

VII.

"The Oppression Of The Defenceless By Inordinate Profit Is As Immoral As Theft."

OUR country towns will soon show an increased growth and development, and it is most essential to the future welfare of these towns that special attention should be given to the housing question, thereby adding to the amenities of rural life. In city, town, and country on this issue the people must abandon all political partisanship and there must be a banding together of all those who are willing to strive for the attainment of a higher social state and for the securing of this fundamental measure of social justice.

There are squalid sections of more than one town in our province where some of the working masses live and where sanitary conditions are discreditable. Even the local authorities stigmatize these sections as the "devil's half-acre." In other towns where there are no slums, the extortion of some landlords operates in relation to a class of houses normally renting for \$30 and upwards a month, because these towns have too few houses of this character to supply the demand. In these towns most unjust exactions are in operation in the renting of rooms in houses occupied by owners or tenants. A very common rent for a room is \$25 per month, and sometimes \$40 is obtained for one room, particularly where the victim is a stranger who is "taken in."

In an abnormal period, like the one our country is still passing through, the greed and meanness which would ordinarily be hidden, expose themselves in efforts to exploit the weak and the helpless. The Prussian spirit is not confined to Germany. Prussianism is not a noxious growth which thrives solely on Prussian soil; like all rank growths it will thrive on any soil. There are unprincipled profiteers in our own country, who, being strong, are ready to sacrifice the weak and to put Might above Right.

One frequently reads or hears sermons against intemperance. Admittedly, intemperance is a grave evil. But some other things are worse. Avarice is worse. Let us have more sermons against avarice. It isn't the love of drink, but the love