An Open Letter

To President J. W. Sanborn, Utah Experimental Station on "The Future Farm."

[DR. C. A. SARGENT.]

It is not without pleasure and appreciation that the writer of this open letter undertakes to answer a criticism on "the future farm" from the chief of the Utah Agricultural College and Experimental station, from a man possessing the great qualifications that make him worthy to be entrusted with the training of hundreds of our most talented young people of both sexes; expected to in their time to take an effective hand in the future development of our farming and rural population, the advancing culture and well-being of our commonwealth. But it is not alone with pleasure I take notes on this criticism on "the future farm," it is also with a feeling of duty, awakened, when, in connection with farming interest, more or less unobserved, we see factions of numerous proportions, of perilous aspects, and of national concern, rise up in our republic; the same story over again, as almost all nations have undergone, again and again repeated; the subjugation of the producer (and in particular the farmer) under the increased financial and commercial pressure of the consumer.

In the very start there are then two main points in view, for the future farm:

1. The agricultural economy; and
2. The preservation of the fruits of that economy for the main benefit of the toiler himself.

THE FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL SUBJUGATION OF THE FARMER UNDER MODERN FEUDALISM.

Within the known history of the world, all nations, that have raised up and fallen—have gone through about the same stages, from prosperity to ruin, and by the same causes.

In forming the successful nucleus to a commonwealth, it must have contained virtues enough for that accomplishment, else it could not have effected its beginning; and most certain, at least, the same elite-religious qualifications that make its continuation possible.

It is a marked fact that very few historians have satisfactorily analysed and pointed out what constituted a successful nucleus to a prosperous commonwealth. We are convinced that it would be very interesting for earnest students of history to find out, in fact, what caused the rise, prosperity, decline and fall of nations in the past. Sacred history is more or less misunderstood; and profane history is very unreliable and mixed with trash; making it necessary for the student to hold on to his points, and, so to say, gain his information by reading between the lines. Profane-historians are always laboring under the difficulty of uncertainty in their premises; and the same follow them in their conclusions. But it may be safe to set down as a maxim, that commonwealths form themselves agreeable to the supreme law of the golden rule; and nothing less can or will hold a republic together. And under that supreme law, old and modern feudalism must go!

Note A—The incentive, the desire for dominecring power, aristocracy, is of course nothing less than unholy ambition, seeking illegitimate power over fellow men. It is like a cankerworm that eats up and destroys. The endurance by which nations have withstood its venomous effects, has given it the appearance of a legitimate belonging to the national body; and which has blinded students of national welfare. It might not be a problem of difficult solution, if the teachings of our great Master and the aims of aristocracy did agree in any shape or form.

The fallen nations of the past! Look at them—historic pictures of woe, misery and destruction. But now at this time, on this continent, will aristocracy and its concomitants have to retreat? Will it be tolerated very long? Has its time gone run out? Are its days counted? Will now such fraternity and brotherhood take the lead?

It would be an anomaly if the doctor cured the sick in order again to give him to the serpent for destruction. The national interest now more than ever is raised in favor of the farming industry. And it is not the calculation, that the proceeds of advanced farming industry shall be used as a prey for aristocracy to feed upon.

Note B—Are there not to be found a certain rate of so-called statesmen, who consider aristocracy a necessary element in the state, and a state necessity; and therefore now recommend the advancing monopoly system, as a proper stepping stone for that purpose?

Permanent standing obstacles by time worth, and finally reveals itself by retrench victory, while nations need fade to the grinding wheels of the politics tumble. True merit grows in acknowledgement and strength, when the raging billows of opposition beat against its solid foundation. The event in the future will be able to decide and note when tyranny and oppression can rule no more.

Nothing else it was advanced as a political axiom, "that governments which are not able to protect their citizens in their constitutional rights are failures." It would be of interest to know how to define when such negation has set in, because aristocracy and, more or less, to protect their citizens in their rights. And the very impossibilities of all human doings attend, accountable failures; and rarely cases are therefore calculated to meet the necessities consequent upon the general shortcomings of humanity. But there is ever beneath a wedge to put up a standard, to prevent, where there should be no failures. The universe rest in the unfolding proposition, was it not to get the people to wrestle the power of Creation? Heaven proposed to put the nation under aristocracy.

