

# The Searchlight.

A MONTHLY REVIEW OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

VOL. I. Nos. 4 & 5.

TORONTO, DEC. AND JAN., 1896-7.

Five Cents a Copy.

## QUESTIONS OF THE DAY.

The agitation for a fast Atlantic steamship service is an evidence of the degradation of Canadian party politics. It is as foolish to ignore the existence of icebergs, fog and other impediment to navigation as to ignore the fact that night follow day. Yet the landowners in a few doubtful constituencies would make bigger revenue by an attempt to establish an impossible service, and for fear of offending them both parties are silent. A gross waste of public money can thus be made without a word of protest from anyone of authority and all for the fear of one or two doubtful constituencies. The alleged statesmen who might be displeased by an opposition to this foolish venture can well be spared.

Toronto is seeking to own and operate public franchises after the manner of Glasgow and thus escape a great part of her taxation. Such a change would be greatly advantageous to the city landowners, but to no one else. The great franchise, the privilege of living in the city, is still in the hands of that class and it will enable them to absorb all the benefits from other franchises. Until they are made to pay the city their percentage, the annual rental value of the room they hold, they will get all the benefits from the other improved methods. Look at the poverty of Glasgow for proof. Let the city get the great franchises.

There is some ground for the belief that in several other wards single tax candidates will take a try for the Council board. The difference between the ordinary individual running for office and the single taxer is that the latter knows what he is running for and how to get what he is after. The ordinary individual—well, the less said about him the better.

The recent elections in the State of Washington resulted in the election of seven representatives to the Assembly, the Lieutenant-Governor, the Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Auditor, Commissioner of Lands, besides seven minor officers of considerable importance, all of whom are known as single tax men. In all parts of the United States the single tax question is fast coming to the front.

### PULP WOOD RESOURCES.

Canada, or those people who have been stupidly allowed to get hold of Canada, may be rich in pulp wood. To prevent the natural result of allowing the pulp wood to be nabbed, it is proposed to put on an export tax that the so-called owners may not sell it. Men have our property, and to save the total loss, we are to prevent them selling it to anyone else. If we took our own by securing its value in taxation, it would be sold to the best bidder here, or elsewhere, and the best bidder would be best for all the people, not for the alleged owners. It is easy to start an agitation in favor doing a thing the wrong way.

### PUBLIC WORKS AND LAND DAMAGES.

The people of Toronto want, or think they want, the Queen-street subway widened, and are prevented by inordinate demands for land damages. This whole principle of land damages is wrong. Men promote public works for the contradictory purpose of getting their land damaged. The worst frauds ever perpetrated on the city have been through land damages, and so it will be while such claims are possible.

If the occupiers were paying to the public treasury the yearly value of their holdings, a public improvement that lessened the value of, or "damaged" the holding would simply lessen the amount they would be asked to pay.

### A WRONG PRINCIPLE.

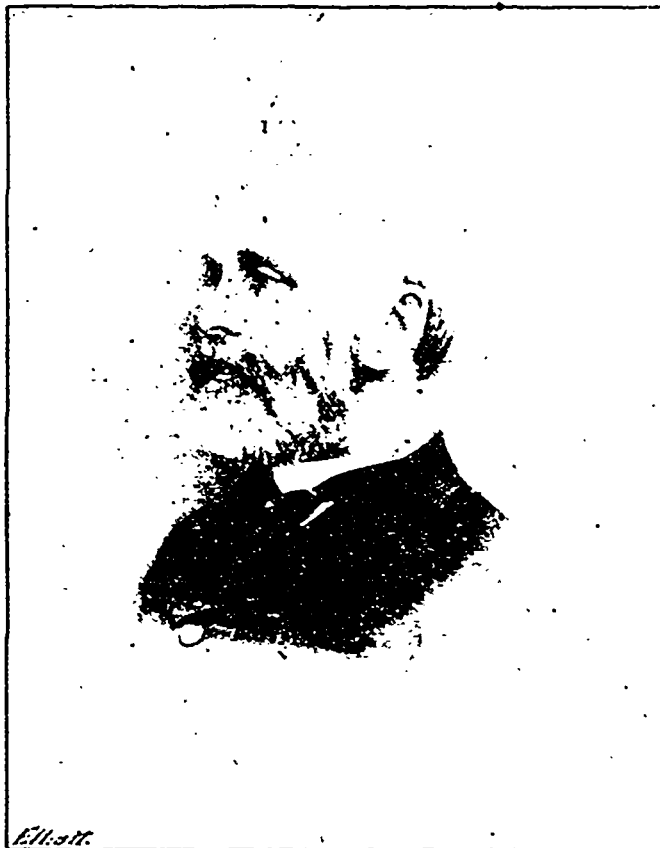
The people who don't own more than a life tenancy of the land of Canada had the assurance to give it away forever to the Hudson's Bay Company. Their descendants were foolish enough to buy back that which was their own. Again, the life tenants gave the land away forever to the

Canadian Pacific Railway. There is now an insipient movement on foot to induce this generation to pay good money to recover their own property. The people should claim their own and compound no theft, legal or illegal. Those who purchased our land understood the situation very clearly when they secured perpetual exemption from taxation. This generation is under no obligation to respect that bargain in which one generation exceeded its rights in bargaining away the rights of others. The value we give to the land held by the railway is ours, and we should take it by taxation.

move on. This is a beautiful example of the ordinary wisdom displayed by that so-called "Liberal" Government; it's so Liberal, in fact, that any speculator and monopolist who applies for special privileges need not go away empty handed.

### ROYALTIES AND WAGES.

The Financial Reformer of Liverpool, England, gives some facts relating to mining royalties in Britain, which are of interest. The royalties paid to owners of coal lands range from sixpence to four shillings and sixpence sterling a ton. The disparity in the royalties received is owing to the



WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON, OF BOSTON.

### GIVING AWAY THE LAND.

The arguments against the granting of land to the corporations instanced, applies with equal reason and force to the intended proposition of the Ontario Government, which intends deeding the University of Toronto some thousands of acres of land in liquidation of an old debt. If the Government had decided to settle the liability by the payment of cash, its action would be praiseworthy and entirely justifiable. But when it deeds away that which it has no right to do, it also bequeaths a power, which, in the hands of any but the Government—the people—is dangerous to the state and ruinous to industry and production generally. If the University authorities intended to cultivate and make good use of the land, the fault would not be so great. They intend nothing of the kind. They are going to hold on to it until settlements begin to arise in the immediate neighborhood; until this land is wanted. Then when the people require to purchase more farming locations, circumstances will compel them to go to the University corporation, who will demand big purchase money; or yearly rents for the privilege of using the earth. Here is where the iniquity of the game comes in.

Labor must accept the terms offered or different advantages of the location of the coal—the position of the coal beneath the earth's surface as well as the relation of the pit's mouth at the earth's surface to the consumer of coal, or, as we say, to the market. The Reformer averages the above royalties at nine pence per ton, which seems far below the mark, and is probably nearer correct at twenty-five cents per ton.

An ocean steamer, on the average, consumes about 6500 tons of coal on one round trip, the royalties on which, at the above rate, would amount to \$1625. The large ocean steamers required 72 firemen and 52 trimmers. The pay of the former averages 90 cents, and of the latter 75 cents per day. Making a round trip at 15 days, the owners pay for service as follows:

72 firemen at 90c a day .....	\$ 972 00
52 trimmers at 75 cents a day .....	585 00

Total .....

It will be observed from these figures that the owners of steamships have to pay to the owners of coal lands for the privilege of extracting coal from the earth just about as much as they pay 124 firemen and trimmers, demonstrating only one of thousands of instances where the men, as Andrew Carnegie says, who do not work never get rich.



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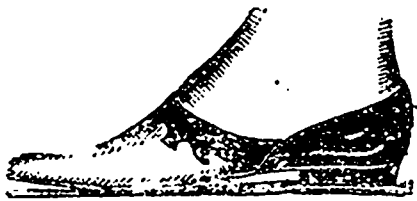
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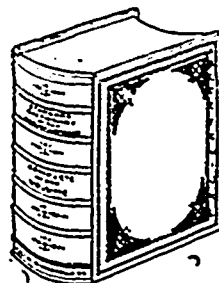
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# THE SEARCHLIGHT.

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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.

NEW YORK STATE.

Hon. E. D. Alsworth, leader of the opposition in a Republican Assembly and a Representative of a farming constituency, speaking to the Local Option Bill introduced by him, referred to the facts that the Board of Supervisors of his county—consisting of an agricultural county and placed in his hands the resolutions passed by the board in 1892 endorsing the spirit of a measure favoring Home Rule in Taxation, giving permissive powers to abolish personalty and improvement taxes. The farmers stood by him and the bill was introduced. He held also numerous resolutions from the State Granges, and from the State lecturer, besides editorials from the leading agricultural papers, endorsing the bill. A motion to recommit with the subsequent vote (in which it was defeated by only eight votes), showed that it could have been passed, had it not been for a factional fight which led the speaker to crack the party whip against what was in no sense a party measure. Enough votes were cast against recommitting to have passed the bill by a hand some majority, had they stood firm. The bill was not reported in the legislature of 1896, owing to peculiar conditions but it is admitted that the sentiment behind it has gained in strength. Similar legislation is being mooted in other states, notably California, Ohio, Iowa, and Illinois.

Vermont has made the following State enactment: That all manufacturing establishments hereafter established, all quarries and mines here after opened and all machinery necessary for the promotion of business, all capital invested in and used for operating same shall be exempted from taxation for a term of five years. Laws of V. 1880 Title ix, Chap. 22 to 26 and Secs. 93-7.

TAXATION OF BONDS AND MORTGAGES.

