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THE REBEL

THE GREAT APPEAR GREAT TO US ONLY BECAUSE WE ARE ON OUR KNEES - LET US ARISE

HALLETTVILLE, TEXAS, SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 1915

T.A. HICKEY, Editor and Owner
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No. 211

A New Development of the Land Question.

The oft-reiterated prediction of The Rebel that we will have use and occupancy as the sole title in land or the states of Texas and Oklahoma will be filled with white peons whose misery will even exceed that of the poor wretches who have toiled and suffered and died under the lash of the HACIENDA owners of Mexico, has at last received thorough confirmation from the most unexpected source — the Jal-Dal News.

In its issue of Monday, July 26, the hoary old muzzled prostitute lets in the light on the situation. After the usual balderdash about good landlords and bad landlords, and good tenants and bad tenants, it says in substance that there is no tenant problem in the great farming states of Illinois, Iowa, and Kansas, because the owners of the land have installed great farming machinery and turned the tenant into a field hand who is employed at wages for a short probationary time and again at harvesting time.

Where these field hands have families, the wife and children are compelled to live in congested centers while the husband makes an unstable living between seasons and thus home life is broken up. The Negro goes on to say that we have not as yet reached that deplorable condition in the cotton growing states; that we are fortunate in not being a tenantry state, because the tenant at least has a place for a year for which time he can assist the old folks who are past the age of labor, and has a chance to give his children a small measure of education.

But now, says The News, a large number of plantation owners, particularly along the Brazos, have met and decided that they will not rent out their lands any more on the share system. Here we quote The News verbatim:

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The landlords will "HIRE THE HANDS ONLY WHEN THEY WILL NEED THEM," like the landlords do in Kansas and Illinois and the families of the hands remain in the towns and cities. No debts have to be assumed, no children or disabled men will have to be fed, no doctor's bills paid. A more extensive use of large machinery, WITH LESS HAND HELP IS POSSIBLE. THERE IS LESS UNCERTAINTY IN GETTING THE HELP THAT IS NEEDED AND THE CULTIVATION OF THE LAND CAN BE CARRIED ON A MORE SATISFACTORY MANNER.

"Such is the conclusion of a number of planters who met recently and resolved that hereafter they would work up as rapidly as possible to this NEW WAGE HAND POLICY.

"While nobody can find any ground to criticize the farmers for adopting the policy thus forced upon them, and for making the best of it, it is no less unfortunate that the same policy in this direction should have to be taken in the city. While the average tenant farmer's position is by no means ideal, still the average tenant farmer is every reasonable way, still his own position is far better now than it will be after he has become a mere field hand, with his family learning indolence and extravagance in the city, himself afraid and never settled or sure about anything. As The News sees it, and as it is, the serious situation in which many a man is now with a fair show to make a start and to prosper is to win the less one opportunity left to him for himself a farm and the comforts and blessings that come with home, sweet home."

Now Mr. Texas Renter, 250,000-strong that you are, and with your wives and children making up more than 36 per cent. of the total population of the state, not to talk of the 70,000 mortgage farmers of Texas, who are hanging on the ragged edge of bankruptcy because of the serious loss that they have to carry, what do you think of what the future holds in store for you as laid down cold and practical as a mathematical formula, from the editorial page of the official organ of the landlords of Texas and Oklahoma.

You ninety-five thousand heads of families who are tenants and you thousands of mortgaged farmers in Oklahoma, and the thousands in both states who are now wagon tramps going down the paper sack and tin-can route, who are living in the hope of becoming tenant farmers, have you climbed on the watch tower and asked "watchman what of the night?" And do you not see that for you under the present system of land tenure the voice can never be heard? "The morning comes."

To you who have already secured small homes and big families, what chance has your daughter under the present system of land tenure, or what chance have your growing sons? It is said and written, and is true in law and logic and in truth and fact, that your daughter has not even the hope of marrying a tenant who may later

own a home. For her it is to live in a tenement in a congested city while her husband is a field hand, a hewer of wood and a drawer of water to the end of his days, while the son can join the United States army or become a wanderer on the face of the earth.

Truly the Gal-Dal. News for once in its life did not temporize with the truth, but told it bluntly and without equivocation, so that the tiller of the soil that has eyes to see and ears to hear, could know what is in store for them. That the lash of The Rebel applied to the pachydermous hide of The Gal-Dal, forced the truth from the reluctant lips of the newspaper Jerebel is immaterial. Suffice it to all of us that the truth is out; and what are you potential field hands going to do about it?

