



## DEAD MEN'S RULE LAW IN RELATION TO CRIME AND TO PROPERTY.

Extracts from the "Theory of Human Progression"—Legislation by Capitalists—Law Cannot Make a Crime, Nor Land Property.

One striking fact is apparent in considering the past history of laws with regard to crime and property. The laws with regard to crimes have been considered alterable; the laws with regard to property have been considered unalterable.

One generation of legislators and rulers made an action a legal crime; but the next generation did not, on that account, consider it self-bound forever so to esteem it. On the contrary every generation of legislators has considered itself at full liberty to alter, revise, amend, and abolish, such laws, according to its own judgment.

But with regard to the States' gift of lands it has been quite otherwise.

The deeds of past rulers have been supposed to extend to all future generations; and the doctrine now prevalent, that the lands, once alienated by the state's gift, could not be reassumed by the nation without a breach of equity—without, in fact, committing that crime abhorrent in the eyes of the aristocracy—"attacking the rights of property."

This discrepancy is at once explained, when we reflect that legislators have been for the most part landlords themselves, or those so immediately connected with their interests, that the government was, to all intents and purposes, a landlordocracy. But the question still occurs, and must occur again and again; "If the acts of past rulers were not morally permanent with regard to crime, how can they possibly be so with regard to property?"

We have now to show that crime and property are not distinct; in fact, that, so far as regards legislation, they are identical; and that the laws (or States grants, which are, in fact, nothing else than laws, although this fact is overlooked) regarding landed property are neither more nor less than laws regarding crime. Property is usually regarded as an object—as something essentially distinguished from action. Yet we shall undertake to show that action alone is concerned, and that all laws regarding property are merely laws regarding action. And if we succeed in doing this, we have unhinged the superstition that prevails on the subject of landed property.

The apparent hopelessness of effecting any radical change in the present system, and the fear of advocating ("wild") doctrines, have both exerted an influence in repressing investigation. This apathy, however, cannot long continue. Whatever may be the result the investigation cannot fail to be made. We now undertake to show that the gift of land by the State is nothing more than a law affecting action; and, consequently, is of the same character as a law relating to crime. And if so, it must follow the general course of the laws relating to crime; and if those laws are not morally permanent, neither is the State's gift of land morally permanent, but may be revised, amended, or abolished, exactly in the same manner as a law affecting crime. Neither the one nor the other is one atom more valid, or more binding on account of legislation. They are right now, or wrong now, wholly and solely according to their own merits. The law cannot make a crime, although the law may call an action by this name, and treat it as such; and the law cannot make a portion of land, property, although it may call it property.

Both crime and property are anterior to law, and superior to it; and it was not to make either the one or the other, but to prevent the one and protect the other, that legislative law was called into existence. Law is not the moral measure of right and wrong; but the rule of practice of the policeman, constable, jailer, judge, sheriff and hangman; and until law is absolutely perfect, there is a canon higher than the canon of law, and one more valid and staple—the canon of reason—to which law itself must be subject. A law against crime is a public declaration that certain acts must not be performed; and that he who performs them shall be visited with certain specified penalties. This is exactly the essence of the grant of landed property. This is essentially a law against action—a law declaring that to use a certain portion of land is a crime for the vast majority of the population.

And this being the case, the laws and arrangements of past rulers relating to property, are in no possible respect more binding than their laws and arrangements relating to crime—property being only a concise expression of a proposition that prohibits actions of a certain character. Drop the prohibition of the action, and the property has altogether disappeared. And consequently all past arrangements with regard to land are as open to be revised, amended, or abolished, as past arrangements with regard to actions called crimes; and, consequently, there is no such thing as the "rights of landed property" separated from the mere dictum of the law, which the nation has an undoubted right to alter or abolish whenever it shall see fit to do so.

Superstition, on this point, may endure for a few years longer; but no truth can be more certain than that God gave the land for the benefit of all; and if any arrangement interfere with or diminish that benefit, then has man an undoubted right to alter or abolish that arrangement, exactly as he alters his arrangements in agriculture, in medicine, in mechanics, or in navigation. No more crime, and no more wrong, attaches to his alteration in the one case than in the other.

### HOLYOKE LETTER.

The "Capitalistic Idea" Getting Scared—Leading to Socialism.

HOLYOKE, Mass., Feb. 16.—The capitalistic idea of this place is having bad dreams, and is lying awake o' nights. The magnificent exhibition of power in New York made by a handful of New Jersey coal shovellers is too much for it, and the cold shivers is running down its gelatinous spine; it is beginning to prate of profit-sharing and co-operation as means to pacify the workers.

