

him to eat. Anything. So he is preserved. But the man with a mission takes a good deal for granted. He takes the mission for granted. He takes himself for granted. The man who makes my shoes has as much a mission as the man who writes my books. Stop the printing presses. Dry up the inkwells. Make way for the shoemaker. Why not? Any man with a mission is as important and as useless as any other man with a mission.

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Farmers and Reciprocity.

The (Lincoln) Nebraska Farmer (agricultural), June 21.—When the Canadian reciprocity agreement was first made public last January we took hold of the subject rather gingerly. The thing didn't "look good" to us, for it provided for absolute free trade in all farm products of both countries, while leaving the tariff wall between the two countries on all manufactured articles, although the tariff was reduced on these in nearly every instance. It looked decidedly like a scheme hatched by the privileged special interests to get a cheap supply of raw material, and to overcome the "high cost of living" cry of their laborers by affording an opportunity to get cheap food products from Canada, while at the same time retaining protection on manufactured articles. At first blusn, then, we were opposed to the thing. But it soon developed that the special interests did not want the agreement adopted. Their representatives in Congress, such, for instance, as Dalzell of Pennsylvania and Cannon of Illinois, made vigorous speeches against it; and the American Protective League, an organization of manufacturers and their sympathizers who want the tariff revised upward always, began using printers' ink freely to kill the agreement. That was proof enough that the tariff-privileged interests did not want reciprocity, even in the form presented by President Taft, and which to outsiders looked mighty favorable to the manufacturers. The conclusion we came to was that while the treaty appeared to be unfair to the farmer in that it took the tariff off of everything he produced, yet the tariff on agricultural products was and always has been merely a paper tariff, ineffective because we are liberal exporters of farm products, and written on the books merely to keep the farmers quiet, and submissive to the hold-up schedules made for the trusts. We became convinced through a study of prices here and in Canada that this agreement would not appreciably affect prices for farm products on this side of the line, if indeed it lowered them at all. And then we began to see the whole proposition in a different light. We ceased to look at the treaty itself, and began looking at the effect its adoption would have upon our whole protection system that has been so woefully abused. It became plain to us that farmers by allowing this agreement to be passed by Congress stood to gain far more in subsequent tariff revisions that would surely follow than they could possibly lose through the operation of the reciprocity agreement itself. Since that time we have been supporting Canadian reciprocity, and for that support we have no apology to make, and no regret because of the attitude we have assumed.

RELATED THINGS

CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

THE PRICE.

I know (because I'm often told
By those who ought to know, I guess),
That far above uncounted gold
Is human life and happiness.

Yet (always "yet")—but (always "but")—
A world of woe must ever be;
To hosts the door of joy is shut—
And who, I wonder, keeps the key?

Their myriads our railroads kill,
But men must take what Fortune sends;
To make things safe, or pay the bill,
Would play the deuce with dividends.

A proless mine-roof broke and fell
And hundreds died—God's will be done!
If galleries were timbered well
Our coal would cost us more per ton.

'Twill never do to check the trade
In crackers, bombs and powder-toys,
For think of those whose means are made
By peddling Death to little boys!

Yes, Wealth will have her toll of men,
And Wealth is scarce to be despised;
But I confess that now and then
I wish we were not civilized!

—Arthur Guiterman, in Puck.

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THE SECOND DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

For The Public.

When in the life of a nation it becomes necessary for humble men to direct that the masters of finance shall cease using that nation's wealth in manners injurious to the other citizens, and shall turn that wealth only into those channels which yield increasing happiness to all the people, a praiseworthy desire for the support of mankind commands that they declare the causes which impel them to the action.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are livelihood, leisure, and the maintenance of honor. That to secure these rights wealth is instituted among men, deriving its just powers from the purposes for which it is produced. That whenever the use of any accumulation of wealth proves destructive of these rights, it is the duty of the citizens to so alter and control the conditions of its use, allowing its organization only in such manner, and its administration only in such principles, as shall provide for them opportunities to attain their wel-

fare. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that systems well established should not be changed for fickle causes. And all experience shows that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to curb a leadership necessary for their development. But when a long continued train of plunder and usurpations evinces a design to ignore their rights, it is the duty of the people to end the abuse and provide new safeguards for their future prosperity. Such has been the patient sufferance of the humble folk of these United States, and such now is the necessity to control the gathering and the use of wealth. The history of the masters of finance is a history of repeated abuses and usurpations, all having in object the construction of power for themselves without regard for the other inhabitants of these States. To prove this let facts be submitted to a candid world.

They have paid for lobbyists who have defeated laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

They have plotted to select executives, who should refuse their assent to laws of immediate and pressing importance.

They have expended vast sums for the election of legislatures, whose tenure of office, being subject to their commands, should produce no laws detrimental to their interests.

They have dictated the appointment and choice of judges, and retained the ablest counsel, who together have bent the law and the statute into decisions adverse to the general welfare.

They have defeated for reelection public officials for opposing with manly firmness their invasions of the rights of the people.

They have nullified, through the extended power of injunction, the effect of measures of relief from their aggressions.

They have granted and accepted secret rebates which have destroyed the trade of others.

They have entered into combinations that have imposed death upon all enterprises which sought a livelihood in competition to themselves.

They have found exemption from punishment in corporate impersonality, for any murders which they have committed upon the toilers within their plants, because of non-protection of dangerous employments and disregard of the laws of physical health.

They have returned plausible answers to our protests against the sacrifice of childhood, and cunningly fought our efforts to prevent the employment of children.

They have denied us the right to leisure, demanding that we toil long and hard; and when we have refused they have attempted to supplant us with the inhabitants of foreign countries, whose low standards of life have obstructed our aspirations for a larger life.

They have constrained us to deal falsely with

our fellow citizens, to break the statutes, to be unjust, to abet and forward dishonorable deeds.

They have seized our bank accounts, played games of chance therewith, and scattered our hoards against old age.

They have plundered our forests, commercialized the wonders of nature, and laid hold of the lands of the people.

Against each of these aggressions we have cried out in no uncertain terms; our repeated warnings have been answered by repeated injury. Masters of finance, whose rule is thus marked by neglect and suppression of the rights of others, are unfit to gather without restrictions, and to use without control, the wealth of a free people.

We, therefore, the common toilers of these United States of America, from desk and lathe and field and ditch, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name of, and by the authority of, all who work with hands or head, for wages or salary or little income, solemnly publish and declare that we are, and of right ought to be, the free and independent rulers of our country's resources; that all corrupt control of our government by the masters of finance, and unlawful appropriation of our resources by them ought to be, and shall be, totally destroyed; and that as free and independent citizens, we will take full measures to so control their actions, expose their greed, punish their law breaking, and do all other acts and things which seem necessary for the common welfare. And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance upon the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

WILLIAM J. NORTON.

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TRUTH AMONG GOD'S TREES.

For The Public.

This Chautauqua idea is fine; to this conclusion I have positively arrived. I turned up at the gate the first day; I then gave up a quarter—well, never mind, it might have been thirty cents and that would have been worse. To recuperate from the shock I sat down under the trees, smoked a pipe, and watched some bare-legged children in scrupulously clean clothes swing upon a home-made swing, while their mother superintended the men, and in my mind I went back to the days of the Farmers' Alliance while they raised the tents.

Presently, after I had soaked in the kind of peace which a man gets from watching children and house-keepers and men close to the soil out on a holiday, I repaired to a wall-less auditorium. I sat down on a two by twelve bench, leant my back against another two by twelve, and listened to verses from several songs, English, Scotch and American, sung by a young lady dressed in cool-