

Rhoades and Clarence H. Kelsey, as the committee on taxation of the chamber, the committee declares that it—

is no less satisfied now than it was in January that the local option and apportionment plan is the only one by which a just balance of taxation can be secured for the several political divisions of the state.

A Chicago paper, protection of course, boasts of American commerce by comparing it with that of Germany and Great Britain for the year ending December last. The comparison is made in the following table:

	Imports.	Exports.
United Kingdom.....	\$2,548,262,360	\$1,418,347,781
United States	829,019,337	1,453,013,659
Germany	1,322,580,000	1,050,611,000

Germany and the United Kingdom here appear to have a somewhat larger aggregate commerce than the United States; but the excess, proudly observes the paper from which we quote, "is due solely to their greater imports." That is as if a merchant should explain that he had as good a trade as his rivals, and that the fact that theirs appeared to be bigger was "due solely to their greater receipts" from sales. If it is profitable for the United States to import so much less than it exports, then it would be more profitable if it imported nothing. Were that the case, we should have this table:

	Imports.	Exports.
United Kingdom.....	\$2,548,262,360	\$1,418,347,781
United States	0,000,000,000	1,453,013,659
Germany	1,322,580,000	1,050,611,000

But if that were indeed the situation perpetually—all outgo and no income for the United States—would this Chicago paper be boastful? If not, why not? What is the difference between exporting without importing at all, and exporting more than you import? Is it anything but a difference in degree?

The conscience of a Philadelphia woman who owned some Northern Pacific stock which she sold at a heavy advance during the Wall street storm, troubled her so that she returned the profit to her brokers, refusing herself to benefit by it. If this satisfies her conscience it must be harder than her head. That profit, like

nearly all the profits of our complex civilization, is more surely her property than anybody else's. She cannot get it to the persons who are impoverished by her fortune. They cannot possibly be identified. The money therefore is hers, quite as much as if she had found it and no owner could be discovered; and she no more rids herself of responsibility for the evil it represents by returning it to her broker, than she would by spending it for a trip to Europe. Whatever she does with it, she does necessarily not by way of restoration but by way of expenditure. There is but one thing the beneficiaries of inequitable industrial conditions can do to escape the sin of them. It is not to refuse to benefit by them. That at the best is only charity. You get money that you regard as foul and give it away; or you could get it, and you refuse to take it. In either case you divert the foul money from yourself to others who have no more right to it than you have. And this you do as its owner, as the person, that is, who directs its expenditure. You can't help yourself. But if you really think the source of the money is foul, you can avoid responsibility by using all your influence to purify the source. There is nothing else you can do. That is the only possible way in which an individual can repent of social sin.

JAMES A. HERNE.

In the death of James A. Herne, the drama does not suffer alone.

Mr. Herne was an accomplished actor. He had few superiors in any line of the player's work that he engaged in, and in some respects he was without an equal. To the accomplishments of a skilled player, he brought also the genius of a great play writer. If a greater constructor of American plays out of American material has yet appeared, his claims to superiority have not been recognized.

But Mr. