

# THE SEARCHLIGHT.

—ISSUED BY

THE SEARCHLIGHT PUB. CO.

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With this issue of the Searchlight Mr Bryan severs his connection as managing editor. In future this publication will be carried on by the Searchlight Pub. Co., to whom all rights of publication have been disposed of by Mr Bryan. The change in management, though much regretted, is unavoidable, owing to circumstances arising which compelled the above course. Until further announcement is made the office address remains the same.

Read carefully the advertisements appearing in this issue. If you have any purchases to make, you will be well advised to consider our advertisers first.

The "Jewell" ranges and stoves (see advt on back cover) are in great demand by practical housekeepers. They bake to the Queen's taste with little trouble and very little expense.

For Christmas toys, etc., the little children will be delighted to see the fine display made by Russells in the market. In Saturday's News there appears one of their big Xmas offers.

Mr. Whidden Graham, of New York, an old friend of ours, was a visitor to the Searchlight office last week.

The following resolution was introduced and unanimously agreed to at the Philadelphia Single Tax Society, Thursday, Dec. 10th inst.:

Resolved, That the Philadelphia Single Tax Society accept with appreciation and thanks the magnificent souvenir presented by Mr. Geo. J. Bryan.

Resolved, That the members of the Society recognize in Mr. Bryan an earnest and able worker in the cause of freedom, and express the hope that his future will be as fruitful of good work as the years he has so far devoted to our movement.

Mr. Venn, the North End jeweler, was indeed fortunate in securing a bankrupt stock, which the public is sure to appreciate by the splendid bargains offered to it.

Conspirator, finesse not in it.

## WE HAVE RENEWED OUR COVENANT WITH THE POWERS OF OPPRESSION.

It is done. The Money Trust, the Oil Trust, the Sugar Trust, the Coal Trust, all the trusts and combinations by which the industrious producers of the marvelous wealth of this country are despoiled, and by which their wealth is absorbed into the money vaults, the oil tanks, the grain elevators, into the ever-expanding paunch of this latterday god of greed, have obtained the consent of the American people to go on with their nefarious work.

But is it right? Is it wise? Have the American people made no mistake in assuming that for the sake of temporary peace or for other and more unworthy temporary expedients it is best to tolerate the very apparent injustice of existing conditions?

Is there any intelligent reason to expect that increase of authority and power will soften the conscience and reform the conduct of tyranny?

Are the American people really glad of the existence of the Armour Beef Trust, the Standard Oil Company, the money syndicate, that, by its throat, as it were, grabs their wheat and holds it out of the people's reach while the people hunger, grabs and holds from them their coal while the people shiver with cold; grabs the land and all the means of production while the people suffer or die for lack of a chance to work an opportunity to toil and produce food, fuel and clothing for themselves?

Are the great masses of toiling American people really glad to toil on in the service of "their masters," under systematic, institutional extortion by which they are forced to give up their masters all but barely enough to miserably live? Are they glad to live

lives filled with anxious care and with only man's charity and God's pity to lean on in emergency or old age? This surely cannot be.

Yet with the harnessed lightning of modern civilization the news is flashed to me this morning that the American people have consented to their enslavement by the trusts.

"Miss Columbia" has attained the legal "age of consent," but whether her consent to such debasement as... surrender to the trusts involves, is given for peace sake, is given because of her innocent confidence that those she thus particularly endows with privileges will reward all her people with bounties, or whether it is because she has not the courage to do right; her conduct to-day is as clearly prostitution as it was in those earlier days when, with the words, "All men are created equal" emblazoning her maiden brow she continuously for more than eighty years consented to the enslavement of millions of dark-skinned men, women and children. Wrong is not right, simply because the American people give their consent to it.

Force, fear, misrepresentation, selfish greed, expediency are any or all of them competent means of gaining willing or unwilling consent. Consent may be given to crime.

Government derives its just powers from the consent of the governed. What a pretty catchy platitude that is, isn't it? Doesn't unjust government also depend upon the consent of the governed? Do not the powers of tyranny depend upon the consent of the tyrannized? When the victim can no longer endure he refuses consent, and that refusal is impotent, he defends his God-given right to life with force; if force is insufficient to maintain his rights, he dies fighting for the right, because he will not consent to live a slave.

I have too lofty a conception of American intelligence and American discernment of injustice, too implicit confidence in our ability to meet and peacefully overthrow at the ballot box the growing powers which are opposed to the democratic principle in government, to believe that the people will continue to give their consent to the great wrongs from which they suffer, until the powers which they have conferred upon the trusts shall have grown so formidable as to oblige the American people to fight for the right to existence and the permanence of republican institutions.

