CASUAL COMMENTS.

An item in Monday's *Mail* illustrates very forcibly the lengths to which the organs of capitalism will go in their efforts to discredit organized labor. It referred to a anticipated strike among the carpenters and railway men, and was evidently manufactured out of whole cloth, as there is no such action contemplated in either body. Doubtless a rumor was heard of some kind, and as likely to call down the disapprobation of the public, the item is written and appears forthwith. The same paper in an editorial attributed the recent disastrous strikes in Great Britain and Australia to the New Unionism, and stated that a reason for ordering the Australian strike was the refusal of a captain to discharge his steward, because he would not join a union. This is an undeniable misstatement, and I cannot understand how the editor of a big morning daily could display, at the best, such lamentable ignorance. If he had taken the pains to ascertain the facts of the case, he would have found that the beginning of the strike was the dismissal of a seaman named Magan from the SS *Corinna*, but the fact of its existence was taken advantage of to try and settle another question relating to non union sheepshearers. It was thus extended until it became one of the most gigantic strikes on record, and its failure is said to have struck a death blow to *Old* Unionism, as I understand it. In attributing the unsuccessful strike to the New Unionism, the *Mail* follows its settled policy, as if it can convince the public that the latest efforts of organized labor, founded presumably upon past experience, are unsuccessful, it will to that extent discredit the course of Labor Reform and retard its progress. Now, if I know anything about the New Unionism, it is working not in the direction of strikes, but the ballot box, and that is where victory can be gained. That is what is understood as the New Unionism, in Toronto at least, unless I am altogether misinformed; not what the *Mail* would have us believe, and the sooner this kind of unionism supersedes the old, the sooner will the wealth producers and burden bearers of the world obtain that justice which is now denied them. Only by our votes can we achieve lasting reforms, and we should use them at every opportunity.

The socialistic labor party in Chicago is putting up an example in this respect, which we will do well to follow in the near future. They have nominated a straight ticket of their own, and are hard at work preparing for the struggle at the municipal elections, which come off this spring. They may not achieve anything except the discovery of their strength, but that will be worth the battle, as it is the first step in the fight for a better condition of things, and must be taken before any intelligent action is possible. Besides, nothing affords such an opportunity of educating the community as an election contest. We can do nothing until we know our strength, and every trial of it increases it if the cause be good. This we know ours to be, and I feel certain that if all Labor Reformers, Single Taxers, Socialists and Nationalists were to unite in a municipal campaign next winter, a big accession to the ranks would be the result, whether success were achieved or not. There are plenty of points upon which all could agree to make a grand platform, and the fight can not begin too soon, nor the preparation for it. There is no other way to secure an administration which shall regard the rights of the citizens as of primary importance to those of a few grasping individuals or corporations, but to elect men who are not interested in maintaining the reign of capitalism, and, so far as I know, the organized power of the ballot is the only means of doing this which we possess. Organize should be the word from now till January 4, 1892.

"But for the disappearance of one of the principals in the case, it is probable that ere this the Chellam Act would have been invoked towards meeting out a just punishment to the author of a most shocking crime. . . . The parties all except prominent positions, and but for this fact the case would in all probability have reached the courts and the public before this."

