

other property, to rob any government treasury, as in cases of graft, or to rob the community of its land or other property. All of these constitute stealing.

Why should any clergyman disagree with these beliefs?

(11) I believe that human law cannot consecrate a crime; that to enact any State law or constitution which provides for robbing God's children of the land which their Creator made for them is to commit a crime against God and humanity

Let my clerical friend "get down to brass tacks" and tell me why he disbelieves in that.

(12) I believe that God created this earth for the use of His children; that they are the rightful owners; that those who possess the land should pay the children for the use of it, in strict agreement with natural and divine law.

How much of that does my friend disbelieve?

I have some other beliefs which may later be noted if a more complete confession of faith be deemed desirable. In general I believe we should fight all obstacles to the redemption of mankind, whether found in the pulpit, the law books, or elsewhere.

ECHOES FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

(For the Review)

By **BENJ. F. LINDAS**

THE SON OF HENRY GEORGE

One sunny afternoon, a short while since, I called to see Henry George, Jr., at his pretty home on Euclid street. He was on the front porch and a book was beside him on the railing. He was at that time very ill and unable to get about without assistance. But his eyes were bright, his voice firm, and his brain clear and active. For half an hour he talked to me with that lightness of touch and delicate humor that made him such a lovable personality. And he talked of the things that occupied all his thoughts; of the great cause for which his father had lived and died. He talked of the great souls, with whom he had come in contact; of Tom Johnson; of the splendid young men who used to gather at Mr. Johnson's home; of Joseph Fels—and he laughed as he told me how Joe Fels would make many men contribute to the movement even when they did not believe in it. He told of his own travels, of how he stumped England to help the liberals of the "Tight Little Isle," and then before I left him he retold the story of how his father had suddenly stopped him one day as they were crossing a street, and said: "I

am willing that I should die now, for there are so many who have seen the light and who will see that the good work goes on."

I think those words of his father expressed his thoughts, and he was contented and happy. His tired body is now at rest, but I am confident that he passed into the shadows with a firm conviction that the great work to which he had dedicated his life will go on and on, until it ushers in a reign of peace and justice for all mankind.

SINGLE TAX LEAGUE, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Fontenelle says, "A man finds no sweeter voice in the world than that which chants his praises." This may be the real reason for our thinking that the new Single Tax Association just organized at Washington, is going to be one of the most active organizations of its kind anywhere. It was organized at the Public Library under the most auspicious circumstances. Some of the best known Single Taxers in the country, if not in the world, were there to aid us; such as Louis F. Post, Mrs. Mary Fels, Congressman Bailey, H. Martin Williams and a host of others.

A plan of campaign was mapped out which includes High School contests, public debates, the free distribution of Single Tax literature, and lecture work in all the surrounding towns in Virginia and Maryland.

The intention is now to secure a permanent headquarters and to make it a rallying place for all the liberals who happen to be in the National Capital.

The following officers have been elected for the ensuing year: President, Charles S. Davis; Vice-President, Benj. F. Lindas; Secretary, Sid Evans; Treasurer, Harriet Hifton King.

We want every Single Taxer when he comes to Washington to look us up, or should any one of them be in need of any information that can be dug up from the Government records, to write us.

OPPRESSED AND DEPENDENT NATIONALITIES

As a climax to the splendid convention of the Women's Peace Party in Washington the first week in December, was held what was called the "Conference of Oppressed or Dependent Nationalities." It consisted of a series of public meetings in which intelligent representatives from practically every subjugated race of people in the world, stated the condition of their country and voiced the hope that at some time they might again gather the broken threads of their National existence.

It was really pitiful to listen to the seemingly endless story of disaster that had overtaken races which still number millions. As one sat there while the Albanians, the Armenians, the Croatians, the Letts, the Ukrainians, the Slovaks, the Finns, and a dozen other obliterated nations told of the merciless oppression that had made them almost forgotten names, one great, underlying cause became vividly apparent. It was not the desire of one race to destroy another race that brought about these conditions; it was

the desire of one race to annex the lands of the other. This had been the cause of the conquest. Either the people were driven from their homes while the land fell into the hands of the nobles or influential men of the conquering country or the conquering nation itself played the landlord, taxed the people to a condition of starvation, and gave no return for the money or the wealth they received.

