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THE GREAT AFFAIR BRINGS TO US ONLY BECAUSE WE ARE ON OUR KNEES - LET US ARISE.

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No. 195

THE GAL-DAL. FALSHIFES.

If the land hearing of the Industrial Relations Commission held in Dallas last night did nothing but draw the fire of the Dallas and Galveston News and thus make it possible for the masses of tenants in Texas to see the down side of these wretched sheets, its work was not in vain.

In another column is published a reply to a column and half editorial from The News of March 20, attacking Judge R. O. McRae in a most benedictive manner. Not satisfied with this, The News reports from day to day of the hearing were grabbed and the most important testimony from the tenant's side played down, and the evidence from the landlord's side played up.

Thus the members of the commission, individually and collectively were assaulted and the least charge against them was "incompetence." Followed then a series of editorials bedouging and befogging the issue, and when the work is done, it is found that even the blindest can see that when through the work of the Land League and the Farmers Union, national attention is riveted upon the land situation in Texas and Oklahoma, the Gal-Dal was compelled to strip off its mask of hypocrisy that it has so long worn. While claiming to be free and independent news paper, it reveals itself as the spokesman for its great "served class," the landlord interests of Texas and Oklahoma.

So far has been the work of the Gal-Dal News, that the chairman of the Commission took a left-hand step at it by writing to the Dallas Dispatch, an afternoon daily published in Dallas and a competitor of The News, in which he points out, after thanking the Dispatch, what The Rebel has unashamedly erred out of: "A free and unswerving press is one of the crying needs of our time." Here is the letter:

Frank P. Walsh

Kansas City, Mo., March 28, 1915.

Editor, The Dallas Dispatch, Dallas, Tex.

My dear Sir - I desire to express my personal appreciation of the fair and intelligent manner in which you handled the facts developed at the land hearing of the Commission on Industrial Relations at Dallas.

May I also be permitted to say that if all of the daily papers in this country published the news as fearlessly as you did in this instance, in my humble opinion, an "industrial problem" would soon cease to exist.

A free and unswerving press is one of the crying needs of our time.

Sincerely yours,

Frank P. Walsh.

Our readers will remember that in a recent issue of The Rebel I pointed out that until such time as the Socialist movement in Texas and Oklahoma can support its own dailies, it would be advisable to buy the Gal-Dal News and in purchasing daily papers take either The Dallas Dispatch, Austin Tribune or Houston Press, all of which papers are part of the Scripps-McLure system and do not handle a line of the lying Associated Press stuff. Their national news service comes from the United Press.

In calling for this boycott I do so with the positive knowledge that any individual who buys the Gal-Dal News is swindled in this that he or she is led to believe that they are getting the news, whereas, as a matter of fact, the news is suppressed, colored, twisted to suit the great financial interests of Texas of which the largest category, although they interlock with other predatory financial groups, is the landlord division.

Now let us examine some of the editorials on the facts brought out by the Commission and published in the Belo publications simultaneously as if shot out of one gun - and for boycotting purposes remember they are: The Dallas Morning News, The Dallas Evening Journal, The Galveston News and The Semi-Weekly Farm News. They form the strongest news group under one head in the South, and that head is the pink-whiskered Irish Catholic named Lombardi.

In making this examination remember that these sheets are the mouthpieces of the landlord interests of Texas and Oklahoma and whatever they say is the best word in human expression of the landlords' right to listen as a lord of the soil in society.

To return to this editorial head: "A Superficial and Partial Investigation." This head is a lie on its face, for many reasons.

First, since when has a millionaire lady from New York, a wealthy Democratic lawyer from Kansas City, and a conservative labor leader of the Republican persuasion become partisans of the half-starved tenants of Texas?

Second, if this commission were partisan what is the reason that they invited before it and gave the most courteous treatment to one of the biggest landlords of Texas and actually mentioned many landlords named to testify, notably Tom P. Fagitt of Dallas, M. M. Brooks of Dallas, R. W. Gethers of Waxahatchie, Governor James R. Ferguson.

In the light of the summoning of these gentle men and other landlords by this commission made up of wealthy members of the conservative parties the heading of this article is only to be described by the shorter and truer word: Why the Gal-Dal lads witness, and shriek, "partiality," is self-evident when we read the testimony and find that the case for the tenants was largely made by admissions wrung from the reluctant lips of the landlords themselves.

After lying in the heading The News goes on to lie in the first sentence of the editorial. We read:

"Only one genuine tenant farmer was brought before the members of the commission."

