

Excerpt from, *The Farmer is the Man* - a song from the 1870s

When the farmer comes to town with his wagon broken down,
Oh the farmer is the one who feeds them all.
If you'll only look and see I think you will agree,
That the farmer is the one who feeds them all.

The farmer is the man, the farmer is the man,
Lives on credit till the fall,
Then they take him by the hand and they lead him from the land
And the middleman's the one who gets it all.

When the banker says he's broke and the merchant's up in smoke
They forget that it's the farmer feeds them all the farmer is the man,
Lives on credit till the fall; with the interest rates so high,
It's a wonder he don't die, for the mortgage man's the one who gets it all.

1- According to this song, why is the farmer important to everybody?

2- According to this song, why are the farmers losing their land?

3- Who do you think is the middlemen are who "get it all"?

4- In your opinion, why are the middlemen getting rich while the farmers remain poor?

William Jennings Bryan's Speech to the 1896 Democratic Party Convention

- 1) "There are those who believe that if you will only legislate to make the well-to-do prosperous, their prosperity will leak through on those below. The democratic idea, however, has been that if you legislate to make the masses prosperous, their prosperity will find its way up through every class which rests upon them."
- 2) "You come to us and tell us that the great cities are in favor of the gold standard; we reply that the great cities rest upon our broad and fertile prairies. Burn down your cities and leave our farms, and your cities will spring up again as if by magic; but destroy our farms and the grass will grow in the streets of every city in the country."
- 3) "Having behind us the producing masses of this nation and the world, supported by the commercial interests, and the toilers everywhere, we will answer their demand for a gold standard by saying to them; You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns, you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold."