

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 10, NO. 359.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1910.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

CONNECTICUTIANA.

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THERE is a surprise close at hand in store for many a rural Connecticuter who now prances over the high-roads and streets of his rural town, satisfied that, whoever else has the Plutocracy's hook in his snout, his hook is in the snout of the Plutocracy.

The State of Connecticut enjoys the luxury of a "Third House." The institution is extra constitutional; but none the less effective. The "Third House" consists of the delegates of the "towns," meaning thereby, the rural towns, to the State Legislature. The feature of this delegation is that, not only is it archaic, but is also grotesquely anti-Fourth-of-July denunciations of "taxation without representation." The delegation represents a minority of the population, a small minority, but is a majority in the Legislature. An opinion may be formed of the grotesqueness that forms the basis for this delegation from the fact that the little town of Union, with barely 500 inhabitants, fewer than when the present basis of representation to the lower House was established, over a hundred years ago, sends the same number of representatives to Hartford, to wit three, as such cities as Hartford itself and New Haven with their 80,000 and 110,000 inhabitants, respectively.

The make up of the "Third House" furnishes the pretext and philosophy for its existence—"the protection of the country against the city, of the rural against the urban population." The Sovereignty of "agricultural morality" over "industrial immorality" secured by such contrivances could not but be promotive of political corruption. In the measure that the corruption increased, the official members of the "Third House" found it advisable to "take in partners." This was accomplished by the formation of a sort of association, consisting of rural members only—mostly dupes. An elite few, acting as bellwethers, rope in the innocents, who are not admitted to, or informed of the "partnership," but whose support is secured by inflating their rural vanity. In point of fact, this association constitutes an "empire

within an empire,” whose views are voiced by their town delegates in the State Legislature, before whom State officials present themselves to submit to them proposed legislation, and obtain their sanction, without which nothing can be done. Before them also appear representatives of the large corporations, railroads and other Trusts with speeches of praise for the “intelligence and patriotism” of their rural fellow citizens—and also with more persuasive arguments, which are thereupon distributed among the bellwethers in the association of rural moralists.

It goes without saying that the Plutocracy actually rules, and that urban interests are sacrificed to and the individual pockets of the ruralists not in the game are picked as effectively by the Plutocracy as in other States where the tables are turned, and “city cleverness” holds sway over “hayseeds.” Of this fact the Connecticut rural dupes have no inkling. The rural vanity that they are systematically inflated with prevents them from seeing. For instance, they may grumble at the increasing devastations committed by the deer on the farms, but they do not see that the law protecting the animals is in the interest of the plutocratic sportsmen. One thing is, however, happening that is bound to penetrate the skull of many a rural dupe.

The trunk road of the State is raising the fares. The telegraph informs our Connecticut ruralists that a similar course was attempted by the same road in New York, but that a spoke was speedily put into the wheel by a New York State institution—the Public Service Commission. Immediately thereupon steps were taken all over Connecticut to create a similar Commission in the State. The fate in store for the plan at the hands of the “Third House,” backed by the bellwethers of the association of ruralists, will be of a nature to take the starch out of many a proud rural sovereign.

The Plutocracy is doing its work to perfection. It tears up illusions; it blows up vanities; it uproots superstitions. As a consequence the Plutocracy is dieting the masses to the digestion of facts, the thorough digestion of which is essential to that united action without which no Usurpation has, or ever can be thrown off the backs of those it rides.

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Uploaded June 2011

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