That is a lie and is so proven by the record. Mr. Steward is a tenant farmer and a witness. Mrs. Steward is a tenant and witness. W. S. Noble, of Rockdale, is a tenant farmer. W. T. Davis is a member of the Padgett ranch.

However it is worthy of note that we do not wish to make any argument from the fact that several tenants were put on. If no tenant had been placed on the stand the admissions of the landlords would be enough to damn their own case.

Let us pass to the next lie. The second paragraph fairly bristles with misstatements and falsehoods. The appearance of Steward is referred to as a "serio comic drama." Actually it was a tragedy. Then we read:

"The personal character of this inquiry is instigated by the fact that this tenant farmer whose condition was exceptional, was offered as a true type of the class."

Here The News lies again. The tenant referred to was not offered by the commission. He was not offered as a true type of his class. The record shows he was offered by Mr. Noble, of the Land League in typical of two-thirds of the quarter of a million Texas renters, and this statement was substantiated by Prof. R. W. Leonard, of the Texas University at Austin, who testified that he had made an exhaustive investigation of conditions in Ellis, the richest black land county in the state where, naturally, tenants should be the most prosperous - and he testified:

"Sixty-nine per cent. of the farmers are tenants. They are increasing every year. Twenty-five per cent. are so poorly situated they render no taxes and 25 per cent. less than 4000. This data was secured by me from the tax rolls of Ellis county. Credit prices for supplies secured mostly by mortgages are 20 per cent. higher than cash prices. A personal investigation of 89 tenants showed that their average savings from 1913 to 1914 was \$120 PER FAMILY."

Talk about the Steward family not being typical. They were not typical enough, because they had teams, tools, and household goods over the value of \$4000. Thus we call The News again by the written record.

The next paragraph in which it says the Commission was guilty of "several deviations," contains a grotesque lie in these ponderous words:

"We shall acquire no dependable information concerning tenant farmers as a class until we segregate them into something like homogeneous groups."

What an absurd position for an editor of a daily paper in the twentieth century in Texas to take. Is there no "dependable information" to be gleaned from the 1910 census reports or from the reports of

the Texas Welfare Commission, or from the Extension work of the State University or the A. & M. or from the Farm Life Commission, or from the most South?

If The News genuinely wants this information that is as valid to the progress of the state as which its publications circulate, I will secure the information for them that will be so dependable that they will accept it themselves. All they have to do is to drop me a letter inviting me to Dallas and let me get in touch with their local correspondents in Texas and Oklahoma and I will guarantee inside of five days to sift several extra pages of the Dallas News with the most authentic data as to tenant conditions from every portion of those two states, and I promise not to charge them a cent for my work and pay my own traveling expenses.

Come to think of it, Mr. Editor, why did you overlook this opportunity for the greatest news story of this century? Why do you press the button and set all your wits to secure the detailed vote from over two hundred Texas counties and from a thousand commissions showing the vote cast in a non-party primary, and yet not do this same machinery to work to secure from the most game records and tax rolls of the Texas and Oklahoma "dependable information concerning tenant farmers as a class," that is immensely more important than any can find that your enterprise has ever touched?

"CAN IT BE POSSIBLE THAT THIS INFORMATION IS KEPT OUT OF YOUR PAPER AND OUT OF YOUR 'TEXAS ALMANAC' BECAUSE THE LANDLORDS HAVE PLACED A MUZZLE ON YOUR JAWS AND MADE YOUR MIND A DESERT?"

With that information in your possession you would not fall into the next blunder, that of saying that "not all tenants are poverty-stricken."

The mental microbes of The Gal-Dal News reveals through its proachments the intellectual limitations of a cowardly cow who peters out when she should stand up to call "segregationists" words and fires them at his audience regardless of their application. Hence he falls into the net *sequitur* of inferring that most tenants are wealthy because all are not poverty-stricken. He does not see or understand that tenants and poverty are synonymous terms. Not taking exceptions but speaking broadly, who ever heard of a tenant that was not poverty-stricken? Did he ever hear of a wealthy Irish renter? Travel southern Europe from Italy's renting lazzaroni until you come to the line to Petersburg and tell me of a prosperous tenant. Take the center of New York or London and show me where tenants have ever been a badge of affluence. And finally come to Texas or Oklahoma and visit the homes of the agricultural renters. Not only would the imagination of a Gal-Dal editor or a hop-frog find in a hasty 82 graphophone a grand piano, in six bit overalls a broad cloth suit, in eastern ware, champagne, in gummy sack underclothes the lace lingerie of Valenciennes, in the sandal from a Brussels carpet, the newspaper, snails lunch with oriental tapestry, and soda biscuits, chicken and soup homed approximating venison, trifles, peasant wine. I believe that the Gal-Dal editor would even mistake corn bread for club and caviar sandwiches!