Many evolutionary forces from different directions are coming together in a flood to produce the meeting of the planter on the Brazos, in the great river bottoms, and along the Gulf Coast country and many other portions of the state.

The first development was in the siring of four-fifths of the state by land grabbers and which was made possible because of the miserably small tax upon unimproved lands. The second was the steady and uninterrupted increase in tenantry ever since the war due almost exclusively to the first fact just mentioned above. The third phase in the evolution of the condition that produces finger hands, lay in the amazing growth of agricultural machinery, which has revolved such a point that the Oliver and McCormick tools are now breaking the land on the steeples of Siberia and the plains of China with the result that the fingers of iron and steel, harnessed to steam and gasoline are taking the place of fingers of flesh and blood.

The fourth step in this development was the artificial rise in the price of land which inevitably caused the artificial rise in the interest rate until usury became the order of the day, and the securing of homes in a state capable of feeding and clothing the nation became a grim, tragic joke.

The fifth step was the control of the markets by the alliance of speculators in cotton, grain, land, money, railroads, and those economic power invariably drove the price of raw material raised on the farm to the minimum while the price of transportation, money, land, and the finished products was forced up to the maximum.

Finally, political power was seized by this allied group, so that the legislation in the cotton kingdom has become to all intents and purposes nothing but the reflex of the economic power of the allied speculators. For instance, in Oklahoma the governor of the state, Williams, is a notorious banking and real estate shark. The governor of Texas, Ferguson, is a notorious usurer, landlord, immensely wealthy stockman, and mouthpiece of the distilling and brewing interests, the latter of whom put up hundreds of thousands of dollars for his campaign funds.

The Rebs made the statement, before the Democratic primaries were held last July, that the Ferguson land plank was a false statement and that they had no intention of supporting it. They cited as proof that he himself had abolished the third and fourth Bell county farms and had installed wage labor, and that the Ferguson land plank was a lie. The Rebs also stated that the tenantry in Texas. This was true, first of all, because only a thousand of the quarter of a million tenants paid a bonus, and further if at any time the Ferguson land measure hurt the tenant financially he would do precisely what Ferguson did, leave the land and get a job elsewhere. The Rebs also stated that the tenantry in Texas was not as numerous as the Ferguson land plank stated, and that the last condition of the landless would be worse than the first. Ours was the only paper in the state that took this position, and we were the only paper that was not attacked for it. The Rebs and the square boys hit the nail upon the head, as can be seen from the editorial in the *Enterprise* of the 12th of July. The Rebs and the square boys who are, at this moment, six months after the music of the augural ball had died away on the Travis county air, organizing the tenantry and establishing FARM WAGE SLAVERY instead of abolishing tenantry and establishing FARM WAGE FREEDOM.

That the tenants of Texas, Oklahoma, and the cotton kingdom generally, are going to allow themselves to be turned into tramps and itinerants, as the Dallas News says they will be, except for a few who will be menials around the great plantations, is inconceivable. The kind of menials they will be is sketched in this News editorial. read.

"A few hands are hired at planting and again at harvest time, and with these "itinerants", when needed, the owner of the farm, and a few former tenants, now employed as washwomen, cooks, dairy hands, or stable boys, can look

after the feeding of the live stock and do the rest of the work.

We repeat, it is inconceivable to think that the vast majority of the citizens of Oklahoma and Texas, made up as they are of a larger American population than any two states in the Union, will tamely submit to this bondage that transcends that which was upon the children of Israel or the peons of Montezuma. That they should become serfs in the land of their fathers cannot be thought of by any well-ordered mind. That they will rebel, with fire and sword if necessary, is as certain as the change of the seasons, or the ebb and flow of the tides.

And yet this condition is at our doors. The illustrious F. Welsh is amply vindicated in his statement that the Texas ten were BORDERING ON PRONAGE, and by the irony of fate vindicated by the same pen and on the same page of the paper has blasted whatever reputation it had left when it sought to matize as false this statement of the United State governments investigator.

Dark indeed is the outlook for the actual tiller of the soil, the small home owner, mortgaged farmer, tenant or on tramp. I defy the most optimistic man to show a silver lining to the cloud of oppression that darkens their lives.