Thus runs of our morning dailies speaks of one of the saddest stories of a child's ruin which has appeared for many a day, considering it quite a matter of course, that because the parties interested were prominent persons the facts should be kept from the public. The account then goes on to give the particulars of the shocking affair. The terrible grief of the aged minister and his wife over the ruin of their adopted daughter is dwelt upon. She is described as having entwined herself around the hearts of her adopted parents, as being beautiful, tenderly reared, highly educated, and yet, as the story goes on, it tells that "the poor unfortunate girl, with her fatherless baby, was shipped back to England three weeks a . . . Truly she had "entwined herself at . . . their hearts," but the twining is not very noticeable, when, because her betrayer is the son of a prominent Methodist divine, she must be got out of the way, lest perchance there be a scandal among the saints. What matter though the poor girl go to the devil, if the Church is kept immaculate. She was after all only a nameless waif, made what she was by the charity of these godly people, so cut her adrift, and do it speedily. Let her go out upon the sea of temptation, let her be drawn into the vortex of vice, give her a good fair start for the hell they so devoutly believe in, but at any cost cover the thing up. Do not let it be known that such a thing happened within the saintly enclosure. Never mind Christ's teachings, they may teach love for the fallen, they may be, "do to others as you would have them do to you," but the Church is in danger, and at all costs a scandal in it must be prevented. This may be what some people know as Christianity, but, if it is, let us all be Free thinkers, Atheists, Agnostics, Hoddibiats, anything or nothing, if so be that we escape from a religion such as this. It matters not if the poor girl were sent to some home refuge, as she may have been for aught I know; the fact remains that all concerned washed their hands of her with much less feeling than if an illtreated dog had been the subject for consideration. Now, just imagine these things to have happened among some notorious sinners, or even moral living free-thinkers, what material for forcible discourses the facts would have furnished, how they would have been used to point out the dangers of a life of worldliness, but because it is one of our young men, over them up for Heaven's sake, lest the finger be pointed at the holy and immaculate Church, which is our God. Can they not see that these things always come out, and that when they do, the very efforts made at concealment work ten fold the harm they were planned to avert. I am a church member myself, but I am foolish enough to believe that Christ's teachings and example are infinitely higher than any organization, be it ever so holy in our

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Eyes. I may appear to have made more of this than the known facts warrant, but I happen to know a little more about the strenuous efforts which have been made to keep the story out of the papers than appears in the only account furnished the public. How well these efforts have succeeded is best shown by the fact that only one paper has dared to make it public, and even it did not give the names. This is an indication of the influence which a large and *thoroughly respectable* body, such as the Methodist Church, is able to exert over the press of the city. Ben.

THE TAXATION OF LAND.

Mr. Provand's motion, calling attention to the unequal share of the public taxes which falls upon land, is one of the most important subjects brought before the House of Commons this session. It is true it was only introduced in the form of an abstract resolution, but the facts by which it was supported, and the admissions that were made during the discussion are highly interesting to the labouring classes. First, as to the facts. Mr. Provand made an analysis of the Budget of 1889, and divided the sum of 128½ millions of revenue raised in that fiscal year, as follows:—Taxes on food, five and a half millions; on intoxicants, thirty millions; tobacco, nine millions; stamps, thirteen; income, fifteen; local taxation, fifty; miscellaneous, five; and land, *one million*. This last item deserves close attention. It is the remnant of the tax which was substituted by the Parliament of 1692 for the burdens which were borne by the land when it had to defray practically, the entire expense of Government, local and national.

A House of Commons mainly composed of landed stewards, and elected by not more than fifty thousand voters, robbed the State of its national patrimony, and made over the plunder to a class the very class by which the confiscation was made. It was argued, however, that a tax of four shillings in the pound should be paid by the landlords in return for what they appropriated. This moderate piece of restitution, however, was soon followed by another act of treachery. The valuation upon which the tax was to be levied was made permanent by special enactment, and, as a result of fair careful provision for landlord cribbing, the landowners of Great Britain are paying their land tax today on a valuation over one hundred and fifty years ago.

This is why the item of one million represents the amount of national taxation which falls on landed property each year. If the land tax was levied upon present valuation, as in reason and equity it ought to be, the sum which would accrue to the national treasury would be between forty and fifty million pounds a year, instead of the fraction which is now paid to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The total rent revenue derived by landlords from the land each year including ground rents and royalties, is difficult, if not impossible to ascertain accurately. But it is generally computed at from £200,000,000 to £260,000,000. This vast sum is not the result of landlord energy, intelligence or enterprise. It is the earning, the creation of the industrial community. If every landlord in Great Britain emigrated to the antipodes and remained there forever, the economic value of the land would go on producing the wealth which the landed aristocracy is now appropriating as its property. The influence which they, as a class, exercise upon the production of this wealth is about equal to that which they exercise upon the growth of the footsoles of the human units of our population. The labor of the masses, the social necessities of the community, the daily wants of the people and the general progress of the arts and sciences, as applied to the organism of society, are alone responsible for the wealth which, in the shape of rent, a small and a useless class are taking yearly year from the nation.

