

# Bargain Sale

## Sterling Silver and Ebony Toilet Ware

Sale Lasts Only a Few Days Longer

**F. E. BLACKMER,** Opposite Normal School.

### OPEN LETTER.

To the Editor of the Weekly World,  
Sir,—I choose to take exception to several of your remarks in your issue of April 16, 1908. I refer to an article entitled "The Dream of the Poet" I take exception to it for the following reasons:

1. The title is misleading.
2. The third paragraph is purely buncum.
3. You fail to give your readers a possible cure for existing conditions while branding those who have an alleged cure as "dreamers," etc.
4. You have utterly failed to prove that Socialists are "dreamers."
5. You show an utter lack of knowledge as to the causes of present conditions, their remedy or the remedy which the Socialist proposes.
6. You misrepresent Socialists in your last paragraph by saying—"they think, no doubt, that they can improve on his (the Creator's) work."

Socialism is not a dream but a deduction drawn from a close study of the industrial and economic systems of the past. When Karl Max prophesied the present trust development he was called a "dreamer," a "visionary," but the fact remains that no man has arisen who could refute his logic and the trusts are here. John Brown was called a "dreamer" and traitor as were also Garrison, Phillips, Harriet Beecher Stowe and many others when they prophesied the abolition of chattel slavery. Marconi was a dreamer a few years ago but today the ocean can be spanned without wires. One could multiply these cases a thousand times but it is not necessary. When we have 2 and then 2 more is it a dreamer who, upon applying the rules of addition, declares the result to be four?

Let us reason together, Mr. Editor, If it is right and proper that a man should own one square mile of the earth's surface, to the exclusion of all others, is it not also just and proper that he should own a whole continent providing that he obtain it by "legitimate" methods? If it is right and proper that a man should make a profit through dealing in a commodity which is necessary to the well-being of the people and thus hold a club over their heads is it not also just as proper that he should possess a monopoly in that commodity and thus increase his profits? For if a small profit be good then a larger is certainly better.

We have seen the trust develop to such a degree of perfection in the United States that about 100 men control the destinies of that nation. It puts its representatives into Congress, the Senate and even the White House. At the rate at which this development

is approaching perfection a very few years will see the wealth of the country in the hands of a score of men. These men will of course retain the reins of government, provided the workers still slumber, and being owners of the wealth of the country can kick out whom they please. All those differing in any way with the masters may seek a new country. When a score of men or perhaps one man controls the wealth of the nation what is to be done? I defy any person who is not a Socialist to answer that question. The Socialist says—"a few years ago the methods of production, distribution and exchange outgrew the system of chattel slavery, then in vogue, and it became necessary to change the system. A little later the same operation was performed on feudalism and today we know that the system of wage slavery or capitalism must speedily give way to something better." Why? Because the present instruments of production, distribution and exchange, founded upon capitalist property in the means of life, have outgrown the system which gave them life as witness the periods of depression which occur periodically and with ever increasing severity. What is to be done when the large majority of the workers are forced down to actual starvation because another man controls their means of life? Remember, Mr. Editor, that today no middle-class exists to perform another half-way operation as has been done in all other revolutions. This time it is a fight in which only two classes take part and the ultimate result will undoubtedly leave victory in the hands of the proletariat if we Socialists are given half a chance to educate the workers. If we are not we cannot say what the revolution will bring forth but we remember of having read of a revolution in France where blood flowed like water and the heads of a king and queen and all the aristocracy rolled in the basket.

As you express your ignorance re the meanings of the terms "the ruling class" and "the common people" I will try to explain. The ruling class today (and every fair minded man will echo a fervent amen) is that class which controls the means of life of the great majority of the people. They can starve men at will by means of the black-list and lockout and as proof of the fact that they control governments in all countries note the recent Supreme Court decisions in the United States, the massacre of nitrate workers in Chile in the recent strike, the concessions granted the Canadian Pacific, Grand Trunk Pacific and other railways, also the subsidies granted steamship lines and manufactories from time to time. Note also the increase of salary which our House of Commons voted itself a short time ago. Were they carrying out the will of a majority of their constituents when the votes for that increase in salary? Was that increase of any special advantage to the men who work out their lives in the mines, smelters, fac-

## Denis J. Shea

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ories, railways, etc., in order that a bunch of parasites may fatten off their toil.

Yes, the common people have the majority of votes and, thank God, they are slowly learning the proper use for them. They are learning that the economic system under which we are living enables the exploiting class to control the courts and legislative branch of the government in all countries. They are learning that, to quote Karl Max, "the executive of the modern state is but a committee for managing the common affairs of the whole Bourgeoisie," meaning the property owning class. You surely know, Mr. Editor, that the majority of the common people have very little to do with the nomination of candidates for legislative honors. To many of them the loss of one day's wages amounts to a great deal and it is economically impossible for them to attend nominating conventions or primaries. Even though it were possible for them to attend in most cases the party bosses would see to it that the convention was "packed" with their supporters. After the candidates are nominated the worker is given an opportunity to go to the polls and choose between candidates neither of whom he wants to represent him. That this is true is proven by the fact that it is very seldom a large vote is polled in any district. Hundreds of the wage-earners and farmers prefer staying at home to attending the polls and voting for one whom they don't want as their representative. Such expressions as the following are very often heard prior to election: "Aw H—l, I ain't goin to go up there and vote for any of 'em; they're all thieves;" "It's two sixes;" "All they want is to get their hands into the public treasury;" "What the H—l do they care for the working man anyhow?" "Watch 'em shake hands with me as if I was Pierpont Morgan and then they won't look at me after election," etc.

(Concluded next month.)

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