

Riding on a Man's Back

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Leo Tolstoy once wrote “I sit on a man's back, choking him and making him carry me, and yet assure myself and others that I am very sorry for him and wish to ease his lot by all possible means - except by getting off his back.”¹ Americans at the end of the Nineteenth Century had the settling realization that the frontier was now closed and settled, they turn their collective heads towards business. Business was the new fear. Fear of losing it, and fear of being dominated by it. In order to secure the future of American business, politicians towards the end of the Nineteenth Century are being persuaded by both legal and illegal means to procure colonies, to build up conglomerations of power held by corporations, and are fighting back against any form of pressure to make things easier for people at the lower end of the financial spectrum, such as farmers and workers, by suppressing unionization and any help with foreclosures on farms. While some authors wrote of the great accomplishments of the Nineteenth Century, many were much more cynical in their views. Writers such as Upton Sinclair, Ida Tarbell, Lincoln Steffens, were known as muckraking journalists, and they were beginning to turn a more critical eye to the country and the way it was behaving at home and abroad.² One of the opposing persons to these muckrakers was Isaac P. Noyes. Noyes' poem *Trust – Spiritually*,

¹ Leo Tolstoy. "Leo Nikolaevich Tolstoy quotes." Find the famous quotes you need, ThinkExist.com Quotations. http://thinkexist.com/quotation/-i_sit_on_a_man-s_back-choking_him_and_making_him/341243.html (accessed November 17, 2008).

² D.C. Heath *Roosevelt Wilson and the Trusts*. Lexington, Mass.: D.C. Heath And Co., 1950, vi.

Financially, and Politically weaves three major themes together towards a pro-business stance; these themes are spirituality, finances, and politics in regards to trusts or monopolies.³ Noyes' poem, from here on out known as *Trust*, was one of many critiques on the way that America is handling commerce and international affairs. Noyes harkens to the Tolstoy quote with his general lack of caring for the poor and unbridled love for business in all forms, but many of these arguments against him are leveled at his opponents as well. The correlations between then and now are apparent - the large businesses have grown too large for their own good, people are dissatisfied with the government handling of commerce, and there was a general apprehension about being stuck in another military conflict in a place we do not belong in to begin with.

While it unknown as to how well Noyes was doing financially, he has written several books and plays, he has work in Washington, and he was able to take care of two daughters. All of these are signs that he was not doing too poorly. Noyes was born on April 13, 1840 in New York City, New York.⁴ He was married to a woman named Elizabeth in 1870 and that same year moves to Washington D.C. and works in the Office of the Surgeon General. He and Elizabeth have two children, Edith and Bertha. He writes about a wide range of subjects, such as meteorology and new ways of predicting the weather and dabbles in architecture, South American archaeology and of course, topical poetry.⁵ He even writes a book about naming books and miscellaneous documents.⁶

Noyes appears to be an every-man of sorts. He enjoys being well-versed in many

³ Isaac P. Noyes, *Trust - Spiritually, Financially, and Politically*. (Washington D.C.: American Memory, 1906)

⁴ "Noyes Family." webGED: Noyes Family. 17 Nov. 2008 <http://noyes.rootsweb.ancestry.com/b821.htm> (accessed November 17, 2008).

⁵ "Garrett Scott, Bookseller:" Garrett Scott, Bookseller; 17 Nov. 2008 <<http://www.gsbbooks.com/cgi-bin/gsb455/results?searchfield=author&searchspe> (accessed November 17, 2008).

⁶ "Titles of Books and Miscellaneous Documents." PubMed Central Homepage. 17 Nov. 2008 <http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=1692159> (accessed November 17, 2008).

subjects, and this perhaps was why he chose to write on these subjects. In addition to *Trust*, Noyes writes about the Pure Food and Drug act of 1906 in his poem *Truth in False Lights – False Lights as True*.

