

I think if I were in Asa Candler's place, I'd sorter go slow. "The better class" is composed of the salt of the earth, of course, but their votes don't count a bit more than the votes of us rag-tag and bob-tail.

*Is there nothing to arbitrate?*

Is there some unwritten law which forbids "the better class" to listen to the grievances of the working people?

Law and order are of course sacred, provided the law is just, and the order based on equality.

Conservatism is a noble principle, provided the thing to be conserved is, in itself, noble.

But, is a refusal to discuss the conditions under which our laboring men support their families, anything else than pig-headed obstinacy?

Have these men lost their right to be heard? Are they Mexican peons? Have they lost their birthright as American citizens?

I do not profess to know everything about the inwardness of the Atlanta strike, because the daily papers have been muzzled, and no news that I can trust has trickled through; but this I do say—it makes my red blood boil to see a gang of predatory capitalists and a swarm of corporation lawyers arrogating to themselves the authority to say that they will not recognize Union Labor, nor discuss the grievances of laboring men.

*Such a position is out of date.* Such a position cannot be sustained. Such a position is reactionary, un-American, un-democratic, and subversive of the principles upon which this Republic is founded.

And I do think it the absurdest, most glaringly inconsistent thing in the world, for these Atlanta tools of Northern corporations to assume this arrogant bearing, so soon after their rip-snortious endorsement of Woodrow Wilson at Macon.

If I had a daily paper in Atlanta, it would do me good, through and through, to fight that arrogant swell-headed, rule-the-earth crowd.

Having nothing but a little weekly, printed on the outer edge of a cotton patch, at Thomson, all I can do is to say—that those Corporation lawyers, editors, and minority shareholders are making asses of themselves, by refusing to recognize the Union, and to discuss the conditions under which American citizens earn their bread, on public service utilities.

These Street Car Companies do not own those lines, in the same sense that I own a farm.

They hold charters from the State, and these charters impose upon the corporations duties to the public.

They are quasi-public institutions. They are State agencies, created for a public purpose.

Those charters did not mean that nothing farther was contemplated than that a horde of Boston, Philadelphia, and New York capitalists could invade Atlanta, and gain ownership of her streets.

At present, that idea seems to predominate with the lawyers and the editors who voice the sentiments of the patriots from Boston and Philadelphia.

The sooner they enlarge their mental vision, the better.

If I were Mayor of Atlanta, I would serve written notice on Arkwright & Co. to arbitrate those differences, within a given time; and if Arkwright, Candler & Co. persisted in their arrogant attitude, I would take possession of the Street-car lines, in the name of the City, whose streets they have seized, and blocked; and I would put those strikers back on those cars, and thus compel Arkwright, Candler & Co. to come to their senses.

It is an infernal outrage, not to be borne, for a rich employer to say to an employee,

"I am better than you, made of different clay; and when we differ, you must yield to me, or I will throw you out of work, even though my inhuman conduct means the starvation of your family."

*That won't do, Messrs. Capitalists!*

THAT WON'T DO, YE PHARISEES OF "THE BETTER CLASS!"

If the strikers have no real grievance, a hearing will expose them to ridicule and condemnation.

If the strikers have got a grievance, it is their right to be heard.

The President of the United States set you an example; and you went to Macon and give him your rapturous endorsement.

Be consistent, Gentlemen. Do take some of the medicine. Don't blow so hot, and then so cold.

Surely, it must occur to you that your conduct is a reflection on your President, calculated to greatly embarrass him, in those States where a Democrat doesn't wear a tag.

Charters can be legally and swiftly forfeited, at law, for mis-user, and non-user.

It is the duty, of the Street Car Company to run those cars!

It is a duty which they undertake, when they accept the charter.

That duty is THE RECIPROCAL OBLIGATION, which the Corporation owes to the City and State.

If that duty is not faithfully and efficiently performed, the charter can be forfeited by proceedings in court, provided it can be made to appear that such non-performances of duty grows out of the unreasonable conduct of the corporation itself.

If the Arkwright, Candler, Hub Dean crowd continues obstinate and arbitrarily obdurate, the Labor leaders should at once employ a first-class lawyer and begin proceedings TO FOREEIT THE CHARTER of those pig-headed obstructors of the Atlanta streets.

The day on which papers of that kind are filed, will be the day when Arkwright, Candler & Co. will begin to see something to arbitrate.

