The Other Economics League, Inc.

[A School of NEW Economics—Non-Partisan]

Columbus, Nebr.

WM. H. TALMAGE
Secretary and Editor of
Craft's "Exodus from Poverty" ($5.00)
Author of "Christian Industrialism" ($1.00)
"The Commodity Wage Plan" ($1.00)
"The Commodity Compensation Bill" ($1.00)

Feb 9th, 1933

Miss Ida Tarbell
120 East Nineteenth Str
New York City

My dear Miss Tarbel,

It was so good of you to write such a splendid letter relative to Dr Craft and to your desire to rescue him and his work from oblivion.

He worked so hard for so many years to discover and suggest a happier condition for all mankind that ,to me, it seems tragic that as yet no attention has been given and no recognition made of his contributions to the vital problems clustering around our faulty industrialism.

In my files I have letters from Bishops ,one College President, and other high authorities including Governmental heads (of Wilson's time) all expressive of the value and importance of the original reasoning and conclusions of Mr Craft. (These I am expressing to you)

I ~~could~~ send these to you, ~~if you so desired~~. Some of them might be woven into your article.

My own impression however is that an article based on excerpts or quotations from Exodus from Poverty, showing how advanced and yet how true were the premises and conclusions of the author, would prove a lasting monument to Dr Craft and prevent otheres from making use of his material without giving him credit for his life work. It might also result in causing MacMillian to re-publish the book in such form as might go the the public much as George's Progress and Poverty and also to the schools as a text on new economics. If so,a wonderful and much needed education would suddenly be given the people which, otherwise, might require years to obtain.

It was many years before the idea of a Goverment Experiment in THE OTHER ECONOMICS occured to Dr Craft. I was with him when that approach occurred to him. That laboratory method is in perfect harmony with other branches of science in approach to the solution of any problem. Mr Roosevelt to whom I sent a copy of the book before his nomination, may have in mind Mr Craft's Government Experiment in the Tennesee Valley. I hope so, tho in several of his letters to me he has not definitely expressed himself except that he pledged the public a "new deal" after reading Exodus from Poverty.

I shall enclose some personal items about Dr Craft trusting that some of them will be of service to you.

Thank you for your willingness to write Prof Ratenrausch of Columbia, ~~but~~ Inasmuch as my object in desiring to speak there was to rescue Dr Craft from an intellectual cemetery and to bring,if possible m his ideas to public attention, I am not

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so much concerned about lectures, since you will accomplish this a thousand fold better than my efforts even if invited to Columbia. Moreover the expulsion of Howard Scott has given Columbia a rather shaky reputation or jumpy nerves. They would now be afraid to take on another new proposition.

It is my opinion that ~~some~~ haste should be made in providing some article about Dr Craft and his work owing to the drive of the times . Conditions are forcing people to the point that they are not surprised at the assertion of the Technocrats that the "price system " must be abandoned even tho no one except Dr Craft has told us HOW .

Again thanking you and wishing you God-speed, I am

Yours sincerely

Wm H Talmage

Dean Wm H Talmage

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Personalities relative to Dr Craft (in the reverse)

Died in Meadville ,Pa in the home of Dr Camden M Cobern, about May, I9II. We lived in Vinita, Oklahoma and were too poor to get to the funeral. He lived with us up till about four weeks before his death.

He had lived with us at Vinita in I9IO and part of I9II and was spending all his time trying to rewrite his book to meet with suggestions of Mr Brett as to a more popular style.

Mrs Craft had passed away (about three years before Dr) and in ~~his~~ their last years Dr Craft ,a victim of ashhma, had been drifiting around during the closing years of his ministry and teaching trying to find congenial climates, accepting small churches and missions to cover expenses. He was as poor as a church mouse most of his life. Had nothing at last. . His last appointment was at Porter Oklahoma a most desolate country village where the roughnecks would sometimes get intoxicated and shoot up the town and where the cyclones kept them in terror lest their small shaky two room house would topple over. Prior to that he was at Holdenville,Oklahoma .

While at Holdenville where he chose to live because he would be near us(we were at McAlester only forty miles away and I was Secretary of the Scottish Rite Bodies (32 degree masons) when visiting me he said: " I always thought that ~~the small churches~~ when I ~~got~~ old I would retire to the small churches and practically retire and have time to write. But I find that the small churches require harder work than the larger ones and afford less time to do anything except detail which otherwise would be attended to by the ample supply of talent to be found in larger churches.

Prior to Holdenville ,he had come up from Fort Worth Texas to attend a Conference at Guthrie Oklahoma. The aged Bishop in calling the conference to order ,glanced over his spectacles and in the back seat he spied a face that seemed familiar, tho no one else knew the stranger. The Bishop surprised everyone ,myself included, in calling out :"Dr Craft, what are you doing here. Come up to the platform."

And blushing in his natural modesty a tall dignified silver haired man gave a little cough and ~~[illegible]~~ came to the platform to be introduced as one of the greatest minds in Methodism.