The great majority of those who demand the taxation of bonds and mortgages hold a most erroneous idea as to what those things are. A share of stock, a bond, or a mortgage is generally looked upon and spoken of as separate and independent wealth, having value in itself; but the most cursory examination of the subject will suffice to dispel any such delusion. The very fact that such an article is absolutely worthless, unless secured by some valuable, tangible thing, ought to be sufficient evidence that the article itself has no inherent value, and that it is only good as far as it constitutes an inflexible claim against some tangible thing in the hands of another. What a mortgage on a piece of land really represents, then, is a valid title to that land to the extent of the loan. A loan on a chattel, secured by a pledge of the chattel, divides the title to that chattel. It must appear evident, then, that inasmuch as the chattel has already been taxed as personal property, it would be double taxation to again tax the loan. As with the chattel so with the land; and, as "the borrower is servant to the lender," he may rest assured that any tax which has the remotest chance of being collected from the lender must be paid by him, although it has small chance of ever reaching the public treasury. As the mortgage on a piece of land therefore is, strictly speaking, a title to land, it is as manifestly unjust, after having taxed the land, to again tax the mortgage, as it would be to tax the land and then tax the deed to the land. Precisely the same thing is true concerning stocks and bonds. These particular pieces of paper are in themselves valueless, except as they are a lien on the valuable property and privileges owned and controlled by the corporation in the interests of which they are issued or sold. In other words, they are but "the shadow of wealth," and as it is to be supposed that the substance causing such shadow has already been taxed, it is not only rank injustice, but the most absurd folly, to again attempt to levy upon the shadow. Can it be wondered that the attempt to enforce such a system has not only resulted in the most dismal failure, but has also had the effect of driving many good citizens and wealth into other and less hampered parts?

In the fourteenth century in England land was practically free for use, and we having the opportunity to employ themselves did so, and as a result all that they produced was their own. The aristocracy



J. W. BENGOUGH, Cartoonist and Entertainer.

who used to have control of the people as serfs, now that the people were free, could no longer command the people to work for them at serf's wages, and found themselves in the position of either having to work for themselves or starving, petitioned the King to issue a proclamation to the people ordering them to work for the same wages as when they were serfs or to suffer certain punishment if they charged higher wages than in serf times. But wages remained high, because the people would not work for less than they could earn upon the land. The aristocracy, finding they could not control the wages as long as land was free for use, got power from the successive monarchs and parliaments to enclose the land, and to charge the people rent for the use of it. When private property in land was accomplished the people were forced into the cities in search of employment, and then the "Statute of Laborers," passed by Queen Elizabeth, giving power to the magistrates to fix the wages of the people at Quarter Sessions, which was amended in 1795 by the "Speenhamland Act," which gave power to the magistrates to fix the wages at half what would support life, the rest to be made up by parish relief. This act was passed to crush the people, and it did. Pauperism and crime was fearful, jails, poorhouses, etc., were built and enlarged, and where prosperity formerly reigned misery and desolation had taken its place. Such are the results of private property in land.

In the platform of Mr. R. Hall, the Single Tax candidate for the Fourth Ward, this paragraph appears: No man should have his taxes increased because he improves his property. There should be no tax on buildings, improvements or any other products of industry. A land owner should pay just as much tax for holding his land idle as for using it. Our taxation should be so levied as to encourage the use of land. The more a man uses and improves his land, the more labor he must employ, either his own or somebody else's. Plenty of employment means no hard times; but, idle land means idle men. I am glad to know that Mr. Hall also favors proportional representation, which means a simpler and fairer system of voting. Under the new system, ward boundary lines will not exist. Each voter would have but one vote, and the candidates for office will be elected by the city at large, thus ensuring the election of men representative of different thought and belief in the community.

I am pleased to learn that our able friend, Geo. Wellings, is likely to be in the field as alderman for Ward One. There is no one whom I would support more quickly than Mr. Wellings. He would, if elected, be a credit to his ward. I hope to give some extracts from his forthcoming platform of principles later on. Edward McHugh, the English labor representative now in New York, seems to have captivated not only the average trade unionist, but he has managed to win the applause of the Socialist Labor Party. Mr. McHugh has organized a union among that body which is all the more remarkable, when it is known that the Socialist Labor Party are not very friendly to trade unionism.

A question a single taxer failed to answer—"there are others."

"Single tax"—haw!—"I have heard about this—haw!—"single tax"—haw!—"before, never met anyone who could explain it to me, you know." Thus spoke a major in her Majesty's Canadian forces some time ago to a Toronto single tax man, who replied: "I will explain it to you."

The single tax is not a tax, but simply a method to be used by the community in taking the full rental value of the land, instead of the present mode of raising revenues.

Every tax now imposed, other than the small tax now levied on land values, would be abolished, the community simply collecting what belongs to it by levying on the values of land alone. By adopting this course everybody rightly becomes a landowner.

Haw!—that would never be accepted by Englishmen—haw!—it is too communistic for Englishmen, you know.

"By that means valuable land would no longer be held idle. The landowners finding they could not get the rent or rise in value of the land, would let it go, and men who wanted to use it would take it up and produce goods upon it, instead of being idle as they now are. Men finding they could earn a living upon the land would never starve while waiting for some one to employ them, but would employ themselves, and the need of charity to support able-bodied men would cease to exist."

Haw!—Can you explain to me how it is you can see—haw!—that the single tax would abolish—haw!—poverty, and intelligent people cannot—haw!

The single tax man replied: "If by that you mean a major mind, I give it up."

The following facts dealing with cases of starvation in the City of London are worthy of more consideration than is usually attached to statements of a similar nature. Lloyd's London Weekly in a late issue says:

A return has just been issued as a Parliamentary paper of the number of all deaths in the administrative County of London in 1895 upon which a coroner's jury returned a verdict of death from starvation or death accelerated by privation. The total number of such deaths in 1894 was 30. In 1895 it rose to 71, distributed as follows: Eastern district, 21; Northern, 5; Central, 13; Western, 5; Southern, 5; Southwestern, 3; Southeastern, 7; Borough of Southwark, 3; and the City and Liberty of Westminster, 9. In only a few cases was the privation that led to the fatal issue due to self-neglect. The majority of cases were women, and over 50 years old. A dock laborer's widow in Shadwell was so reduced by long deprivation of food that a good meal set up a reaction that killed her. Another widow, in Hoxton, died alone in her lodging, and the verdict was that she was "starved from not eating enough." Hepzibah Tuff was found ill in the street, and succumbed to starvation. In Shadwell another widow died of cerebral hemorrhage, accelerated by want of food. A woman hawker died at Mile-end Old Town from thrombosis accelerated by inanition. A widow died in New York from influenza, similarly caused. None of these poor creatures had applied for or received relief.

## Questions of the Day.

### THE CLERGY AND REFORM

The clergy of the United States who entered the recent campaign to an unprecedented extent, did that which it is their privilege to do. Every issue involves not only the right but the duty of expression to their views.

The workmen, the wealth producers of the United States, went wrong in advocating currency debasement. It was the duty of the clergy to tell them so, to show the right course. For such purpose the clerical office exists.

Let those who assume its duties always condemn the wrong while leading to the right. But if the workmen instead of going wrong in the advocacy of currency debasement had gone right in advocating the appropriation of the rental value of land instead of all other taxation, would the clergy have been as ready to come out on their side? Let every clergyman ask himself that question, when such occasions have arisen in the past it has been easy for the clergy to discover that their duty lay in the direction of preaching the Gospel and not interference in political questions,—of course there are many noble exceptions, clergymen willing to endure the poverty which must necessarily follow a course likely to offend the "gods of the lower world." They have spoken out for the right on all occasions regardless of consequences. But it cannot be denied that they are less numerous than their brethren who have freely shown the American workmen the error of his ways. Let the workman claim that which is his own, a share in the value that his labor imparts day after day to the land of his city, town or other municipality and the cause of the stagnation which now deprives him of leave to toll, will be removed. While it is profitable to hold land idle or comparatively idle it will be done and the result will be idle or comparatively idle men.

The Star tries to make capital out of the fact that when a large number of laborers were wanted recently to do some excavating in connection with the Metropolitan Street Railway, only a few men applied or were anxious for the jobs. Then it begins to minimize the frequent statement that much destitution prevails in the city, and sarcastically remarks that the idle men don't want work. The wage offered for the services of the white slaves was from \$1 to \$1.25 a day, out of which they were expected to support their families. Board, such as it is, the taskmasters were willing to provide at \$3 a week for a single person; not in a furnished room, but under a canvas tent. The work is of an arduous nature, and only the strong could hope to succeed at it. Unskilled it may be, but let a skilled editor, a preacher or university professor of political economy try to handle a pick and shovel for one day, it's safe to venture the statement that five times the remuneration wouldn't tempt him to continue the job. It's all very well for a well-fed critic whose labors are easy and pleasant to chide his humbler fellows because they won't undertake certain manual labor offering such splendid inducements as a dollar a day, even though in need of food and shelter, but there is a limit to which men will consent to be ground down to starvation wages; nature rebels against it. It's galling to be told you must accept a certain wage or you must starve, and if you don't accept it to be classed as a loafer and an "agitator." It is not at all unlikely that if the wage offered for laborers' services was but fifty cents a day The Star writer would make the same charge against those who refused to toll at—think of it—fifty cents a day, with free air and water thrown in. The Star report of this incident needs to be taken with a grain of credulity.

The rather slim election reports from Delaware, as to the outcome of the single tax campaign on November 3, provide few particulars upon which to comment.

Justice, the Delaware S. T. organ, intimates in its last issue, that the returns, which are somewhat incomplete, show at least three legislators elected for New Castle county to the State Assembly. Besides a crushing defeat was administered to the Democratic machine of the same county. Senator Pyle, who ran on the single tax ticket, was elected by a good majority. From all that can be learned much bribing prevailed throughout the State and it worked havoc with the independent tickets. The election returns, whether favoring one or other of the old parties, though it seems the Democrats succeeded, can hardly be said to attest the best judgment of the people, in view of the corrupt methods so generally adopted by the

party machine to retain power. The poverty of the masses easily made ready dupes for the scheming politicians, who used freely the money lever to coerce the weak and wretched creatures of bad social conditions. The writer knows something of the conditions in Delaware. It is no idle statement to say that a good proportion of Delawarians have been for years utterly debauched by the grimy politicians, who make the boast that they could elect whomsoever they choose. The expectancy of cash for votes upon the part of the electorate prevails from one end of the State to the other; it requires time to eradicate, and it is to the credit of the single tax party that this feeling is gradually being displaced by other and nobler impulses. The result of less than two years of earnest and persistent campaigning, teaching the single tax philosophy, is, and must be, gratifying to all lovers of good government. The campaign began with enthusiasm; it ends for the first election period of the State with still greater enthusiasm, and will continue incessantly until a majority of the people of Delaware decide to accept the doctrine—the land for the people.

