Thesis.

Why Study Economic Problems?

J.A. Tullott, 1899.
Outline of Thesis.

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Why Study Economic Problems?

Evolution of thought is as inevitable as is the evolution of plants, animal, or individuals.

Only a few years ago, it was the idea of the colleges of the land, to teach Latin, Greek, French, German, and to the wise men of those days, they thought, that these subjects were of the greatest importance to the student, as they tended to develop his mind and give him a classical and literary education.

But today through a combination of circumstances, the people are beginning to see the value of a new field of study.

The scholars of today recognize the value of the above named studies as mind trainers and as developers of the reasoning power, but they also see that there is also another very important problem before us, and that is how to meet and solve successfully the great question of everyday life as they present themselves.
selved to each of us.

The study of Economics has to deal with these problems that confront an individual in every day business life, no matter what his location may be.

Is there any legitimate reason why an individual should not study his surroundings, and become acquainted with the rules, business principles, and laws under which he is to work out a livelihood for himself and family?

One might naturally think that all the people would be of one mind in regard to this department of our education, but we find that there is much and more opposition to this line of thought.

In the United States, the people are the bulwarks of popular government, and it is upon their intelligence, thrift, and knowledge of these great questions, that the success of Nation depends.

The question of wages is one that concerns each person in our nation to-day, in as much as they either give or receive wages, and yet how few people know anything about the several
different theories in regard to wages upon the wages or income, depend the sphere in social life, in regard to the enjoyment of the everyday life.

The man who receives a good substantial income is not only able to provide well for his family in regard to the necessities of life, but he is also able to give them an opportunity to go to school and college and there obtain the training that will aid them through life. He is also able to permit them to enjoy society and its many advantages in regard to higher planes of living and usefulness.

So we see that this question of wages is not only important to the one who receives them, but that it also has an untold influence on the lives of those with whom you are most intimately connected.

The Kansas farmer needs to be an educated man, as he has more to contend with than any other man who conducts a business.

If he plants his crops too early, the
Cold wave is liable to return and kill it. If he plants it too late, it will be killed by the frost. If he succeeds in evading these evils, the insects come into play, and attack and often ruin the entire crop. But if he is successful in evading all the above named attacks, he is compelled to sell on a market that is controlled by Bull and Bear, and they govern him on one side and gnaw him on the other, and if he succeeds in living through all these difficulties, he at last falls into the hands of the moneyed men and has to do business on an irrational monetary system.

We are all more or less acquainted with the legislators of Kansas for several years back, and know that they have been men of the people, those who have been trying to serve their constituents, but if we made a study of the laws that have been passed during the last twenty years, we will find that the farmers and laboring men have not received the protection by
law that the Wealthier Class have.

We all know something of the power of a lobby in influencing legislation and tho' the Kansas Legislators may not be under their control, they are undoubtedly under their influence.

Ohio furnishes a good illustration of the effects that a lobby and moneyed men may have on a legislature, in leading it off to those things that are contrary to the principles on which it was elected and contrary to the convictions of the members of the legislature.

The legislature is supposed to be made up of men who are chosen directly by the people, and they are chosen with the idea that they shall represent the people in all their undertakings, but yet that often is this not true. The trusts, cooperations, combines think it perfectly legitimate to bribe and buy the members, and thus thwart the interests of the people who elected them.

The Ohio Legislature that elected Mr. M. A. Hanna to the United States Senate contained many men who...
showed their intention of doing what was right for the masses, in their hard fight against the moneyed power and the enemies that attacks them from all sides. These intelligent and honest men were determined to do the right, and were nearly successful in their undertakings. They undertook to defy the trusts, combinations, and syndicates by defeating their leaders and advancing agents. M. B. Hanna. They undertook to regulate the railroads, charge and forest in freight rates, charge, and reduce transportation from three to two cents per mile. I attempted to do away with the patronage of the office-seeker. I attempted to pass laws that would regulate city government. I grappled with the question of taxation, temperance, and education.

So we see that this legislature endeavored to pass laws on these questions that are of vital importance to the people in every day life; and yet these honest men of the people were not able to succeed.
When confronted with the combined money power and its unbounded influence. Is this not a very important reason why the people should study these economic problems, and acquaint themselves with some of the influences that are brought to bear on the men who are chosen to represent the making of the laws of the land?