### Does Kansas See a New Light on Lynching?

IN Topeka, several well-meaning persons publish a weekly paper whose encouraging name is, *The Farmers Mail and Breeze*.

Whether this paper was one of those which abused and maligned the State of Georgia, when the Vigilantes executed Leo Frank, in accordance with the mandate of the highest courts, I do not know; but it is now taking the same position which *The Jeffersonian* took, last year.

They have had a lynching in Kansas, and Kansas is not universally abused and maligned.

The criminal who was executed by Vigilantes in Kansas had not pursued, lured, entrapped, assaulted, and choked to death with a cruel cord a little girl of 14 years: the Kansas man had slain two old people, and, like Leo Frank, used the cellar to conceal the crime.

The Editor of *The Farmers Mail and Breeze*, defending the lynchers, takes exactly the same line I took, and even uses my illustration, the California Vigilantes.

Editor T. A. McNeal had better be careful: the first thing he knows the Wilson administration will be threatening to have him dragged out of his State for trial.

If Bert Dudley had been a Jew, a score of Hebrews would have gone to Washington, and told Attorney-General Gregory that an honest jury could not be secured in Kansas, and that McNeal should be indicted in New Jersey, or Vermont, or Massachusetts, or some other sacred place.

Bert Dudley had been tried and convicted; but, under the law, he could not be put to death.

The mob decided that the law needed amendment, and they amended it by hanging the murderer.

They were not taking any chances on a Leo Frank escape, a Stripling pardon, or a McNaughton ditto.

The Kansas people knew that the convicted criminal deserved death, in spite of the law; and they swiftly made a new law to fit that exceptional case.

The Editors of *The Farmers Mail and Breeze* defend these lynchers!

O the monsters!!!

How dare they do such a thing?

*Go after them, Gregory!*

Snatch 'em baldheaded. Cart them around from State to State, until you can find an honest convicting jury!

This is how the Kansas editor puts it:

#### THE DUDLEY LYNCHING.

Mob law generally, perhaps always, is to be deplored, altho I am not entirely certain about the last statement. Theoretically mob law always is wrong, but there have been cases where conditions seemed to justify what was called mob law. Take the case of the California vigilantes where the courts had become notoriously corrupt and completely under the domination of the worst element of that new country. The organizing of the vigilantes seemed to be the only recourse of the citizens who desired to see order and decency prevail. I scarcely think, however, that it was mob law. The people in that case simply were setting aside the ordinary instruments for carrying out their will because those instrumentalities had fallen into the hands of thieves and criminals who were using them to shield crime and criminals instead of suppressing crime and punishing criminals. I believe in that case the people of California were entirely justified in establishing new methods and new instrumentalities to carry out their will and protect society.

There always is a strong sentiment, when a horrible crime has been committed, like that in Johnson county the other day, in favor of meting out summary vengeance on the culprit. Here was a case where a most brutal and unprovoked murder was committed. Apparently with no more compunction than a wild beast the man, Bert Dudley, killed two old people and threw their bodies into the cellar. With no indication of regret or remorse he confessed his crime. It is the most natural thing in the world that the neighbors of these murdered persons should favor sudden and summary vengeance on the murderer. Perhaps this feeling was intensified by the fact that Kansas does not have capital punishment, and the further fact that the most brutal murderers ever sent to the Kansas penitentiary have not been kept there more than 25 years. There is a feeling that crime is not adequately punished in this State. It is doubtful, however, whether that was taken into consideration by the mob which hung Bert Dudley, or is ever taken into consideration by a mob.

Bert Dudley, the Johnson county murderer, was very promptly convicted by the jury. He would have been sentenced to life imprisonment, the extreme penalty for murder in this State. Judging from past experience he would have been pardoned out within 25 years if he had lived that long. Most persons will say that this would not be adequate punishment for the crime he had committed, but that the mob which hanged him took that into consideration at all is doubtful. The probability is that if the law had made hanging the penalty for his crime the mob would have lynched him just the same.

We may moralize all we please but on occasions of this kind even the best of persons are apt to forget their theories and if they do not actually advocate mob law, they at least condone it. There will be considerable editorial comment about this lynching and the duty of Kansas to apprehend the lynchers and punish them, but that none of them will be punished is my opinion.

### Watson's Books on Sale in Atlanta and Macon.

A complete line of Thos. E. Watson's books are on sale at Miller's Book Store, in Atlanta; also at Macon, with Brown's Book Store. People in those cities and vicinity would do well to call and look them over. Jeffersonian Publishing Co.