G. J. B.

In a work by Prof. Goldwin Smith, entitled "Questions of the Day," published a few years ago, the author undertook to advocate the Single Tax method of taxation by stating that it was not feasible, and as proof of it, instanced the City of Venice, which was built in the water, and he asked, How would it be possible to apply the Single Tax in this case? If I have not stated correctly the full meaning Mr. Smith intended to imply in substance, I think my version of it is not far astray.

However, what brings the matter to mind is the recent action of Comptroller Finch, of New York, who is compelling the ferry companies to pay rentals to the city for lands under water. The New York correspondent of the National Single Taxer, writing to that journal, says, "The rental of the West 42nd street ferry has been raised from \$10,000 to \$11,000. The New York Central & Hudson River railroad has agreed to this, but declined to consider the added \$1,000 as rental for land under water. The board, however, got the better of the railroad company when the Harrison street ferry franchise was taken up. Mr. Van Arsdale, for the railroad company, agreed to pay a rental of twenty-five cents a square foot for the land under water, covered by the ferry bridge and ferry house." Here is a striking illustration of the fact that a tax can be levied. We need not go further than Toronto to demonstrate the entire practicability of taxing land under water, for in numerous cases along the water front the city is receiving rental for the privilege of using water lots.

"Labor stands ready, but finds no work," is the striking headline of a column article in the New York Journal relating to the large number of idle men in that city. Edison G. Jerome, agent of the Charity Organization Society, whose work takes him all over the city, in the course of an interview said that "the men who have applied for assistance this year are all of good appearance and are willing to work, and on examining them I confess that I have been puzzled to understand their cases. They seem to be so intelligent, so capable and so willing that I wonder at their failure to get work." The Journal estimates that from ten to fifty per cent. of the members of organized trades are idle, and with no immediate prospect of anything to do. In addition to these facts, it is stated that hundreds of cases of poverty, suffering and death are never heard of by the public owing to the innate pride of men to hide their true condition from public scrutiny. "The good times that were to be ushered in with the election of Wm. McKinley seem to be as far off as ever. I wish that our temperance friends could be persuaded to look a little deeper into the social discontent that abounds on every side, instead of attributing the cause of poverty to a superficial evil, such as the liquor traffic is. Never before, it is said, have there been so many unemployed men, so much poverty and destitution, so many suicides owing to poverty, as it is recorded for 1895-6 in one city alone, and that in New York, which may be regarded as the wealthiest city in the United States. To attribute this state of affairs because of the existence of the liquor traffic, or that this state of affairs could be very materially benefited by the removal of the alcohol habit would be ridiculous in the extreme. There can be no question about the evils, and they are numerous, that result from intemperance, and there can be no doubt but that if men were freed from the evils of intemperance the community as a whole would be blessed with much more happiness and less misery than now prevails.

The cause which produces so many idle men, intelligent, capable and willing to work, lies much deeper than our temperance friends are ready to acknowledge. The writer for many years was an ardent believer in the doctrine that intemperance was the chief cause of idleness and poverty, and that if only this evil was removed idleness, poverty and crime would

be lessened to a minimum. My vision is much clearer, because of new light received. The best course of study I ever undertook in my life was the political economy of Henry George, and no one who will study his philosophy can come to any other conclusion, that the cause of idle men and involuntary poverty—no voluntary, mind you—is because of land monopoly. While land, the source of life, is made the private property of a few, so long will industrial slavery, poverty and destitution among men continue.

### WORK A SCARCITY.



Lady—My man, if you would go to work—

Tramp—It aint work mum, that I want half as much as it is something to eat.

Lady—Why do you dress like this?

Tramp—Because I aint got the means, if I could get work to do, why mum I wouldn't be like this.

A very pathetic letter and apparently genuine, appeared in the New York Journal in its issue of the 7th. That such a letter should be penned is a reflection, not upon the writer as it is upon the people of America. Here it is:

"For \$100 I'm willing to sell myself to anyone who wishes a slave. I am ready to do what the buyer will ask of me; toll as his slave or kill myself, insured in his favor. Do not believe that I am insane, for I am not. I am only tired of walking the streets, entering hotels and cafes to find out work of any kind. I am twenty-eight years old, speaking and writing French and German and understanding double entry bookkeeping. I served in Uncle Sam's army and I have a good discharge. Since then I have been in New York City. I have tried everything to secure any employment, but without avail not even as a dish washer or street cleaner. Therefore I kindly request you to publish these few lines in your paper and authorize you to give my name and address to any person who has got the cash or is willing to help a suffering brother."

On being interviewed by a reporter, the man stated that he was a total abstainer and had no bad habits, and that he was perfectly sincere in writing his letter.

### FIGHTING FOR EMPLOYMENT.

The eagerness with which men fight one another for the opportunity to earn a living was well illustrated in Trenton, New Jersey, the other day. The New York Journal, in referring to the fight between some Italians and United States laborers, stated that the cause of the trouble was nothing but poverty among the men. The Italians, it appears, were desperate for jobs that would provide them with means of subsistence. So, also were the native laborers, but the latter objected to the Italians making a proposition to work for less wages, consequently the men began fighting among themselves. The unnatural scruple for leave to toll will cause such results and much worse results so long as it exists.

While we continue a system of taxation that makes it profitable for men to keep land idle, crowding would-be workers into the cities, and keeping them out of work when there. While there are prospects of gain in holding land from use there will be a struggle for the privilege of earning a living. It will cause the meanest of devices among men eager to displace one another. It will cause petty trickery among men capable of better things and ashamed of their own meanness. It will cause the pinch of poverty among men able to provide themselves with a comfortable living, and will force the less fortunate into the ranks of the tramp and the thief. Were the rental value of land taken for public purposes, all inducement toward mere land holding, which is responsible for this condition, would be removed.

**SIR GEORGE TREVELYAN AND SINGLE TAX.**

Speaking to his constituents at Bridgeton on Oct. 15, Sir George Trevelyan, referring to the question of monopoly, said he would give a case which would interest people who had studied the question of the taxation of ground values. At a railway arbitration then going on in London there was a property rated on an annual assessment of every few thousand pounds for which £400,000 was claimed. Let the Single Tax Association consider that. But that was not all. This sum included licenses for public houses, which were valued at £40,000. Here were licenses which professed to be granted annually to individuals on their good behavior and it was reckoned so certain that the house and not the individual would get them, not for one year, but forever, that the ground landlord claimed more than £40,000 for surrendering the soil to the railway company. That was the state of things which was supposed to be in agreement with the laws of natural justice under the administration by which the country was at present governed. That was the state of things which would never be altered by a House of Commons elected on a limited suffrage for the many, and an unlimited suffrage for the few, by a House of Lords which did not go through the process of election at all. That was a system of privilege and partiality against some forms of which the Liberal party this year, however much outnumbered, had protested, and on some occasions had not protested in vain. (Cheers.) And where their efforts were not crowned with success they were honestly and sternously made.

In reply to a question as to whether he would tax vacant land, Sir George said that Glasgow and the great cities got nothing under the Agricultural Rating Bill. But there was a class of land which would get something even within the boundaries of Glasgow—that is the land called agricultural land, and the agricultural land within the boundaries of the burgh was land which was being kept until by the industry of the burghal community and by the taxes taken from the people who live and worked there, that land had attained a fancy value. In the meanwhile it was rated at agricultural value and would have half its rates paid. He would cut the difficulty by taxing that and all other lands on their value as land.

There are over 70 candidates standing for the 75 seats pledged to the taxation of land values.

R. C. Munro Ferguson, M.P., writes: "No one can wish you more success than I do in your efforts to secure that buildings lands be taxed upon their values. It is the more necessary to keep the subject before the country now because of the commission appointed to inquire into the incidence of local taxation."—Glasgow Single Tax for November.

**RECORD OF SUICIDES.**

The records of the Registrar of Vital Statistics of the city of New York on suicides in 1895, show that 376 persons disposed of themselves, as against 331 in 1894 and 314 in 1893. This is an increase of 13.6 per cent. over 1894, and is by far the highest number ever recorded in the city, and is more than 45 per cent. higher than the annual average of the previous ten years.

This rapid increase, the Registrar says, is undoubtedly due to the existing financial depression. One suicide every day in the year on the average, and they still continue to increase. Not a day goes by without hearing of similar occurrences. One need only read the papers of our large cities and there find instances day after day, of people suffering all the miseries of involuntary poverty. Is it any wonder that men and women kill themselves to escape life's tortures?

Rev. Russell H. Conwell, Philadelphia, says: "If this world belongs to God, and if, as all men in their hearts agree, we are all his children, then, of course, in his garden everyone has an equal right. . . . to share in the land which the Father hath given unto mankind. But you will say it is not equal now. No; and the parties of this Republic do not advocate that it should be equal, either.



PAT. CORRIGAN.—"Here's a new wan fer ye Mickie. If taxin' bldins and sich like makes them dear, and taxin' land makes it cheap, how high must the tax on bldins be before you can git them fer nothin'?"

DAN. MCCORKAN.—"Nah, but can yus tell me this; if labor-savin' machinery redooses the price of goods an' makes them cheap, an' I can't git any of them, how much should the "other fellow" git who don't do nothin' at all?"

PAT.—"Ah, go wan—give us somethin' say."

He was a go-ahead youngman. But because his parents were poor he had missed an education, except a few weeks in the winter, and as a result at twenty-one he was only a day laborer. He wanted a home, and so he had himself into an "anti-poverty society of one," and began to save his wages. At the end of the first year he had \$50 in the bank drawing 4 per cent. This he continued to do year after year with patient perseverance, never running into debt or spending money foolishly, until at the end of ten years he had just \$750. At that rate the home seemed as far off as ever, so he determined to buy a lot, and with what was left start the house and give a mortgage on the whole to get the money to complete it. But while he had been working and saving others had done the same thing. The town had grown and the value of land had increased.

Across the street was the lot he had set his mind on having, and he went to buy it. The price was a thousand dollars. For the last ten years he couldn't remember that even a cow had pastured there; the boys had used it to play ball on Saturday, and that was all.

"Why," said he, "ten years ago I could have bought that lot for a hundred dollars from you."

"More fool that you didn't," said the owner. "It's worth a thousand now."

And so it was. He ought to have purchased then, only he had no money in those days.

