

THE LABOR ADVOCATE

A WEEKLY LABOR REFORM NEWSPAPER

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THE "CHRISTIAN GUARDIAN" ON THE UNEARNED INCREMENT.

The *Christian Guardian* in referring to a recent article in the *London Quarterly* on the unearned increment, approvingly summarizes its conclusions in a paragraph of which the following is an extract:

"That the increased value of land, or anything else, is not the result of labor, but arises from the increased demand. A thing may have cost little labor and be worth much. This principle of giving the increased value of land to the community applies equally to the increase in the value of everything else. All property is a monopoly as well as land."

We note a poor lad of four days ago vainly trying to sell some water lilies. "Only five cents each," he said in his pleading tones as he held up the flowers, trying in the most enticing way to display their beauties. But, unfortunately, he had kept them too long, their glory was fast fading away. He had learned from bitter experience that the value that he was trying to push on the market was transient as the moments. With him the sale must be now or never. We are surrounded us everywhere men laboring on the farm, in the mine—braving the dangers of the deep or the railroad, that they may bring forth from nature's storehouse the abundance that will bless their fellows. They add to the comforts, the conveniences, the enjoyments of humanity. As the results of their efforts, we see mounted up the mighty structures of our cities, the deaf machinery of our factories, the food, clothing and goods in our stores. These are the values that are the evidences of their industry, the abundance with which their exertions have blessed this world.

It is true that the value of that boy's lilies, the value of the products that labor is everywhere trying so industriously to render abundant, in no way differs from the value that comes to land! It is true, in the words of the *Guardian*, "that the increased value of land, or anything else, is not the result of labor, but arises from the increased demand!" When that lad tries to earn a few pence by selling lilies, when our shoemaker, tailor, baker or butcher demands payment for his products, is he not really asking payment for his service? It is true there must be demand on our part. All value implies exchange, all exchange implies demand and supply, but when we say that increased value arises from increased demand we have exhausted the whole subject!

Within a stone's throw of the lad selling the lilies was a lot of land belonging to a family whose father is reported to have obtained it for a trifle of \$100 or \$200 and for which they have been drawing for some years a rental of about \$20,000 yearly—somewhere about ten or twenty thousand per cent per annum. Has the value faded away as the leaf? Was that land gathered, quarried, fabri-

lated? Do the owners yearly, by their industry, render goods abundant or in any way render service to the value of \$20,000? The farm or fields for riches only after he has produced riches. The builder, the clothier and the sailor do the same. They produce abundance and by the best of right claim abundance.

The land speculator, the collector of ground rent, the capitalist and the owner, are under no obligation to produce anything. Instead of acquiring abundance only after they have produced abundance, they grow richer as land grows scarcer, and the masses more independent on those who control the means of production. From the farmer, the clothier or the builder, they can demand larger tribute, a heavier exaction. The service they render society is nothing, the reward they are allowed by law to appropriate is enormous.

While the hand of industry is blessing with its benefactions and bounties the appropriator of land values and usury is blasting with his extortions. Go to the homes of the sewing women in this city. Twelve to fourteen hours toil secures but a beggarly subsistence, enough barely, to satisfy the merest animal wants. We are too good in our Christianity to allow them to be driven by the lash of a Legree, but by processes more insidious, yet equally effective, we place on them a double burden of taxation and extortion. We degrade their womanhood, and make it impossible for them to reap the fruit of their toil.

"All property is equally a monopoly as well as land," says the *Guardian*. One acre of land well placed on the best frontage in New York will enable its owner to extort from industry an income of half a million dollars yearly.

Can the *Guardian* give us a single instance in which men by actual production can acquire the right to impose an overvaluing charge for the use of the commodity which they produce? The value of wheat disappears in a season, so does that of clothes, that of houses and ships last somewhat longer, but even they can be retained serviceable only by continued repairs.

When once humanity drifted into into the idea that one portion of society could rightfully claim the earth as theirs, they established a despotism that has cursed every land where this system has appeared. It has blasted the history of Ireland, pauperized the laborer in England and Scotland, deluged France with the blood of its people, and on this continent it is working out its evil fruit.

Were there no better religion than that taught in the *Guardian*, we should despair for humanity. The earth is not the Lord's, it is the landlords'. The earth He has not given to the sons of men, but to some of these sons.

This is the doctrine of the *Guardian* and it should be honest in getting out a revised version. The speculators who desolate widows' homes find a ready champion in the leading organ of the Methodist Church.

IS PATRIOTISM A VIRTUE.