We can see Noyes' *Trust* shows the political ramifications of the late Nineteenth and early Twentieth centuries in several ways. Noyes publishes *Trust* on July 14, 1906 in Washington DC.⁷ In many ways, it does appear that *Trust* was referring, at least in small part, to two major factors most prevalent at the time. The first was Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*, a muckraking novel decrying the injustices of the Chicago meatpacking industry. The second was perhaps President Theodore Roosevelt's (and other democrats) reaction to *The Jungle* via legislation passed just a month before *Trust* came out.⁸ Two major acts were passed: the Meat Inspection Act,⁹ and the Pure Food and Drug Act.¹⁰ It is important to note that Teddy Roosevelt himself actually pushed his weight around to get the Pure Food and Drug Act passed in Congress.¹¹ Since his accompanying poem called *Truth in False Lights* was primarily about the Pure Food and Drug Act, it can be assumed that he was primarily dealing with the Meat Inspection Act in this particular poem and its impact on business in general.¹² These regulatory laws were also part of a larger movement that was growing towards dislike of trusts.

⁷ "Garrett Scott, Bookseller:." Garrett Scott, Bookseller:. 17 Nov. 2008 <http://www.gsbbooks.com/cgi-bin/gsb455/12252.html?id=vGPXCL9n> (accessed November 17, 2008).

⁸ Sinclair, Upton. The Jungle (Enriched Classics). New York: Pocket, 2004.

⁹ "Federal Meat Inspection Act." Home. 17 Nov. 2008 <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/Federal_Meat_Inspection_Act/in (accessed November 17, 2008).

¹⁰ "FDA Consumer: The Long Struggle For The 1906 Law." U.S. FDA / Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition. 17 Nov. 2008 <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~lrd/history2.html> (accessed November 17, 2008).

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² "Garrett Scott, Bookseller:." Garrett Scott, Bookseller:. 17 Nov. 2008 <<http://www.gsbbooks.com/cgi-bin/gsb455/12253.html?id=vGPXCL9n> (accessed November 17, 2008).

Upton Sinclair sent Roosevelt a copy of his book, and after some convincing, Roosevelt sent two men to investigate the dire situation that was expressed by Sinclair. After Sinclair's accusations proved true, an outraged Roosevelt pushed Congress hard for meaningful legislation. Roosevelt, unlike Sinclair, was only outraged by the poor manufacturing conditions, and not by the working conditions of the poor working in those plants. Nor was Roosevelt particularly concerned with the fact that low-waged workers were one of the many reasons to why the plant had such poor conditions to begin with.¹³ Still, Roosevelt's piece of legislation was just one small drop in the growing steam engine that was moving towards change. Roosevelt had even complained to William Taft, 1906 that he felt that the folly, greed, arrogance and corruption had created a very unhealthy situation which in large part caused some of the progressive agenda across the nation.¹⁴

Where did this folly, greed, arrogance, and corruption derive from? At the end of the industrial revolution, several things happened that allowed businesses to grow larger and eventually become the monopolist giants that began to threaten the well-being of Americans everywhere.¹⁵ Trusts began to increase in power at the end of the American Civil War. By 1887, the Whisky, Sugar, Lead, and Cotton-Oil Trust were in existence and other trusts were gaining power and momentum.¹⁶

The power being exerted by these large trusts and corporations was beginning to be felt by the American populace. This one factor was perhaps more prevalent than any other – Roosevelt was given his power to smash trusts due to fears of such entities

¹³ James Harvey Young. The Pig That Fell Into the Privy: Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* and the Meat Inspection Amendments of 1906. *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 59, 1985, 467-80.

¹⁴ Heath *Roosevelt Wilson and the Trusts*, vi.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 3.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 7.

growing too large and too powerful. The Industrial Commission of 1902¹⁷ was convinced that monopolies were built less for manufacturing goods cheaper, and more for increasing profit and controlling prices on the goods that were manufactured. However, the movement against trusts had actually started even earlier with the Sherman Anti-trust Act of 1890.¹⁸ This act, combined with the muckraking of many book and magazine writers paved the way for Democrats to make leads in the house and senate and the Presidency. Roosevelt's push to use the government to break up trusts was ironic to some degree, because the only way that monopolies can truly be created, according to Chief Justice White in 1911, was by having the government help them to be created in the first place.¹⁹

Noyes *Trust* shows how the finances of both large businesses and the average middle man and even the poor are being affected in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Increasingly in a society that appears to worship all that is big, large, rotund, massive and gargantuan, it should be noted especially that the larger things get the more fearful they truly become. Noyes addresses some of this with statements on department stores and the people who choose to shop there "It has made many a poor man sore, and against them many do cry, yet when they goods do buy, and can get a better selection, and perhaps a cent or two reduction, they do not seem to think of the little store, Where there is less to see and where the price is more."²⁰ In effect, Noyes wishes to emphasize that most choose to shop at larger businesses because of their larger selections and cheaper prices.

