

THE SCOUT

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THAT NEW "HERESY"

By T. A. Hickey, Editor of The Rebel.

Bailey Slanders Farmers.

Senator Bailey delivered a speech recently in which he said in effect that there was one thing to be said to the farmers credit and that was that they did not have any Socialistic tendencies on the farm, that all such ideas were matured in the great cities. Senator Bailey ought not to insult the good clean people who are on the farms by such a viciously slanderous statement. To say that the people who live on farms can not develop Socialistic tendencies is on a par with a statement that these good people are not subject to the tendencies of the multiplication table.

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The plain fact of the matter is that reactionary politicians of the Bailey stripe are in serious trouble with their constituents everywhere.

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Bailey's friends in Washington are disappearing one by one. Idrich and Hale, the two great grafters, in a political sense, for the interests, are gone and Joe is destined to follow them just for the very reason that the multitude on the farms are subject to the tendencies of Socialism.

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There was a time when this old city gag used to be pulled off with great effect. That day is past. If Senator Bailey knew as much about Texas farmers, laborers and renters as he does about fast horses and "My Dear Pierce" he would know that there are more dues paying members of the Socialist party on the farms than in the cities and then he would learn that the people who are next to his fake political game live on the farms in far greater numbers than in the cities

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What is this Heresy?

Now what is this awful heresy called Socialism that angers all these bloated Bailey Boodlers. It is a national and international movement of the working class. This movement appeals to small farmers, share croppers, mechanics, laborers and men in public works, in short

to all those people who do useful labor. The platform and resolutions of the party demand the democratic management and collective ownership of all things that are socially used and the private ownership of all things that are to their nature private. For instance we all use roads, schools, bridges postoffices, parks, public buildings such as capitols, courthouses, etc. Why not run and democratically manage railroads, express companies, steel mills, oil refineries, coal mines, copper mines streams, and pipe lines, etc? If there is anything wrong with that program let us know, Mr. Bailey. If there is any thing that will hurt the farmer and his family in the Democratic management and collective universality of the nation's industries just shout it out, Mr. Bailey. Let us hear it.

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The Land Question.

Again the plan of Socialism as applied to the land is the purest and best expression of Democracy up to date. Listen to what we say:

"We demand that use and occupancy shall be the title to land.

"That means that the Biblical injunction that "the land is mine and shall not be sold forever, saith the Lord." (Lev. 25-23) shall be put into effect now. It means just what it says and, that is: that if you use and occupy land it shall be yours but if you have it fenced in and live in Dallas, Houston, New York, London or elsewhere and do not use it that it shall be taxed out of your possession.

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Now that program is certainly tough on the few but it is almighty good for the vast mass of disinherited Texans 800 per cent of whom are living in rented shacks, and are giving a third and fourth in corn and cotton for the privilege of working the land. As a result they are unable, no matter how industriously they may work, to properly educate their children.

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A Challenge to Joe

Now if Mr. Bailey sees anything wrong, immoral or undemocratic about that and instead of four flushing he will have the courage to

com: cut boldly and say it is wrong I will here and now go on record as saying that I will go to any part of Texas and meet him in debate on the subject and if I don't peel his hide until it would not make stall for cotton pickers I will agree to take off my shoes and walk barefooted out of town.

* * *

Here is one of the indictments I would draw in that debate against the present method of land holding.

Down in Dallas, Texas, there is a very pious Baptist deacon named Slaughter—Colonel Slaughter. He boasts that he has secured 600,000 acres of the best land in Texas at 14 cents, its original price. This means that he becomes the possessor of millions without a particle of labor of any description applied to the land, and it will be climbing higher in value with each succeeding generation. This again means a State of peoned renters and share croppers, overworked, poorly fed, sorry clad and ignorant. Are you going to stand for such a thing? Of course you wont. A good Texan has not any peon blood in his viens; he did not learn such a condition from the founders of the State. Anyhow there are too many Irish and Scotch-Irish stock to stand it.

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So you see that there is nothing immoral or unjust in the Socialist attitude on land.

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There Are Others.

Now Col. Slaughter is only one of these great landlords in Texas who owns land in 100,000-acre tracts. There is C. P. Taft with over 300,000 acres; Mrs. King, of Kingsville and Corpus Christi with over a million acres on three ranches and one the smallest of her ranches it is fifty miles from her front porch to her back gate. Then Mr. Swenson of New York, has a 1000 sections in West Texas; Waggoner of Fort Worth has fifteen hundred sections in the Panhandle; Higginbottom of Dublin and Dallas has immense holdings over Texas not the least of which are 100 rent houses in Nolan county. In the face of this tenantry and landlordism what can an intelligent liberty-loving people do but limit the ownership of lands by taxing land held for speculation purposes and making use and occupancy the title to land.

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A Proposed Amendment.