A CORRESPONDENT, whose letter appears elsewhere, undertakes to reply to an article which appeared in the last issue of the *LABOR ADVOCATE* on the east of patriotism. As will be seen the writer has not answered our question as to what actual injury would be inflicted upon the great mass of the people—the wage earners—by the substitution of a foreign government for the existing rulers, assuming both to be dominated by capitalism, as all governments now are. Neither has the writer undertaken to disprove our contention that the workers of all countries have common rights and interests, and that their worst enemies are those who, living among them and controlling the government, deny those rights and keep them in subjection. We do not moderate the force of the sentiment which underlies patriotism in the mind of some—though those who talk loudly of patriotism are usually those who are absolutely devoid of all sentiment, and are patriots for revenue

only. But it is at least a narrow sentiment and much less enabling than that of universal brotherhood which is destined to supersede it, just as patriotism has superseded the yet narrower idols of devotion to the clan, the tribe or the village community. There is far less distance in this respect between the modern English-speaking patriot and the future Socialist citizen of the world, than has already been traversed in the course of evolution from the barbaric notion which regarded all outside of a small tribe as enemies, to the present ideas of nationality.

THE PARKS BY-LAW.

The by-law prohibiting preaching or public speaking in the parks and other public places in this city has been rigidly carried out for two Sundays. Now that the immediate provocation for the measure has ceased, and the bitter feelings and exasperation excited by Jumbo Campbell's tirades are somewhat allayed, the people will have a chance to consider the much broader question of the right of the Council to suppress free speech calmly and disinterestedly and with a view to the ultimate consequences of allowing such a measure to remain in force. Labor Reformers in particular ought to realize that in sustaining such a by-law they are cutting a rod for their own backs. Disgust with Campbell and his following of noisy, ignorant hoodlums ought not to blind them to the danger of permitting free expression of opinion to be stifled. If it can be done to-day because all decent people consider Campbell's remarks objectionable, it can be done to-morrow if the capitalists and their supporters choose to put into their hands to suppress a Labor Reform gathering or a meeting called to protest against any public abuse. The by-law must be repealed and liberty of speech maintained.

OUR BOODLE ALDERMEN.

Furtive resolutions in the street railway deal have been made by Ex-Ald. E. A. Macdonald, showing the source from which he received hush money amounting to \$1,500 to drop the investigation. Into the various ramifications of the contr-very now being ventilated before the courts in an action brought by F. J. Coleman against Macdonald for libel, it would be a profitless task to enter, especially as every day brings a fresh turn of the kaleidoscope and exposes further details. The main admitted facts, however, are these: That Noel Marshall, a partner of William McKenzie, who is a member of the Kieley-Evrett syndicate, paid E. A. Macdonald \$1,500 as a consideration to drop the proceedings undertaken with a view to unearthing the corruption in connection with the sale of the franchise. The payment was made by a cheque which Mr. Macdonald, before cashing, took the precaution to get photographed. It is asserted by Coleman that Macdonald, not satisfied with the sum he had received, attempted to blackmail the syndicate out of an additional \$15,500. This is denied by Macdonald and this statement forms the ground of the action brought by him against Coleman, as to the merits of which we have no desire to express an opinion.

This question and the character and motives of Ex-Ald. Macdonald, as revealed by this transaction, are merely side issues. The main question is simply this—Is not the proved fact that \$1,500 was paid on account of the Kieley-Evrett syndicate to suppress an investigation, the first step of which disclosed the willingness of aldermen to receive money for their votes—sufficient grounds for supposing that bribery has been practised by the syndicate and for instituting a thorough investigation by the city?

It is no use for the bores and their friends to try and divert public attention from this point by abusing Ex-Ald. Macdonald. He is not an object. He owes a duty to the citizens and has no power to betray them. It is clear that ~~some~~ at least of those who

are the sworn defenders of the city's interests have sold themselves and betrayed their constituents, and it is the duty of all honest citizens, more especially of the members of the Council who are not hoodlers, to insist upon a suspension of the proceedings for compelling the agreement till the whole matter has been rigidly investigated.

GOLDWIN SMITH AND THE JEWS.

PROFESSOR GOLDWIN SMITH in his paper in the *North American Review*, entitled "New Light on the Jewish Question," allows his dislike of the Hebrew race presumably on Reuben's field's account—to carry him completely beyond the bounds of logic into a very dangerous position for a social conservative. The professor's contention is that the Russians and other nations are excusable for expelling the Jews and confiscating their property because the Jews are usurers and parasites whose extortions have caused much hardship among the peasantry. It is no doubt true, as he says, that the antagonism felt by the people in Eastern Europe towards the Hebrew race is social and economic rather than religious. But the remarkable part of the matter is that Goldwin Smith, who grows so indignant over the usurious and oppressive practices charged to Russian Jews, and considers the evil so intolerable as to justify the Czar's government in driving them from the country—is the defender of all kinds of usury and legalized spoliation in this country, and opposed even to the legislative measures of redress advocated by labor reformers. He will not hear of the Single Tax, currency reform or Nationalism as remedies for the tyranny of the money power in America, and is horrified at the bare suggestion of violent resistance to the exactions of monopoly in English-speaking countries. His argument against the Russian Jews would justify far stronger measures against capitalists and landlords than any which Socialists or Labor Reformers

RELIGIOUS QUACKS.