¹⁷ Ibid., 13.

¹⁸ Ibid., 15.

¹⁹ Walter Gray &, and Horace M. Adams. Monopoly in America. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1955, 1.

²⁰ Noyes *Trust*, 3.

It is easy to draw parallels between people shopping at large department stores then, and people choosing to shop at Walmart today. Large department stores then, just as now, have the cheaper prices. Where do these large businesses, such as Walmart, cut the bottom line? They do so by cutting the average retail employee's wage by more than \$2 today. In Noyes time they did this largely by eliminating all competition and then arbitrarily raising prices on any good they had a monopoly on. These large businesses were then and are now a detriment to our society.²¹

And large businesses that are a detriment to society are at the heart of Noyes *Trust*. It is inescapable. Noyes feels that business was a "grand moral power," but the reality was that a great many people are being affected by these trusts.²² A few more pennies spent at a department store was far different than the amount of price-gouging that was going on in these few decades. And it was not merely about the almighty American dollar, it was undeniably about our role in the larger world.

Contemporaries of the time often pondered this larger world and our role in it. *White Man's Burden*, which had a sub-title of *The United States and the Philippine Islands* written by Rudyard Kipling was essentially a poem discussing the needs for Americans, along with Europeans, to colonize the 'uncivilized' world and make the world a better place but with just a tinge of irony. In effect it criticized the imperialism of the United States, and our allies. Written in 1899, this particular document may also have influenced *Trust* as Noyes writes, "By some the plain business of the world is all carnal thought."²³ While this does appear to have some link to Romans 8:6 of the Bible, it can also be directly linked to Rudyard Kipling in Noyes comment "As the old philosophers of

²¹ "Wal-Mart Watch." Wal-Mart Watch. <http://walmartwatch.com> (accessed November 17, 2008).

²² Noyes *Trust*, 6.

²³ *Ibid.*, 1.

India would teach,” as Kipling was very fond of Indian culture, and published many works of his in England that were previously only known in India.²⁴ It is clear that throughout most of Kipling’s life he was attached to India, which was a British Colony for most of his life. His father’s influence as an Indian Museum director can also be attributed to his slant in views in regards to imperialism.

It appears that much like Kipling, Noyes wishes to endorse imperialism, but without the hint of irony. Noyes truly believes “ ‘Men in business should not cheat or steal.’ This we grant; nor should they make us feel that all legitimate business is only one grand steal.”²⁵ Yet he himself appears to be coding almost his entire document to be for a man on the inside - for a person who truly ‘understands’ that the United States should continue its imperialistic leanings. Imperialism was good for business and since business has been good, it should continue to be good because “In this we see no harm; it is old business ways, that applies to all things; we have seen it all our days.”²⁶

Noyes also shows the way the effects of spirituality has had in regards to upholding trust and trusts in this time period as well. While the spiritual arguments made within it might sway some of the poor and uneducated he seems to shooting for the middle class and wealthy. Noyes uses spirituality in many ways throughout *Trust*. He weaves “trust in God”²⁷ and “trust in human[ity]”²⁸ together to make his points. Noyes however seems to have little trust in God or humanity, as he chooses to characterize his

²⁴ "Rudyard Kipling, The White Man's Burden." Washington State University - Pullman, Washington. http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~wldciv/world_civ_reader/world_civ_reader_2/kipling.html (accessed November 17, 2008).

²⁵ Noyes *Trust*, 1.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

opponents as “Like Mephistopheles.”²⁹ Mephistopheles was a humanoid demon akin to Satan.³⁰ He also writes that in general that the United States was a “nation... of knaves, knaves that should be in their graves.”

