# KANSAS AGITATOR.

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF NATURAL MONOPOLIES

VOLUME 15. GARNETT, KANSAS, MAY 5, 1905. NUMBER 50.



KANSAS AGITATOR

Devoted to the interests of THE MASSES.

A Fearless, Aggressive, Progressive Advocate of All Reforms.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

W. O. CHAMPE AND ANNA CHAMPE Editors

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SUBSCRIPTION: 8-PAGE EDITION, $1; 4-PAGE ED., 50c.

ntered assecond-class mail matter atthe Garnett, Kas., postoffice May 25, 189.


## COST OF THE BIG STICK.

### Tom Watson's Opinion of the India Rubber Monroe Doctrine.

From Tom Watson's Magazine.

The India-rubber qualities of the Monroe Doctrine are being made manifest with a vengeance. Once we understood it to mean, in a general way, that Europe must "Hands off"—no more conquest, colonization or extension of the European system to the American continent.

By Mr. Cleveland, England was told, with firmness, that she couldn't steal Venezuela's land, even though the theft consisted of the simple device of moving the boundary line.

With Mr. Roosevelt's advent to power comes a decidedly new chapter in the evolution of the Monroe Doctrine. We are to assume a sort of trusteeship for adjacent governments. We must see to it that they conduct themselves decently and in order. They must pay their debts to citizens of other countries and behave themselves generally in a way that meets our approval.

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Mr. Roosevelt, in advancing the Monroe Doctrine to this extent, has undertaken a big contract for this country.

If we are to be the policeman for South America, Santo Domingo, Cuba, Mexico and Central America, we must, first of all, have a powerful navy? This is clear to everybody. What is not so clear is that a powerful standing army will inevitably follow—as sure as fate, it will follow.

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For it is certain that a natural result of our hectoring, bulldozing, over-lord attitude toward countries like those mentioned will make them our bitter enemies. South America already hates us, and has cause to hate us.

The manner in which we sanctioned the collection of claims against Venezuela, by the warships of Europe, will not be forgotten.

This feeling will be intensified by Mr. Roosevelt's recent utterances, and will spread through all the peoples affected by it.

If we are to compel these governments to knuckle down to every Asphalt trust, or other speculative syndicate, which enters the country for the purpose of exploitation, the time will certainly come when our attempts to make them conform to our standard of what is decent and orderly in dealing with plundering corporations will be resisted.

What then?

Our navy can bombard the cities of the coast, but will our marines leave the ships and defeat the land forces of the the interior? Evidently not. What, therefore, must we do? Send army against aamy, as we shall have sent navy against navy. Consequently, the same policy which logically requires a powerful navy will likewise require a powerful standing army.

**And our masters know it!**

"ALL good things come out of the West." There is a low kind of wit which might answer that when they come out of the West, they go to the East, but that is neither here nor there. Anyway, the Chicago rebellion for municipal ownership of the city's street-car lines is the country's first great step toward that end. In this, Tom Watson sees much encouragement, and reviews the situation in his magazine for May.

IT is reported that the circuses will hereafter dispense with the parade. The showmen say the parade doesn't pay.

## THE CHEERFUL WAYS

If we might say each morning what
The new-born day should be,
Would it require a second thought,
Or could we disagree?
"A pleasant day, a cheerful day!"
And where 'neath heaven's blue
Would any man rise up to say
Another kind must do?

We gladly hail the pleasant days;
The dismal ones we dread.
We seek the pleasing, cheerful ways,
Not those where gloom is spread.
We turn to hear their hopeful tones
Whose words are words of cheer.
We shun the one who sits and moans
That only wrongs are here.

We choose the pleasant paths, we greet
The fair days with delight;
And are you hailed by those you meet
As one whose look is bright,
Whose hopeful words and cheerful ways
Make others cease to sigh,
Or do you grumble through the days,
And fail, and wonder why?

—S. E. KISER, in Chicago Record-Herald.

### As to Race Suicide.

From the Mail and Breeze.

You have noticed quite a good deal of space occupied in this paper on the subject of race suicide.

It is the policy of this moral guide to allow anybody connected with it to have and express almost any sentiment they may see fit to express, just as the readers are allowed to advocate any theory, either sensible or foolish, that may strike their several fancies.

Personally, we do not take as much stock in this talk about the advantages of large families as we might. Roosevelt has a right to think what he pleases and say what he pleases about the evils of small families, but that does not alter our opinion. There are a lot of people born into the world every year who add nothing of advantage to society or to themselves. It would have been money in their pockets if they had never been born. There is no surplus of people born into the world who amount to something, but of people who don't seem to know what they are here for there is a vast surplus.

Another thing that we have noticed is that this talk about the evils of small families comes from the men. So far, we do not recall where any women who have to raise babies are clamoring for a rapid increase of thd family.

We may be wrong in our supposition, but our guess is that if the President were kept for a period of twenty years with one child at breast, another dragging at his skirts and two or three others rolling in the dirt all the while, the beauty of race increase would not be so apparent to him as it seems to be now.