While there was a scramble among the local men as to whom the Bishop would appoint to be Supt of the whole District of Indian Territory, the Bishop asked Dr Craft in a whispered question if he thought his health would permit him to manage that field. Dr Craft said " I think so". That was all, but when the appointments were read a day after, lo, to the amazement of everyone, Dr Craft was named at the head of the list as Supt.

analytic psychology

Prior to this, Dr had been teaching in Ft Worth College while in quest of health. Prior to that he had Ist Church Pueblo Colo. Prior to that He was Supt of Youngstown District, one of the most influential Districts in Methodism. Had occupied this post for several years even though his health was failing. The men working under him offered to do his traveling and visiting if he would simply stay and manager their affairs when it came to the trading-off period of Conferences. He never permitted his men to be traded downward. Always they were promoted in the intricate triangular trades which were suggested by other Presiding Elders and at last approved by the Bishop.

Prior to that he had been at Coshocton Ohio where he had been sent from Cleveland Ohio by a Bishop of the emotional type

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then called HOLINESS CLIQUE who when in a Conference was told that Craft had never served in so small a church said" " Well it is time that he should do so."

Prior to Coshocton he had served at Euclid Ave Church Cleveland Ohio, where there was existing a split between the emotional element and the intellectual which was a nervous trial for Dr Craft who was an out standing intellectual. Be had come to Cleveland from Youngstown where he had served his limit , before that was Columbus, Ohio ,prior to that Erie Penn. ; Jamestown, New York. About this time he became one of the charter members of the Chautauqua movement with Bishop Vincent.

I do not know his earlier points

He was usually chosen at annual Conferences to represent the Conference at the General Conferences of the Church.

He graduated from Mt Union College, Ohio in the class with Bishop Hamilton. Post Graduate from Alleghaney College ,Meadville,Pa and received degrees of D.D. and Ph D at this point.

Once at one of the annual conferences where the custom prevaied of sending prominent ministers out to various points that they might have the inspiration of prominent men of the Church, they happened to send Dr Craft to a little back-woods church on a Sunday where up-town preaching was a stranger . Later the P.E. had a laugh as did Dr Craft; for a letter had come to the Presiding Elder saying: " Send us any other man except that man Craft." Dr had shot over their heads. So he want back to his city congregation.

points

Dr Craft never preached or lectured without notes. He had a peculiar system however, which enabled him to be almost free of them. He thought nothing of reading and studying until two oclock. In the vigorous days of his ministry he always set aside $200.oo for new books each year and advised me to do so.

One who usually could discover errors in english said that in four years he failed to find Dr Craft make a mistake in english

However no man was more interesting in conversation.

While living with me at Vinita, Okla,the business men would come and sit under the shade trees and ask him questions and hear his views on economic subjects and on seemingly every other subject. He was dubbed the "walking encyclopedia".

In Conferences when preachers were on trial Dr Craft was usually called upon to act as defense attorney. He had a legal mind and his congregations always included lawyers and judges who were attracted to his discourses.

He wanted to enlist in the Civil war but was so young that his parents objected. But they did consent that he go as a nurse. He served until sent home too sick of Army dissentaria but never applied for a pension not being mercenary to the slightest degree.

If his churches came to the close of the year showing a deficit he usually reached into his own pocket and balanced the account and paid all debts out of his own salary. Said nothing about it.

At about the age of 21 when Dr Craft was teaching at a little seminary on the Ohio Reserve , atheism and spiritualism was sweeping over the land burning up all before it. A prominent and blatant advocate of this cult was in his community attracting great crouds. Dr Craft was outside listening tru an open window and when a challenge was made to meet any man in debate , Dr Craft pushed his head into the window and said: " I'm your man." He had spoken when he practically knew nothing about spiritualism and rappings excape that it was a fake and could, with proper preparation be so proven. A date was set when they would debate the question for several days. Dr then sent for books and began to study with his usual systematic methods which left nothing neglected. He also sent for a friend who had emotional elements which he lacked. They planned their campaign. Defeated their opponents. Whipped out the rage on the Western Reserve so completely

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that the cult was forced from the entire field. The last evidence of the victory appeared when Dr Craft posted $1000 in a certain Bank and offered it to anyone who could do any spiritualistic tricks that he could not duplicate and moreover that he could perform some that no spiritualist could explain.

About this time he published a book " Epidemic Delusions" a copy of which I happen to have in my library.

Dr was over six feet. Very classic featured. At one time wore silk hat. Strange to say he was often taken for both President McKinley and a popular prize fighter James Corbet.

One day while walking down a street in a city he was surprised to discover that he was followed by a rabble of boys f of about 12 to 14 ,the crowd growing all the while, until he resembled the Pied Pipper of Heidsig. This was just about the time Jim Corbet defeated John Sullivan and Dr Craft was mistaken for the great pug. That happened in Youngstown.