The capitalistic idea is extremely anxious to find out just how many in this place are in the labor movement, and the hill capitalistic penny trumpet is inveighing against labor agitators as being men who won't work, etc.; he would be much better employed in studying the lessons of the day, all of which lead to the conclusion that there will be no cessation of labor agitation or of labor troubles until, I repeat, every man is permitted to work, and to earn a sufficient subsistence for himself and his family, but that under the capitalistic system is an impossibility. Verily, all roads lead to Socialism.

Frank K. Foster will address the workmen of Holyoke on Tuesday, March 1.

We are pleased to see that your contemporary, *London Justice*, appreciates the true character of our capitalistic menstrial, which has no sale nor influence here in the place of nativity. Just fancy if you can a bona fide labor paper true to the interests of the workmen, and receiving ten pages of capitalistic advertisements. Bah! what do they take us for?

## A JUDGE'S REASONS ARRAIGNMENT OF THE "DEMOCRATIC" PARTY.

Wealth the Standard of Respectability—The Two Old Parties Like as Two Peas—The New Party the Soul of Democracy.

The San Francisco *Star* published last week a remarkable letter from Judge James G. Maguire in which he arraigns the "democratic" party and formally withdraws from it. This letter undoubtedly echoes the sentiments of many good citizens who are tired of the old parties, and are contemplating a new departure in politics. We publish the letter in full:

To the Members of the California State Democratic Club:

GENTLEMEN: I hereby tender my resignation as a member of your club. In withdrawing, permit me to return thanks to the officers, present and past, for many courtesies which they have extended during our long and pleasant association.

Let me also assure the members, with whom my relations have also been most cordial, that my withdrawal is not prompted by any personal considerations, but that it is to me a painful act of duty to political principles and convictions with which the present policy of the "democratic" party is not in accord.

As this resignation is the final act which severs my connection with the "democratic" party, State, and national, it is but just to you, that, and to all others who have stood shoulder to shoulder with me in the political battles of the past, that I should fully and frankly state the reasons which have moved me to this serious step.

Early in life I learned to reverence the name; being out of power at the time that I reached my majority, I naturally entered its ranks, hoping, and expecting, that it would ever be the aggressive and intelligent champion of liberty, equality and justice wherever and whenever these vital principles of social happiness might be either neglected or assailed.

Finally our party triumphed, but, alas! it has brought no relief to our suffering people. The benefit of that triumph has amounted to no more than the distribution of a few official prizes to the friends and relatives of wealth aristocrats and to the henchmen of political bosses. There are, of course, exceptions, but this has been the rule.

Wealth is still the standard of respectability, just as it was under republican administrations, and the rights and wishes of the great democratic masses of the country are just as completely ignored.

Rival bidders for the affections of monopolies, the great national parties have become like as two peas both in actions and principles.

The great intellectual statesmen; the men of principle and courage, once the glory of our country, have been retired from our Federal State, and the people have practically ceased to be represented there. The chamber which once held that highest body of earthly legislators is now a sort of national stock exchange, wherein seats are sold to monopolists and to wealthy seekers after social standing. In the matter of sanctioning this iniquity, honors seem to be easy between the parties.

The entire solid area of our great country, including the natural opportunities of all our people—the natural resources, without which none of our people can live—has been made the exclusive private property of a thousand alien and domestic landlords, who, by virtue of the absolute control which they do thus, as owners, exercise over the only means of living of our landless millions, are robbing the latter continually of from one-half to four-fifths of the fruits of their labor, and are daily driving them to lower and lower depths of slavery and helpless misery.

This is a system of human servitude just as complete as chattel slavery and in many respects more atrocious; yet the so-called "democratic party," while claiming to be the friend of the laborer, expressly defends this system, and bids for the support of those who profit by it. But these are not the only matters in which the party has been recreant. In the late Democratic State Convention an emissary of certain railroad corporations, who acted as a carrier of messages between his masters and the committee on platform, caused the committee to eliminate a resolution condemning the election of the president of the Central Pacific Railroad Company to the United States Senate, and also caused the committee to eliminate Senator Reddy's resolution upon the Chinese question, which prior to his appearance had been adopted. This railroad emissary received, as his reward for this successful service, a democratic nomination for Congress. It is but just, in defense of the people, that I should add: he was not elected.

