

RICH MAN, POOR MAN  
By Arthur C. Parker

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Millionaires Make Paupers

Archbishop John T. McNichols of Cincinnati says to "Seize excess profits". He advocates a conscription of excess profits as wholly in harmony with the principles of Christian social justice! He termed extreme concentration of wealth "One of the crimes of the century".

You can't have millionaires without having paupers. Society will have progressed when we have neither.

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Hoover's Cackling Committee

The Peoples Legislative Service, a new progressive organization headed by such liberals as Senator Brookhart of Iowa and Frazer of North Dakota issued a blasting statement against the Hoover administration by ironically calling Hoover's Unemployment Committee, headed by Walter S. Gifford, "the veteran army of unemployed" and likening it to the unemployment cackling committee headed by Col. Arthur Woods. They said, "The grand and fundamental purpose of the Hoover Cackling Committee for the alleged relief of unemployment is by noise alone and to beat off the Ghouls who may attempt to raid the capital this coming hard winter. That might mean increased income tax!"

Of course, to our president and several other so called national leaders, increased inheritance or income taxes are not even to be thought of. 'Tis blasphemous. Yet, all sensible economists, sociologists, and all leaders not politicians, know that heavier taxation on those who can afford it is the only hope of our suffering society.

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Luck or Crime?

Says the head of the Psychological Clinic of the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Whitmer, "Stupidity is failure despite favoring odds, whereas luck is pure chance." The definition of stupidity may win many supporters but many successful business men in practically every line of endeavor concede that the element of luck contributed a great deal to the size of their present bank roll.

Archie M. Andres, of Wall Street fame, says, "I believe that most successful business men of today have played in luck, and this accounts to some extent why they have millions while others don't. Just a turn of the old wheel, the favor of a capricious goddess of chance".

Mr. Andres is right as far as he goes, but he does not go half far enough. We might add that in our society, especially among those born rich, they get richer, and the poor get children. The men who are the most selfish, cold blooded, heartless and consistently piratical become the most successful when success is measured in dollars and cents.

Mr. Andres says, "Some have millions while others don't." We say, "Others don't have even sufficient food, clothing or shelter". The history of great American fortunes reads like some Arabian night myth, atrocities, medieval cruelty, fiendish murders and tortures that

should belong in only ten cent thrillers, but that yet have happened and are happening in the United States of America.

The perpetrators of the most heinous crimes, the most dastardly swindles, are respected citizens and revered figures of our national society. Most of us have been trained to respect great wealth no matter how acquired. In fact, we worship the dollar and the things for which it stands. We commit burglary, forgery, arson, rape and murder for the filthy lucre. The American eagle, or currency, is our unscrupulous god. And we call African Bushmen pagans!

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The New Negro Year Book

The fine record set for the past decade by the "Negro Year Book, an Annual Encyclopedia of the Negro" is well maintained in the 1931-1932 edition, just published by the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute.

Every phase of life among Colored American citizens, and a sufficiently comprehensive outline of the activities and interests of Negroes in other countries, is well covered by factual statements based on official sources. Where opinions in regard to facts are presented, they are quoted from accepted leaders of our people, and not given as those of the compiler, Monroe N. Work. The self-effacement shown by Dr. Work is literally a case of the humble being exalted, because the excellence of his selection cannot fail to redound to his credit among careful students who use his book.

A few things have been included that this reviewer would have left out, and more have been left out that he would have included. For example, one might well argue that the list of periodicals published by or for Negroes should be classified as to type; for example, general newspapers, literary magazines, technical publications, etc. Instead, the classification is purely geographical. Likewise, one might think that the labor unions in which Colored Americans are at present organized--pitiably few as they are--should be listed with the many other types of groups given.

These, however, are minor points. Any real criticism rests not upon the compiler, but upon the activities pictured. One may not like to see, for instance, that many of our influential citizens are turning away from the Republicans, who have sold them out, to the Democrats, who have also sold them out. One may not like to see that others--luckily not many--have gone Communist, and thus placed themselves in position to get killed to further an alien propaganda which purposely makes martyrs of the desperate so that it may give spice to street corner harangues. But the duty of a good reporter is to set forth the facts, and facts these are, whether one likes them or not.

And one must point out with sorrow that social and economic stupidity is confined to no race. Ethiopian, Mongolian, Caucasian all seem blind to the fact that the only present hope is for the workers of the world, forgetting differences of color, to unite against our present stupid capitalist system in which men starve because they grow too much food. The sooner we band together to build by peaceful means a new order that will produce for use and not for profit, the sooner will we be able to read a "Negro Year Book" which will proclaim freedom for the oppressed.

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