Steely blue eyes.

You will pardon this hurried list of personal items and all which have been written down without care to anything other than some incidents, all of which might be of no value to you.

Dr Craft was a systematic painstaking pastor when in his ministry. His routine was something as follows His evening were usually filled with committees and meetings and social affairs until half past nine or ten. Did all his study after the family had retired-far into the night. Slept as late as ten in the morning -light kuncheon then called all the afternoon until dinner hour. Could not even whistle a tune but loved music. Had a yearning to paint in oils but to me lacked any signs of genius in this direction and did not experiment in this until late in life.

He,in 1910 developed a small cancer of the under lip which was sucessfully removed by a specialist in Bridgeport Connecticut and the scar covered by growing a Vandyke beard but up to this time he was always smooh shaven

Should you desire a picture for a cut we could probably find one upon word from you.

Made one vacation trip to Europe in the year 1891

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(a) (Comments for your consideration)

I have for twenty years past foud it impossible to dismisss the importance of Dr Craft's discovery of the cau sause of poverty. On the other hand its far reaching & value to the human race grows. I see new reaches as I think upon that which he brought to light with a simple question: " Could two men get much from each other while struggling to give little?"

That is the most penetrative question into the inner spirit of economics ever made by a philosopher for the past thousand years.

The question leads to an IDEA, never brought to the attention of students of economics.

It is then an easy matter comparitively to weigh the consequences of that idea as the dominating idea of industry. Yet this leads us into an amazing series of discoveries in relation to poverty, concentration of wealth, crime, and even war.

It soon appears to the thoughful that almost all evils arise and are constantly agrivated by a faulty idea at the heart of industry. This I have attempted to uncover in "Christian Industrialism" a phamphlet which I may have sent you.

If a faulty idea is the Cause of poverty (out of which or the fear of which arise so many other ills) the logical conclusion is that the ~~xxx~~ abolution of that idea would be the cure of the effects, if an opposite idea were substituted in the industrial realm.

When the reasoning powers of Dr Craft propelled him to this conclusion and he worked out his plan adjusted to the only other idea -- the opposite of "withholding" he found himself landed in such a strange reagion of economics that he himself beheld what seemed absurdly ~~redicu~~ rediculous. He for three years abandoned his philosophy that he might again approach and reexamine every step of logic and analysis which propelled him to such unherad of conclusions. He could find no error in his calculations. He then spent many months thinking of some practical approach by which men could be induced or directed into a course that might test his wealth-producing idea in a proper industrial environment. Finally his plam of a Government Experiment of THE OTHER ECONOMICS came into his mind. The laboratory method

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(4)

Great honor and distinction have been paid to men for their discoveries in science but all these discoveries fail us if men starve in the midst of plenty. The thinker therefore who uncovers the true CAUSE of this poverty ought to be proclaimed to the world as the greatest of them all. Even though he did nothing more than to point the world to the cause. When that is recognized the task is well toward its finish. Many other minds might find the best method to remove the cause, once there was presented to their minds the origin of their ills.

At present confusion reigns in intellectual circles for lack of the knowledge which Dr Craft alone furnished. There is no agreement in fundamental matters. Our energies in Government are wasted in salvaging ill effects with no regard whatsoever to the treatment of a parent cause.

But the tremendous fact is that in the cause of poverty which Dr Craft discovered lies also the cause of war, of crimes and most immoralities; opening our minds still more and more to the value of his discovery and its ultimate far-reaching tendency to change the whole world view in other departments of life.

I make these suggestions in the hope that you might also be able to feel with me the importance of some of the ideas suggested in Exodus from Poverty when elaborated.

The limitations of my opportunities and abilities to speak and write are not adequate to give just emphasis to the value of the world's greatest benefactor since the days of the Master; but should you turn your heart and mind in that direction it would not be long until an host of other students would be inspired to assist in turning a new light into the reagion which is so dark at present and in due time Dr Craft would come into his own and the affairs of men would untangle themselves and a happier world ensue.

For twenty years I have hoped, struggled, searched my reputation and means to see some signs of progress in this direction; have tried to interest men

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present (2)

in averting the present crisis, but in vain. Not until the great calamity came would the ordinary individual even attempt to think along economic analysis of fundamentals.

It is my opinion that unless something is done quickly to call attention to the Craft philosophy such confusion will arise and so many shallow proposals be demanded that it will be impossible to generate favorable public opinion and direct it toward a project that would require the outlay of money and brains called for in launching a Government Experiment such as a scientific experiment in The Other Economics would demand.

Please be so kind as to return the original letters which I am entrusting to you. They are a great comfort to me out of a twenty year period of agonizing effort to arouse men to their peril and direct them to a safe harbor.

I have been the sole defender of Dr Crafts ideas up to this point. His mss. was entrusted to me by himself. I have made as good a fight as I could to establish his views before others appropriated them and ignored the author.

Yours hopefully
W. H. Talmage

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