In line with this idea one of the greatest authorities on the land situation in Texas, J. L. Hicks, associate editor of The Rebel, prints in the last issue of that paper the following for the purpose of testing public sentiment:

Constitutional Amendment.

Since nature has provided more arable land than mankind needs for tillage, and since such

land has been monopolized by a comparatively few people to the great injury of the many, the legislature shall, at its first session after the adoption of this amendment, enact laws that will limit private ownership and control of land to such amount as may be used by individuals and families in their domestic and industrial pursuits.

VOTE.

For Limited Ownership.
Against Limited Ownership.

* * *

Every reader of The Rebel send in your vote to The Rebel office. If you want limited ownership run your pencil through last line. If you want unlimited ownership run through top line."

All readers of the Scout ought to vote on this measure and send your vote into State headquarters at your earliest convenience.

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Socialist Land Plank.

By building up the Socialist organization to the point where such a constitutional Amendment may be carried. The people might then put through the Socialist land plank. Here it is from the national platform of the Socialist party:

"There can be no absolute private title to land. All private titles, whether called fee simple or otherwise, are and must be subordinate to the public title. The Socialist party strives to prevent land from being monopolized for purposes of exploitation and speculation. It demands the collective possession, control or management of land to whatever extent may be necessary to attain that end. It is not opposed to the occupation and possession of land by those using it in a useful and bona fide manner without exploitation."

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SOME STATISTICS

Landed Estates.

From "Who Owns the Earth?" by Henry M. Hyde in Technical World Magazine for January, 1909.

Henry Miller, a single American landowner, is lord of the land over an area two-thirds as large as the whole of the Emerald Isle.

Col. D. C. Murphy, of New York State, held title, when he died, to more than four million acres of farm lands. The late Senator Farwell, of Illinois, his brother, and one or two other men, owned three million acres in Texas. Mrs. Virginia Ann King, of Kingsville, Texas, owns so much land in one great ranch that it is a drive of nearly fifty miles from the porch of her manor house to the front gate of her door yard.

Samuel W. Allerson, of Chicago, owns more than 40,000 acres of improved farm land in the great central states of Ohio, Iowa and Illinois.

Henry Miller owns and controls fourteen mil-

lion four hundred thousand acres of rich and fertile land—22,500 square miles—equal in round number to the aggregate area of Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

One hundred men hold title to 17,000,000 acres in the valley of the Sacramento alone.

The recently organized trusts have gotten control of vast tracts of the most valuable land in the country. The Standard Oil company counts among its assets more than a million acres of oil lands. The steel trust, on authority of Charles M. Schwab, holds in one tract coke lands valued at \$60,000,000, and the United States Leather company boasts title to 500,000 acres of hemlock timber. The lumber companies, dominated by Frederick Weyerhaeuser, of St Paul, own and control timber areas covering in the aggregate more than 30,000,000 acres, or almost the amount of territory included in the State of Wisconsin.

In 1870 there were only 3,400 farms in the United States that embraced more than 1,000 acres each. In 1880 this had been multiplied by nine—nearly 30,000. In 1900 the number of farms containing more than 1,000 acres had jumped to nearly 50,000, an increase of nearly 66 per cent.

In 1880 twenty-five out of every hundred farmers in the United States were tenant farmers, owning no land of their own, working for a landlord on shares, or paying rental in some other way. Twenty years later the total number of farmers had increased by more than a million, but the number of tenant farmers had increased even more rapidly. In 1900 more than thirty-five and a half out of every hundred were working land that belonged to somebody else—and that in a country where fifty years ago the refrain of a popular song ran—“Come along, come along, don't you take alarm For Uncle Sam is rich enough to give us all a farm.”

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It is announced by the press that a merger of Texas ranches in territory penetrated by the Colorado and Southern railway is being formed and will comprise seven million acres of land worth \$75,000,000. This is territory about the same in extent as all of Connecticut, Delaware, Rhode Island and half of New Jersey. J. J. Hill is said to be at the bottom of the merger.

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Landed Estates in Colorado.

From the Technical World Magazine for March, 1909.

	Acre.
Arkansas Valley Land Co	1,200,000
Prairie Cattle Co.	1,200,000
H. H. Metcalf, River Bend	200,000
McDaniel & Davis	75,000
Roucheler & Lamb	40,000
J. W. Frank	40,000
Garnett & Langford	30,000

Vrooman & McFife	150,000
E. C. Taner	50,000
Livesey Bros.	50,000
Reynolds Cattle Co.	50,000
Beatty Bros.	40,000
Chick Brown & Co.	30,000
Total	3,355,000

* * *

Destroyed Homes.

When the revolution (from machinery) brought into the world large cities and a new industrial life it at the same time destroyed what has been described as a home.—Robert Hunter.

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From “Who Owns the Earth?” by Henry M. Hyde in Technical World Magazine for January, 1909.