"Well, I'll have to find a cheaper lot," he said to himself, and wandered from one real estate office to another, till at last way out on the edge of the town, far from his work, in a sparsely settled neighborhood, he found a lot that if he had and seventy-five dollars would buy. He could have got cheaper ones further on, only they were so far he couldn't reach his work mornings, so he bought this—half his savings gone. He begins his house, borrows \$500, gives the mortgage, and at last has a lot worth \$375 and a house worth \$850, or \$1,025 in all. Now, at last, says he, I have a home, and the fifty dollars a year I save will pay the interest of thirty dollars and a little on the principal. Then the assessor comes along and assesses him on the house as worth a thousand dollars, while the six vacant lots next to his place, for which \$375 a piece is asked, are assessed as worth only \$250 in all. The mortgage is a bill of sale to the man he borrowed a lot of his house and lot, yet he himself pays the taxes on it all. He can only work six days in the week, while the mortgage works all the time, nights and Sundays. The burden of debt and taxes is eating him up, and the little "anti-poverty society of one" is in danger of foreclosure.

A copy of "Progress and Poverty" falls into his hands, and in the evening, when not too tired, and perhaps a Sunday afternoon, he studies that wonderful book, until at last the light breaks in upon him, and he begins to see why it is so hard for a poor man to get a home or anything else

in the world, and next we hear him discussing it with his nearest neighbor.

"You see," he says, "I thought I was saving \$50 a year, but I wasn't. I was only giving it to a fellow that hasn't done anything but wait. The man that sold me this lot just now for \$375 would have sold it ten years ago for \$25, so I have been saving \$35 a year to give to this man who has done nothing for it. It's because we have been working here and the boss using his capital and building up trade and business that the land has risen in value, and it seems to me that if we make the value that land gets the land ought to pay the taxes; and it seems to me, too, that if I had only to pay taxes on the value of my lot and not on my house I wouldn't have much taxes to pay, and they'd make up the loss by assessing those six empty lots alongside of me just the same as they assess my lot, and that fellow would pay taxes on \$2,250 instead of on \$250, which is what his lots are valued at now. I guess I'll vote the single tax ticket when I get a chance." "And you can count me with you," says his friend.

Co-operation upon a voluntary basis, both among business men and employes, is certainly more commendable than any other plan proposed to better their conditions. As a weapon in the commercial field and properly managed, it would relieve much of the discontent ward on all sides and would most effectually cure the irrational discussion of departmental store opponents. "The Morning World," of the 9th, referring to this subject, says: "To further meet the opposition of the big stores, the retailers in different lines of business are advised to co-operate by taking adjoining stores in the same block and then connecting them during business hours by doors opening into each other. A co-operative delivery run in connection with such a scheme would help to make the system complete." I am glad to have my opinion and views in the matter coincided with by "The World." Not many months ago I was discussing the departmental store question with a gentleman who was deploring the position of the small retailers, and I then expressed precisely the same plan as outlined above. I feel quite sure that the co-operative plan is the best that could be devised under the circumstances, and the sooner it is acted upon the better it will be for the discontented merchants.

The Church Reformer: The Bishop of Rochester, speaking in the discussion on "Private Property in Land," at the Rochester Diocesan Conference, said he had been a little startled to find the newness to this meeting of the principles which had been having a larger circulation in England than almost any other doctrines of our time during the last ten years. Whether they liked them or not, they ought to know them and be familiar with them. He did not know how many of them had read Mr. George's books. He was sorry for those who had not.

To the Electors of No. 1 Ward:

In becoming a candidate for the position of alderman, I wish to state that to get in is not my chief and only desire. Were I only desirous of being elected I should enunciate no principles, and make no statement that would be likely to alienate from me votes from any source. My desire is to place before the electors what no other candidate has; or will be likely to do. Each year we have been electing men to our legislative bodies, hoping for something to be done that would benefit our people, and drive the demon, hard times, from our midst, but so far we are getting poorer, and when I state that poverty or prosperity is simply a matter of taxation, those persons who have not studied the question of taxation will perhaps think such a statement absurd.

#### HOW A TAX HURTS.

Let me by way of an illustration show two systems of taxation.

By one system the people became poor, by a different system of taxation the people could have become prosperous.

In a fruit-growing country, the authorities wish to raise a larger sum of money by taxation, and decided to tax each fruit tree. The effect of the tax was disastrous, instead of more money being raised, there was less.

The owners of the land, cut down every fruit tree, that did not bear enough fruit to pay the tax, and to pay the wages of the laborers, and also pay a profit to the owners. A number of the laborers were discharged, and the others had to work for less wages, so that poverty was brought among the people by this unwise system of taxation.

Had the rulers placed the increased tax upon the land, instead of upon the fruit trees, no trees would have been cut down, but more trees would be planted where possible, so as to increase the amount of the crop, which would have enabled the owners to more easily pay the increased tax. Instead of the workmen being discharged, more men must have been employed, instead of wages being reduced, higher wages would have been paid, and the tax, instead of ruining the people, would have forced them to increase their business.

The same thing occurs in our system of taxing the coal mines.

All the coal beds are owned, some are used and some are not.

The system we adopt is to tax the output so much a ton, when no coal is mined, no tax is paid, the mine owners to pay as little tax as possible, close a number of the mines, discharge their workmen who go to the mines that are worked, and to get work at all, they have to work for lower wages so that by that means, the mine owners get their labor cheap, pay very little tax and are enabled to charge a high price for coal, and by that means rob the consumer and become millionaires, while their workmen become poverty stricken.

Now, if a high tax was put upon the coal beds, and the owners had to pay that tax no matter if they worked the mines or not, no mine could be kept idle, the owners would be compelled to work the mines to make them pay the tax. More men would have to be employed, wages would be higher, and coal would become cheaper.

#### WHO GETS HURT.

We have the same foolish system of taxation in Toronto.

A man who lives in this Ward, being out of work, and having a large family to support, wished to earn enough to keep them, and started to peddle. The usual tax was demanded from him, the man could not pay the tax, so became one of the employed.

To tax a man in a manner that prevents him from earning bread for his children, is a shame, and a disgrace to an intelligent people. What right have we to deny a brother of the earth and refuse him leave "to toil."

The same system is carried out, in our idiotic method of increasing a man's taxes the more he employs labor. Let a man paint his home, or add an addition, to accommodate an increasing family, and his taxes are increased. But let some millionaire-land speculator, or loan company, turn a garden into a desert, and discharge

the workpeople, we at once reduce his taxes. "Verily we are a great people."

#### WHO IT BENEFITS.

Now let us take a glance at our system of assessment, I took a few assessments almost at random, and found that the "Leslie Nurseries," owned by Mr. Geo. Gooderham, is assessed at \$700 per acre, or at the rate of \$3.50 per foot, frontage, when the Nurseries was in the possession of Mr. Leslie in 1891, it was assessed at \$2,800 per acre, or four times as much, thus do we encourage the rich to become richer.

The next lot to the Nurseries, west side of Carline avenue, is assessed at \$20 per foot, or nearly six times more.

Gooderham's grove, fronting on Queen street, east, Booth avenue and Eastern avenue, 333x940, is assessed at \$17,300. This lot, if laid out in building lots, would be at the rate of \$5 per foot.

Right opposite the grove, on Queen street, the land is assessed at \$30 per foot, or six times more.

The lot 242x100, with 3 frontages, Booth and Logan avenues, and north side of Queen street, east, owned by Mr. Fiskien, is assessed for \$25 per foot.

A lot on Carline avenue, east side, about 150 feet north of Queen street, east, owned by Ald. John Russell, is assessed at \$350 per acre, or \$1.75 per foot frontage.

Land on Jones avenue, owned by Mr. P. Holland, 65x150, is assessed at \$396, or \$6 per foot.

Land same place, owned by Mr. Norton, area 5 acres, is assessed at \$400 per acre, or \$2 per foot.

Land same place. Owned by Ald. Jno. Russell, area, 4 9-10 acres, is assessed for \$320 per acre, or \$1.60 per foot. I am told, this lot has a valuable clay bed upon it.

#### SPECULATOR V.S. HOME OWNERS.

Two sessions ago our provincial Parliament, at the request of the land speculators, Loan Company's, etc., passed an act to assess land in cities and towns of 5 acres and over as farm lands. Later an attempt was made to have vacant land assessed at 6 per cent. of its value, but failed, thanks to a society in the city. Now the results of this Act, is to shift the taxes from men like Mr. Gooderham and other wealthy men, and compel the poor man, who is struggling to pay for his home out of his wages, to pay the rich man's taxes.

Who is better able to pay the taxes, Mr. Gooderham and other rich men, or the starving laborer, whose wages do not amount to as much as rich men spend on wine and cigars.

The lot on Jones avenue. Owned by Ald. John Russell, is less than 5 acres, and is not entitled to the reduction under the act, but is assessed for less per acre, than Mr. Norton's lot of 5 acres, which is entitled to the reduction. Mr. Russell's land, nearly 5 acres, is assessed for but \$320 per acre, while Mr. P. Holland's lot is assessed at the rate of \$1,070 per acre.

We were told we were going to have an adjustment of the assessment, these are specimens of the equity. Every dollar of taxation evaded by these rich men, must be paid by the small property owners, and our business men, who are struggling to earn a living, for their families. And they are expected to remain silent in the matter.

"Thus do we take from him that hath not, and give to him that hath."

If the Act had increased the taxes of the rich their howl would have been heard in the antipodes.

#### A BETTER WAY.

Now, let us see how the system of taxation I advocate would effect the people. The total assessment of Toronto for 1895 is over \$146 millions, with over 22 millions exempt from assessment, making the total value of real property over 160 millions. The amount of money collected from the people is about three millions. The rate on the dollar, 16 1/2 mills, with the local improvement rate added it cannot be less than 20 to 25 mills on the \$, on the workingmans homestead. The land value with the land values exempt from assessment cannot be less than 80 millions, and by taxing the land

only, we reduce the assessment one-half and must double the mills. Now if we abolish the local rate and fix upon the 40 mill rate we would raise about 120 thousand dollars more than under our present system of assessment, but instead of the working man paying more taxes, the rich men and wealthy mortgage companies who own the valuable up-town lots, and valuable blocks of land now assessed at a tenth of what they are worth, would have to pay more taxes, while our small property owners, business men, and working men, would pay less taxes. This would place the burden where it could be best borne, when we increase the taxes of the wealthy, it may reduce the quantity of wine and cigars they consume, but when we increase the taxes of the poor, we take bread from their children.