Considering that a knave by definition is an unprincipled, crafty fellow or servant, it could almost be wondered if Noyes was perhaps referring to himself with such unbridled arguments against his opponents.³¹ Noyes also accuses his opponents of demagoguery as well, and does not believe their sincerity in caring for the poor “But Trusts nevertheless that bite – bite the poor man, and keep him down, while these men, for political effect, frown.”³² But in regards to knaves he quotes a biblical passage which is most akin to Psalm 12:1 “The good are minished from among the children of men.”³³ After reading through several versions of this particular passage, it can be seen that the gist of what he’s getting at was there are no good men left, and if evil men are all that remains, it is a bit simpler to see why he wishes for their deaths in some way, shape, or fashion.³⁴

Noyes displays unintentional irony in regards to his opponents. His general thought about God was that our trust in him is intrinsic, and that along those lines, they preach that “towards our fellowmen be in accord.”³⁵ Apparently this does not apply to any who might disagree with him. This trust in man, as well as in trust in God was being

²⁹ Ibid., 4.

³⁰ "Character of Mephistopheles in Goethe's Faust ." 123helpme.com. <http://www.123helpme.com/assets/4847.html> (accessed November 17, 2008).

³¹ "Knave definition | Dictionary.com." Dictionary.com - an Ask.com service. <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/knave> (accessed November 17, 2008).

³² Noyes *Trust*, 4.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ "BibleGateway.com - Passage Lookup: Psalm 12:1;" BibleGateway.com: A searchable online Bible in over 100 versions and 50 languages.. <http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2012:1;&version=31;> (accessed November 17, 2008).

³⁵ Noyes *Trust*, 1

disturbed by what Noyes calls “the evil ways of the political trust”³⁶ or anyone who opposes huge monopolistic trusts.

What Noyes has to say about spirituality has more to do with politics and money and trust in people who believe in those two things than trust in God. His argument was multi-faceted but he’s essentially arguing for the status quo. Noyes was concerned over the impacts to the trusts and monopolies that he was so used to. This status quo attitude has governed politics for most of Noyes’ life. Proof of this can be seen in multiple paragraphs spread out over the course of his seven page poem.

The first of these lines, proving that Noyes was advocating for the status quo was “The man of ample means to purchase the large lot expects the pro rata discount, which he always got. In this we see no harm; it is old business ways that applies to all things; we have seen it all our days.”³⁷ The second of which was “When produce or wares are scarce and difficult to obtain, from time immemorial it has not been considered unjust or vain”³⁸ to charge more money. The third of which was “This hath ever been the law.”³⁹

But his choice to continue on and say that “In handling the larger lot, piece for piece, more haste. Less time is lost, and ‘Time is money,’ we know. In moving one large lot there is little loss of time to show”⁴⁰ was particularly interesting because there is no correlation between making goods cheaper and having it be necessarily cheaper for consumers.⁴¹ Also small businesses gain nothing by having huge monopolies steamroll over what little effort they can muster.

³⁶ Ibid., 7.

³⁷ Ibid., 1.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid., 2.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Heath *Roosevelt Wilson and the Trusts*, 13.

It could also be argued here that he was saying that because a smaller business does not control all aspects of that business, from the wheat to the bun making to the burger producing business, that that was somehow “necessarily slow”⁴² and that monopolies are clearly better in this regard. Simply because of their efficiency they are better for the nation. Monopolies are more profitable, but not necessarily better for consumers. E.F. Schumacher has written an entire book about the mind-bogglingly inefficient modern industry. It is inefficient in so many ways that it is difficult to fathom. And because of that unfathomable inefficiency, it is largely unseen.⁴³ For example, it is easy to hypothesize that some large corporations waste at least one sheet of paper each day on a meaningless report and do not recycle it because it is not corporate policy. A major corporate chain, such as Best Buy has eleven hundred stores. If we take those eleven hundred store’s waste of seven sheets of paper and multiply that by four weeks in a month, and multiply that by twelve months in a year we get almost 370,000 sheets of paper wasted in a single year. Anti-trust law unfortunately was never written for environmental concerns, it was written for many motives, the foremost of which was to stop it from growing too large to handle. The direct correlation between this hypothetical waste and Noyes’ poem has to do with his advocacy for larger businesses, and their continuation into society ad infinitum. Large businesses are by nature inefficient, and therein lies a large logical fallacy to Noyes argument for them being better for society as a whole.

Former US Secretary of Labor Robert Reich said that the original purpose of antitrust law was to stop companies from growing so large that other companies became

⁴² Noyes *Trust*, 2.

