

**THE NEW ERA IN
REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT:
THE DAWN OF DAY; OR, THE
LABORER'S ONLY HOPE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649656691

The New Era in Republican Government: The Dawn of Day; Or, The Laborer's Only Hope by
Freeman O. Willey

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

FREEMAN O. WILLEY

**THE NEW ERA IN
REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT:
THE DAWN OF DAY; OR, THE
LABORER'S ONLY HOPE**

THE NEW ERA IN REPUBLICAN
GOVERNMENT.

THE DAWN OF DAY;

OR,

The Laborer's Only Hope.

By FREEMAN O. WILLEY.

1883.

GEO. C. HACKSTAFF, Publisher,
Singer Building, Fifth and Locust Sts.
SAINT LOUIS.

218
S. O.
W. L.

PREFACE.

Man was made to labor, is the voice of God, through nature. To shun it, is to invite disease, decay, and moral death. To oppress it, is to stifle the noblest aspirations of the human soul. To encourage and protect it, is the highest duty of government.

That our government fails in this duty because the mind of the people cannot act directly upon it, I verily believe. To assist in removing the obstacles that lie in the way of the full and perfect realization of all that labor has a right to expect, or can reasonably hope for, through the government, is the object of this work.

F. O. WILLEY.

Man. Lib.
LABADIE
COLLECTION

10/13/52

THE NEW ERA IN REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT.

PART II.

THE NATURE OF OUR PRESENT GOVERNMENT.

THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD SHOULD BE IN EVERY POST OFFICE, 25--CIVIL OFFICERS OF THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE ELECTED BY THE DIRECT VOTE OF THE PEOPLE, 29--THE VETO POWER SHOULD BE TAKEN FROM THE PRESIDENT, 45--THE VETO POWER SHOULD BE PLACED IN THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE, 50--THE PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE THE PROFITS ARISING FROM THE LOANING OF THEIR OWN MONEY, 164--EQUAL RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES FOR ALL, 164.

It has ever been the argument of despots that a popular government is always in a turmoil—like the troubled sea, etc. This turmoil is presumed to arise from the fact that, in a republic, the people are allowed to choose their own rulers, who are supposed to represent what monarchists are pleased to denominate the fickle will of the populace, and, therefore, cannot be depended upon for a steady and strong government. That such opinions are gaining ground in this country to an alarming extent is too plain a truth to need demonstrating, and the yielding condition of the

public mind appears favorable to its growth. The people seem to have become discouraged. They admit that our liberties are curtailed, and even threatened with overthrow. But, they say, money is all-powerful. If we elect a man in our interest, the capitalists buy him; and what are we to do about it?

This question is asked almost daily by more than three-fourths of the voters of the United States. How shall we answer it, and what have we with which to check the painful tendency toward centralization and the merciless march of the money power? Shall we offer the old Democratic party as a remedy? It is very willing to be offered. It would gladly seize the reins of power. But we have no guarantee that it would give better security to business, or better protection to free institutions, than the Republican party is giving.

Shall we offer the Greenback party? It has some noble reformatory principles in its platform. Its ascension to power would undoubtedly shift much of the burden of taxation from the shoulders of the poor to the shoulders of the rich, where it belongs. But what guarantee have we that the Greenback party, once entrenched in a hundred thousand offices, will not become as corrupt as other parties have.

None, whatever. Human nature is much the

same in all parties. Money, place and power are very tempting. Should the Greenback party get into power, it would be as loath as any other party to yield that power. Then comes a desperate struggle to remove it; the same battles must be fought over again, with the same fearful odds against the people, viz.: the dominant party in possession of a hundred thousand offices, with their influence extending to the remotest corners of the United States, controlling the avenues of intelligence, and misleading the people.

By what means, then, shall we secure safety to our institutions and continued prosperity to our people, if not through one of the present political organizations? I answer, by organizing a party with a platform of principles, the triumph of which will destroy the power of the capitalists to secure class legislation by the corrupt use of money. But how can this be done?

To answer this question properly, we need to understand precisely what kind of a government we are now living under. I will begin the inquiry with a quotation from Abbott's Life of Benjamin Franklin. Thomas Jefferson, who succeeded Franklin as Minister to France, is spoken of by Mr. Abbott as follows:

"He saw and fully comprehended the misery under which millions of the French peasantry were groaning.

And this led him to the conviction, that no people could be safe unless the government were placed in their own hands."

An attempt was made to establish our own government upon this idea of Jefferson's, and a very long step was taken in that direction. Indeed, many did and do now believe that it was accomplished as intended. The popular idea of the American Government is represented in the following, which I find in Bancroft's *Footprints of Time*, and analysis of our government, page 401:

"The national congress is a body of men representing and acting in the place of the people. They are elected by the people to enact laws for the public good—to do all, and no more nor less—than the people would do if it were possible for them to assemble in one great body and make the laws by which they wish to be governed."

The above quotation expresses the American theory of our government, but in practice it works very differently. Congress does not do within gun shot of what the people would do if they could all assemble together and make their own laws. Read the following:

THE LAND GRANT.

"The land grant of the Northern Pacific Railroad consists of 12,800 acres to each mile of track through Minnesota, and 25,600 acres per mile through Dakota,

Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon---the branch to Puget Sound having the same grant as the main line. The average for the whole length of the road and branch is over 23,000 acres per mile, and the total exceeds fifty millions acres. Of the quality of these lands it is enough to say that they lie in the richest portion of that fertile new Northwest described in another part of this advertisement. Of the company's ten million acres in Montana, General Potts, present Governor of that territory, says: "The Northern Pacific Railroad will open up the richest country in agricultural and mineral resources on the American Continent, and if the people East and in Europe could see the rich land grant the road has, the company's bonds would not remain in market ninety days." Governor Stevens, who repeatedly passed over the route, estimates that fully four-fifths of the Northern Pacific Railroad grant is good for cultivation or grazing, while much of the remainder is in the mountain belt, and is covered with valuable timber or filled with the precious metals. With the road built through the midst of these lands, what is their money value? The lands of the Union Pacific thus far sold have averaged \$4.46 per acre; the school lands of Minnesota, \$6.30 per acre; the lands of the Illinois Central Railroad grant, \$11 per acre. At even the average of \$4 per acre the lands of the Northern Pacific Railroad will pay for its construction and equipment, and leave the road free from debt, and one-half the lands unincumbered in the company's possession. At only \$2.50 per acre, government price, these lands will build and equip the road, leave it free of debt, and place a surplus of twenty-five million dollars in the company's treasury."

The above quotation is from Poor's Manual