I will not recount the painful history, nor dwell upon the deplorable condition, of our democracy. It is difficult to speak of this branch of the party in the language of polite correspondence. Let it here suffice to say that our local democracy is under the acknowledged dominion of a man who has been publicly charged with having openly and notoriously purchased votes on last election day; this charge was strongly supported by the sworn and recorded testimony of several witnesses; yet, although this crime against the elective franchise is a blow at the very heart of our liberty, a crime more dreadful in its consequences than murder or open treason, no citizen has yet manifested sufficient confidence in the democratic officers who are charged with conducting public prosecutions to even file a complaint against this alleged offender.

In face of this public charge and of other equally outrageous doings, as if to wantonly humiliate the State democracy, and commit it to the ratification of such iniquities, the chairman and other members of the State Central Committee publicly serenaded this man, and the chairman thanked him and eulogized him for his statesmanlike services to the party during the campaign. And so I might go on, *ad libitum, ad nauseam usque*, but it is unnecessary. As a self-respecting man I would feel justified, and bound in honor to withdraw from a party which has fallen to such levels; but there is another and potent reason for my immediate withdrawal; which is: that a new National Party is being formed for the purpose of restoring the natural rights of the great landless democracy of America.

It is founded upon the idea that all men have an equal right to live, and, as a necessary consequence, that all men have at all times an equal and inalienable right to the use of the natural elements which God made and gave freely for the sustenance of human life, "that to secure these rights governments are instituted among them, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed;" that all American citizens are entitled to equal opportunities with respect to the great natural resources of our common country; that no speculator in the natural rights of his fellow-men should be permitted to prevent American citizens from making homes upon land which he does not want to use, that no landlord—alien or citizen—should be permitted to collect toll from American citizens for allowing them the privilege of using the natural and indestructible powers of our soil; that the rental value of land, which results, in all cases, entirely from the presence, enterprise, virtue and industry of the whole people, and should, as a matter of common justice, be taken for public use; and that no tax, or burden of any kind, should be imposed upon commerce, agriculture, manufactures or other industries, or upon any products of human labor, so long as this rental value of land—which is the margin of production—shall be sufficient for public purposes.

To the new party, founded upon these principles, which I conceive to be the very soul and essence of true democracy, all of the time which I can henceforth give to the political service of my country will be devoted. I shall therefore, in the next political campaign, do all in my power to secure the election of Henry George, or some other land reformer, to the Presidency of the United States, unless the "democratic" party shall, in the meantime, become democratic by adopting the principles which we have espoused. Having deliberately resolved to pursue this course, I desire that my position may be fully and exactly understood, so that my actions and relations, with respect to political matters shall be neither inconsistent nor ambiguous. Sincerely trusting that our social relations may be as pleasant in the future as they have been in the past, I remain, Very truly and respectfully yours, JAMES G. MAGUIRE. San Francisco, January 27, 1887.

### BOSSSES' CONSPIRACY.

The Employing Builders of New York Conspire Against the Journeymen. The success of the united building trades in New York has roused the bosses to united action in order that they may employ scabs and destroy the trades unions. The efficacy of the walking delegate system is particularly obnoxious to the "outraged" bosses, and so they want to abolish the walking delegate. The ultimate object of the conspiracy is reduction of wages. There are none among the trades so able to cope with their bosses as the building trades, and we may expect lively times in New York the coming spring.

Is the man who delivers a declamation through the telephone a hells-cutionist?

## A BRAVE WOMAN. An American Girl Champions the Cause of Labor Her Ideas.

The publication of the autobiography of August Spies by Nina Van Zandt, and the circumstances which led to it are events in the struggle of labor against capitalistic oppression. The hellish vindictiveness and ignorant bigotry of the "hounds of the law" was shocking to every one who had a sense of justice.

Among all those who went as a matter of curiosity to attend the trial of the eight men who have been unjustly condemned to death, the so-called "anarchists," there were no doubt many whose nature revolted at the cold-blooded and murderous "intent to kill" on the part of the prosecutors, but Nina Stuart Van Zandt did not end the matter with mere revulsion of feeling; she set about doing something to assist the unfortunate men. In her preface to the above-mentioned autobiography she says:

"I did not know any of the accused when, during the comedy called trial, I entered the courtroom. Having received what information I had concerning the prisoners from the newspapers, I was expecting to see a rare collection of stupid, vicious, criminal-looking men. I was greatly surprised to find that several of them, so far from corresponding with this description, had intelligent, kindly and good faces. I became interested. I soon found that the officers of the court and the entire police and detective force were bent upon the conviction of these men—not because of any crime of theirs, but because of their connection with the labor movement.