### SINGLE TAX CLUB.

Single Tax Club recently discussed a number of recommendations to be submitted to the Dominion Government, which are as follows:—That where reductions are made in the tariff duties or from a falling off of the inland revenue receipts or from other causes, a deficiency should arise. It is recommended that a tax be levied upon land values apportioned to the Provinces, respectively, in proportion to population, exclusive and irrespective of improvements. Second—That the law now in existence granting exemption on land controlled by the C. P. Railway and other corporations be annulled, and that power be given the Provincial authorities to assess such land for revenue purposes. Third—That the practice of granting land to individuals and corporations should cease, that hereafter all claims against the Government should be settled with cash or Government securities; that in lieu of dealing lands in perpetuity to individual settlers the system of exacting a yearly rental for its use be adopted, the power to dispose of such lands to be vested in the Provincial Governments. Fourth—That the subsidizing of railways or other undertakings that can well be carried out without Government aid should also cease. Fifth—That the projected Crow's Nest Pass Railroad be constructed and controlled by the Government, and, if need be, the roadbed may be leased for a term of years on a percentage of receipts or a yearly rental basis; that the Dominion Government suggest to the British Columbia Government the wisdom of raising a portion of the cost of said railway by levying on the value of all land benefited by the construction of the railway, the Dominion Government to be reimbursed from the fund collected. Sixth—That hereafter all privileges obtained by individuals and corporations through legislation of the Government be paid for by the exacting of a percentage on receipts or a yearly rental for the privilege, according to its value.

### COAL LAND DEAL.

I read the other day of a syndicate buying up 40,000 acres of coal lands at \$10 an acre, which it proposes to develop. The

item referring to the deal did not state whether the gentlemen composing the syndicate intended to combine with the other coal mine lords, to keep up prices, or whether they intended giving the people the full benefit of competition. I suppose that to expect any beneficent act from monopolists of this order would be treason. When will people take a "tumble to themselves" and condemn the pernicious practices of land monopolists who are permitted to grab up the sources of fuel and necessities of life?

Hon. Edward Wilby, of Auckland, ex-member of the New Zealand Parliament, writes a letter from which the following is an extract:

1. There is no tax on personal property by the colonial government.

2. There is no tax on personal property by the municipalities.

3. There is no tax on improvements by the colonial government, except in so far as all mortgages pay the penny in the pound, even when the amount of their loans exceeds the value of the land and overlaps that of the improvements. This reservation is important, because, although in a sense an indirect charge, it distinctly violates our principle of freeing all industry from taxation.

4. There are taxes on improvements by the municipalities and rural authorities.

5. The Premier has publicly stated, since the general election, that the Government will ask parliament to give local bodies power to exempt improvements from local rates. This would amount to local option. I think that there is a pretty general preference for its adoption.

A civilization that drives the two poles of society farther and farther apart, that widens the gap and intensifies the jealousy between one class and another, that heightens the contrast, in city or country, between the comfort of the rich and the hardships of the poor, which overtakes and underpins wageworkers in order to add superfluous affluence and irresponsible power to the estates of a few, which help a hundredth part of the population to own half of the property, which exposes innumerable women to moral ruin for a living, which drives pale and emaciated and rickety children daily from pestilential tenements to factories and mines, which countenances as a conspicuous parish leader in the commercial capital of its best community, an owner of real estate who has pocketed four millions of dollars by the rental of four nests of negroes and dens of vice, the stores high, which lets fifteen thousand children die within the year after they are born in these cellars and garrets, without uttering a sound of indignation or alarm, which robs the citizen voter of his independence and manliness at the polls, enslaving him by fear or want to a landlord or employer, which increases the rate of suicide and insanity every year, which steadily multiplies the influence of money irrespective of character, which sells offices of trust in the State to the highest bidder, which puts the loftiest trusts in the government of great cities into the hands of saloonkeepers—this is not a civilization under the command of the religion of Christ. The Gospel is not to compromise with it. The church is not to lean upon it, flatter it, eat and drink at its dinner tables or accept its bribes.—Rt. Rev. F. D. Huntington, New York.



A former member of the big trust, at present attached to the chain gang.

This week the Toronto Single Tax Club inaugurate a new departure. A club room has been opened at 39 King street west, room 5, which will be used as the single taxers' headquarters, where friends may meet any time during the day and to make use of the library. The room is conveniently situated, and will be open to anyone inquiring for books and literature. A small monthly fee entitles anyone to membership and privileges. The club meets every Tuesday night for the discussion and transaction of public affairs, at which be cheerfully complied with.