Portland Iowa May 1 97

Mr Tourgee

Dear sir

I have been interested in the perusal of your articles on industrial topics but so far as I have seen you have only stated the conditions as they exist and ~~the~~ given the reasons why they are so but have practicaly admitted that you could suggest no remedy. Now I believe there are remedies at hand if we will apply them and the reason why you are unable to discover any is because you are too strongly intrenched in the idea of personal liberty and individual rights. If you insist that one man has a right to own all the earth if he is cunning enough to get it then it seems probable that it will not be long before a few individuals and a few sindicates do own it

But when you are ready to say to these fellows, Hold! You cant have everything other folks must live! then you will see the way

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open for the remedies you seek, But you may say What harm is a man acquiring millions? he doesn't hinder you from making money Let us see what relation the money maker has to other people, A few merchants engage in business in a town one of them becomes wealthy the others do not prosper how is it brought about Perhaps the successful one had the largest trade in that case his gain was at the expense of the others merchants perhaps he had the ability to make better bargains in the purchase of his goods here then his gain was through lessening the profits of those from whom he purchased. perhaps he saved something by economy, cheaper living, then he consumes less of the products of other people labor and his saving is the world's loss just the same So it is. a man to gain wealth must play a game against the world if he wins the World loses, Hence it follows that the more the wealth of the country becomes concentrated in a few hands the harder becomes the condition of the masses The struggle now going on the industrial World is in accordance

with the Darwinian theory of the "survival of the fittest." The strong and the cunning are crowding the weak to the wall

What needs to be done is to check that insatiable greed for more which is characteristic of Americans It can easily be done and by methods out-lined by W J Bryan mainly by the income tax This tax if carried far enough could be made to prevent an effectual check to avarice and confer a blessing on the Americans themselves Commence the tax with small rates say 5%. sufficient to furnish necessaries for a family let the tax be slight at first but gradual increased until beyond a certain amount - investments would bring no increase This would not drive capital out of the country for the obvious reason that American investments could not be disposed of until other capital was found to take its place

Neither do we need Millionaires to furnish Capital to employ labor. Industries would go on by the better method of Co operation

Then the opportunities for acquiring vast wealth being gone the passion which urges men to add millions to millions would change to the object of person comfort, education, improvement and charity tending to a higher civilization. The fund derived from the tax should be used for support of government and for the fostering of industries such as will aid the poor to become self-supporting.

Free coinage of silver too at legal ratio should be adopted although it is to be regretted there is a certain element of repudiation in it when we consider recent contracts yet the conditions of affairs makes it realy a necessity the debtor classes are sinking deeper and deeper it seems their only hope. My sympathies are with them rather than with the more favored class the creditors. They at least were aware when they made their notes payable in currency instead of gold that they were assuming any risk of government action affecting currency

C K S

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