Up to twelve years ago congress had given away the public domain to railroad and other corporations to the extent of 266,000,000 acres, a bit of territory not far in extent from the total area of France and Germany, two countries which support between them a population much greater than the whole population of the United States when the last census was taken.

Less than one hundred years ago the public lands of the United States embraced one billion eight hundred million acres—more than one-tenth of the whole—and this of the choices was granted off-hand to railroads and other corporations. Eighty million acres went in grants to agricultural and other schools and colleges. More than six million acres were disposed of by gift of soldiers' scrip—a large part of which was bought up for little or nothing by capitalists—and seventy millions were given back to the several states as swamp land.

The total of 775,000,000 now in the public domain looks impressive. But 370,000,000 acres of this is in Alaska, which is not likely to be homesteaded for several years. Much of the remainder is permanently locked up in government forest reservations, national parks and other reserves and there are also thousands of squar miles of mountains and deserts which neither irrigation nor improved dry farming will ever bring under the plow.

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Bank Deposits and Money Issued.

1. Deposits in all U. S. banks \$14,106,000,000
2. Money of all kinds ever issued by U. S Gov..... 3,428,602,048

The banks of the nation have issued receipts for nearly five times as much money as has been issued by the national government.

1. Report of the comptroller of the currency, Dec. 10, 1909.
2. Report of the secretary of the treasury, Dec 1, 1909.

THE SCOUT

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RENTERS' UNION

An economic movement that will without doubt be a great factor in redeeming the state and the South from the curse of oppressive land lordism, is the plan, as proposed by The Rebel, of organizing a state Renter's Union, with the ultimate intention of making it national in scope.

From responses received it is plain that the renters of Texas are ready for such a step. The more active and intelligent ones among them should now get busy and talk and push the plan for all it is worth. Send names of all that wish to join or work for such union, to The Rebel, Hallettsville, Texas.

With the names so secured as a basis, a plan of action will be mapped out along the following general lines:

The renters of each county will be called upon to hold county mass meetings and elect a delegate to a state meeting to be held at Waco or some other central point, likely on September 4, (Labor Day). This state meeting will draft a constitution and otherwise arrange for getting the organization well under way before the first of January. The general sentiment is that the Union shall be absolutely non-partisan, and that only renters and farm workers who own no land shall be eligible to membership. The misake of the Farmers' Union of allowing newspaper men, land holders, doctors, bankers and the like to join will not be repeated. However, there is not likely to be any objection to the plan of making lanwoowners and others in sympathy with the movement honorary members without voice or vote.

We can never have socialized industry under capitaist government. To the working class let it be said: "First seek ye the government and its powers, and then you will be in a position to socialize industry and come into your own."

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In New York City thousands of poor mothers are falsifying the ages of their children in order to get them into the factories at an earlier age than the law allows. Incentive? Yes, of the kind that is the inevitable concomitant of capitalism.

"HAPPY HITS" by J. L. Hicks.

One brigand says, "If you don't divide up with me I'll shoot you to death." He is the unlawful kind. Another brigand says, "If you don't divide up with me I'll starve you to death." He is he kind that sometimes pays the biggest part of the pastor's salary.

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"The time is ripe for our statesmen to respond to public sentiment and public need and construct policies of agricultural development which will people our empty acres with happy and prosperous farmers," says the Fort Worth Record. Second the motion. Now for suggestions as to the "policy."

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The Farmers Union News, Union City, Ga., says there will be an effort made to "force the price of cotton down, down, down." Of course, brother; such effort is necessary to the capitalist system of marketing. But say if cotton were raised on big government farms belonging to all the people, and hauled on railroads and worked up in factories and that belonged to all the people, could you or any other man think of such a thing as an effort to "force the price of cotton down, down, down?"

* * *

The Fort Worth Record sometime back said that there was enough unoccupied land in Texas to "provide a home and a living for every man, woman and child of every race and color in the United States." Just why all this unoccupied land, and perhaps three-fourths of that which is occupied, should be owned and controlled by others than those who work it,, is a question that no Christian can answer without planting himself upon principles of Socialism.

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August Belmont once employed a new stenographer. When she came into his office and sat down at his desk he roared: "What do you mean by sitting down in my presence?" Whereupon the poor frightened girl begged her lordship's pardon and thereafter took notes standing up. Belmont is very autocratic and requires all his employees to stand while in his presence. He votes an old-party (Democratic) ticket because he thereby gets what he wants in the way of government. Do you?

* * *

"But if you cannot get at the railroads by reducing their charges, nor by interstate commerce commissions and commerce courts, by seven acts of congressional regulation nor by fines, by prosecutions and by statutes; and if after twenty-three years of these experiments the railroads are just as predatory as ever and ten times more powerful, what can you do with them?" The Coming Nation, of Girard, Kans., asks that question, and wants it answered.