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GOVERNMENT FOR THE PEOPLE

Our Social Problems

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Man carries within himself the seeds of his own destruction, and so it is with his society. As a skin cell running rampant evolves a cancer, so does the savage lurk in every civilized man. The man who fled the mother country to escape oppression, and enjoy freedom and equality in America; the man who may make the finest parent, and best citizen, may under provocation fight to the death, sack cities, be guilty of all of the crimes in the legal calendar. It has always been the pressure, where and how applied, that has resulted in a tyranny, a democracy or an anarchy.

Social knowledge has progressed, and we have attained refinements, in manners, and culture, but our civilization is a thin veneer, which is easily broken and erupts cataclysmic wars such as we are now waging. And the man of learning and culture becomes the master mind of the agencies of destruction, while the peaceloving citizen, once aroused, once fearful for the safety of his family and tribe, takes on the blood lusts that go back to the primeval jungle feuds. And civilization, instead of carrying us away from self destruction of our species, through its lopsided development, through its denial of natural rights, is hurling us at each others' throats, in what if continued must in truth become the destruction as depicted in Revelations.

Where in earlier days men might fight over a local well, nations, today, arm millions of men who do not know each other and have no foundation for hating and torturing each other, yet are prepared to kill over mineral wells that their nations covet.

A civilization which tends to concentrate wealth and power in the hands of the fortunate few, while denying to the vast majority the security and comforts that their toil has entitled them to, must breed a virus that will destroy the race. With the enormous forces, creatures of man's intellect, rendering a thousand times the service of a man, the human creature who is not among the fortunate few becomes a tool, a poor tool that must compete with the tireless steel that turns by steam and electricity.

Science marches on, but political science, that study of how man must get along with his fellows, is left in the hands of politicians, who have their own ends to serve, and in the hands of those who, taking the gold of Dives, will yet sell Lazarus into a deeper hell. Today we are told by our great educators of Yale University, that man is too prolific.

Malthus lives again, and his hideous concept that God brought forth more creatures than he could support on this earth again takes hold.

To those who feel that their crust of bread, their cup of water, or their inch of land, is it not easy to preach gospel of fear, of jealousy, of hate. Is it not wise to teach them that it is wise to strike before the other fellow is armed?

This is the gospel of selfishness, that has always destroyed the finest aspirations of mankind. It is the holier-than-thou attitude of isolationism that the saving grace for mankind is to have each mind his own business. This is the selfish attitude of those who, having prospered themselves, would like to keep a status quo and feel that the rest of mankind should be satisfied.

But the salvation of society, nay more, the salvation of mankind itself is in the gospel of the Christ, the gospel that lives within our skins each one of us while we enjoy health.

Social progress makes the well-being of all more and more the business of each. It binds us closer together as man links cities by radio and airplane.

He who serves the law of his land, who loves his family, but will take only passing interest in the problems of his fellow men, an interest that goes no deeper than giving alms and perpetuating charity, falls down in his duties as a man and a citizen.

The duties of both demand more. In so far as it is humanly possible, he must strive for that freer condition in which all men may have the opportunity to self employment, and whereby every man may be secure in the fruit of his labor.

Bad conditions in the foot of China will assuredly poison the world and infect the hand of America.