

MEMORIAL ADDRESS.

EXTRACTS FROM A SHORT SPEECH OF A. PUCKETT.

Delivered on Memorial Day to the Old Soldiers at "Hardy, Arkansas—Battles Still to Be Fought—Evils That Grew Out of the War."

You old soldiers doubtless wonder what a young man knows about war, anyway—and I wish to admit in the beginning that he doesn't know much—and that little has been gained by reading. I have no reminiscences to relate of the war but what have been related before. The past is interesting only as it contributes to the present. Now is ever the time for all patriotic and pure thoughts. If the past records mistakes, the present and the future must correct them. We cannot go back. Forward is the command of duty and progress. If I had been old enough, I might have been a rebel, as my father was—but living now, I am an American citizen proud to live in a united country. Though an orphan of the rebellion, I feel no resentment against the Union soldier. The effect of my widowed mother's tears has been to create in my mind a horror of all war.

War makes widows and orphans on both sides—and these are all human beings. Religious and political views are of no moment in the presence of human suffering. There the heart speaks. The heat of the hardest battle ever fought on American soil never so hardened the heart of a good soldier on either side but that he would give up the last drop of water in his canteen to the dying soldier of the other side. Sword, shot and shell cannot sever the tie of brotherhood by which human hearts are bound to each other in times of suffering.

God never created men to butcher each other. Christ came to earth to preach "peace on earth, good will to men." The true honor of a nation is to be found only in deeds of justice and in the happiness of its people, all of which are inconsistent with war.

Senator Plumb said of Grant that his greatest honor was that he, a soldier, opposed war. Sherman pronounced war a failure—and even the great warrior brigadier Napoleon said, while in exile at St. Helena, that the more he studied the problem the more he became convinced of the inability of war to create any permanent good.

Owing to the weakness of man, war sometimes seems a necessity—but that is no justification for its crimes and desolation. War is a terrible thing, however you may consider it.

Slavery was wrong—but more money was spent in the war than would have been required to purchase and liberate every slave in America—and the lives lost were of more value than all the gold and silver that was ever mined since Judas betrayed Christ for thirty pieces of silver until America was mortgaged to Baron Rothschilds for gold.

But let us grant that the war could not be avoided, that it was settled right and that all bitter feelings now dead.

There are still evils growing out of that war that affect us all to-day. There were men who did not respond to their country's call—men who hired substitutes—and one of them is now president of the United States.

I wish to read a prophecy of Abraham Lincoln. This letter was written to Uncle Danny Hanks, who was an early day partner of Lincoln in rail splitting in Rock creek township, Sangamon river bottoms, Macon county, Illinois, at the close of the war in 1864.

Uncle Danny Hanks lived until September, 1890, and gave out this letter for publication. This letter was only one of a number Uncle Danny received from him during the war. This letter read:

"I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me, and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war corporations have been enthroned, and an era of corruption in high places will follow and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of the war."

You know how much of Lincoln's prophecy has already come true. This is perhaps not a proper place for me to enter upon the discussion of a subject that is now agitating this country from center to circumference—the money question. Lincoln foresaw the struggle the country was approaching, and warned us.

The circular which I shall now read is said to have been sent out to American bankers during the war by an agent of the Bank of England, and is known as the Hazard circular:

"Slavery is likely to be abolished by the war power, and chattel slavery destroyed. This, I and my European friends are in favor of, for slavery is but the owning of labor, and carries with it the care of the laborer; while the European plan, led on by England, is capital's control of labor, by controlling wages. This can be done by controlling the money. The great debt that capitalism will see to it is made out of the war, must be used as a measure to control the volume of money. To accomplish this the bonds must be used as a banking basis. We are now waiting to get the Secretary of the Treasury to make this recommendation to Congress. It will not do to allow the government, as it is, to control, to circulate as money, any length of time."

for we cannot control them. But we can control the bonds, and through them the bank issue."

Whether this circular is genuine or not I do not know. But I do know, and you know, that an immense debt was made out of the war and that Wall street now controls the volume of money. You also know that this great debt was made after the war was over by issuing bonds and burning up the greenbacks—the money that fought the war.

Hon. Robert Toombs said:

"When Pendleton got up his agitation in Ohio in 1837 and 1838 by declaring that the bonds ought to be paid in greenbacks, because they were bought in greenbacks, the bondholders got frightened and said we must get rid of these greenbacks. They went to work and had their value destroyed—they demonetized them and got them out of the way by an adjudication of the supreme court. Then the increasing production of the mines in this country came in to swell their fears, and so they determined that as their bonds said they were payable in coin, gold and silver, or its equivalent at the present standard value, they must get rid of silver."

John G. Carlisle, once the able champion of the people and an honest Democrat, in a speech in congress in 1873, denounced the conspiracy which, he said, seemed to have been formed here and in Europe, to destroy by legislation and otherwise from three-sevenths to one-half, the metallic money of the world as the most gigantic crime of this or any other age. Said he: "The consummation of such a scheme would ultimately entail more misery upon the human race than all the wars, pestilences and famines that ever occurred in the history of the world." Now, Carlisle is a gold-bug—but he has not yet succeeded in answering his own speeches.