The *Industrial Educator* published at Fort Worth, Texas, voices some home truths regarding the folly of encouraging religious frauds and quacks of the San Jones and Talmage type. Our contemporary states that Sam Jones recently carried away \$3,600 from Fort Worth in exchange for "wind, blackguardism and religious billingsgate." Rev. Sam Jones is a particularly despicable, foul mouthed and impudent specimen of the breed, but there are other on the war path after filthy lucre who are almost as detestable. Toronto is the favorite stamping-ground of these pious fakirs, who profess to be anxious for the salvation of souls but always show themselves very keen after the heavenly dollar. Every hypocrite, fanatic and leather-lunged blatherer who has the gift of the gab and can talk for an hour or so without stopping on religious subjects, is sure of an audience here, and a chance to take up a collection. As a consequence, all the discredited and played-out mountebanks and spouters who make a trade of fanaticism, from England and the States—the Pultons and Chingquys, Joneses and Smalls, converted prize-fighters, and the rest, all flock to Toronto for the longer or shorter season, and usually leave many hundred dollars richer than they came. There are probably more half crazy fanatics and self-declared, pious simulators who accept the name and rubbish of these egotistic dollar-hunting lumbags at its face-value in Toronto than in any other place of its size on the continent.

The money squandered in supporting these itinerant traders in religion is of far less importance than the way in which attention is distracted from really important social questions. Their influence on the public mind is almost wholly bad, the religion they indicate is often, as in the case of the anti-Catholic crusaders, one of hate rather than of love. As the *Industrial Educator* well says, "The money,

time and life-force spent in the meetings, if wisely used, would fully enlighten the people with regard to the bettering of their earthly conditions in every way, assuaging the pain of sorrow, crime and suffering, that is fast deluging us, and so bringing heaven down to earth."

One word of a time is quite enough to attend to.

The Sydney (Australia) *Bulletin* is a paper which evidently has not the fear of the Antipodean loyalists before its eyes as it rises to remark as follows: "We hope the Roman family will multiply to the proportions of the red bit pestilence until the people of England order 7 1/2, for each of their scap's." This is painfully disloyal (Col. Denison ought to be sent out there to suppress the *Bulletin* with one of his truly loyal after-dinner speeches.

This article on the concentration of population in the cities which we published from the *New York Times*, is a suggestive utterance in some respects, but takes a very superficial view of the great change that is coming over the organization of modern society. In enumerating the causes of the tendency to drift to the cities, it studiously ignores the greatest of them all—monopoly and the concentration of capital. The monopoly of the land delimits men without means from access to natural opportunities for production. They must, if they are to live, become wage-slaves, and consequently must in increasing numbers seek the great centres of population to find occupation.

The *Globe* still keeps up the farce of pretending to believe in the existence of "respectable Conservatives" who will help to vote their party out of power on account of the scandals recently unearthed. Practical politicians of both sides know better. However they may talk there is no public sentiment in this country against government by corruption, and the Tories are just as ready to support the most scandalous and corrupt of their own stripe as they would be to yell "Turn him out," and affect holy horror if a Grit were detected at the same game. There is not one in a hundred on either side who will desert his party on the ground of their being detected in robbing the country. In appealing to the public sense of morality and honor the *Globe* is appealing to something that has no existence. The average elector sees no harm in hoodloring or bribery so long as it is done by those on his own side.

The sixth biennial report of the Illinois Bureau of Labor Statistics, just issued, deals entirely with the coal mining industry of that state. Very elaborate details of the earnings and working time of the coal-mining employees are given, covering eleven mines and 5,356 wage earners, from which it appears that the average earnings per day amounts to \$2.23. Among coal miners proper, excluding other classes of workers, the average number of days' work in the year per man was only 100.6. "In brief," says the report "the earnings of one miner and his family two days." The non-holy average earnings for the wholly number included in the report, miners and others were \$75.35 per month. The total number of employees of all kinds in connection with mines was 28,571, the product for the year ending July 1, 1890, 12,638,361, the aggregate home value \$12,882,036, and the number of men killed 53, being in the proportion of one life sacrificed for every 228,450 tons mined.

At Moulton, Ala., a farmer bought a pound of gunpowder and a new tin pan, and putting the powder into the pan, deposited both in his wagon and departed for home. The pan acted as a conveyor, scattered the powder, and directly thereafter there was a fatal explosion. Divers in the clear water of the tropical seas had fish of different colors when frightened do not all dart in the same direction, but that each different kind takes shelter in that portion of the submarine growth nearest in color to that of the fish.