

Who owns the press, and why?

When you read your daily paper, are you reading facts or propaganda? And whose propaganda?

Who furnishes the raw material for your thoughts about life? Is it honest material?

No man can ask more important questions than these; and here for the first time the questions are answered in a book.

The Brass Check

A Study of American Journalism

By UPTON SINCLAIR

This is a book of facts; a book packed solid with facts. Says the introduction:

“Here are names, places, dates—such a mass of material as you cannot doubt, you cannot evade. Here is the whole thing, inside and out. Here are your sacred names, the very highest of your gods. When you have read this story, you will know the thing called American Journalism; you will know the body and soul of it.”

Hermann Bessemer, in the “*Neues Journal*,” Vienna: “Upton Sinclair deals with names, only with names, with balances, with figures, with documents, a truly stunning, gigantic fact-material. His book is an armored military train which with rushing pistons roars through the jungle of American monster-lies, whistling, roaring, shooting, chopping off with Berserker rage the obscene heads of these evils. A breath-taking, clutching, frightful book.”

Published February, 1920, with practically no advertising, and no reviews save in the labor press, the first edition of 23,000 paper-bound copies of "The Brass Check" was sold out two weeks after publication, and orders were coming at the rate of two or three thousand per day. In three weeks we had thirty thousand orders we could not fill. For reasons not known to us two paper mills failed to keep their promises to our printers. We had to raise the cash and hustle out into the market and buy a total of 162,000 pounds of book paper, enough for 65,000 cloth and 120,000 paper copies of the book. The printings to August, 1920, amount to 144,000. In the first week of September over 1,500 orders were received from England alone.

Needless to say, there will be no publicity for this book from the everyday newspapers. The "New York Times" refused an advertisement, accompanied by a check for \$156.80. Read what independent editors, here and abroad, have written:

From the "Nation," London: "We take it that this astonishing production will reach only a small number of people on our side of the Atlantic. That is a pity, for assuredly its contents ought to be known."

From the "Cambridge Magazine," Cambridge: "It is hard to recall any event in the world of print, since the development of printing itself, which deserves more attention from the reading public than the situation which has arisen over Mr. Upton Sinclair's volume, 'The Brass Check,' of which an English edition may be expected shortly."

From the "Clarion," London (Robert Blatchford): "Mr. Upton Sinclair has sent me a copy of his latest book, 'The Brass Check,' which has caused me to open my English eyes and to realize facts of which I have lived all my life in contented ignorance. . . . The great difficulty with which the author will be confronted in America will be the boycott."

He will not be able to get his book reviewed, or answered, perhaps not even circulated. If he does get it circulated the effect will be cataclysmic."

From the "Nation," New York: "This is a most important book which every reader will want to pass on to his neighbor. A fascinating and thorough treatise on the American press It is a complete, masterful study, and the presentation of its facts is wholly convincing."

From the Managing Editor of the "Federated Press": Let me say in this very first sentence that "The Brass Check" is the most remarkable book that has ever been published in America. It is one that should in the quickest possible manner be placed in the hands of every American who can read.—E. J. COSTELLO.

From the Editor of the "Liberator": There are few sweeping statements to which I like to sign my name, but one is that American popular newspapers and magazines are false and unreliable to the core. . . . Upton Sinclair, in "The Brass Check," proves this statement for the first time. He backs it up with the unanswerable facts and documents. He illustrates it with living tales from a wide field of observation, and with a swift and candid narrative of his own experiences which can only leave the reader in a state of amazed indignation. . . . I can wish nothing better than that every honest-minded American should stop reading his newspaper long enough to read this book and find out what his newspaper is.—MAX EASTMAN.

From the Pastor of the "Community Church": I am writing to thank you for sending me a copy of your new book, "The Brass Check." Although it arrived only a few days ago, I have already read it through, every word, and have loaned it to one of my colleagues for reading. The book is tremendous. I have never read a more strongly consistent argument or one so formidably buttressed by facts. You have proved your case to the hilt. I again take satisfaction in saluting you not only as a great novelist, but as the ablest pamphleteer in America today. I am already passing around

the word in my church and taking orders for the book.—
JOHN HAYNES HOLMES.

From a Prisoner in Atlanta: Please write Upton Sinclair and thank him for the autographed copy of "The Brass Check" just received, and tell him it is monumental, and if he had not written another line, this supremely courageous and sorely needed contribution to the world's emancipating literature would of itself secure his fame and place mankind under an everlasting obligation to him. I am reading the book with profound interest and appreciation.—EUGENE V. DEBS.

From a Prisoner in Jefferson City: Frank, I am sending you Upton Sinclair's "Brass Check." I know you will want to read it and I feared you might miss it in your constant turmoil of overwork. It is the biggest thing he has done since the "Jungle." If I could put a copy of it in every common, ordinary working man's and woman's hands in the United States I would be quite willing to serve every day of my five years. If only a copy of "The Brass Check" could go into every hotel room, what an earthquake would occur soon! But of course it won't. And the book will be buried miles deep in silence by the press. If something unusual and spectacular does not occur to call the attention of the American people to this remarkable book, I fear it will never do what the "Jungle" did. But read this copy at any rate, and pass it on to our friends with my request that they do the same.—KATE RICHARDS O'HARE.

Single copy, 60c postpaid; three copies, \$1.50; ten copies, \$4.50. By freight or express, collect, 25 copies at 40c per copy; 100 copies at 38c; 500 copies at 36c; 1,000 copies at 35c. Single copy, cloth, \$1.20 postpaid; three copies, \$3.00; ten copies, \$9.00. By freight or express, collect, 25 copies at 80c per copy; 100 copies at 76c; 500 copies at 72c; 1,000 copies at 70c.

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