If ever it could be imagined that the devil was heard laughing, it might be when listening to the vicious reasonings of those gifted him, subverting the into popular truths, and succeeding in making an outwitted humanity put the crown of merit upon the brow of deceivers; then the laughter consulting from the pit is said to have been fittingly represented by Paganini when he coupled demons by his violin. And then if it could be successfully demonstrated to our days that something was trying to keep up our political machinery, and that something was an aristocracy, the demons might laugh.

We can to some extent sympathize with those statesmen because they can see the authority, or a sufficiently controlling power is wanting, and consequences anarchy in all its dreaded, hurr the features; but they do not know that an overruling Providence holds the power in reserve, ready at any time when willingness to accept it is made manifest.

Note C—Has it not for a long time become a state necessity for the governmental power to regulate and establish commercial equity in the exchanges of commodities (at profiteers)?

The latter effectively made to that direction against a few of the trusts are indications of the awakened appreciation of such a state necessity. But the manifest weakness in the execution thereof most likely originates in the opposition it meets by the manipulators of monopoly.

Equitable commercial proportions of values, or prices as promulgates will, of course, be imposed under the purpose that the so-called "law of supply and demand" regulates those values. And most likely many of the trusts, avowedly arranged to dominate the prices, will be the main subterfuge to such logic.

When in 1873, by demonetization of silver, the purchasing power of money was raised between 40 and 50 per cent, was that caused through the law of supply and demand? No! it was done by fraud.

When the purchasing power of the farmer's labor was lowered at least 50 per cent, was that caused by the law of supply and demand? No! it was done to satisfy the greedy maloths of Wall street, to enslave labor, and to put down democracy.

And when the value of the farmer's production was constantly lowered, since 1873, at least 40 per cent, was that caused by "the law of supply and demand?" No! it was caused by demonetization of silver, raising the value of money 40 per cent.

Eight millions of farmers, and as many of the rest of industrial workers of our republic, now demand governmental interference in order to establish commercial equity, in the exchange of our industrial productions.

Note D—Capital without labor becomes valueless. Therefore, the modern way for capital to make labor independent, is through the mortgage and tenant system. This is the two main factors through which capital invades the domains of industry and labor.

In the first instance, under the mortgage system, the farmer regulates his own work, for the purpose of neat to his own sustenance, to supply "this market" the mortgagee, with subsistence. In the second instance "the master himself" supervises the labor of the tenant, and is generally found engaged by corporations and syndicates. In both instances of mortgagee and tenant, capital arranges for from 25 to 50 per cent benefits, which capital dictates, and goes as near to the floodmarks of danger as it can so as not to alarm their serfs.

What is the outcome of such dependency? Will it not have the same tendency now as in former times? Will it not gradually frighten the men for citizenship in our republic? Is it not a conspiracy against our manhood rights? Was further than the ancient Lycurgus to make that renewed and imperishable division of property? Went part old slavery have in the overthrow of ancient republics? And when was it that our cause slavery in those republics? Was it not the same as now?

In endurance of republics possible without the practice of the "golden rule" to make them permanent? Slavery and serfdom under that rule became fatness and leanness, and under those heads there would be an endless succession, necessitating the labors for citizenship.

If states could be forbidden, which, outside of aristocracy, now is the last resource left to the wants of the people, then is to be compelled to come to the nation's help, and would be a sure step towards throwing in an anti-republican spirit. But it serve consolatory that statesmanship has failed to do its duty.

Note E—We propose to point out, if we cannot entirely prove, what is still in the mind of the future and destiny of "The future farm" in regards to increased productiveness of the soil, for rich science and rational training, improvements.

And we also propose to point out how the present sect, shares, traps and legislation set out and bought by money monopoly—how those benefits of improved farming would almost entirely be grabbed up by non-producers, and strong, unscrupulous, cultured and pleasure loving aristocracy and nobility of a ruined and fallen republic, if it was not checked by some kind of Georgian evolution.

