

LAWSON'S EFFORT IN KANSAS CITY.

His Tilt With Jerome a Case
Of Greek Meeting
Greek.

THE REMEDY HE PROPOSES.

Ridgway's Comparison of Lawson
With Lincoln Raps
Jerome.

WHAT TOM LAWSON IS LIKE.

The Recent Banquet in Kansas City
Brought Some Big Lions Together
Who Were Not in Harmony.

Special Correspondence.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., July 9.—The Kansas craze in the west bids fair to equal the Bryan craze of ten years ago. If the president of the United States had visited Kansas and Missouri, he could hardly have been greeted with greater enthusiasm than that bestowed upon the famous Thos. W. Lawson of Boston, when he arrived here a few days ago. People came miles to see him. The crowds included farmers, college professors, students, preachers, old and young, women and girls, all anxious to gaze upon and hear the noted author of "Frenzied Finance."

The Associated Press has told you something of the tilt that occurred between the two lions of the day, Lawson and District Attorney Jerome of New York. Both were guests at the Knickerbocker club, Kansas City's swell business and social organization. They had never met until they came west, and the introduction took place here. It was noticed that Jerome was rather curt when he acknowledged the introduction to Lawson, but no one dreamed that he intended to give that gentleman the castigation that he received at the banquet. It is a pity that the verbatim speeches of both men could not have been sent out by the Associated Press. It would be impossible to imagine a more astonished man than Lawson when Jerome in raving started in to excoriate the Boston reformer. Whatever others may think of Lawson, Jerome evidently declines to take him seriously.

The evening's speeches were begun by a brief address from Ridgway, one of the publishers of "Everybody's Magazine," who with rather doubtful taste compared Lawson to Lincoln, and said he had been raised up by God to save the American people. This is what seemed to have jayed the nerves of Jerome, for as soon as he got well upon his feet, he astonished his 400 or more listeners by regretting that he had not brought his press agent with him to the west, and adding that his impression rather was that God had "raised up Tom Lawson to raise hell." There was an astonished pause of silence for a moment, and then a roar of laughter in which everyone joined except Ridgway and Lawson. Jerome made a number of other sarcastic remarks in reference to Lawson and then branched off to the topic assigned him, that of "Reform in Municipal Administration," and the enforcement of the "Sunday Liquor Laws."

T. R.

When Lawson rose to speak, the applause was wilder than anything that had gone before. He showed by his manner that he had been more surprised and hurt at Jerome's references, than embarrassed. While he is not the speaker that Jerome is, he hit back from the shoulder several times in good style, and was applauded even more vigorously than Jerome had been. He reminded the New Yorker of the business responsibility entailed by his position, and hoped he would show himself worthy of it. He told Jerome he would rather be in his place for two years with the chances he had to tackle the thieves of Wall Street, than to be president of the United States or Rockefeller with his millions. He thanked God he had a press agent. He said he had no apology to make to Jerome, and he thought that instead of attacking him, Jerome might have given him "something of a send-off" on this most embarrassing moment of his life, the first time, he said, that he had ever faced a large crowd of people, and tried to tell his story. Lawson stood only a few feet from Jerome, and he fairly shrieked as he said: "What would Mr. Jerome have said ten months ago if I had proposed that he sit in state's prison? He will do it when he returns to New York. Wait until my name is adopted. I will come back here a year from now, if you will give me no invitation, and if you will give Mr. Jerome one, too, and I'll stake everything I have that if he will speak before I do, if he says an unkind word about me, I'll speak and not say a word. He'll have too much to tell you about what he has been doing to touch on me."

At the conclusion of the banquet both men met and exchanged a few words, though their conversation was not very cordial.

Following are some of the principal excerpts from Jerome's speeches delivered here and in Ottawa, Kan. If fifteen columns of an ordinary newspaper; hence the abbreviations:

The surest, safest and most natural process of restitution is the application of the "system's" own methods to the system. Frenzied financiers never own outright the stocks and bonds that stand in their names. The robber transgresses the laws of God and man, but they who allowed themselves to be robbed infringe the laws of mankind and the first law of nature, self-preservation. When a great free people submit to being robbed they are in the way to being made slaves. Slavery is surely follows robbery endured as the bit and saddle the capture of the mustang. The "system" of today has a tax on every motion and function of our lives. Our forefathers threw off the yoke as quickly as they felt its pressure; we cringe in terror at the commands, "Make way for his majesty the millionaire." It is human nature to go with the crowd, and the port of the raven nearest to make moan and groan in the midst of festivity.

The big mystery woven round finance by the "system's" opinion moulders is all moonshine. This talk of mystery is just the conjurer's patter to draw your attention away from his apparatus where the magic is being performed; it's absolute rot.

When our nation was orphans were free and equal, and that the country belonged to the people. What the

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American people shall receive for the products of their labor or their capital, what they shall receive for their labor itself, labor of body or mind, is as despotically established for them as if they were actually the mind and body slaves of those few men, as though the law said: "You are not free, you are not equal, only as these few men allow you to be." The country waxes richer every year, but for whose profit? For the profit of the few who are compelling you to pay the greater part of every dollar you earn for your necessities and luxuries. You are actually paying interest to your railroads and your other great corporations on your own prosperity, which they have capitalized. Municipal ownership is a rattle and a rubber ring for the country to play with.

The country waxes richer every year, but for whose profit? They leave you something. If not you would starve, and then I fear there would be destruction wrought at 26 Broadway and along Wall and Broad streets. There would be killing, and tearing down, and blowing up until history would be obliged to write that the red flag had flown in New York, and Chicago, and Philadelphia, as well as in Paris and Brussels and Odessa.