⁴³ Schumacher, E. F. *Small Is Beautiful: Economics as if People Mattered*. New York: Harper Perennial, 1989.

dependent on them, so influential that they could wield a huge amount of influence in Washington, D.C., and so interdependent with other stockholders, businesses, and just average citizens that even the thought of them failing would cause serious problems in the nation.⁴⁴

Noyes however was not interested in all business getting ahead, only large monopolistic trusts getting ahead with his statement of “Whereas with the number of small lots the movement is necessarily slow – intervals and uncertain dots,” and “There must less profit be, per lot size.”⁴⁵ His dedication to trusts and monopolies was admirable in that it was without exception.

Noyes dedication may have believed that this was the next evolutionary step of businesses. He makes a basic argument showing that “The little sloop skimmed o’er the seas” and talks about improvements made “But the schooner came” and finishes by answering his own rhetorical question “Where are the sloops today that used to sail along the Sound and Bay?” with “Gone!” Noyes argues that because of steam vessels, which were able to be increased in size, and speed, the schooner with its sails was now gone.⁴⁶ He was correct in this fact, but then chooses to say no politician would ever dream of making an issue about the fact that schooners have been replaced with steam vessels. He compares this schooner analogy with “it would be fully as sensible as the cry against the trust, a cry simply to fill the world’s eye with dust.”⁴⁷

⁴⁴ Reich, Robert. "Robert Reich's Blog: If They're Too Big To Fail, They're Too Big Period." Robert Reich's Blog. <http://robertreich.blogspot.com/2008/10/if-theyre-too-big-to-fail-theyre-too.html> (accessed November 17, 2008).

⁴⁵ Noyes, *Trust*, 1.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

But really who spreads dust in the world's eyes? Was it the rich men who seemingly have "given schools, hospitals, libraries and large charity?"⁴⁸ This perhaps was a profound question. Who does more good - the rich man who donates a million dollars or a million poor people who donate one dollar? The voices and intent of a million far outweigh the power of a single man giving away money that essentially means nothing to him. Andrew Carnegie's general philosophy of attempting to better society by building libraries and then forcing the public to pay a small tax to continue their maintenance shows an amazing level of caring for his fellow-man. His pro-union stances, and keen business sense lead to a great amount of good being created in the world.⁴⁹

Perhaps there was a reason that Noyes overlooks when he states that "the men who have millions given the world to advance, have been the 'villainous Trust men.'"⁵⁰ In Noyes' eyes and perhaps in the eyes of other wealthy individuals, the heads of these trusts are noble men because they create business, and wages for people at the bottom. And those who do not create more jobs, and wages, are simply "Nothing so far as we know."⁵¹

Noyes truly believes that those at the bottom of the ladder, who are trying to make their way up via politics, are simply demagogues and have no interest in actually helping the poor, common man. He states clearly that "He is in no haste to do good, But to gain by his cry of good is his would. Evil are we, so he doth cry, yet what does he offer in his

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ "Carnegie Corporation - About." Carnegie Corporation of New York: Home. <http://www.carnegie.org/sub/about/biography.html> (accessed November 25, 2008).

⁵⁰ Noyes *Trust*, 3.

⁵¹ Ibid., 2.

by and by? Does he offer more mouths to feed? Does he plant good seed? When in power has he abstained from greed?"⁵²

The reader of his poem might be questioning who he was referring to exactly, and Noyes does not disappoint "In 1884, and again '92."⁵³ It was clear he's referring to the only president elected to two non-consecutive terms, Grover Cleveland. After twenty-eight years of Republicans controlling the White House, Cleveland takes office as a Democrat.⁵⁴ Considering that the party's platforms were essentially identical, with the exception of their stance on tariffs, it was clear that the presidential election of 1884 was about character. Despite issues of his apparent illegitimate love child, and a curious relationship with his close friend's younger daughter, Cleveland wins this election.⁵⁵ That he should manage to win the election of 1884 despite all scandal, and lose the election four short years later due to taking a true stand on policy meant to have been in the best interests of the average American worker, was a bit ironic considering his profession as a politician was to take a stand on a given issue and lead people.