Is it not an incontrovertible fact (so only one instance in the cause of decline of our republic) that through the congressional financial jugglery of 1873 the purchasing power of money, in the hands of the "masses," was increased 45 per cent? This financial monstrosity at its point of time, lowered the value of farm labor and production at least 45 per cent. And all industries dependent on this 45 per cent increase in money value, and which pocketed the farmer with six wants, increased his prices at the same ratio. It lowered the wages of the farm to the economic depressed the possibility of paying the farmer's debt and unto the same amount; at the same time trusts were organized and incorporated everywhere, fastening on him this 45 per cent in increased prices on nearly all what the farmer need to buy.

What was the outcome of this monstrosity in Wall street? People did not hardly know what was the matter; but the slimy coil of the serpent gradually tightened around them; and the impoverished farmer had to flee to the serpent's nest for deliverance, in the shape of billions of dollars in mortgages. We may imagine we see the demons grin, having gained the victory over the shortsighted producers, and already money-lenders contemplate the monstrous train, in taking such unknown advantage of his brother!

When the great man Moses saw his Israelitish brother so cruelly abused, was it any wonder that it raised his ire and zeal? (He struck the hard, we admit.) But Moses rubed to the esteem of God and man or punishing the tyrant.

Now for an illustration! Suppose that within the next twenty years the average increase of yield to the farm of the acres of the soil would be 20 per cent, and the increase of labor values would be in proportion. Supposing also that during those twenty years the money barons retained their present power to fill of Wall the money market and command the prices of money. Supposing also that to farmers, in order to sustain and execute the above planned improvement, a few billions in capital were needed within the United States. According to the present calculation of Wall street, the money barons would want the lion's share of that 20 per cent.

But now, that 20 per cent to be gained by mentioned improvements, was conditioned that the interest of the capital needed should not exceed 3 per cent paid in? It may be remembered that very seldom farming improvement is worth any more than 3 per cent, if the latter shall narrowly pass to the benefits of the capital? The question according to set rules in Wall street conservatism, would not be what can we let them have this money for? No! but it would be: how much of those 20 per cent can we get? We will put our cuttlefish-jumping-jack on the mysterious outside, and proclaim liberal terms, that we will take all the benefits of farming improvements. Only we will leave enough for the farmer, so as not to choke him in his laborious efforts as our bounden servant.

Knowing this financial tyranny to be prevailing, would it be sane willingly to submit all national progress to the tune of Wall street's money lenders?

Therefore, while "The future farm" proposes in the near future through scientific and rational improvements to increase farming-labor value 25 per cent, we at the same time should have our eyes open to the necessary preventions, in order that those future improvements shall not, still more, stick our nation in the grasp of modern feudalism.

The farmers throughout our glorious republic must unite and organize as a financial and commercial body for self-protection and progress.

As farmers in the United States make up a powerful majority, we should have and hold a majority representation in legislative and executive bodies, before farmers can consider their interests properly secured in their constitutional rights.

When haughty and self-sufficient money power sits in its high chair and presumes to send out its imagined irresistible mandates, let them learn that there be powers greater than money, and that a kind Providence is silently watching the welfare of the people, and to those who are unrighteous continue over their fellow-men it is proclaimed in only were they shall fall.

Note F—Nature yields its treasures in abundance to the intelligent and legal husbandman, without strife, contention or strife, and these are sent to a peaceful enjoyment of the fruits of the soil, by peaceful, upright citizens, under the shadow of their own vines, together with their loved family.

Here you find the good and law-abiding citizen, who faithfully and legally bears his part of the legitimate cost of keeping the commonly property governed; and is raising a family that honor their parents and an honor to the nation in growing up to good citizens. And he recruits the decorated parts, continually commercial centers, with faithful guardians of these points, well, because now as before, honor yet their last statesmen, philanthropists and public servants from the ranks of the humble farmer.

In the past, through want of more intelligent training, the unsuspicious, frugal, honest, hard-working husbandman, seems to have been, and still is, amongst the most harrying and outmaneuvered prey and victims of plunder to the surrounding embankments of the commercial financial freebooters or money sharks.

