

Socialism the Trend of the Times (January 30, 1903)

A convincing proof that the intellectual trend of the times is in astonishing channels has been brought most forcibly to my attention during my travels. I would have been tarred and feathered eight years ago in communities where now I am respectfully given appreciative attention. Sentiments uttered by me when it was my task to direct the fortunes of thousands of railroad workmen on strike were treated with scorn and contempt. Contumely was heaped upon me then.

Now these sentiments are accepted as the product of advanced thought and I have so great a man as Pieirpont Morgan admitting the truth of these "truisms." Socialism, indeed, is the trend of the times. I predict that soon after this remarkable period of high tension railroad activity there will come an era of strikes, compared to which the struggle of 1894 will be but a pygmy. Every available scrap pile engine is now called into activity; the prodigious labor of the railroad men applied 24 hours a day does not suffice to keep down the congestion. But the reaction will lay bare the bolstered-up condition of things. The railroads are first to feel this reaction. Each great economic struggle is only another step toward socialism. Because I say this I am not necessarily the advance agent of pessimism. J.J. Hill has said practically the same thing.

Syndicated layout published in various newspapers. As published in *The Sun* [Parsons, KS], vol. 24, no. 275 (Jan. 30, 1903), pg. 2.