public treasury. A new organization might give them a show. Whenever you find a fellow talking loyalty you may be sure that he is after loole.

JAMES STREET Baptist church, of this city, has set a praiseworthy example to the religious world, as well as to many tax-dodgers who make no pretence of religion, by voluntarily requesting the exemption law accorded by law to ecclesiastical bodies, and requesting to be assessed for the value of the property of the church. This was fixed at \$75,000, and the tax which the church will have to pay amounts to \$1,117. The Baptist Church has always taken strong ground against any shadow of taxation between Church and State, and consequently opposed in principle all exactions. By this practical and consistent act of giving up the unusual advantage which the existing system allows them they have made the most effective protest against the continuance of the abuse. If all or the majority of Churches were equally public-spirited and self-sacrificing in carrying out what they know to be right, religion would be much more respected among the masses than it is to-day.

REV. MRS. J. SAVOY, of Boston, contributes a paper to the August number of the *Arise* on "The Tyranny of Nationalism," in which he sets forth the stock arguments of the people who are very well satisfied with things as they are, because they are fairly well off against the reorganization of society on a basis of justice. He re-echoes, of course, the cry of "materialism," and says that Nationalism would be "the tyranny of the commonplace"—as though any set of men who might come to the front could possibly be more commonplace, vulgar and unintelligent in all other directions save that of materialism, than the set that is now on the surface under competition. Mr. Savoy is the type of a large class of thinkers, who fancy themselves liberal and progressive because they have thrown off belief in a personal deity and reduced God to a vague and shadowy abstraction, though in all other directions they are as narrow and hidebound as the most conventional religionist.

MR. CLARKE WALLACE's Combine Bill passed to-day, and is now on its way to the Senate. The measure strikes out the word "shall" which has been present in its statute of effect. Last year the bill passed the Commons, but was killed in the Senate. It is feared that the bill in the Senate will be defeated. This will destroy the respect that is entertained for it.

Ha! ha! ha! This is really too funny for anything. The idea of seven men, who are all crawling like toad-worshippers extolling anything remotely resembling a feeling of respect for these pompous, numbing old judges!

THESE DAY PROBLEMS.  
Editor Labor Advocate.  
THREE popular questions now exciting the public mind, were the text for letters from the many readers of the Advocate in your issue of July 31st. First, "A Doubting Protestant," speaking of the socialist's attitude toward the Labor Memorial to the Churches, plainly shows that no sympathy exists, or consolation need be sought for in that quarter by the workers. He has to have the professing shepherds of the larger number of "S. Churches" closing their folds against the workers, and making a mockery of the possession of religion in their journey of life. Are not those ministers acting in direct opposition to their teachings by thus closing their eyes to the most potent opponents of the community? Quite opposite to Christ. Well might "A Doubting Protestant" hesitate when reading Bishop McQuaid's words, "There was a new order of things in existence, Kings and Princes had little to say, but the people had great power, and the destiny of the future was in their hands. There was a day of peril coming, when the masses would rebel. Readers of the *Arise* will study well those words and help the cause.

In a second letter on "Single Tax or Nationalism" the author of the present issue of the "L. A." on general labor questions, but dislikes nationalism or socialism, and says "Nationalism proposes to substitute for the present system [a] national or socialistic government. This is not to be a form of despotism, but as far as it is concerned, a Nationalism, and stagnation and decay would follow." Like myself, the writer is seeking for more light on both Single Tax and Nationalism. It is to be noted that Nationalism substitutes a paternal social government it would produce and result in stagnation and decay. Surely if the masses were all social together, forming one nation, or members of one universal family, where would be the opening for despotism to enter? True, that could struggle which now makes so many lives not worth the living, competition, would cease, there would be no competition for a few to several members of the whole family would all work harmoniously together as far as it is concerned, a National Socialistic Government is to constitute a new order of things in our society, and all members of each nation into one universal family, being subject to an elective monarch, a nation, or a smaller or larger family living in unity under it.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

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