

Alas ! how little knowledge of these simple but far-reaching principles has been manifested by those in whose hands have been intrusted the destinies of nations. In the settlement of the new territories of this continent one of the grandest opportunities ever offered to mankind to lay the foundation in such a way that society would develop harmoniously has slipped by. But what do we witness everywhere? The obligation of the toiler to yield up his product to a number of his fellow men, who are thus relieved more or less from the necessity to toil. As population increases, this obligation increases ; the mortgage on labour becomes greater and greater. Is it not true that labour is now mortgaged to the finger-ends? And is it not also true that no amount of industry, frugality, improved education or better organization can remove this obligation? The only means of escape is by the resumption of the scarcity values by the public and thus cutting off the possibility of any able-bodied man escaping his fair share of toil. To remedy our method of distribution we must abolish the law of "distribution by values" and substitute the true law, "to each according to his work."

Mr. Browning objected to Mr. Douglas's division of individuals into classes, toilers and idlers, as invidious. He did not know of any class that were either all toilers or all idlers. The ordinary meaning of the word toiler was a mechanic, or any one that lived by manual labour ; if the professional class was included, the class of idlers would be reduced to a very small number, as there were very few that lived entirely without some kind of labour, so that to include all under these two classes would be virtually to include all in the one class and none in the other. He objected also to the division into utility and scarcity as components of value.

Mr. Douglas said that every person that produces something for his fellow men is a toiler, but there were individuals who produced no more for the benefit of society than if they were chloroformed on the first of January and remained so to the last of December. In his remarks he did not propose any levelling of incomes, but to point out the existence of antagonisms.