

The tariff as a means of raising revenue will no longer do on the grounds of sufficiency alone. Uncle Sam must look elsewhere for funds. And as a means of protecting labor it is a monstrous fraud. The Senate debates on this subject prove it; the fact that labor needs unions in protected industries proves it; the history of the whole system proves it; and if further proof were necessary, the condition of labor in the United States proves it best of all. Labor does not need "protection"; it does need self-respect and larger opportunities.

HENRY H. HARDINGE.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

WESTERN PROSPERITY ON THE SPOT.

Wichita, Kansas, August 15, 1909.

Great is the State of Kansas. Its boundaries include one of the immensely productive agricultural regions with which our country is so lavishly blest. I refrain from entering into statistics. Our State publications do this, and some of them read like a romance. But I will recite a few facts.

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The city of Wichita has been dramatic in the extreme, as illustrating the criminal folly of our present system of land tenures.

Twenty years ago the big boom here reached its zenith. Values were preposterously high. Fortunes were made by those who sold, and lost by those who bought.

Then came the crash. Special trains carried away the thousands who fled like rats from a sinking ship. As the population shrank, so shrank land values.

The thrifty and far sighted saw their opportunity and bought, and now they are selling at twenty times the price paid or, more likely, waiting for a further advance.

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Now as to the State.

It is indeed a garden, and fortunate are they who secured quarter-section titles when they cost little or nothing.

There is some disposition in the East to scout the idea that farmers are using automobiles to any great extent. But they are. Great numbers of automobiles are purchased and used by Kansas farmers. In one little town I recently visited, with a population of only 300, there were said to be forty automobiles. Practically the whole population could ride out of town on them. But they don't want to. They want to stay. They have got a snap. Crops are good year after year and prices are high.

That is a story of prosperity, but the prosperity stops short when we get through with the lucky fellows who were on hand early enough to get the land for little or nothing.

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Some of those early-comers didn't stop with get-

ting enough; they grabbed more than enough—in accordance with the system.

I am acquainted with one gentleman whose family is reputed to own over one thousand quarter-sections of 160 acres each, and I know another who owns 127 quarter-sections. These examples can be duplicated throughout the State, hundreds and perhaps thousands of times.

When it is understood that the present selling price of each good quarter-section is from \$6,000 to \$12,000, it may be realized how difficult it is for a would-be farmer without money to get a foothold. He can generally buy on easy terms, but because of enormous interest charges he practically becomes a tenant, while regular renters are, of course, coming to be more and more the rule. The famous Scully estate has a rent collection office at Marion that is said to resemble a full-fledged national bank.

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The real test of a people's prosperity is always found in the remuneration paid to its lowest class of wage earners, and we find the Kansas farm-laborer making only a bare living.

Nothing could be more farcical than the annual statement, published gleefully by Eastern papers, of big wages ready to be paid to harvest hands. The wages are from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per day for twelve to sixteen hours' work, and the harvest season lasts only for about eight days. If you will compute car fare (leaving out Pullmans and Harvey eating houses) and consider the kind of labor required, you may possibly understand why it is that the unemployed of our Eastern cities are so stubborn in not rushing to Kansas at harvest time, and solving in that way the perplexing labor problem.

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I have been much impressed while going about Southern Kansas, in noting the continual migration to supposedly cheaper land. Illinois farmers to Kansas, Kansas farmers to Oklahoma, Texas or Mexico; while there is so much land here, not used to the best advantage. The single tax is needed here, if for no other reason than to multiply the number of small farms.

You have noticed how in the big land drawing at the Northwest there were 332 blanks to one drawing. Of course many were speculators, but the fact is the same here. Hundreds have to look over the fence at the one fellow who got his land at a fair price.

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The spirit of Jerry Simpson survives in Congressman Victor Murdock. It would be worth while for the Democratic party to change its name if by so doing it could get such Republicans to detach themselves from the party of Aldrich. Senator Bristow is another good "insurgent." It is refreshing to have such men at Washington—the charm being broken only when they feel called upon to chant the praises of unworthy party chieftains.

H. W. ALLEN.

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If you would lead a life without sorrow, regard things which will happen, as if they had already happened.—Epictetus.