"Animated by a feeling of horror, produced by what I saw and heard, and no less by a feeling of justice, I determined to range myself on the side of the persecuted."

Miss Van Zandt, in company with her mother, visited the prisoners in jail, and became acquainted with August Spies. This acquaintance ripened into mutual love, and with the consent of her parents, it was decided that the two should become husband and wife, as it was decreed that only a wife can call upon a prisoner outside of the regular visiting days. Marriage was not permitted in jail, however, and the ceremony had to be performed by proxy. Of course, this act brought down upon her the angry vituperation of the reptile press and "society" people. But the brave young woman, whose eyes had been opened to the true value of "our society," was not to be browbeaten by her inferiors, and her steadfast advocacy of the cause of the unjustly condemned will endure her to workingmen of America.

### INNOCENT DEPEW.

"The workmen have a grievance. We do not know exactly what it is. They cannot clearly express it. But it exists."—*Chauncey M. Depew.*

Oh, no! You don't know what they are growling about. But when you cut coupons, just remember that each one represents unpaid labor. The fact that you get the benefit of the labor of others without adequate return is a grievance.

### THE LATEST.

The "poinding" (stealing under a legal warrant) by the sheriff of Inverness at the instance of Lord Macdonald, of a two-months old babe for rent due, is one of the latest capitalistic outrages. The poor mother had to submit. Yet there is no rebellion in Scotland against the brutal government that does not hesitate to rob women of their babes to satisfy the landlords' greed.

Gent—"Why do you stare at me in this manner?" Tramp—"Excuse me, Colonel. I was measuring the length of your legs with my eye. I thought my legs might fit a pair of your pants."—*Texas Siftings.*

## ANOTHER LESSON THE RECOGNITION OF BOSSISM DEFEATS LABOR.

District 49 Wins a Doubtful Victory  
Only a Skirmish—The End Not Yet—Abolition of Private Ownership—A Colored Flag of Truce.

Through the inadequacy of the means of transmitting information and also to a certain extent owing to the secret policy of labor organizations, labor papers have not been enabled to give absolutely accurate accounts of the great strike of the Knights of Labor in the coal carrying and shipping industry. While as a rule labor papers have claimed a victory, the capitalistic sheets unannouncedly announce a defeat for organized labor. In each case the "wish is the father." While it is pretty well established that the coal shovellers gained some concessions, thousands of others who were drawn into the vortex are still battling, after their fashion, with well-fed, sleek bosses. If the object of the directors of the strike was simply to gain the paltry sum of 2½ cents per hour for coal shovellers, regardless of the cost to the other workmen who struck to help the former, then indeed it was a victory for the coal shovellers. That it was a victory for organized labor as represented in District 49, is very doubtful. But the end is not yet, and the end of labor troubles never will come as long as labor recognizes the boss system. When organized labor is ready to strike to win, the strike will not end till private ownership of land and the means of production, transportation, etc., is abolished, and the people organized as a State claim sovereign control.

The matter may be summed up thus: A skirmish took place. An unnecessarily large force was drawn into the conflict on the part of "49." Foraging was forbidden, and the defeat of the enemy's outpost was accomplished at the expense of the stomachs of the main body of labor's army. The enemy lost—cash. This the enemy will recover by exploiting labor under a flag of truce.

Some day, when the sun rises in crimson colors in the East, portending storm, the white flag, dyed in the morning red, will not be recognized as a flag of truce.

### SOCIALIST MEETING.

Central Labor Hall, To-Morrow, (Sunday) at 3 P. M.

The American Section, Socialistic Labor Party, of this city, has arranged for a meeting at Central Labor Hall, Lamar Block, Crown street, opposite Bunnell's Museum, to-morrow, (Sunday) afternoon, at 3 o'clock. Citizens, both ladies and gentlemen, are cordially invited to attend. S. Seiler, of Bridgeport, and Herbert Eaton, of New York, will address the meeting upon the subject of Socialism and its relation to the labor movement. Admission free.

### BAKERS' RALLY.

Secretary George Block to Speak at Germania Hall.

Bakers' Union, No. 11, of this city, will hold a mass meeting at Germania Hall, Wooster street, this (Saturday) evening at 8 o'clock. George Block, Secretary of the United Bakers' Unions of the United States, will address the meeting in both German and English. The bakers cordially invite their fellow workmen in other trades to come and hear Mr. Block, who is an able and instructive speaker. Other speakers will also make addresses.