#### DO YOU WANT PROSPERITY.

Now we will see what would be the effect, of adopting the 50 mill rate. The assessment of the land being 80 millions, a 50 mill rate would raise 4 millions of dollars, or about one million dollars more than we raise now, making it unnecessary to issue debentures, and increasing our liabilities, which if continued will wreck the city. With the million extra, we would be enabled to employ our idle people, in making necessary improvements, such as our court house, sewage and water systems, without borrowing one cent. Thus saving interest charges. This money must be spent each year, because a similar amount would be raised annually, and if not so spent would accumulate, and be an injury to the people instead of a blessing.

Our population would increase, men would come to Toronto to get a share of the work going on. More people coming to the city, our vacant houses would soon be rented, and more houses being required, the building trades would start into activity, still further increasing the demand for labor, improved property owners would not lose by the change in taxation, they would be enabled to collect the rent, from the houses they now have tenanted, and would find a profitable investment in building more houses. Our tradesmen having a prosperous people around them would do a prosperous business, thus by a wise system of taxation would the people be enabled to become prosperous once more.

#### RAISE WAGES.

If rich men dropped large lots of land and the same was free for use by the payment of the taxes only, would any man work for less than he could earn for himself upon free land, near a city or town. Would that not raise wages.

Would there be anything wrong about free land, in a civilized community.

Was the earth created so that some men should charge others for living upon it? Is it not blasphemy to so treat land? If not, why not?

In conclusion let me say that I know the fear of the people to a change of system. Why do we fear? Have we not tested our present system, and find the results, poverty and wretchedness upon one hand, and affluence and arrogance upon the other, that the honest industrious man becomes poor, while the speculator and stock gambler becomes rich? If you believe in justice in liberty—

Why hesitate? Ye are full bearded men, With God implanted will and courage

if,

Ye dare but show it. Never yet was will

But found some way or means to work it out,

Nor e're did fortune frown on him who dared,

Shall we in presence of this grievous wrong,

In this supremest moment of all time, Stand trembling, covering, when with

one bold strike, These groaning people might be ever free.

And that one stroke, so just, so greatly good,

So level with the happiness of man, That all the angels will applaud the deed.

Do you believe our present system just? If not, then your vote and influence is requested by yours faithfully,  
GEO. WELLINGS.



"I can see through your plan," no continued.

"Circumstances made a loafer of me, and you now wish to employ the same means to make me honest again."

Sir, "I may be bad and wicked but I am not a fool. Your methods are very drastic, but I think your plan is good.—Chap. III, "The Story of my Dictatorship."



Some days ago there drifted into the office of a prominent attorney in Toronto street a man of small stature, probably 55 years of age, his whiskers tinged with grey, small eyes and a face that betokened an air of complete satisfaction with himself. His business with the attorney being of a private nature is not necessary for publication, but what subsequently followed between the two is worth recording, as tending to show the clever and logical reasoning involved sometimes in a little off hand discussion. The conversation between the two led to the incidence of taxation.

The visitor maintained "that wealth should be the basis of taxation, and that all things seen and unseen should be levied upon for taxation."

This statement from a man of apparent intelligence and honesty rather annoyed the attorney, who is generally looked upon as being a pretty clever fellow in economics, and for a moment perfect silence reigned. However, affairs began to look interesting, as the attorney slowly settled himself back in his chair, and in quiet tones commenced to read his visitor a brief lecture on taxation and economics.

"And so you believe," he said, "that wealth should be the basis of all taxation? Very well, let us see where your conclusions lead to. The clothes you wear—your hat, your shoes, the jewellery you are sporting, the house you live in, the machinery in your factory; in fact, every conceivable article of use you can think of. Where did the elements they are composed of come from originally? You will, of course, reply, the earth. Now, as these things manifestly were not created in their present form, then it is perfectly clear that the toll of man produced them. Briefly, then, all things come from land by the application of labor. Let me further demonstrate this. If you cut down trees and transfer them into lumber, or mine coal for fuel, gold and silver for jewellery, iron, etc., for machinery, or dig clay and make into bricks, or if you should breed sheep, cattle and horses, from which sources the wool of the sheep goes to make your clothing and hats, the hide of horse, and cattle to supply leather for your shoes, and many other articles of commerce, or if you catch a fish, shoot a bird, grow wheat, fruit or vegetables for your supply of daily food—do you not observe that the element of labor enters into everything I have mentioned? Consequently it follows that the product of labor naturally belongs to the producer. And is it not true that by the intelligence, industry and thrift of men all these things may be acquired? Yet, unfortunately, how many there are who die of starvation every year—

"While millions of hands want acres, And millions of acres want hands." "Now the essential thing required for all, and necessary to all, in order to produce and live, is free access to the earth—the source of all wealth." "But how?" exclaims our visitor. "We'll come to that in a moment. Do you follow me?" said the attorney.

The visitor nodding his assent, the attorney again proceeded.

"By your proposition of making wealth the basis of taxation, you delegate a power to the state through our law makers, to do what you and I would be ashamed to countenance any individual doing—that is to call on all men in the community, demanding of them a portion of what they had produced, because they happened to have more of the good things of life than the impetuous individual who called on them. What you would refuse to countenance in an individual doing, and which would be an act of common robbery, you practically give a power to the state to do, and in this you regard it no wrong. The only difference between the two cases is that with the individual the spoils he obtains is lost to its owners, while on the other hand the spoils exacted for the state is expended for the government of all, but not in proportion to the benefits received of government. Your proposition also involves a direct interference with man's life, and method of producing wealth, besides it enables dishonest men to escape their share of the taxation levied by perjury and making the honest men of the community pay for being truthful. In brief, your proposition breeds fraud and perjury and corruption, and discourages men for being industrious and thrifty by taxing them, while you permit idle land speculators to reap values they have not produced, and lords of the soil ground rent collectors, to escape taxation altogether. And you call this honest and just?"

The visitor, who had listened attentively throughout to the attorney, at last began to speak:

"I see more clearly now," he said. "Your remarks have been a revelation to me; I had always believed land to be wealth, in other words, property (labor products), and that it could be disposed of just like any other article of wealth. Land is the source of all wealth, and is limited in quantity whilst wealth can be either increased or diminished, according to its accessibility to land, and it follows from this that if the land can be 'owned' monopolized or held out of use, there is really nothing in our law to prevent a few men acquiring control of the whole available source of wealth, to the detriment and ruination of thousands living and those yet unborn."

"Menier, the chocolate manufacturer, is the absolute owner and king of the Island of Anticosti. All persons living on this island are subject to tribute and regulations. Thus the power of land monopoly is great and wicked enough to deprive men of the opportunity and means of livelihood, and if it does not altogether do this, though it does so, it can at least make them pay pretty dearly in ground rent, and in addition to that pay all taxation for government besides."

"How to remedy this evil and its attend-

ant evils, and at the same time institute a system of taxation that will be scientific, and equal in application, I do not as yet conceive of a course of action."

As Henry George has shown," said the attorney, "the plan is simplicity itself. Abolish all taxation that is now imposed on labor and the results of labor, abolishing one form of a tax after another by degrees, until the only source left for revenue is the site value of land. Why? Because the site or location value of land is created by the presence and industry of the whole community, and properly so, belongs to all. By the adoption of this course all obnoxious features of the present want of system are relegated to the rear, and there is instituted a principle which at once reaffirms the equal right of all men to the use and enjoyment of the earth, and who will thus, as members of society, receive their share of compensation for being excluded from particular portions of the earth's surface, to which all have equal rights—the rental value of land which represents or reflects what the people have collectively created, and this rental value when collected goes into the treasury of the community, to be expended for the benefit of all. This plan will force idle land on the market now held out for speculation. You can readily see, think, how it is possible for every man to acquire the possession, not ownership, of land on equal terms with all other men, simply on paying one tax, and that based on the rental value of land. Besides this advantage, the state or community for ever relieves men from further payment to it for holding or obtaining wealth, thus stimulating production in all branches and walks of life, opening avenues for the employment of idle labor and capital, making possible more happy and contented homes, and rendering full justice among men."

Exit visitor; he saw the cat.

Mr. Robert Hall, the single tax aldermanic candidate in the Fourth Ward, is again in the field. His chances for success are by no means small. Considering the candidates whom he run against last year—and they were all old heads—Mr. Hall did remarkably well.

GLASGOW SUCCESS.

The victory referred to is an unmistakable one, every candidate offering himself had submitted to him a series of questions straight and to the point, there was no chance provided to escape giving, an answer one way or another. A man was either opposed to the single tax or he was in favor of it. The rapid progress of public thought and the advance in legislation along the lines advocated by Henry George will soon be difficult to chronicle. After a while when the crowd becomes very numerous—and the bands begin playing, we'll hear an oft repeated phrase, "I always did believe in it."

## AN AWFUL VISITATION

INDIA IS SEEING VERY SAD TIMES THESE DAYS.

The Country Famine-Stricken, Cholera-Scourged, and Plague-Visited—Locusts are Also Causing Damage to Crops—The City of Bombay in a Very Unsanitary Condition.

India is famine-stricken, cholera scourged, and plague-visited. Famine was bad enough, famine and cholera seemed a heavy scourge, but the appearance of the bubonic plague, or black death, in Bombay has filled the cup of calamity to its trembling brim. India is indeed stricken this year.

What the famine is may be gathered from the fact that less than half the usual rainfall has been received, and the greater part of what has fallen came unseasonably. Rice, wheat and the cheaper grains, upon which millions live, have slowly shrivelled under the burning sun. Pastures have become crisp and yellow. Every breeze carries its two-fold burden of heat and dust. Cattle are mere skeletons, and starving humanity abounds. In many parts of the famine-stricken districts the population numbers as high as 700 to every square mile. Imagination can fill in the details of the suffering which crop failure means in these close-huddled millions of our fellow-beings. Even the guarded wording of Government reports show how desperate a conservative government considers the situation. I quote from the Weekly Allahabad Pioneer of Oct. 8:

"The continued draught is proving disastrous to the standing crops, except where irrigation is practicable, and rain is very urgently required throughout the provinces. Agricultural operations for the spring sowings are retarded for want of sufficient moisture. Prospects continue to be unfavorable.

