

frauded shippers get into "business" conventions with the favored ones and fulminate together against the wicked workingman. After their conventions, the favored shipper drinks champagne with his cronies and winks his nether eye.

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Parasitical Business—Lawful and Unlawful.

Whenever President Roosevelt speaks of business methods that are socially destructive, he refers only to unlawful methods. But it is not the unlawful business methods that do the great harm. It is unfair methods of the lawful kind. When a man earns a dollar, and a thief steals it unlawfully, the man may suffer but the thief is despised and if caught may be punished; society is not thrown out of balance, and even the loser forgets his lost dollar in spending one he has afterward earned. But when a man earns a dollar which is diverted by lawful means to another man, and this goes on continually with every new dollar he earns, the beneficiary is respected for his unearned wealth, the loser is despised for his undeserved poverty, and social adjustments are thrown out of gear. Unlawful business unfairness is of few days and full of trouble for its beneficiaries; but lawful business unfairness is of indefinite duration, full of self-satisfaction and ease for its beneficiaries, subtly oppressive to its victims, and fundamentally destructive of social harmony.

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PROGRESS OF THE SPOILER.

The conference of Governors at Washington upon the call of President Roosevelt, was a significant gathering, especially with reference to its protest against the waste of our natural resources of mine and forest and soil. But the emphasis of this protest was not laid exactly where it belongs.

There is much less to fear from loss of energy through the waste of natural resources, which the protest emphasized, than there is from class control of energy through their monopolization, which is minimized if not entirely ignored. From the monopolization of natural resources, nothing but the dependence of one class upon another can be looked for; but the waste of the most important is constantly repaired by Nature.

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There are approximately three sources of energy available to man for use upon the earth. First, energy stored up as momentum in the earth's rotary motion; second, heat persisting from the

formation period in the center of the earth; third, energy derived by the earth from the sun.

Little progress has been made in obtaining energy of motion from the tides, although there is possibility in this for the future.

The interior warmth of the earth has been drawn upon as a source of energy in but a few cases, and then only for heating purposes in the neighborhood of hot springs; nor is there much prospect for the development of any means by which this energy could be made available in larger quantities.

Almost all the energy used by man in the past, as well as at the present time, is derived from the sun.

The sunshine of past geological periods, stored up in coal, petroleum, natural gas and the like, comprises one group. The second group consists of energy that comes to the earth in the sunshine of the present time and is captured and held by plants in chemical combinations, or as energy of position by water evaporated and lifted to heights.

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Mere mention of the three words coal, petroleum and natural gas brings to mind the names of the men associated with those industries in this country. As the country grew, the need of this energy became greater, the deposits increased enormously in value, and those who had possession of them became wealthy and powerful. The thought that these men are determining factors in our economic organization suggests the people's helplessness against their monopoly power.

The deposits that store up the sunshine of past geological periods are alike in one respect: the quantity is limited and the supply is exhaustible. Each year our coal mines are becoming deeper and the expense of operation greater. The report of the Royal Commission in England that investigated the coal deposits of that country states that within forty years the price of coal must materially increase there or mining operations will have to cease. Natural gas in this country does not flow so freely as when first discovered; but the petroleum cost and products are controlled so completely by one organization that it is difficult to venture an opinion about the tendency of the price.

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In comparison with those limited stores of the sun's energy an immense volume of energy in other forms flows in upon our earth each year. If this great stream could be tapped and diverted for human use it would last until the sun has

lost its heat—a time almost beyond human calculation.

Take water power for example: Each year a stream of sunshine falling upon oceans, land and lakes, evaporates moisture. The water rises. It is lifted to the higher strata of the atmosphere after moving great distances in the form of clouds or invisible vapor, and is precipitated on the mountains. When the snows melt it flows down to the lower levels, gathers from brooks and creeks into rivers, and reaches the ocean again. As it approaches the lower levels it gives out kinetic energy that was stored in it through evaporation by the sunshine of the previous year. When this energy is intercepted and harnessed at waterfalls and converted into electricity, it becomes available for human use. Each water power plant that is built, when viewed from the perspective of history, is an achievement almost as great as the first use of fire. Man has tapped an endless stream to assist the economy of his own body.

Then there is the energy which the sun stores season by season in vegetation. The potato plant that spreads over half a square yard receives sunshine on its green leaves and makes use of that energy to disintegrate carbonic acid, separating the oxygen from the carbon and forming hydrocarbon, which it packs together conveniently in the tuber under the ground in the form of starch. Starch can be converted into alcohol, and thus the energy of the sunshine that falls on the field is made available for power purposes. Here also an endless stream is tapped.

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There would be hope of liberation from those who have gained monopolistic control of the power of energy stored up by the sunshine of past periods, in reflections like these, if the energy which it supplies perennially were secured from monopolization. Each year new inventions make electricity more useful: the Tungsten lamp, for instance, gets four times the light from a unit of current that the Edison filament supplies. Each year new inventions make it easier to transmit electric energy great distances, thereby extending the availability of water power over broader and broader areas. The internal combustion engine makes available as energy of motion about thirty to a hundred of the units of heat value contained in alcohol. The progress of physical science is rapid, and there is every reason to believe that in a decade or two society would be thereby liberated from the control of the Baers and Rockefellerers based upon their owning the sources of

natural power—the power stored up by the sun ages ago in coal deposits and oil springs.

