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Questions of the Day.

You take my house, when you do take
the prop
That dost sustain my house; you
take my life,
When you do take the means whereby
I live.
—Shakespeare.

In Toronto, Sunday street cars are not permitted to run, because it is considered a violation of the moral law; but the use of private conveyances is not so considered. Strange logic.

An individual who has purchased anything for money or by trade has the clearest right to dispose of that which is his, in any manner he so decides. In the case of a railroad ticket (under Canadian law), the same rule does not apply. Wherein is the difference? Yet in the latter instance, a man can be sent to prison for scalping his ticket. The reason for this is apparent—the railroad monopoly is supreme.

Through the medium of free silver coinage, the masses of the United States hope for relief. In this, as with all superficial reforms, they stand to be disappointed once more.

To the conservative mind existing conditions should be conserved. Bad as things are, changes would be worse for him. That doctrine or belief passed at par once, but it never will again.

THE NOMINATION OF W. J. BRYAN

The nomination of Wm. J. Bryan for some high office was not altogether an unlooked for happening. A little over two years ago the Chicago Times published the following question.

"From what section of the country should the next candidate for the presidency hail, and for what must he stand?"

In response to this the Times received many letters favoring Hon. Tom L. Johnson for the presidency and Wm. J. Bryan, of Nebraska, as his running mate.

A BYSTANDER RIGHT THIS TIME

Referring to the Irish Land Bill, A Bystander in the Weekly Sun discusses the position of the landed aristocracy, in which he says:

"The land can no longer sustain the three orders of landlord, tenant-farmer and laborer. One at least of the three must go, and the non-producer must be that one. This must be the end of territorial aristocracy, and consequently of the hereditary House of Lords, for no one would endure a House of impoverished heirs to titles or of hereditary traders. In trying to uphold the House of Lords as it is Lord Salisbury is struggling against fate."

Will the writer (Prof. Goldwin Smith) please inform us how the non-producer

is to be got rid of? We have quite a few of them in Canada to be dealt with.

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CANADIAN MINING.

The development of the mineral resources of British Columbia and Ontario seems to be the all-absorbing topic of discussion these days. The capitalists of Canada have heretofore shown a want of enterprise and push in this particular industry, always holding back for fear of any loss in the undertaking, and awaiting meanwhile the intervention of the local governments to aid them by providing bonuses on each ton of ore extracted, and the construction of government smelters at the mines. This paternal feature of the question, fortunately for the people generally, is now altogether lost sight of. A feeling of confidence in one's own abilities to go ahead and succeed, without asking for special privileges, seems to inspire all who are interested in mining, and in this respect the manufacturers of the Dominion might well follow the same course, relying upon their own capabilities and good judgment as the highest and best form of protection.

FREE TRADE AS PEACEMAKER

The thoughts expressed by Lord Russell in his address at Saratoga, before the American Bar Association recently, in relation to the settlement of international differences, are echoed by all who aim for peace, and all that tends toward bringing about that desirable end among the nations of the earth. Even with the stunted intelligence of so-called civilized peoples who maintain barriers which stand in the way and impede the solution of this important problem some progress at least is being developed that may ultimately result in the formation of an international Board of Arbitration.

There is nothing so pregnant to embitterment and strife among nations, than hostile tariffs, and whilst this blot remains the war spirit, far from dead even in Canada will retard that which makes for peace on earth and for good will to men. When men and nations trade freely with one another, love and friendship takes the place of hate and strife. Let us strive for peace by working on the lines of least resistance,—and that is Free Trade with all the world.

In the east and west end sections of Toronto, there are to be seen on the lines of the Street Railroad many hundreds of vacant acres that have never had a spade dug in' them—just as nature left them, ready for the hand of man on which to employ his labor. In the centre and other sections of this same city, there are many hundreds of men idle, and living for the most part on charity; what is it that prevents these two—land and men—combining forces and bringing forth the things that sustain life and give happiness?

A DELAWARE SINGLE TAX CAMPAIGNER.



H. W. HETZEL.

THE DELAWARE PERSECUTIONS.

In the State of Delaware, where an energetic single tax campaign is being carried on, attention was recently directed to this unique movement, by the announcement in the daily press of the arrest in Dover of fifteen single taxers for speaking in the public highway, and who were subsequently condemned to thirty days in the common jail. Since this occurrence two others have been jailed for the same offence. This extraordinary attempt of the ruling powers to suppress the preaching of single tax philosophy by adopting measures of persecution and tyranny can not be justified under any circumstances, and no self-respecting man, no matter what his opinions may be of, the single tax doctrine, would condescend to the low and contemptible tactics of the officials at Dover.

The success of reforms only commences when persecution sets in, and the incidents in Delaware are merely a repetition of what the abolitionists suffered early in 1834 at the hands of the slaveholders. As with the Anti-Slavery Movement, so with the single tax reform, justice and equity will eventually triumph.

VACANT LAND ASSESSMENT.

The sweeping and unwarranted reduction in the assessment of Toronto will set back the return of prosperity for which the people have been patiently waiting. The tax on buildings and on all products of labor was high while it should have been abolished, but the tax on land was far too low. The land holders who were spending their energies in holding on in hope of a prosperity which they were making impossible could not have continued much longer, and a reduction of the taxes on labor products would have afforded many openings for the capital now expended in holding land and men idle. The general transfer of the burden from the land holder to the useful elements has given land holding, which means stagnation, a new lease of life. The hands have been pushed back on the dial, but such reverses have occurred during the progress of all reforms. Almost every man in Toronto has cause to regret the facility for land speculation afforded by a foolish taxation system and many of them have discovered the fact. The business men of the city must see the folly of taxing their enterprise and industry.