### FLIGHTS OF LOCUSTS

passed over several districts and caused slight damage to the crops in Meerut, Budaun, Ghazipur, Lucknow, and Unao. The numbers employed on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief on Saturday, Sept. 26 were: Banda 2,111; Hamirpur, 1,935; Jhansi, 823; Jalaun, 576; Hardoi, 6,073. Total, 11,512. Of these 696 were dependents gratuitously relieved on the works, and 6,634 persons were gratuitously relieved under other provisions of the famine code. Supplies are reported deficient in Cawnpore, Fatehpur, Benares, Hardoi, Bahraich, and Bara Bank. Fodder is becoming scarce and is dear in many places. Prices are very high and generally rising."

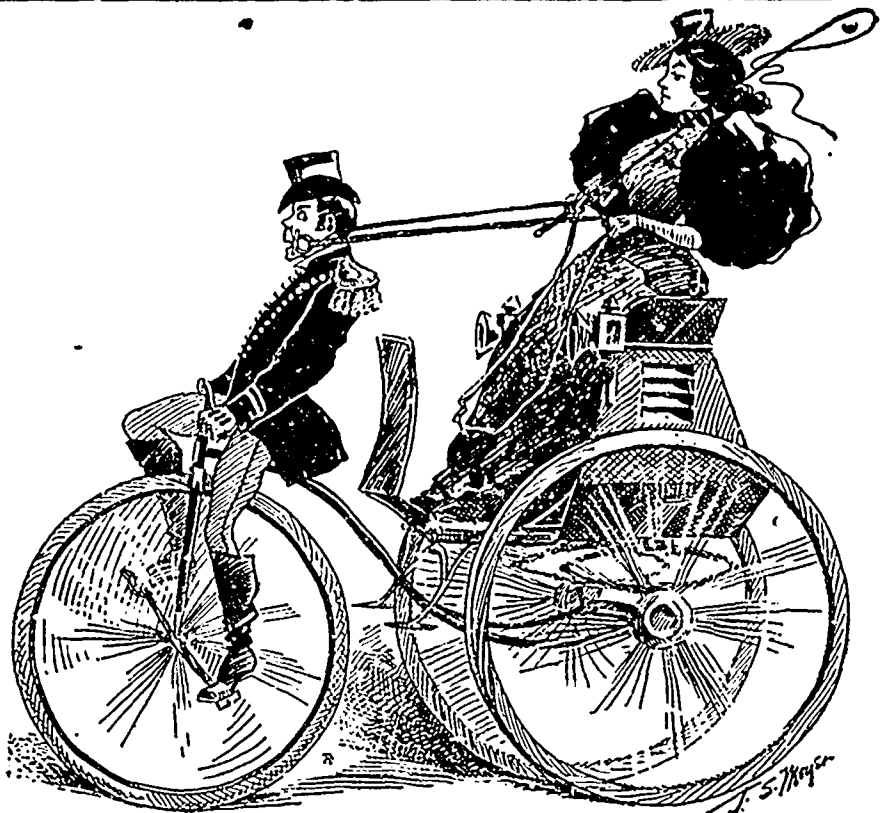
A private letter received from an old friend in Lucknow says:

"We are just entering on a famine here. The very cheapest rice is 2 annas a seer—equivalent to 2 cents a pound, three times its regular price,—and already some are dying. We are beginning to give out help, and as a test to keep out the professional beggars we have started a surki yard. The way a professional beggar won't break surki is a caution. But when they stick to it we give food or wages, as we think best. Poor people, who only earn from 5 to 6 rupees (\$1.50 to \$1.80) are suffering. That amount will hardly keep the head of the family in food. We shall try to buy rice cheaply in Calcutta, ship it in, and sell it to our own people, native Christians at cost. The rascally grain dealers, all Brahmins, have cornered all the grain, and when the Government tries to force down the price they simply shut up shop. Cholera is very bad, and now that the black plague has broken out at Bombay we feel that we are drinking the dregs of calamity."

The heartless grain dealers make huge profits out of this hunger of India's millions. Selfishness in its most

### CRUEL AND FIENDISH

phase never eclipsed that of the calcul-



NIT.

ating grain dealer of India in famine times. The conquerors of the empire are the personification of mercy and justice, compared to these, of one flesh and blood, believers in the same gods, with the multitudes who slowly starve to death before their shops for lack of money to buy the grain which the dealer bought cheap and sells dear.

The Government authorities provide relief for the hunger-bitten people in three ways: First, by shipping in rice from other districts and selling it to all who can buy, usually below cost; in the second place, "relief works" are opened in the afflicted districts. Irrigation, canals, roads, railroads, &c. are built by the labor of famine-stricken men, who are paid in money or grain, as they choose. These relief works confer a double benefit on the country. They give help to the needy and provide better roads, better irrigation channels, and generally further the interests of commerce and agriculture. In this improvement all share when times of plenty return. The Government also supplies, gratuitously, help or food, medicine and medical services to those too far gone with want or its attendant diseases to work.

Practically speaking, all the ordinary functions of government are in abeyance at such a time, while the energies of public officers are directed to the work of feeding the starving and caring for the sick. All this help is English. Natives have little pity for one another.

Now the black death has added a new horror to the situation. Its appearance in Bombay puzzles the city health officer, the sanitary board and the citizens, so far as can be ascertained, it has not come from Hong Kong, where it has raged so fatally since 1892. Suspicion rests upon Mecca. Pilgrims to and from that

### HOLEST AND FILTHIEST SPOT

on the planet make Bombay their port of arrival and departure, and it may be that this awful scourge comes from Arabia instead of from China. In any case, it has come, and parts of the great city of Bombay are full of the cries of mourners.

The sanitary authorities are bending all their energies to rid the city of filth. All who voice public opinion unite in advocating drastic sanitary reforms, regardless of the expense involved. A centrifugal pump has been placed on one of the main docks along the front of the bay, and every night pumping is carried on, and sea water mixed with carbolic acid as it is discharged from the pump is poured through the drains. The drains of houses where the plague is raging or threatening are being whitewashed. The flushing of all pip-

sewers is being undertaken by means of large flushing tanks, holding 600 gallons each of phenyl solution.

Dr. Weir, the Bombay health officer points out that the drainage is wholly insufficient.

"There has been an enormous increase of the water supply since 1892," he says, "from 16,500,000 gallons to 20,000,000 gallons or more daily and very little increase in the number of drains. The island is flooded or irrigated with water, and unless drains are constructed to take away all the water that comes into the city the life of a healthy population will not be possible; what has been seen in countries of marsh and wet, the poisoning of life from malarial fevers will be seen here. It is not possible to look to the future except with anxiety."

In spite of all precautions that plague broke out in five new places in the city, and the percentage of fatal cases was daily rising when the mail left. Thousands of inhabitants fled, panic-stricken, to their native villages or down the seacoast. Thousands of devout Hindus make daily pilgrimages to shrines and to the seashore, at which latter place they solemnly cast in their cocoanut offerings to the gods of the great deep.

With the famine and cholera to cut a swath before it,

### THE GRIM REAPER.

of which we first hear from Procopius, and, with the dread ravages of which England and the continent, as well as Africa and Asia, have learned to their undoing, may pile up a ghastly score of victims.

In the year 1348 100,000 died of the same disease in Venice, leaving hardly enough inhabitants to carry on any of the many lines of Venetian industry. The same year 60,000 died of the plague in Florence, a third of the population of England perished, and the country did not make up for the victims of this unconquerable plague until the latter part of the reign of Elizabeth. In 1720 a ship from the Levant brought the plague to Marseilles, and 60,000 of the inhabitants fell before it. Ten years later the same disease almost depopulated Moscow, while toward the end of the eighteenth century Egypt and Morocco lost more than 1,000,000 inhabitants.

It was this same plague that was mentioned in Boccaccio's "Decameron." To the readers of English fiction it will be recognized as the disease which filled the loathsome charnel houses of Florence, as described in Lytton's "Rienzi."

Sanitary officials at all our seaports should leave open no door of opportunity through which this terrible scourge may enter our American cities.

## THE CHILDREN.

When the lessons and tasks are all ended,  
And the school for the day is dismissed,

And the little ones gather around me  
To bid me "good-night," and be kissed,

Oh, the little white arms that encircle  
My neck in a tender embrace;  
Oh, the smiles that are balms of heaven,  
Shedding sunshine and joy on my face.

And when they are gone I sit dreaming  
Of my childhood too lovely to last;

Of love that my heart will remember,  
While it wakes to the pulse of the past,  
Ere the world and its wickedness made me

A partner of sorrow and sin.  
When the glory of God was about me,  
And the glory of gladness within.

Oh, my heart grows as weak as a woman's,

And the fountains of feeling will flow,  
When I think of the paths steep and stony

Where the feet of the dear ones must go;

Of the mountains of sin hanging o'er them,

Of the tempests of fate blowing wild;  
Oh, there's nothing on earth half so holy

As the innocent heart of a child.

They are idols of hearts and of households;

They are angels of God in disguise;  
His sunlight still sleeps in their tresses;

His glory still gleams in their eyes.  
Oh, those truants from home and from heaven,

They have made me more manly and mild;

And I know now how Jesus could liken

The Kingdom of God to a child.

The twig is so easily bended,  
I have banished the rule and the rod;

I have taught them the goodness of knowledge,

They have taught me the goodness of God,

My heart is a dungeon of darkness  
When I shut them from breaking a rule;

My frown is sufficient correction;  
My love is the law of the school.

I shall leave the old house in the autumn,

To traverse its threshold no more;  
Ah! how I shall sigh for the dear ones

That mustered each morn at the door;  
I shall miss the "good-nights" and the kisses,

And the gush of their innocent glee,  
The group on the green, and the flowers

That are brought every morning to me.

I shall miss them at morn and at evening,

Their songs in the school and the street,

I shall miss the low hum of their voices,  
And the tramp of their delicate feet,

When the lessons and tasks are all ended,

And Death says: "The school is dismissed."

May the little ones gather around me,  
To bid me "good-night," and be kissed.

ed.

## TO TRIM THE TREE.

Of all things for Christmas a Christmas tree is indispensable in a house where there are children. The exploring of overflowing stockings will not give half the pleasure that comes from the discovery of a "real live" tree, with a gray-bearded, snow-specked Santa Claus peeping from its branches.

It matters not how small the tree if it be prettily decorated. In this it is chiefly the first cost which counts. The same ornaments, with a few additions will do you year after year.