But the Big Interests are availing themselves of crude property laws, survivals of a barbaric civilization, to seize also upon the sources of the sun's perennial supply of power. The following quotation from the Chicago Tribune of April 13, 1908, is significant:

Big Men Obtain Water Power. Investigation Shows Control of Situation in Hands of Four. San Francisco, April 12.—A special to the Call from its Washington correspondent says: "So clearly have the financial and industrial leaders perceived the importance of water power that they have already gobbled up practically every available source of such power in the United States. The officers of the reclamation service declare that E. H. Harriman controls the water power situation in California as absolutely as he controls the railroad situation. At last accounts there was only one stream in California whose water power resources had not been acquired. The water power resources of the country are supposed to be in a very few hands. Investigation has led the government sleuths to the door of three or four men—Harriman, Morgan, Rockefeller and Weyerhaeuser."

On the following day the Chicago Tribune's own correspondent at Washington emphasized this threatening situation. Referring to a Presidential message, calling a halt of the giving away of water power, he wrote:

There are bills pending in Congress at the present time for the granting of river rights and water power to individuals and corporations sufficient to produce 340,000 horse power, according to the President's method of figuring. It would take 30,000,000 tons of coal to produce this much power. There is no use giving away 30,000,000 tons of coal; therefore, why give away 340,000 horse power?

There would be hope, but the Big Interests are shrewder than the mass of people, and they already have started to corral for themselves all the newly available sources of energy. Wasn't our denatured alcohol legislation thwarted for a long time? And now that it is finally passed, hasn't it been subjected to the insidious influence of the Standard Oil organization? The same men are reaching out and are retaining for themselves all the more important sources of water power in this country, and also the important sources of plant energy. Having a monopoly of the ancient energy-gifts of the sun, they are reaching out for a monopoly of his daily gifts of energy in other forms.

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Sometimes when I look into the future and wonder how it all will end, I think of a little talk I heard from the lips of Dr. Otto Winterer,

when he was about to accept his third nine-year term as Mayor of Freiburg, in Germany:

The past eighteen years were the best of my life. They were spent in the service of your city. It was a time of restless activity and I am now of an age when I should rather seek repose than new burdens. One hope has actuated me for many years. If I thought that it could be realized during my next term of office I should accept the responsibility once more.

About fifteen miles from our city there flows the Father Rhine. You all know how arbitrary are the prices of coal fixed by the Coal Kartell. You remember that grand effort of the Prussian government to break this monopoly. You remember how they bought stock in the Helvetia mines, but failed to get control. We are at the mercy of those who own the coal. They tell us what it will cost to heat our houses; they determine the expense for power that operates our factories. In addition our coal is inevitably becoming more expensive because the sources of supply are being depleted. There in the Rhine west of us flow thousands of horse-power waiting for the control of man. When the State government last year proposed to give a concession for this to a private company I protested without waiting for action of the councilmen. I told the government that this was God's heritage to our children and that it was wrong to cede it to a profit-making organization. I reminded them of that company that fifteen years ago came so slyly to one department of our State and said: "If you will grant us this water power we will, at our expense, undertake the arduous and expensive work of experimenting on the distance transmission of electricity." They gave them the power and then discovered that all this experimentation had been done by others before, and that when they promised to attempt to try whether it would be possible to send a current sixty miles they already knew that, and the whole was merely a device to get control of an excellent water power site.

Electricity is the "white coal" of the future. Every invention will make it more available. As long as the sun shines our rivers will flow, and so long we shall have the power that we need. It will be my plan to have the city of Freiburg build a dam that will develop 24,000 horse power. It will take an investment of about five million dollars. We shall transmit the current over the country, operate our own street car lines, and sell light and power to the citizens of our town; furnish energy at a low cost to the factories of this district, sell the surplus to the neighboring villages and mountains, and we shall leave our children a plant that yearly will become more available, instead of delivering them to the machinations of a corporation that will always strive to get the last cent of profit.

If, with your support, I shall succeed in this I shall count it as the greatest work of my life. If I have reason to believe that the City Council will carry out a plan of this kind, I will accept the re-appointment.

Dr. Winterer was re-elected. The city of Freiburg is carrying out this plan. Over all Germany the government has inaugurated a policy which

will become an Imperial law, making it possible for any city, State or community to get water power right for an indefinite period.

Just two years ago, about fifty miles above Freiburg, a private corporation sought a water power franchise, the provisions of which read that all the profits beyond a certain fair rate on the investment are to go, to a large extent, into the public treasury, and that the price of electricity is to be under public control, and that after the lapse of forty-nine years the franchise, with the plant in running order, is to become the property of the government without any payment whatever. In the meantime the government has the right to purchase at the investment price, plus an additional ten per cent.

Just across the Swiss frontier the Swiss Government has gone even further. Soon there will be a network of live wires spanning that country like a telephone system, into which water plants located at ends of mountain falls will feed their quivering energy, and from which energy various towns, villages and factories can draw their supply. The State railways will soon be operated by electricity exclusively. And back of the whole development there is the deliberate and conscious policy of the Swiss people to conserve for themselves and their children the advantage of this new development, which is certainly not the result of the efforts of those who are scheming in all countries to get control of water power rights. It is truly a social product.

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Shall we of this Republic, who have been despoiled of our common heritage of coal and oil, free gifts of ancient energy from the sun—shall we despoil ourselves and our children and our children's children of the gifts of energy which the sun perennially pours down upon mankind?

EDWARD A. RUMELY.

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CONGRESSMAN BURTON'S AMERICANISM.

Is the House of Representatives representative? Are the people of the United States a flock of sheep following a bell-wether, as the House follows its leaders? If the House is a deliberative body as it is supposed to be, when does it deliberate and who are its deliberators? Cast your eye over the rows of puerile puppets, bound by ropes of "rules" of their own making, and seldom you see one measuring up to the inches of a Man. Seldom, indeed, but praised be! there is one once in a while.