In the paragraph from which I have just quoted, The News editor continues to indulge in a series of intellectual contortions that would make the movements of Charles Chaplin seem as sedate as that of bejeweled dowager. Here him:

"The conditions of tenant farmers as a class are not different from those of any other class. If there are tenant farmers who are poverty-stricken, so are there lawyers, doctors, grocers, dry goods merchants."

This wonderful grouping of men in various economic classes in an attempt to make a common point enough to cause John Starns Mill, Adam Smith, Horatio Bohnswarck, or Marx to rise from their graves and gnaw their tombstones in wild despair. Since when did a lawyer or a doctor or a merchant enter the category of wealth producers? Is the editor of the News starting a new school of the

real economy? If not, what school, classical or modern, has ever lumped together the professional, the mercantile and the proletarian class? If the editor of The News has made a new discovery in the realm of the physical science of political economy I shall be patting him on the back for the first brochure, on the subject that may come from his labored pen. But in the meantime while awaiting his effort I shall be so compelled to relegate him, so far as political economy is concerned, to the few disciples of Professor Alfred Jevons who discovered that painers were caused by spots on the sun.

After analyzing each paragraph in this particular and superficial bromides of the News man, I come to his conclusion, which should bring the blush of shame to a Villa ponio who had attended school for the first time in his life. The gentleman goes back to his old and the doctrine of original sin, via the route of "disabilities and delinquencies of the individual," inferring those alone are the cause of the tenant's poverty. Unfortunately for The News editor's reputation for scholastic attainments poor Adam is in the grip of the praise showered upon him by anti-fundamentalists like The Fourth July legislature. There are no Mark Twains today to be won over the grave of Adam. Instead, (very precisely) America has burned one gallon of midnight oil, one resource Genesee with evolution and in jargon words from seaward to the sea, singing in the classrooms of the great theological universities that sitting quatin:

"Long before Adam or Eve
Long before Eve or the Snake,
In the far land of No we carried the load
And the world was alive and awake."

The base of the whole problem is that tenants, reveals itself as an ever-growing malcontent in situation, and the situation is being established from year to year just as in England, where the rule has been: "Once a tenant always a tenant," through the iron pressure of economic conditions regardless of the virtues or failings of the individual. The high price of land, the high price of money, the high price of merchandise, the low price of the raw product - these are the factors that discount the moral excellencies of the individual and render all subject to "disabilities and delinquencies," except possibly those who are the owners of the toughest fire who is land, the hose and shoot their venom at the proletarians. Such a man was a Lincoln but he was born when the land was free, tenantry was unknown, and abundance of fresh, pure food could be secured by the aid of a Kentucky rifle.

The doctrine of individual delinquency or "original sin" belongs in the witch burners' age and the landlords of Texas are in a parious condition when they seek to excuse their meretricious exploitation with medieval logic.

The land monopolists of Texas are on the defensive now. They will be on the run. This Federal land investigation made possible by The Rebel, the Farmers Union, the Land League and the Socialist party of Texas, has awakened them to their peril. A kale of rainwater that has been directed toward their feet, their environment and control is the sign of their doom and the sign of the life to land. They have thrown away their Ribbons. Their voices are still in the Amen corner. They are ceasing to donate for gold fillings for the teeth of the bankers, and they are calling back their last year's school the black flag and the masked battalions of the Belo publications, because the Land League is growing the voting strength of the Socialist party is increasing, the center and the mortgage farmer is being stirred to his soul by a vision of the New Day, the day when he can sit under his vine and fig tree and receive all the fruits of his labor. That day in which every prospect will place, because every capitalist has vanished from the earth.

That day will soon be here because every year in this slave state are born two hundred and fifty thousand children, born with the badge and the doom of slavery, born to the liability by law and by custom and by the devilish capriciousness of men to the task of sweat and the chain of poverty, that will force their fathers' No to join in the movement to free the land forever. Then in the night of the landlords' flood the editorial pen of the Gal-Dal News will gleam a slender rod on which to lean.

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