The question at the root of the question of "Oppressed and Dependent Nationalities," as at the bottom of every other question affecting human welfare, is a land question.

THE HIGH COST OF LIVING

The chief arguments for the adoption of Single Tax may be summed up as follows: With increasing wealth there comes increasing poverty for the great mass of the people; there is enough produced on the earth to keep everyone in comfort; the people's representatives spend their time on mere surface reforms; the basic cause of the unjust distribution of wealth is the speculation in land and the withholding of it from the people who wish to use it.

Within the past month, through official reports and statements, every one of the above assertions has been substantiated.

The well-nigh universal protest against rising prices; the meat boycotts by housekeepers; the demands for food embargoes, establish beyond question the fact that everyone in moderate circumstances is feeling the pinch of hard times. Is this the result of a natural shortage? Read these reports:

Secretary of Commerce Redfield says, "We are the wealthiest nation in the world and the most prosperous one. We have not wasted our men or means in war. Nations less wealthy than some of our individual States bear a heavier burden of debt and interest than we. We are the only one of the great industrial nations of the world at peace. None of us in our wildest financial dreams five years ago, would have dreamed that things could be as they now are."

Secretary of Agriculture Houston reports, "The production of food in the United States has held its own in some branches of production and increased in others. The situation gives reason for the brightest optimism, it being indicated that the U. S. can not only supply its own food needs, but can feed a large proportion of the outside world."

To supplement this comes a booklet on Poultry Management from the Department of Agriculture in which it is stated that even with the prevailing high price of grain eggs can be produced at a total cost of from 12 to 15 cents a dozen.

We may set our minds at ease on one point—present conditions do not prove the truth of the doctrine of Malthus.

SUGGESTED REMEDY

The National Chamber of Commerce Committee to investigate the high cost of living, reports that the use of the Parcel Post and the elimination of the middleman is the most effective remedy.

The Post Office Department takes the same stand. First Asst. Postmaster General Koons says, "We believe it to be the real practical solution of the high cost of living, and we are going to put it within the reach of everyone."

Improved railway facilities that bring the farmer to the door of the city; labor-saving devices that enable articles to be produced at but a fraction of the former cost; the thousand and one schemes for increasing the efficiency of the workers, have never yet inured to the benefit of the mass of the people. Then why expect any real benefit from what are simply other labor-saving devices?

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An Association known as the Housekeepers' Alliance met a short while ago in Washington and their contribution to the question of the hour was a resolution urging President Wilson to probe household economy (a rather stupendous task!) and urging all housewives to eliminate waste in their homes.

To these findings of the Alliance might be annexed this gem of real constructive statesmanship from Champ Clark. To those who delight in plumbing the debts of philosophic thought I commend the following:

"There may or may not be a chance for Mr. Fitzgerald's proposed embargo bill. It might do some good. I don't know. There are direct ways in which the consumer can help to lower the cost of food. Every one should keep some hens. Mush is highly nutritious and is not eaten enough. Rice is too generally overlooked. I was surprised to hear that five cents' worth of rice will serve as a substitute for bread for an entire day for a family of six."

This is a solution undoubtedly; the Chinese solution. Anyone can try it. But I don't think many self-respecting Americans wish to place themselves on the same plane with a Chinese coolie.

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A. P. Thom, counsel for the railroads before the Newlands Congressional railroad investigation committee, added his mite in the following:

"Why not inquire about opening up our vast resources with railroads and thus help to solve the greatest problem that confronts the poor man? For some strange reason we have stopped the building of railroads into untouched country."

Building of railroads into untouched country would not help the poor man. There is plenty of untouched country now alongside the railroads, millions of acres of it. Why don't the poor man get some of that? What better chance would he have for getting the other?