But towards the end of his first term, in 1887, Cleveland pretty much laid down the gauntlet at the republican's feet about tariffs. He did this in many ways, the largest of which was to use his annual message to Congress to shoot for a reduction in the nation's tariffs. House Congressman Roger Mills sponsors a bill to make it happen in Spring of 1888.⁵⁶ Because the tariff takes place at the end of his first term, it was perfectly primed to have been a major issue in the campaign. And undoubtedly because just four years

⁵² Ibid., 4.

⁵³ Ibid., 5.

⁵⁴ "Election of 1884." Virginia Western - You're Connected!.
<http://www.vw.vccs.edu/vwhansd/HIS122/Election1884.html> (accessed November 17, 2008).

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ "HarpWeek | Elections | 1888 Overview." HarpWeek | Elections Homepage.
<http://elections.harpweek.com/1888/Overview-1888-1.htm> (accessed November 17, 2008).

before, the parties platforms were essentially identical despite this one issue⁵⁷ this was the prime and only issue to truly divide the electorate.

It could also be argued that tariff politics in the Nineteenth Century had only two periods: before and after Cleveland's message to congress in 1887.⁵⁸ And the pro-business, pro-tariff stance won big time in 1892. Most pro-business, pro-tariff institutions and people were against lowering tariffs because they would have been forced to deal with major foreign competition for the first time. A smaller reason included the fact that most government funding actually came from tariffs, because the federal income tax was still a decade or so from being created with the Sixteenth Amendment.⁵⁹ Benjamin Harrison was well-funded by wealthy businessmen and pro-tariff organizations.⁶⁰

Cleveland's landslide victory in 1892 had partly to do with Benjamin Harrison's wife dying halfway through the election process, and a steel strike which went awry when Harrison used the military against the union miners.⁶¹ Benjamin Harrison's wife caused both candidates to stop campaigning, but ultimately the larger political issues of labor, and the direction with which the country was moving in were the larger issues of the day. It appears however, that Noyes argument against Cleveland was two-fold. Noyes does not like Cleveland's point of view because of the tariffs argument that Cleveland

⁵⁷ "Election of 1884." Virginia Western - You're Connected!.

<http://www.vw.vccs.edu/vwhansd/HIS122/Election1884.html> (accessed November 17, 2008).

⁵⁸ "The Political Economy of American Industrialization - Google Book Search." Google Book Search. http://books.google.com/books?id=CTzqT6MTe0sC&pg=PA469&lpg=PA469&dq=which+party+controled+congress+in+1900&source=web&ots=TAVM1LrWAS&sig=ivhxLWVOGcPMjBeMR_ECR_IOaPM&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=1&ct=result#PPA469,M1 (accessed November 17, 2008).

⁵⁹ "U.S. Treasury - Fact Sheet on the History of the U.S. Tax System." United States - Department of The Treasury - Homepage. <http://www.treas.gov/education/fact-sheets/taxes/ustax.shtml> (accessed November 17, 2008).

⁶⁰ "HarpWeek | Elections | 1888 Overview." HarpWeek | Elections Homepage.

<http://elections.harpweek.com/1888/Overview-1888-3.htm> (accessed November 17, 2008).

⁶¹ "Benjamin Harrison - Election of 1892 and retirement." Presidents: A Reference History. <http://www.presidentprofiles.com/Grant-Eisenhower/Benjamin-Harrison-Election-of-1892-and-retirement.html> (accessed November 17, 2008).

pushed for to get re-elected in 1888, and he does not agree with Cleveland the second time in 1892 because he doesn't trust his intentions in regards to business. Noyes implies that the issue of changing the gold standard to a bimetal standard of silver and gold that would ultimately aid farmers, means anyone who believes it was being "Deceived and hoodwinked by the cry against gold." William Jennings Bryan gained his party nomination by a rousing speech entitled the "Cross of Gold."⁶² Bryans equated businessmen who wagered on the price of grain to the man who worked all day in the field. Because of this inherent equality in his argument, Bryan believed that these farmers, who were losing their homes because of their defaulting on their loans, should not have been cast out, but rather the system within which they work in should have been changed.