Where is the man in all Dixie land that possesses the temerity to start up and say that the Democratic party in any one of our states, has as much as moved its little finger to help the men and women who are now trembling on peonage's chasm. Even so, we have no measure of relief as an emasculated graduated land tax, savagely fought and killed by the Temple user and landlord, from Oklahoma to Florida the same conduct of the landlord- controlled Democratic legislature.

As to the Democratic national administration — it is to
terly grin, when their measure of relief to the Southern farmer
ounted to \$10,000 in the eleven cotton-growing states. Surely a
ger insult was never handed out to the Russian serfs by the R
noff clan.

The conclusion that The Rebel reaches in the face of this situation, is that there is not one moment to lose in the now a portent work of organization. Regardless of what your formal affiliation may have been, you cannot fail but to now organize the hour has struck when you must sever your connection with the party that has betrayed you, and turn to the Socialist, that lays it down as a fundamental principle that USE AND CUPANCY must become the title to land, and thereby abolish landlordism in toto.

So now we have come to the parting of the ways. We come to a show-down and a test. He that is not with us in this be he plutocrat or pauper, is against us. The sheep will not be parted from the goats. They are BEING separated from the Socialist party has its doors wide open for all honest men and women who are now facing a crisis in the South, far more pitious than that which the men of the Southern states faced in bellum times. This fight will be as desperate as that along the of the M-use or the Marine.

T's torts of privilege who now have the *South* in their midst must be supplied with a link to exculpation, must every way of their power to exploit their fellowmen be wrested from their hands. By all the records of history it is true that a possessing class has never voluntarily relinquished its economic status. They always had to be beaten, kicked, clubbed and shot into surrender. The only question before us now — in fact the only question of taking up the time of an earnest man for a moment is: —

‘Will the masses of the people in the cotton kingdom be peculiar, and the South in general, be able to rise to that lofty vision of the danger that confronts them, so that they may be able to store the legislatures and congress with peaceful bayonets held by a visible determination to settle the conflict by peaceful means? Will the South be troubled by bandits and crime as we laid at the door of those who have debauched the legislatures supplied for judiciary and snatched the pulpit, the college and press?’

The fight is on, gentlemen,—on with the fight! The law system must go. The fray has commenced. Lay on MacDuff, cursed be he who first says: "Hold, enough," in this fight that be waged until the landless man is on the manless man.

HOUSTON, CITY OF
HOMES (?)

The Houston Chronicle records in its issue of August 3d, the class of community the "best citizens" develop when put in power. Speaking of conditions on Clark Street Road it says that four of the residents "took part in last night's vigil and secured the numbers on 14 automobiles. Two of the cars were jitneys. The other

them owned by citizens of Houston who ought to be engaged in better past-time. One young girl was found on the side of the road crying. Some of the citizens compelled the man who had taken her out there to promise to take her home directly. These carousals are weekly occurrences. They have become so disgusting that many of the women in our neighborhood either refrain from going alone to the Clark Street Road to church or Sunday meetings or are obliged

go in a round-a-bout way to escape the disorderly scenes that would be obliged to pass."

Talk about the drunken profligacy of Rome! The drunken orgies of the masters of Rome were conducted in houses, but the revolting brutality of the loafing masters of America, and of our dear Texas, seem to be so open and revolting that the women can not even go to church for fear of "Disorderly scenes they would be obliged to see." And it is to be

for such scenes as these that it
necessary for the workers in Cit
and country to be underfed and

underclothed and under housed! Twelve of them PRIVATE cars. No working men and women here. The two jetties must have had members of the families with only one car. The elder brothers and sons must have had the family car on some other street.

The Pastor's Association will now proceed to meet and see that the "Sisterin" are no longer p

vented from getting to the me-
ing house long enough to draw
their nickles in the mission-
box; the street-walker brains
the editorial (?) department w-
close their eyes as they read
the addition to the ranks of the
physical counter-parts in the k-
al columns; the Commercial Cl-
will pay out more of the pro-
takers' money to advertise t-
wonderful opportunity for wo-
ing men to build good homes; t-
working men will vote for more

Who wouldn't live in Dem
(?) Houston? Who would
glad to furnish the girls for
escapades? Who would th
wanting to change such a
room arrangement?

Thurman Ready.
W. L. Thurman, Sulphur, writes that he is ready for any date at Encampments, or debates. Address this agitator and orator, at Sulphur, Okla.

