

THE EVENING BEE

JAMES MCCLATCHY & CO., PUBLISHERS
SACRAMENTO, CAL.

C.K.

June 11, 1904.

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

Miss Ida Tarbell,

c/o Lincoln Publishing Co., New York.

Dear Madame:-

I enclose a clipping from the Sacramento Evening Bee in which a very prominent socialist of this city takes occasion to quote Abraham Lincoln as writing a great many things to which I do not believe he ever gave utterance. You will notice that he says that Mr. Lincoln "used the above inimitable words in his message to Congress, 1861, and in a letter to a friend now in the possession of a Maine physician," etc., etc. He does not say what portion of the words were in that message to Congress nor what portion were in a letter to a friend. A careful reading of Abraham Lincoln's message to Congress, to which Dr. Wright refers, shows that only about seven lines of this matter were in that message - and these lines Dr. Wright jumbles in together with a lot of other stuff not in that message and I do not believe ever written by Lincoln.

As you are known all over the literary world as the author of the most careful and researchful history of Abraham Lincoln ever put in print I take it that you know - or have some means of finding out - whether Abraham Lincoln ever wrote these italicized words or not, or whether the whole thing is a fake made up by jumbling a few words from his message of 1861 with a lot of stuff he never wrote and never thought of writing. I have read over very carefully his message of 1861 and find only seven lines therein which are in these printed quotations - and those lines Dr. Wright has jumbled in together with other matter never mentioned in that message.

The socialists, who at least are indefatigable with pen and with tongue, are circulating this stuff everywhere. I would like to be

never mentioned in that message.

The socialists, who are at least indefatigable with pen and with tongue, are circulating this stuff everywhere. I would like to be in a position to contradict it from some competent authority if it is what I believe it to be - a fake and a fraud.

Awaiting a reply, I remain,

Very respectfully yours,

Chas. M. Lacey

Enclosure.

Letters From the People

LINCOLN WAS A SOCIALIST

To the Editor of The Bee—Sir: The following quotations from the writings and speeches of Mr. Lincoln were handed recently to a very strong Republican and he was asked what he thought of them in the light of passing events anent Labor and Capital. "Why, Lincoln was a Socialist," he exclaimed, at the conclusion of the reading.

As The Bee is an advocate of Lincoln's Republicanism, the editor may not object to granting space at this time to the words of wisdom of the great statesman, especially as they will prove of interest to such bodies as the Citizens' Alliance, the Corporations' Co-operative Company, the Civic Federation, the A. F. of L., the A. L. U., and to the workers more especially, Union and non-Union.

Following is the language:

"I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned, and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands, and the Republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of our country than ever before, even in the midst of the war. God grant that my forebodings may be groundless."

"Monarchy itself is sometimes hinted at as a refuge from the power of the people. In my present position I could scarcely be justified were I to omit to raise a warning voice against the approach of returning despotism. It is not needed nor fitting here that a general argument should be made in favor of popular institutions; but there is one point with its connections, not so hackneyed as most others, to which I ask brief attention. It is assumed that labor is available only in connection with capital; that nobody labors unless somebody else owning capital, somehow by the use of it, induces him to labor. Labor is prior to and independent of capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor and could not have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the supe-

rior of capital and deserves much the higher consideration. I BID THE LABORING PEOPLE BEWARE OF SURRENDERING THE POWER WHICH THEY POSSESS, and which if surrendered, will surely be used to shut the door of advancement for such as they, and fix new disabilities and burdens upon them until ALL OF LIBERTY SHALL BE LOST."

"In the early days of our race the Almighty said to the first of mankind 'In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread,' and since then, if we except the light and air of heaven, no good thing has been nor can be enjoyed by us without first having cost labor. And inasmuch as most good things have been produced by labor, it follows that all such things belong of right to those whose labor has produced them. But it has so happened, in all ages of the world, that some have labored, and others have, without labor, enjoyed a large portion of the fruits. THIS IS WRONG AND SHOULD NOT CONTINUE. To secure to each laborer the WHOLE PRODUCT OF HIS LABOR, is a worthy object of any Government."

"It seems strange that any man should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing bread from the sweat of other men's faces."

"This country with its institutions belongs to the people who inhabit it."

"If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong."

"I affirm it as my conviction that class laws, placing Capital over Labor, are infinitely more dangerous at this hour than was chattel slavery in the days of its haughtiest supremacy."

These are the words of the immortal Lincoln. It is also the language of Socialism, in which the doctrines of Marx were set forth at least twenty years before the time in which Mr. Lincoln used the above inimitable words in his message to Congress, 1861, and in a letter to a friend, now in the possession of a Maine physician.

Imagine such doctrines being enunciated by a Governor Peabody in the recent Telluride incident, or by our strenuous "Teddy," for example!

How would it do for us all to get back to Lincoln Republicanism, by voting for Socialism? Socialism admonishes "the laboring people" to make use of "the power which they possess," and inaugurate Socialism, to the end that it will be the "worthy object" of our Government "to secure to each laborer the whole product of his labor." How can there be justice or freedom in any country until everyone is secure in his right to work and get his product? The Citizens' Alliance feigns great fear lest the non-Union man may not be secure in his right to work! The right of the employers to work the non-Union man as a Union smasher, is the "right" they are really defending, as is quite generally understood among Union men, and even among non-Union men.

Let us have Socialism, that we may have peace, and that the "forebodings" of Mr. Lincoln "may be groundless."

HENRY E. WRIGHT.

Sacramento, June 8th, 1904.