He argued for a bimetal standard of gold and silver as a way to leverage farmer's massive debts that were largely ignored by republicans in the previous four years. The problem inherent with this was that it was making things much tougher on American banks because the international community had not converted to such a standard.⁶³ This would have put them at an unfair advantage and then fewer loans could have been made, less goods were bought, traded, and moved, and the economy would have done far worse in the years after such a standard was adopted.⁶⁴

Noyes felt that the bad decisions made by Cleveland, which in his perception were the ones about tariffs, combined with how things were in regards to trusts, means that soon the American populace will see "The brink of destruction, and the fall of the

⁶² "Bryan's "Cross of Gold" Speech: Mesmerizing the Masses." History Matters: The U.S. Survey Course on the Web. <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5354/> (accessed November 26, 2008).

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ "Why Not the Gold Standard?" Brad DeLong's Website Home Page. <http://www.j-bradford-delong.net/Politics/whynotthegoldstandard.html> (accessed November 17, 2008).

good in the land.⁶⁵ This was an ironic twist because just a few short years later, World War I happens, the Pandemic Influenza claims fifty million lives and not to mention the Great Depression and World War II. All of these events truly do bring the world to the “Brink of destruction.” Even when demonizing his opponents, such as Cleveland and his supporters, it appears that he was more pleading with the public to join him, and fight the ‘evil ones’ of society, rather than saying that all who oppose him were evil.

And speaking more generally of his pleas, this particular argument is perhaps one of this best “Judge business, business men and things, as we judge whatever to us brings – brings life, happiness and peace, the good will as taught of old not to cease. Guard well our business all our days.”⁶⁶ When Noyes chooses to speak of political *Trusts* that would “trail our banner in the dust”⁶⁷ he, like Rudyard Kipling was a bit weary of going to foreign lands and soiling our good name. Perhaps that was the reason that Isaac Pitman Noyes signs this letter with *Nuncius pacis*, which is Latin for “Messenger of Peace.” Perhaps after reading Kipling’s poem about the terrible war in the Philippines combined with the horrible news that was being sent back home about the amount of death and destruction wreaked there, Noyes wants business interests on top. The continued American deaths in the Philippines did not work well for business interests at home, as it was their fault for our troops dying abroad. The high casualty rate among the Filipino people was not good for any business interest’s public face either. Noyes might have seen Andrew Carnegie’s method of doing business as a model for all to bear witness to and use. Still it is entirely possible that Noyes was merely advocating business for the sake of business getting ahead.

⁶⁵ Noyes *Trust*, 5.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, 7.

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*

This was what Leo Tolstoy was referring to in reference to riding on a man's back. Noyes never references Andrew Carnegie, nor does he reference any poor man who makes a difference. He chooses to praise one class of people while shunning the other's accomplishments. He realizes fully that it was terribly hard on the poor, "But, say some, this is unjust to the poor man." but he, and the rich of the turn of the century are just raking in too much cash. And all was good and well because "good sense teaches us that there is economy and less waste."⁶⁸

It can be hard to tell. *Trust's* critique lies on many arguments both true and untrue at the same time. Noyes perception of events then was not as clear as it should have been, nor are ours as we view the events currently unfolding in the financial industry. Noyes may have been purposely misleading his audience which seems to have been white working class men and women, but given his middle-class background, it seems unlikely. While Noyes does include women in his poem, by specifically pointing them out, he does not advocate or push in any particular way for their equality. Americans presently do not know when the bottom of our downward-spiraling economy will be and Noyes has no idea when the end to the anti-business movement would have been either. The hard times of the last two decades of the last century also caused many of these new 'radical' ideas to be shunned by the middle class and the wealthy.

The parallels between the two times of 1906 and 2008 are eerily similar. Our troops are in foreign Iraqi and Afghani lands on a mission of attempting to secure peace. While the war officially ended in the summer of 1902, hostilities continue well into the next decade until they finally cease in 1913. That both wars are now approaching a decade long is yet another twist of history showing itself to be repeating to those who do

⁶⁸ Ibid., 2

not choose to study it. Huge corporations the likes of which America had never seen before were conglomerating into even larger trusts. In present day America we can see this with the great many mergers happening between news media corporations, AOL Time Warner and CNN, Disney and ABC, etc. And we have a public that is becoming more globally aware that not all that is large is well and good. The world is perhaps then as it is now, aware that large changes are on the horizon. Noyes undoubtedly wished for the best for things in *his* country, as we do now in *our world*.