

shrewd manipulators, is transferred to their capacious pockets. A reorganization of the old road under a new name or "company" follows. Rates are again equalized. Normal traffic resumes its sway. The old stock under a new name goes up "booming." The railroad "wreckers" chuckle as they count their newly acquired millions, which represent so much added power to repeat a similar operation.

This is but a single example of the power of public abuse which enormous wealth gives to individuals. It was a well-known custom, before the passage by the last Congress of the Inter-State Commerce act, for railroads to make and unmake individuals and firms along their routes, by granting to some special privileges and rates and refusing the same to others. More than a single instance of similar abuse has reached the ears of the public since the passage of the act.

Is it not time the public placed its strong hand upon these creatures, which, growing up under its liberal policy, have become such gigantic possibilities for crime?

A SAMPLE OF ABUSES UNDER LAND MONOPOLY.

Americans shudder at the horrible tales of British eviction in Ireland, when almost precisely the same scenes are being enacted in our own country. The public is already familiar with the sufferings of the miners upon the lands of the coal companies in Pennsylvania, where, besides squeezing the tenant between starvation wages and a "pluck-me" store, he is obliged, as a condition of obtaining employment, to sign a "cut-throat" lease giving the company power to evict on short notice and without cause.

Stories of brutal outrages now come from Iowa. Over 100 families, poor settlers, mostly foreigners, unable to speak English, have, it is said, been evicted in a single county. The offender is a British land syndi-

cate claiming to have purchased lands originally granted to the McGregor and Western Railroad, now the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul.

According to reports, Secretary Teller of the Land Office decided that the railroad never earned the lands in question, and they were accordingly entered by settlers. Now the British syndicate gives the settlers choice between eviction and a "contract" which means "Give us your crops!"

Many cases of cruelty practiced by the evictors are reported. These are samples:

An invalid lady, living with her daughter, was in bed when the evictors came. Six men carried the bed into the street and left her alone there.

A settler tried to escape the evicting party. He was run down by the Sheriff and his posse on horseback, handcuffed, brought back to his wife, and turned with all his household goods into the street.

The very fact of a foreign corporation collecting rent from American citizens is an outrage. Such facts are suggestive of the abuses which inevitably spring up where individuals or corporations are allowed to monopolize large tracts of land which should rightfully belong to the actual cultivators.

Cigarette Smoking.

Be sure your sin will find you out.
—Rom. xxxii: 23.

The American Grocer makes a startling exhibit of what it costs to smoke. From the revenue returns it shows that this country pays every year for cigars and cigarettes \$186,500,000, and \$20,000,000 for tobacco smoked in pipes. To this it adds the cost of chewing tobacco, \$50,000,000, bringing the entire tobacco bill of the country for the year up to \$256,500,000!—while the total loss by fire in the United States last year (1886) was but \$120,000,000; so that tobacco costs the nation more than twice as much as all our fires!

Ten years ago the manufacture