

The Fenelon Falls Gazette.

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No. 40.

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R. M. HAMILTON,
MANAGER.

Why Good Men Go Wrong.

The masses of all nations are mentally as little children. Observe politics in this country at present, and note how the two great parties have taken the attention of the people from vital principles of government and focussed it on whether Hearst or Haskell or Foraker or Sheldon have been hoodling. The exposures of the last five years have shown that grafting is very common in the high circles of politics and finance; but what has that to do with changing the system that admits of grafting? The old party that can convince the people that its opponent is the greatest grafter will win. And then what? Will not grafting go on just the same?

Grafting is logical to the present system. It is an effort to accumulate private wealth that will enable one to live in luxury without work. So long as private ownership of the means of production is recognized by law, people will do anything possible to get wealth, honestly or dishonestly. But when the means of production shall have been converted into common wealth, or, as you understand it, collective property, there will be no means of holding wealth in a way that brings immense incomes without actual labor. Take, for instance, the railroads, from which a very great amount of the corruption has come. If railroads were public property, who would pay out what the workers received in wages to corrupt the management? Possibly those who furnished the coal, the iron or other material used by the roads, if such things were privately owned. Then the remedy is to take these industries out of private hands and make them collective property too. Then no one could benefit more than another by the bribing of any official. If such bribery, assuming it possible, lowered rates, all would benefit by it as much as the briber; if the rates were raised all would pay it, and the surplus would go into the common treasury and belong to all the people just the same, so that none would be injured by either the lowering or raising of the rates, or of any other change in the management.

So long as there are privately owned means of production there will be grafting. That would be just as true with Socialists in office as with republicans or democrats; hence it is that Socialists, knowing this, desire to change the system so that grafting will be impossible by anybody. Then the men who have been grafting, finding no chance to graft, will make as good citizens and officials as any other class of people. For you must know that if any change is ever made, it must be made by those who are now in the old parties, for they are the majority, and it will require a majority to make the change which Socialists desire.

Those who compose the old parties are not inherently bad. Their notions are logical to their environment. They elect good men to office and the good men go wrong. This has been proven over and over again by the history of the times in which we live. To assume that they purposely select bad men to run things is absurd. Bad men will co-operate to get places, yes; but the childish minds of the people do not understand what causes the grafting and oppression. Look into the faces of people you meet on the street, and you can read there that lack of understanding which causes all the trouble. Our mission is to educate the minds of these people, so that they can reason and understand conditions. Knowledge is power. The people have no clearness of vision and are easily fooled.—*Appeal to Reason.*

Origin of Our Free Schools.

When the Socialists are charged with pursuing an agitation that would destroy every institution, human and divine, that man holds sacred, how many people know that the proposal to establish free schools in this country at first met with the same sort of reception? And yet it is a fact. The public school system came into existence through the agitation of a group of weavers, tailors and mechanics in Philadelphia, New York and Boston. These workmen organized a party in 1829 with "free public schools, where the children of rich and poor alike can attend on an equal footing," as its chief demand. A public meeting called to discuss this proposition in Philadelphia, in the old city hall, was broken up by the police, and the speaker arrested and taken to jail; and the New York Evening Post of that day called on "the bankers, the preachers, the merchants, and other respectable members of society," to organize to put down "this pernicious agitation which threatens to undermine the very foundations of society." This must sound very familiar to the readers of certain metropolitan newspapers which habitually thrust forward the Socialist bugaboo.—*Success Magazine.*

An Indian was recently conducted through New York, and the marvels of the white man's science and the triumphs of invention were paraded to excite his admiration and his awe. As the extended tour drew near its end, the guide quite complacently inquired of him which of all the wonders he had seen had most impressed him. "Little children working," said the red man solemnly. The practice of deriving profit from child labor is unknown among tribes called barbarous.—*Journal of Theosophy.*

Travel is a great educator. But how many laborers ever have a chance to travel—except on freight trains looking for jobs?

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