As for the tree itself, there are five different kinds, all beautiful in themselves—the pine, hemlock, spruce, cedar,

and balsam fir. The prettiest of all and consequently the most expensive is the cedar, covered with small gray berries. The smallest of these trees cost 75 cents and the largest as high as \$1. Ordinary trees of good shape and bright green color range according to size from 50 cents to \$1.

It is most convenient to have the tree placed at once in a holder, but the price of this may be saved by mounting the tree in a deep box well packed with earth. The tree must be well braced, and the box must be as nearly square as possible. The box should be painted with green enamel.

The decorations of a tree, unlike the building of a house, begins at the top. Custom has made it almost imperative that a figure of Santa Claus occupy thus, the most conspicuous position. The figures sold in the shops for this purpose are made of either cardboard or plaster and cost from 15 cents to 75 cents. Except for very large trees the 35-cent size will answer admirably. The figure may be held in place with wire or strong black thread.

Stock should not be taken of all the articles which are to be used for decorations. Tinsel plays an important part in this, for it gives a brightness and glitter obtainable from nothing else. Strings of popcorn are also useful. Both white and red popcorn may be procured already strung, or it may be bought in bulk very cheaply. With a needle and strong thread it is easily strung. Each string should be from three to four feet long. Cranberries scattered at frequent intervals along the strings add color to them.

Strings of silver and gilt balls, and balls of raw cotton make pretty and effective decorations. Shreds of raw cotton may also be sprinkled over the tree. This does very nicely to represent snow. English walnuts, either natural or gilded, may be tied with ribbon and added to the other materials. You cannot have too much. Quantity rather than quality makes a tree beautiful. A dozen or more dolls made of bright-colored tissue paper, should be added if there are any little girls in the house. Candy canes and sugar animals of every conceivable kind are always appreciated by the youngsters.

Little pasteboard boxes may be had at any drug store, and when touched up with gilt paint, filled with candy, and tied with ribbon make very pretty ornaments. Last of all, candles, if it is intended that the tree be lighted. See that these are very securely fixed in their sockets, so that there can be no possibility of their falling.

All these articles should be spread out around the tree before the work of decorating begins, so that a glance will show just what material there is to work with. Then commence at the top and festoon the popcorn and strings of glass balls in graceful loops, selecting the most prominent branches for fastenings, and covering up as much as possible any bare spots. The cotton balls, walnuts, candy boxes, and figures come next. Tie the lighter articles at the tips of the branches and the heavier further in.

The tinsel may represent icicles, and the more thickly it is hung on branches and twigs the better. Last of all add the candles. Fasten the holders at the forks of branches. This prevents them slipping. See that the candles are perfectly upright and have a clear space above.

Small presents may be placed on the tree and larger ones around its base. The tree must, of course, be set, before decorating, in the room in which it is to remain, unless it is a very small tree, in which case it may be decorated in a room to which the children seldom go. On Christmas morning it may be carried to the nursery while the little ones are enjoying their breakfast or exhibiting their toys in some other part of the house. In this way the sudden appearance of the tree will seem all the more wonderful.

## A PUZZLER.

I'd like to ask one thing, said the cross boarder. What is it, please? asked the landlady. How do you get this steak cooked so hard without even getting it hot?

## CHANGED CONDITION.

Boxley, why is it that you never associate with the Boberts any more? Gracious! man, Boberts is only a plumber. I'm a bicycle repairer.

## HOURS AND THE MAN.

The average man can do the most work at 3 p. m., and the least at 9 a. m.

## MORE THAN LIKELY.

Mamma, said Tommy, is this hair oil in this bottle?

Mercy, no! That's mucilage. Well, said Tommy, I guess that's why I can't get my hat off.

## SELF-RESPECT.

Mistress, from the parlor.—Bridget, the front door bell has rung three times. Why don't you answer it?

Bridget, from the kitchen.—Sure mum, if Oi opened it the furst ring, pap'e wud say Oi did nothing but tind the dure, an' Oi wudn't have any wan think me that lazy.

## IN THE FRONT RANK.

Customer (trying on his new pantaloons)—Great snakes! These things seem to be a bifurcated skirt. I'll look like a guy if I wear these.

Conscientious Tailor—Can't help it, sir. If fashion says men must look like guys, they'll have to look like guys if they deal with me.

## A PRIZE.

Doctor—Just place this thermometer under your tongue, Mrs. Peque, and keep your lips closed tightly.

Mr. Henry Peque (after a few minutes of speechless delight)—What will you take for that instrument, Doc?

## GOOD FOR THE HEALTH.

Jenks (who has taken to horseback riding, and bounces about ten inches at every step)—Ah! How-dy-do, Blinks? I think horseback riding is good for the health, don't you?

Blinks—Yes, indeed. All who see you will be benefited. "Laugh and grow fat," you know.

## ON THE WEDDING TRIP.

You can't both ride on a single ticket, said the conductor sharply.

O, I guess we kin, answered Josh, with perfect confidence, as he threw his arm around his blushing companion. If you'll look at this here dockament you'll see that me and Martchy's jest been made one.

## VALUE OF EXPERIENCE.

Fond Mother—Why, my dear, what is the matter?

Daughter, recently married.—Boo, hoo! My husband doesn't—o-love me any more. He didn't kiss me when he came home, and he—he kept edging away from me whenever I went near him; and—and now he's in the library, and don't want—don't want to be disturbed—boo, hoo, hoo!

Fond Mother—Calm yourself, my dear. He loves you as much as ever, but I suppose he has taken a drink and doesn't want you to know it.

## IN THE SAME CLASS.

I'm a plain, blunt man, Margaret and can frame no honeyed speeches. Will you marry me?

I'm a little on the plain, blunt order myself. No!

## FASTS IN THE RUSSIAN ARMY.

In the Russian army two days a week are observed as fasts—Wednesdays and Fridays—on which days all the soldier gets in the way of food is lentil soup and black bread, and a drink consisting of water in which rye bread has been absorbed.

Teacher—"Did you study this lesson?" Pupil—"I looked over it." Teacher—"Well hereafter, just lower your gaze a little."

## THE MISSING LINK

Claimed to Have Been Captured by a French Traveller.

The sensational news comes to a waiting world to-day, on the authority of a French traveller, that "the missing link" has been discovered, and alive. Paul d'Enjoy, an explorer, who has been investigating a little known region in Indo-China, on the frontier of Annam, is the discoverer. He has been travelling in a mountainous district, in about 12 degrees n. lat., and 101 degrees e. long. It is a region of dense forests, in which lurk savage races. Approach is often dangerous. Among them is a tribe called the Moi. One day as d'Enjoy was going through the woods with a strong band of followers they came upon a small group of Moi, who instantly took to flight with the exception of one individual, who was gathering honeycomb in a tall tree. When he saw the travellers he came down the trunk with his feet flat to the bark, apparently not using his tail, and attempted to escape. But they had surrounded the tree, and after a struggle effected his capture. Some of the party understood the Moi language, for d'Enjoy tells us that the wild man gave them some information about his people, though interrupting his discourse with sobs and howls. All his race, he said, formerly possessed tails, but they are no longer universal appendages, because many of the tribe had ceased to be of pure Moi blood through intermarriage, especially in the case of those dwelling on the outskirts of the country, with tailless tribes. The wild man's companions had escaped, but they left behind them, in a long, tunnel-shaped hut, built of dry leaves, some polished stones, bamboo pipes, copper bracelets, and head collars. These were said to be obtained from their Annamese neighbors, with whom they occasionally traded, though they are dangerous customers, and have no scruple at knocking a creditor on the head by way of payment. They are said to burn their dead, and bury the ashes in bamboo pots, differing in this respect from their Chinese and other neighbors. The prisoner was extremely savage in aspect, and that is the character of the race. Their hair is exceptionally rough, sticking out like the spurs of cocks, and the surrounding people treat them as savages, beasts, and apes, so that they are being gradually exterminated.

M. d'Enjoy's account is disappointing in details. He does not even describe the creature's tail, nor tell his height, color, and features. He only adds that many of the race have peculiarly accentuated ankle bones. The one he captured poisoned the coolie in charge of him and escaped.

## CHRISTMAS AT OSBORNE.

The royal boar's head, the baren of beef and woodcock pie, which are indispensable for a British sovereign's Christmas feed, are all sent from Windsor to Osborne ready cooked. The boar's head is brought in in solemn state, preceded by choir boys singing a carol as follows: The queen's boar's head in hand I bear Bodecked with bays and rosemary, And I pray you, my people, be merry, Quot catis in convivio Caput apri defero Reddens laudea Domino.

Lord steward has provided this

In honor of the king of bliss,

On Christmas to be served

In Regimenae Atrio

Caput apri defero

Reddens laudea Domino.

—Exobango.

A musical bicycle has appeared in England. The motion of the vehicle grinds out the tunes, and the wheelman whirrs along to the strains of lively harmony.



## DEATH IN STYLISH SHOES.

The Toothpick, Razor and Other Fancy Toed Shoes Are Bad For the Feet.

The death of Richard P. Owens, of Trenton, N.J., several days ago as the result of hiccoughs caused by the scratch of a toenail, shows the danger to which one may become subject through the slightest injury. In this case it was the nail of a "hammer" toe that inflicted the fatal wound. Any other nail, however, is capable of inflicting the same injury, but to produce such an injury it is necessary for the nail to be attached to a deformed toe.

This deformity may be congenital, the result of an accident or, as is most common, the product of improper footwear.

Do you ever wear shoes is a question which of course, everybody will answer in but one way, and that is Yes. Now put the question. Do you wear shoes of the proper shape, and modelled after the shape of your foot? How many wearers of shoes will be able to answer the latter question in the affirmative? Not one in many, many thousands.

Of all the deformities resulting from following the dictates of fashion there is none so common as the misshapen foot caused by wearing pointed shoes. When we examine antique and classic sculpture we find that the phalanges are always on a line with the metatarsal bones, and the space between the great toe and the one adjoining is always well marked. This shows that the feet were allowed to spread out as nature intended they should.

## SHOES OF THE ANCIENTS.

The primitive shoe was shaped over the foot, and was made to allow the toes sufficient freedom to insure the natural heel-and-toe gait. With the modern shoe it is very different. Fashion says pointed shoes will be worn, and that settles it, they are worn regardless of the result.