THE REAL REMEDY

Dr. John Noland, of Cambridge, before the American Civic Association stated:

"The cost of homes must be substantially reduced or the standard of healthful living must be lowered. I believe the solution lies in recognizing that the subject is primarily one for the right application of broad economic principles."

In a speech to a Conference on Social Insurance, President Wilson said, "We are studying the people, whom long ago we ought to have served better than we have served them, and as we get in closer and closer touch with the daily lives of men and women we know how to counsel better."

In another address, this time before the National Grange convention, the President said:

"But in the future we have got to bring more of the area of the United States under cultivation than is under cultivation now. We have got to increase the produce at every point where it is susceptible of being increased."

That is the goal—reduce the cost of homes; bring the area of the U. S. into cultivation. How is it to be accomplished?

The report of J. T. Robinson, Commissioner of the General Land Office of Texas, furnished the answer:

"Texas is Mexicanized with large land holdings by individuals, firms, corporations and estates of deceased persons. The Federal census of 1916 shows that tenants increased in Texas from 37.6 per cent. of all farmers in 1890 to 52.6 per cent. of all farmers in 1910." Then he urges a heavy tax on unused land; a graduated super tax on land holdings of more than a certain acreage and a specific inheritance land value tax on land inheritance of more than a certain acreage.

The only remedy, therefore, for the high cost of living is a Single Tax on land values, heavy enough to discourage speculation and to force land into use. Do this and we would not have to watch every crumb that falls from the table; we would not have to eliminate the middleman; we would not have to live on mush three times a day, but we could all live in comfort according to the standard of living of intelligent, industrious freemen.

ARMY OATH "BONDAGE"

For some time now a Senate subcommittee has been hearing witnesses on pending compulsory service bills. Considerable opposition has been made to the bills, but none so effective as that from an officer of the regular army itself, Major W. G. Harlee, of the U. S. Marine Corps. Said Major Harlee:

"I have learned as a recruiting officer that the military caste, the most orthodox caste in the country and the fixed obligations of the enlistment oath are the chief factors that deter men from enlisting. The oath of

enlistment is an oath of bondage. It brands the man who takes it as of a lower caste. You could exhaust the possibilities of useful training in a month. After that you would be merely teaching them to salute and do routine drills that are unnecessary. Caste is fostered by the idle barrack life."

Major Harlee is a Single Taxer and a good one, so his views on the military system and his courage in stating them can be understood.

THE REFORM WORK OF FREDERICK F. INGRAM

(For the Review)

By **JUDSON GRENELL**

(See frontispiece)

Some years ago Detroit, Mich., had a voluntary association entitled "The Progressive Alliance." Frederick F. Ingram was president and Isaac N. Payne was secretary. The office was in the Whitney block and thither those with progressive tendencies gravitated to give what aid they could in the work of educating the people in (1) direct legislation, (2) home rule, (3) efficient non-partizan civil service, and (4) the public ownership of public utilities.

Mr. Ingram was head and front of this organization, which had no constitution or by-laws, no board of directors and no dues. In these respects it was particularly anarchistic—a voluntary association to which no one was tied and which tied no one to it.

A series of tracts were printed and circulated by tens of thousands, most of them written by Mr. Ingram himself. While the Alliance did a great work in making familiar the particular subjects on which it expended its energies, it did a still greater work immediately preceeding the calling of the Michigan Constitutional Convention, by obtaining the signatures of a majority of members elect pledging the subscribers' support to the initiative and referendum, and usually in most specific and satisfactory language.

Mr. Ingram was a member of the convention, and after the fight for the initiative became hot, he let the rumor circulate that he had these letters on file in his desk. The result was that one morning the desk was found broken open and the drawers rifled.

"It was fortunate that every night I took my file letters to my room," Mr. Ingram told me, "otherwise I might have lost these letters with their important signatures."

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I found Mr. Ingram one of the best, if not the best, informed manufacturer and employer of labor in Detroit on economic problems. No phase