But here I go drifting off onto the money question. It is mighty hard to make a speech even to a Sunday school class nowadays without bringing up the story of the golden calf. I take it as a good sign that the people are waking up, thinking and preparing to throw off the yoke of an English financial system in America.

The agitation of the money question is to-day as bitterly sectional as the slavery question in 1860. It is Wall street against the rich Mississippi valley, the glorious wide West and the Sunny South—gold gamblers against a nation of seventy million useful people. The East threatens to secede. Well, turn about is fair play—the South will save the Union this time—but not with sword and gun. We will shell the plutocrats from the American fortress of Liberty—the ballot box.

There is work for the young men of to-day—yea, and fighting, but not with firearms, let us hope—as great as any work our forefathers have done.

There are problems as grave confronting us as confronted our forefathers.

This is a government of the people, and the people are responsible. Every one of you here present is responsible for his part of the government, and it is cowardice and treason that refuses to-day to uphold every principle of the Declaration of Independence.

Such people as we here assembled constitute the United States of America, and our actions help decide the destiny of a great nation.

It is the personal duty of each one of us to see that his part in this grand people's government is the part of an honest, intelligent, progressive manhood.

Washington and Jefferson and Lincoln were great—because they represented great principles.

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The principles are greater than the men, because they live forever, and are eternally right.

Truth and justice are greater than statesmen, kings or countries.

And government for the people now on earth is the noblest study of mankind.

Let me close with a quotation from Abraham Lincoln's speech at the dedication of Gettysburg:

"In a larger sense we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our power to add or detract. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth."

O North! O South! O East! O West!

Away with jealousy, suspicion, hate! Joint heirs to one of one estate,

Forevermore to hold—

Ample and broad, so fill'd with bread and meat,

The recompense of honest toil,

That ye might welcome all the world to eat.

Let the dead past, and all its curse and scorn,

Be buried, with no resurrection morn!

Stand forth, O land, in unity and might,

Leaving the true, and valorous for the right!

Down to the unreturning depths be your'd!

All things by God answer'd,

And strong thou ever found a blessing to the world—

To this shore of the world!

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THE COXEY PLAN.

WOULD GIVE US MORE MONEY AND EMPLOYMENT.

Mr. T. D. Hinckley Explodes the Ancient Superstition that Money Must Have Intrinsic Value. Labor the Only Real Value in Money.

A sensible resolution adopted by the Reform Press association at its Dallas meeting, recommended the Coxey non-interest bond and good roads bill to populist papers for discussion.

The object sought to be accomplished by the Coxey bills is to furnish the people with the money necessary for the transaction of their business at absolutely no other cost than that of creating the wealth of which it is the representative. Under our present system of business the money which comes to the people reaches them freighted with such a burden of interest, collected in a thousand different ways, that it is entirely too costly a vehicle to use as an every day medium of exchange. This costliness of our present-day money does not inhere in its natural or real value but in the fact that it is surrounded by such huge artificial barriers called "usury," "intrinsic value," "scarcity," etc., that even in the best of times it is hard of access, while in times like the present its fortress is all but impregnable. The greatest and in fact the one bulwark upon which it depends, however, is "intrinsic value." And this bulwark Coxey's plan sweeps out of existence at a blow.

The Coxey plan proposes money based on bonds, as the national bank currency is now, with this difference.

The national bank currency is based on bonds the entire amount of which falls due upon a certain fixed date, is payable in gold, and bears gold interest paid twice a year in advance. The Coxey money would be based on bonds which would fall due in twenty-five annual consecutive installments of four per cent each, payable in the currency for the issuing of which they were alone voted, and without interest.

The national bank currency can only be issued to private corporations and can be used for "banking purposes," alone, that is to say, note shaving, etc., and, once issued, is nothing but the debt of the corporation upon which it may collect legal interest.

The Coxey money could be issued solely to some governmental subdivision, such as a town, city, county, etc., and could only be used for the purpose of such public improvements as the people of such governmental subdivision may elect, and when paid out for material and labor it would be full legal tender "money," every dollar of which would have a dollar's worth of newly created wealth back of it and would cost nobody a cent of interest.

The national bank currency reads: "The First National bank of Blankville will pay the bearer on demand blank dollars." These due bills, when signed by the president of the corporation issuing them, are a legal tender only by sufferance and are absolutely dependent upon the scarcity of money for their circulation. The Coxey money would read: "This note is a legal tender for all debts, public and private," and when signed by the national secretary of the treasury would be forwarded to the officers of the town or district in whose behalf the bonds were deposited, and would be paid out by them for the material and labor necessary to make the public improvements contemplated.

But the one over-topping supreme difference between the two systems is in the fact that the national banking theory caters to the hoary headed, superstitious, "intrinsic value" theory, in the interest of a few money mongers, while Coxey's plan boldly cuts loose from the idea that the money inventions of prehistoric barbarians are the best attainable, and proposes to crown the mighty advancement of the nineteenth century with a money issued by the people, in the interest of the people.

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