

Death of William Marion Reedy

WILLIAM MARION REEDY died in San Francisco, on July 28, following an illness contracted at the close of the Democratic Convention, which he had attended for the purpose of reporting the proceedings for his paper. He was born in 1862 in what is known as the "Kerry Patch" in St. Louis, the son of Patrick Reedy and Ann Marion Reedy. He received his early education at the Christian Brothers College in St. Louis. For a dozen years he was a writer for St. Louis papers until he became editor of the *St. Louis Mirror* in 1893 and its proprietor in 1896.

Reedy was a great writer. His style was remarkable, his versatility amazing, his industry prodigious. He was in the habit of turning out as many as 40,000 words a week on every conceivable topic. He was in addition a great reader, keeping up with current literature, and he was a critic of keen insight. His use of words was a delight to the discriminating, for he had what so few writers possess in these days of hurried composition and sloppy execution—style. His wealth of classical allusion, his facility for sudden surprises, and his extraordinary familiarity with books and famous personages, were qualities that stood out in his writings and gave them rare distinction.

As of special interest at this time we append what Reedy had to say in the *Mirror* of July 22, of the action of the Single Tax Party at Chicago:

"Meanwhile the Single Taxers in the Cave of Adullam at Chicago withdrew from the convention that was going too rapid on paternalism and formulated their platform in one plank for the untaxing of everything the result of labor and the taxing of the full economic rent out of all land value. They did right. Single Tax doesn't go at all with the kind of radicalism the Laborites set forth at Chicago, though Single Tax is the most radical and most workable reform for economic conditions ever proposed in the world."

What will become of *Reedy's Mirror* with Reedy gone is a matter of interesting conjecture. Reedy made it, it is true, but round it has grown a tradition which if properly conserved might keep it almost the power it was. If individuals could be found who have enough of Reedy's spirit it might continue its office of usefulness even without Reedy's directing genius. In these days of muddy socialistic periodicals the impetus given by Reedy to *Reedy's Mirror* might sustain it for many years to come.

THAT justice is the highest quality in the moral hierarchy I do not say; but that it is the first.—HENRY GEORGE.

LET us first ask what are the natural rights of men, and endeavor to secure them before we propose either to beg or to pillage.—HENRY GEORGE.

"In the beauty of the lillies, Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in his bosom to transfigure you and me;
As He died to make men holy, let us *live* to make men free."

Hon. F. F. Ingram and The New Republic

HON. F. F. INGRAM of Detroit, supplementing what we had to say in our last issue regarding the attitude of the *New Republic*, *Nation*, et al., declines in the following terms to renew his subscription to the first named publication.

"This is in reply to your favor of June 8th in which you ask me to renew my subscription to *The New Republic* and in which you say: "There are those who are apprehensive, fearful of what the future holds in store. It is dark folly to imagine that America—rich, prosperous, well-fed—cannot meet and solve the problems confronting her . . . if she will."

And then you say: "Its business (*The New Republic's*) is to create conviction. . . . bring vision and light the way to sound action."

Nothing can be more noble than such devotion, but what does the reader find in *The New Republic's* columns—much valuable information and interpretation, perhaps even more valuable. It may be my stupidity, but I must confess I find but little, very little, that "lights the way to sound action" or to any action, for that matter, except what may be excited by anger, disgust or fear. Arousing such emotions without lights to show the way to sound action, is to say the least, a doubtful public service.

I think your criticism of politics and policies are in the main, justified, but there must be some guiding principle your knowledge could suggest, that if revealed so that it might be applied by the politicians or known to your readers, the acts of the former and the confidence of the latter in your editorial good faith would I am sure, be bettered. Your editorials are smart works of art. But to again quote you: "Yet what have we? Confusion on all sides, bad tempered recrimination, emotionalism rampant, profiteering, self-seeking, and that fatal pervading nonsense that 'Everything will come out all right in the wash.'"

The above is dangerous, always running as it does in *The New Republic* without remedial suggestion, based upon some fundamental principle. Some remedy in the end will be tried, even though *The New Republic* offers none. This unguided remedy may prove worse than the disease."

AMONG the interesting features of the renewed public interest in the Single Tax, following the Chicago Convention, has been the large number of cartoons featuring the Single Tax. The Chicago papers did this repeatedly. The latest is a cartoon entitled "Candidates Roost," showing a branch of a tree on which are perched birds labelled respectively Harding, G.O.P., Cox, Dem., Wm. Hayes, Farmer-Laborite, and Barnum, Single Tax, all from Ohio. This is from the *Providence News*.

I MEAN by fair distribution that condition in which each man gets exactly what he produces—no more, no less. This is all we Single Taxers ask. We do not wish any man to have a dollar more wealth than he himself has produced, or to take from any other man a dollar of the wealth that this other man has produced.—MAJ.-GEN. WM. C. GORGAS.