The primitive shoe was made to conform to the shape of the foot, while the modern shoe, in compliance with the absurd demands of fashion, the foot must conform to the so-called shoe. In observing pedestrians on the street it is a very easy matter to pick out those who wear the right kind of shoes from those who are slaves to style. The

former step along with a comfortable heel-and-toe gait, and their feet turn out but little if any, while the latter who wear toothpick, razor and other fancy "toed" shoes, shuffle along with their feet, very much turned out.

This turning out of the feet is necessary to increase the size of the base of support. As a consequence there is a severe muscular strain, the arch of the foot is injured and flat feet are the usual result. Many people who wear pointed-toed shoes think that by wearing a shoe two or three sizes too long they avoid all danger of corns, bunions, ingrown toe-nails and numerous other tortures.

This is a mistake. A long shoe is capable of inflicting quite as much harm as any other, for in walking the foot gradually slips forward, the toes become crumpled and overlap one another, and sooner or later the inevitable bunion appears.

By referring to the frontprint of a laborer's shoe it will be noticed that his "brogan" is widest over the toes. This is as it should be. The fashionable shoe, however, is always narrowest where it should be widest.

## PROPER SHOES FOR CHILDREN.

The deformities spoken of are seen not only in adults, but many children, whose tender feet have been crowded into pointed shoes, have paid the usual tribute to the goddess of fashion. Great care should be observed in the fitting of a child's shoe as it is a very easy matter to distort the foot and produce a permanent deformity.

When properly fitted a child's shoe should be widest at a line drawn from the small toe to the base of the first toe. With a shoe thus made there is absolutely no danger of producing any of the deformities which are so very common at the present time.

## PIE THAT WEIGHED TONS.

A quaint old custom of baking huge pies to commemorate remarkable events still exists in Derby Dale, England. An enormous piece of such pastry has recently been made to celebrate the repeal of the corn laws. The "Repeal Pie" baked in 1846, probably the largest of these pies, measured seven feet in diameter and contained nearly half a ton of flour. A pie was baked in honor of Queen Victoria in 1837 weighing over two tons. It served to sixty thousand people.

Many thousands of artificial flowers decked the trees of Paris during the Czar's recent visit to that city.

GLASGOW ELECTION.

The recent municipal elections in the city of Glasgow, Scotland, resulted in the election of 40 candidates who are pledged to the single tax on land values. There are 77 aldermen, two of whom are appointed by the council. As will be seen the single tax candidates have a clear majority of 23. Mr. John Paul, writing to Henry George, says, "everybody admits it was a single tax victory. Three years ago there were not a dozen reliable men in council favorable to the single tax. He continues "Thus, to the single tax." He continues, "Thus we have converted to the single tax, the second city of the empire;" and from this citadel we can talk to the rest of the country. We feel absolutely sure of our ground, for our question has become the great public question here. A petition will now be presented to Parliament, asking for power to raise the revenue of the city by the taxation of land values only.

Hon. Jas. G. McGuire, present representative in Congress, from San Francisco, was again elected for his district by a popular verdict.

Judge McGuire is perhaps the most popular and respected man in California, and his statesmanlike conduct in Congress has endeared him to thousands everywhere. His work for the single tax is recognized wherever the English language is spoken.

Mr. Thomas Cooper writing to The National Single Taxer, says: "The Parliament of New South Wales, meeting in September, has passed a very important measure, which permits municipal local option in matters of taxation. The Province of Ontario! Oh! how slow it is to adopt any progressive legislation.

When a man remarks after a fifteen minutes' "single tax" address, "I have listened to what has been said and I cannot see anything in the theory," or, "I have heard several single tax men try to explain how it would abolish poverty, but they have failed to make it clear to me," it is time to inform that man that after a three years' university term with our best professors teaching political economy some of the students get plucked. The single tax theory and political economy are the same thing. To understand single tax is to understand political economy. What professors of political economy have failed to impart to students in three years, surely single taxers can be excused if they fail to make the single tax clear to a man in a fifteen minutes' discourse.

Would it not be better to give the unemployed the unused land on which to raise food, rather than half starve them with charity? Idle land always means idle men.—G.W.

Glasgow, "the second city of the Empire," has just done what no other city in the world has yet been able to accomplish. It has secured in the recent municipal elections for aldermen, forty-seven successful candidates out of a total of seventy-seven necessary to elect, who are pledged to vote and support in council the abolition of all taxes on the products of industry and the substitution of a single tax on land values only.

The campaign from the beginning to the close was an aggressive one. The main issue was the Single Tax, and the victory was won on that ground. The Single Taxers in the Council have a clear majority of twenty-three over all. The first step necessary to adopt the above program will be to secure the required power from Parliament, which will be done without delay. The probable result of this demand is difficult to foretell, for the House of Landlords usually manage to stave off any reforms that interfere with their "interests."

Mr. Edward McHugh, of Birkenhead, England, who is in New York for the purpose of organizing a union among the longshoremen, addressed the Manhattan Club the other night, in which he related an incident of Mr. George's visit to England some years ago. Rev. Sam Small, a former partner of the Rev. Sam Jones, well known in this vicinity, wrote a book on "Land Nationalization." The friends of Mr. George drew his attention to it and urged him to make a public reply. Mr. George agreed, and at a large public meeting, held in Liverpool, made it the subject of an address. Sam Small and his work fared badly at the hands of Mr. George, and at the close of the address there was little of the left—that is, Mr. George's hands. But it was observed that the audience Mr. George faced was particularly cold and unappreciative as he mounted the lecture platform, and no one but the chairman accompanied him. When he had finished his speech it took the audience just one hour and thirty minutes to get through shaking hands with the speaker.



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After experiments extending over two years, Joseph J. Feely of Walpole, Mass., has succeeded in installing an electric plant run by a windmill, by means of which his house, stables, and grounds are lighted by electricity. It is said to be the first and only really successful windmill electric lighting plant constructed at a reasonable cost.

In the development of this plant the main obstacle, from an electrical point of view, was the variability of the wind and the resulting erratic fluctuations of the electric pressures, which rendered their utilization impossible, and also subjected the ordinary mechanical connections to excessive and fatal strains. To overcome this, there were devised a self-regulating constant voltage dynamo and a so-called speed equalizer. The windmill shaft is connected with the speed equalizer, which has means for mechanically storing energy and for overcoming the frequent temporary subsidings of the wind. The wind power, after having been converted into electric energy, is conveyed to a system of storage batteries, from which in turn the electric service is drawn. An ingenious controlling device prevents the reaction of the storage batteries upon the dynamo and a resulting fatal reversal of the whole process.

The owner, Mr. Feely, has tabulated wind statistics, both from the United States Weather Bureau and from continuous personal observations made under his direction, and finds that the actual wind available for his equipment is far in excess of the requirements of his own or other like residences, the storage capacity being ample to bridge him over any possible period of calm. This plant has been so nicely adjusted that it is possible to utilize a very much lower rate of wind speed than has ever been attempted before.

Another feature of this plant is that it could be duplicated for about seven or eight hundred dollars, and as it can be run for a dozen or fifteen years with practically no expense, other than for lubricants and occasional cleaning, it could be brought within the reach of a very large number of people. Mr. Feely's early experiments taught him that a plant of this kind could not be operated, even with the primary generating energy free of cost, if constant personal supervision was necessary, and this system has been so arranged that it is entirely automatic, and need not be looked after oftener than once or twice in a fortnight.

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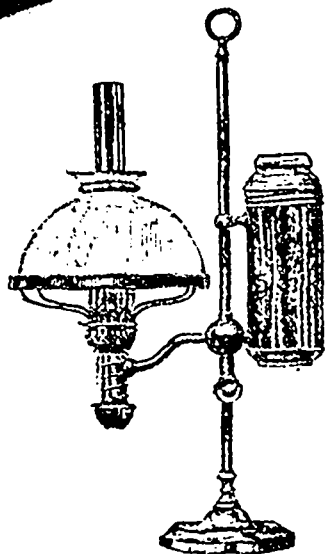
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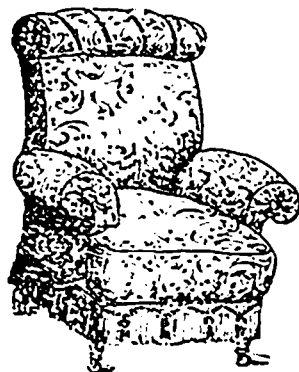
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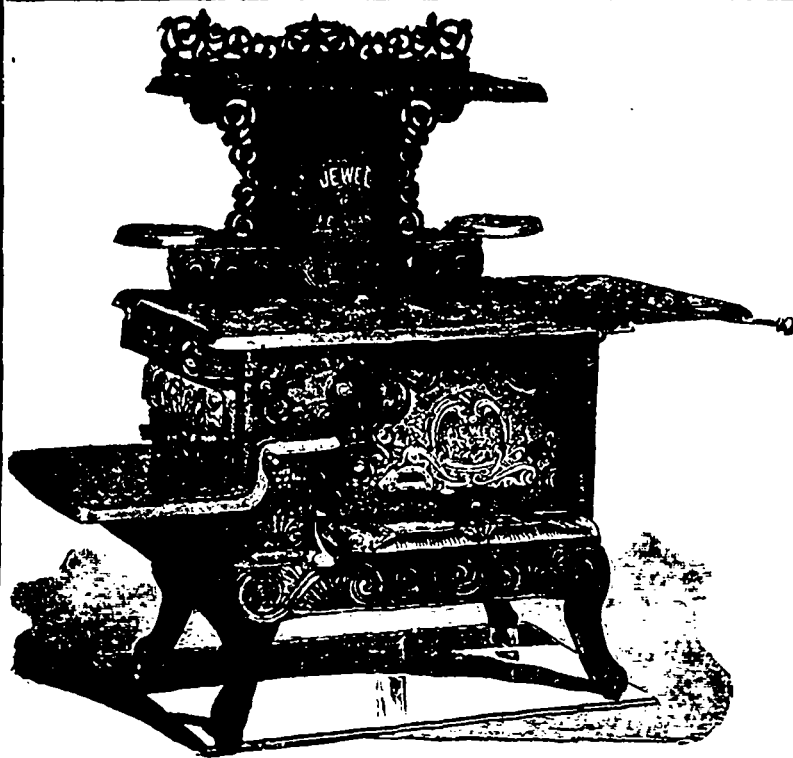
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