The woman who has to care for a family of ten children and attend to her other household duties may have the consolation of feeling that she has been a benefactor of her race, but it is tough on the woman. All the period of her young and middle-aged womanhood is a weary, monotonous round of toil and care. When the family is resred, she is apt to be gray-headed and faded and prematurely broken by the burden she has had to carry.

Whether a child is a benefit to the world or not depends upon the kind of stock it has in it and the way in which it is raised. It is better to raise one fine-blooded steer than half a dozen narrow-hammed Arkansw dogies. One man with fine blood in his veins is of more value to the world than a ten-acre field full of human scrubs. There is no point in adding to the population unless the addition improves the average of the human stock.

### Old Men and Jobs.

Tom McNeal gets off the following sensible remarks in the Mail and Breeze:

"Within the past few months, the writer has been in position to note some phases of the bread-and-butter problem that he never ran across before. We have seen a number of old men asking for jobs because they have to find some way to make a living. These are worthy old men, too. They have been sober, industrious and frugal, but through some hard luck or other, for which they have not been responsible, they have nothing ahead. The ability to earn a living in the ordinary business of life is lessened until they cannot compete with younger men. In one case, the man had a good position and some accumulation. His wife was taken ill. As a result, he was not only compelled to give up his position, but to spend all that he had accumulated in traveling expenses, nurse, doctor and hospital bills.

"Now, he is without means, without a job, and at an age when none of the ordinary positions are open to him.

"It is evident that our present system needs some amendments. The man who has been a good citizen, who has done his best, but who, on account of some misfortune which he could not avoid, is left without means in his old age, ought not to be compelled to go about begging for a job as a matter of charity."

* *

[Socialism, which is so much reviled and so bitterly condemned by many, will furnish a way whereby this man, and all others like him, will be enabled to earn a comfortable living, and do it honorably. And it will not be in the line of charity, either.—EDITOR AGITATOR.]

LET us do your Job Printing.

### Trusts Control Currency.

Alexander Del Mar writes interestingly on the above subject in the May number of Tom Watson's Magazine. A portion of the article follows:

"It is an essential part of the merry game which these Captains are permitted to play that they shall always have in their hands the means alternately to inflate and contract the currency, at any given point, say, for example, New York. With the mints restricted to the coinage of metal for private persons, and the hands of the government tied to a fixed issue of greenbacks, while their own hands are free, the mischievous elasticity which they employ for the success of their operations is easily acquired by getting command of the principal banks of issue. The moment they press their fingers on this button, the market immediately responds by throwing irs stocks overboard; and the moment they release the button, up rise the stocks again. It is by means of this simple mechanism that the public has been plundered, and that it is now planned to plunder the companies. That there is no longer any art in the trained motorman's vocation is proved by the small wages he commands. The art is in providing the power and controlling the mechanfsm which drives the cars. In the captains of industry game, the power is derived from the elastic bank issues; the mechanism consists of certain banks and insurance companies and the stock exchange. Given the power and mechanism which these establishments furnish, any bandit could work the game and have plenty of leisure to spare. The System is automatic."

IT looks to a man up a tree that there is a whole lot of "monkey business" going on at Topeka. Impelled by the irresistible force of public opinion, the legislature enacted a refinery law and provided for the issuing of bonds to bear the expense. Governor Hoch, after some vacillation, claimed to be enthusiastic for the scheme. The state officers, apparently, had nothing to do but to carry out the wishes of the people. But a strange spectacle presents itself. Two sets of attorneys jump into the arena. One set, well known as corporation attorneys and representatives of the Standard Oil Company, appear for T. T. Kelly, state treasurer, and seek to nullify the will of the people by preventing the issuanee of the bonds. Then comes Warden Jewett, of the state penitentiary, an appointee and representative of Governor Hoch, and he, also, engages a set of lawyers to prevent the carrying out of the people's wishes. Finally, win or lose, the people will have to pay these lawyers. Is not that a strange state of affais? What gang of bosses is running things at Topeka? Are the state treasurer and warden of the penitentiary bigger than the legislature? Is the cry of "Populism," "Socialism," "Communism" going to create a panic and stop the carrying out of the people's wish?—Le Roy Reporter.

IN Missouri, the governor, a Democrat, gave out the word quietly that the Sunday closing law must be enforced. The brewers said they could raise one million dollars to prevent it. The governor did not come out and bluff or bluster. He just said quietly that the law should be enforced. The brewers blustered around for a time, and then quit. In Kansas note the difference. There has been a prohibitory law on the statute-books of Kansas for years, and practically every governor has pollyfoxed around about it. Even Hoch, who is a stannch prohibitionist, has not talked right. It is time that Kansas officials were getting a little backbone. It never pays to trifle with lawlessness. Folk can enforce the laws in Missouri, and Hoch could enforce them in Kansas. The trouble is, we do not have brave enough governors in Kansas.—The Lawrence World (Rep.)


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