At the beginning of the session, the newspaper men from far and near, sent their reporters to the Capital City and heralded the news of the great success that Mr. D. Hanna was meeting with by the use of his money in securing his election to a seat in the United States Senate.

When the fight was at its highest, and Mr. Hanna was not certain if his election be sent a call to all the postmasters of Ohio, to meet him immediately in the Capital City, and there do personal work on the legislators of their respective districts in behalf of Marcus A. Hanna. They responded at once, and warned about the legislators on the street corners, and to their rooms in the hotels.
and in the Capitol Building, they demanded that they elect the man upon whom their political and future success depended.

Most of the Ohio people were opposed to the election of Mr. W. A. Hanna to the United States Senate, and this is well illustrated in the fact that the Republicans legislators who were known to be in favor of Mr. Hanna were either defeated or elected by a small majority. At present, a seat in the United States Senate is held by a man who is not the choice of the people of Ohio, but he was elected by landing himself their by his own individual efforts.

Is it not high time when one man by his individual efforts has gained sufficient power, politically and financially to enable him to thwart the interest of the people of a great state that the people make a study of the questions that concern them in everyday life, and learn the principles and methods by which these men of power do business.

This is a day and age of trust and
Combinations. In 1878, the large manufacturing establishments, street railway lighting plants, and water works have been combining into gigantic combinations, the capital of which sums up to the enormous sum of $957,570,000.

Every farmer who raises beef is compelled to sell it to a trust that has accumulated $125,000,000.00 capital with which to control the meat supply.

Each family who buy a gallon of oil is compelled to buy it from a combination having $100,000.00.00 capital with which to regulate the output.

Every person who uses sugar is compelled to buy it from a cooperative which has succeeded in gaining control of 75,000,000.00 capital stock.

In 1878 combinations have been formed on the necessities of life. Viz. lumber, lamps, hay, fish, candy, linseed oil, thread, shingles, mattresses, steel, wire, canned goods, beer, whiskey, starch, soap, and envelopes. In the year 1897, prunes have been added to the list, and only a few days ago, bananas were.
added to the list that putting the price of them up, ten cents per dozen here in Manhattan.

Now add to these, the will establishment that a congressman Borrow Allow of Lawrence sold to the Combination, and we will see that the trusts and moneyed power are fast getting control of the necessaries of life, and are not managing them in the interest of the consumer and the common people.

Does it not behoove the common people to study and gain some education on these questions that are so essential and important to them in every day life? If these business principles, rules and laws, that are being used by the trusts, work so successfully, would it not be a praiseworthy idea to educate all the people along these lines of thought, so that they may be able to study and solve the problems of every day life as they present themselves to each individual?

When we begin to study these great questions, we find that these trusts are not only working in our sister states
but that they have also reached our own
fair state of Kansas and are playing
a very important part in her metal
trial field. By gaining control of the
barb wire plant at Lawrence,
Mr. Henley has succeeded in man-
aging the business successfully, to
himself and to the farmers of Kansas,
and yet he is compelled to sell out to a
combine who had started in to ruin
him financially and close up his business.
So, to save his capital invested, he sold
out to a trust at a price that netted
him nothing above his actual invest-
ment. No sooner had the trust
obtained control of the plant, than they
began to close it up and to cut out
plants and by so doing they threw two
hundred men out of employment.
This well illustrates the brutality of
trusts and the assertion that they are
morally in the interest of the people
by giving steady and remunerative
judges and greater opportunities of get-
ing work. The public is not aware
of any reason why this plant should
be shut down, as it has always been successful in its management, and it was stated that only a short time ago, a few of the traveling men had to be called in from soliciting orders until the plant could be able to fill some of the orders already in hand.

The Kansas farmers are now compelled to buy in the East, where trusts do exist and competition is shut out and they are further compelled to pay the excessive freight rate charges that must be necessary in the transportation of the wire from the eastern establishments to the local markets in Kansas. Such action as these command the immediate attention, and study of the people, as they are of much interest and of great importance to all those who are now in connection with the trusts.

When a few individuals have gained sufficient power to enable them, to thwart, and throw several hundred laborers out of employment, and compel them to go elsewhere where seeking work
It is high time that the people were learning about the Divine Rights of Trusts.

Numerous other illustrations and examples could be sighted, showing the relation of the common people to the great questions that are at issue in everyday life, but enough have been given to show that the people need to gain some education, either through the colleges of the land or by a series of campaigns education that is on annually in progress.