In all financial times the landowns sweat's labor by unmitted speculation from everybody they could enslave and force under their yoke. The small intellectual, then as now, were their nearest and most handy victims. The child from the cradle was bound for the thralldom. And the barons, rising their greedy eyes to their objective prey, their financial scheme was: How can I subject these farmers, producers and laborers to my will? How can I make them work for me, feed and clothe me, build my castles, and do my fighting? They gained their object, mostly, and enslaved one half of the population of Europe under usual bondage.

The same history repeat itself in modern times, that the last barons gained in times past, the new combined land and money barons are doing at today, in a little different form, better adapted for their purpose in our days. But the main it amounts to the same. In with, and as always all goes given, it will foster our agricultural economics and material progress, to an extent that farmers, engineers, agricultural statesmen probably have not dreamed of, but if not checked, it will make little difference only, when the last fie will say, that what has been lost cannot be retrieved.

The financial reform is now fairly beside the nation; so much so, that it seems as if no amount of hostile criticism can hinder it from rises in favor of the people. When the backbone of money—aristocracy—will be broken, that we cannot help to assert that the outlook for a powerful and overpowering resistance is very conspicuous. Money monopoly will take upon itself:

1. The mantle of charity, by taking care of the national finances.

2. Governmental paternity, in taking upon itself the great mission of saving the people from democracy.

3. It will, maybe, offer the elderly ones and the less wary, a place in the Nexus, on condition that the people submit humbly to their government system.

4. It will present to the nation the necessity of an American modern aristocracy, dividing the people for the benefit of Nationality now absent, perverted and soiled by the same old and common enemy, no more than seventeen centuries.

And after these impending and forming processes have been gone through, "the future farm" will show meetings the natural outcome of pending economics, social and public reforms, long prepared for, by a kind and all-seeing Providence.

Signs are very copious now for a general growth of advanced higher intelligence amongst farmers, through the very efficient labors of our best professors in agricultural science, in all our agricultural colleges and experimental stations. Better times are soon coming.

Note G—What are the financial conditions of the farmer today, throughout this mountain region, as a result of the last twenty years' wicked financial legislation?

Ignorance may in some instances be bliss, because if people did not know the cause of their affliction, their ill-will against the perpetrators might not be raised. Not a few of our leading statesmen assume ignorance and ignore the question, for reasons best known to themselves; like Admiral Nelson at Copenhagen, ignoring facts and looking in a other direction.

The farmer's present average indebtedness per capita is not less than fifty dollars, and likely amounting to more than 40 per cent of the value of the farm; bearing interest at the rate of more than 10 per cent; to be paid in gold at the appreciated value of 50 per cent, obtained by the selling of farmers' productions at a depreciated value of more than 40 per cent.

Besides, the farmers are almost everywhere financially discriminated against. In the greater part of his exchanges, he, on an average, pays the fruits of his three days' labor for the fruit of one day's labor he buys. That this is so can easily be proven. Experts have set the value, for instance, on a self-binder at thirty-five day's farmer's work; and almost all other farming machinery and implements at the same rate.

When leading men of our Territory, not many years ago, predicted financial troubles, and advised the people to incur any but unavoidable indebtedness; and also the presiding Bishop of the Mormon Church counseled the people to adopt measures of utmost economy; the consequence of those unheeded warnings is today felt very severely by the people in our valleys. And when the loving mother drops the silent tear, her family being in want of necessaries which the father cannot furnish, besides being cut short in educational accomplishments that are not taught in the district schools, as well as in very much needed improvements in their homes, etc., tears are taken by a righteous judge.

While the toiler suffers want, and more or less gradually sinks to true and efficient citizenship—the usurer, the usurer, the wealthy consumer finds to affluence and luxury. What a consummate political bankruptcy in our great republic, now ever country old in political experience! What statesmanship!

It is said that consequent upon the shortcomings fall of the classic nations, when the augurs of the temples met one another, they laughed. Well they might. And when our financial augurs in Wall street pacified financial outlooks upon the strength of their own wicked conscience, when they meet, they might as well laugh—having the most advanced republican nation with a population of over sixty-five millions in their pockets.

Our beloved grand republic, how deeply thou has been entangled in the snares of political demagogues!

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