The entire taxation, local and general, should be levied upon land values. These are the products of the combined energies of the whole population. They are, therefore, the one legitimate subject for national revenue. They grow from the inalienable patrimony of the State. Every citizen contributes to their development. No man's house, or food, or clothing, or earnings would suffer from the appropriation of land values for fiscal purposes. On the contrary, every tax now levied upon the necessaries of life could be abolished if the land of the country was again made the source from whence the State should derive the means with which to carry on the duties of Government. It would be an act of restitution, and not of robbery. — *London Labor World*.

SCIENTIFIC FARMING.

"I TELL yer what I is," observed old Farmer Brown,
As he turned round his plough at the fence,
"Book larnin' aint no sort uv use on a farm
Alongside of good common sense.

"For we all the derned kinds as ever I see
Pertendin' to science an' knowledge
Them city professors they've got in the west,
At the Agricultural College.

"Why, what d yer think, Squire, I met one last night,
At the Corners, a trifle beyond,
An' he had a big sack in his wagon under his arm—
Said he ketched him in Hilliker's Pond.

"What yer goin' ter do with that critter? says I,
As the animal wiggle and shoves;
'Goin' ter mate him, says he, 'to a pigeon I've got,
To teach 'em ter raise turtle-doves.'

"So av all the infernal conceited—d'lang! d'lil up that, yu dernd lazy brutes,
It makes me so mad, of I stay here and talk,
I shall swear at them every galoots.

F. T.

PENTECOST ON LYNCH LAW.

Concerning the New Orleans mob—Suppose a court of law had condemned to death a man upon the evidence, a number of striking workingmen, and a mob of workingmen had deliberated their fellows from the jail, would the police have thrown up their hats and shouted the mob? Would the jail keepers have quietly given up their keys? Would the press of the country have spoken of the mob in respectful terms?

It makes all the difference in the world whether your mob is lead on by leading citizens, to do wrong, or working people, to do right.

When a court decides against the poor, we are told that we should respect the orderly processes of the law, even if the court makes a mistake. But when the court decides contrary to the wishes of the ruling class, even if the decision is strictly in accord with the evidence, mob violence is justified and praised.

The New Orleans mob did one good thing. It showed what a farce is the whole theory of Government. Law is sacred when it works against the poor, but of no account when it works, by some accident, against the wishes of the ruling class.—*Twentieth Century.*

THE PUBLIC.

The public neither sees nor feels;
Its hat but its two ears and heels,—
Two long, thick ears, and swift, hard heels.
Whatever wins the public ear
Has not the public has no fear;
But he that falls of it shall feel
The vigor of the public heel.

—*H. L. Kaufman.*

BUILD NOT ON SAND.

Government ownership of our iron and steel roads on the same principle as government ownership of our dirt roads now prevails, is the ultimate and only satisfactory and reasonable solution of the transportation question. But before we can reap the benefits of government ownership of railways, we must have a complete and sweeping change in the character of the men who control our government. State ownership of our railroads with the control of the state left in the hands of professional politicians who are subservient tools of plutocracy, would not only bring the people no benefits, but would be likely to increase the power of politicians over the people to the money kings. The crying need of our times is not for an increase in the complexity of the government machine, but for greater simplicity. Let us get back to the first principles of popular liberty, cease to sow, and then when we have securely founded our institutions on principles of simplicity, justice and liberty, then, and not till then, may we with safety begin to extend the sphere of government activity to such an extent as would be involved in a system of government railways.—*North-Western Labor Union.*

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