
Populist Advice

by Eugene V. Debs

Apparently an excerpt from a speech, published as “Debs’ Advice”
in *People’s Voice* [Wellington, KS], Aug. 10, 1894, pg. 8.

When it comes to striking at the polls we know the people will be with us. It will be a contest by the money power by which this country has been absolutely ruled for so many years. Havemeyer¹ goes into the United States Senate and dictates what duty shall be on sugar and all the people combined cannot stop hi Let a poor man go to Washington to protest and they arrest him for treading on the grass.²

I am Populist and am in favor of wiping both the old parties out so they will never come into power again. I have been a Democrat all my life and I am ashamed to admit it. I want every one of you to go to the polls and vote the Populist ticket. What we are trying to do is to make a job worth something. As it is there is little difference in financial condition between the men who have and those who have not jobs.

Edited with footnotes by Tim Davenport

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¹ **Henry Osborne Havemeyer** (1847-1907), a New York industrialist, was a sugar refiner who organized an American sugar refiners’ trust in 1887.

² Allusion to the treatment meted out to Jacob S. Coxey and members of “Coxey’s Army” on May 1, 1894, when a prepared speech that was to be delivered from the Capitol steps was circumvented by police making use of such a tactic.