You don't like, you orderly people of Kansas, to hear such things mentioned, and you say to yourselves, "It can never be."

You are wrong. It can be. I pray God it will never be, but, remember, it can be.

It is not so many years ago that this Thomas P. Ryan of the Equitable Life, soon after putting together the various sub-companies which form the tobacco trust, had been haled in floating some hundred odd millions of bonds and stocks on the public at three or four times their real value, and was pinched for ready money. At about this time a New York bank exasperated pounced down suddenly on one of his trust companies. Among the securities of this corporation, the State Trust company, was a note signed by one Dan Shea, for \$200,000. As it was a criminal offense for the trust company to lend on any one name, never mind how good the collateral, over a small fraction of the amount of this note, the examining board in the officers and directors and gave them a choice of telling what they knew about Mr. Shea or summoning them before the grand jury. Thereupon Mr. Ryan boldly announced that Shea was his 14-year-old office boy on \$2.50 a week. This is the same Thomas P. Ryan who has been called in as the savior of the 60,000 policy holders of the Equitable with its \$100,000,000 odd of accumulated funds.

LAWSON'S REMEDY.

"The surest, safest and most natural process of restitution is the application of the 'system's' own methods to the 'system.' If we find a Rockefeller possessed of \$500,000,000 we shall first investigate how he obtained so much money, and if he gained it legally he must never be molested in its enjoyment, for it would be dangerous if the American people took from any one of themselves that which they had themselves given him, for that is what obtaining property legally really amounts to in America."

"But the ownership of so large a sum by one man is proof positive that it was not obtained legally, therefore, we should discover exactly by what methods of squeezing, filching and plundering it was got together and then take him and his \$500,000,000 back over the route of his raid compelling him to drop the booty at each twist of the road. There would be righteous retribution in despoiling the robber by means of the very machine he devised for your undoing."

MUST SELL BACK STOCK.

"The first step is for the American people to divorce themselves from the 'system' and sell every share of stock and every bond they hold back to the frenzied financiers at present inflated prices."

"Take the money thus realized and place it in banks and trust companies, or, better still, in government, state and municipal bonds. In selecting banks and trust companies steer clear, to the best of your ability, of those institutions that are linked up with the 'system.' When you all have done this you have cut the foundation from under the inflated price structure the 'system' is maintaining and a collapse is inevitable."

"When the value of securities declines to a given point the 'system' must throw over the stocks and bonds it is carrying, for, bear in mind, frenzied financiers never own outright the stocks and bonds that stand in their names. A financier worth \$20,000,000 will be found owning \$60,000,000 of stock, borrowing the \$40,000,000 from the funds of the people in the banks. When the 'system' sells, the public alone will be able to buy. Then the 'system' will be no more."

"There is my simple plan to load up the 'system' with the stocks and bonds distributed among the people in addition to the stocks and bonds it owns itself. Then deprive it of the money of the people. Result—the artificial price structure collapses, the stocks and bonds of railways and manufacturing and gas companies all drop to the real cost of values of the properties they represent."

"Then the people, the money owners, purchase the stock and bonds, and, having only to pay interest on their real values, can reduce rates of fares and freight and prices generally and the revolution will then be complete."

LAWSON'S PERSONALITY.

The author of "Frenzied Finance" looks about 50 (though his exact age is unknown) and he seems a perfect blend of elegance and refinement. He dresses quietly but elegantly, and at the banquet of course appeared in the regulation full dress suit. On the street he wears a blue serge suit, patent leather shoes, and a straw hat. He wears no diamonds, and carries a small rattan walking stick. In his private car "Haselmore," he has his private secretary and a number of friends, mostly those connected with "Everybody's Magazine." James Creelman, the famous correspondent, also being a member of the party. Lawson's great characteristic is his ability to great character. He is a perfect blend of calm and calm, and his way of talking, no one can withstand the torrent of conversation that bursts forth from his lips. One newspaper here says of this particular trait:

TALKED HIS HEARERS DUMB.

"And the men around him were fagged, worn out and silenced. He had talked them dumb; he has talked his critics and his enemies dumb. Lawson is a bull of a man who follows his way red-hot and rampant through the ranks of his foes, and if he dies at last there will be a victory not worth the winning. The air in the private car is vibrant with his energy; you can almost hear his engines thumping like the stamping of an ocean liner as she pounds her way through a storm, head to gale. He takes a seat at a bracket table and faces you with his keen, gray eyes, broad, hard-muscled and ready, a very tiger of a man. Will he talk; some galvanic ripple seems to run

through him until his face shines afar with inspiration. The grizzled mustache flickers over his red lips, he rests one arm on the little table and sweeps the other beneath his chin as though to silence those voices of his sensations that must have been stilled long ago.

FIRER BROADSIDES OF WORDS.

"And then—Thomas W. Lawson talks. Angels and ministers of grace defend us, but what a storm of eloquence he is. He isn't a man talking at all; he's a battleship of words with every gun firing at the same time."

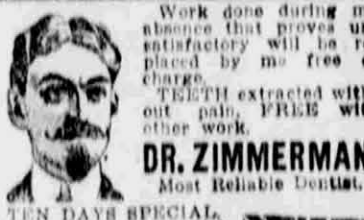
"Standard Oil, Rockefeller, Rogers; the Wall Street swindles and the profits on the sale of steel; his life at home that is a domestic paradise, and his friends abroad through all the states who are gathering beneath his flapping standard by hundreds every hour. He thrashes on through a raging sea of words and tosses aside your feeble



questions like spray from the bow of a ship. He seems almost to swell before you visibly until he bulks prodigious in that swaying car, and you struggle for breath, for air, for silence, like a drowning man."

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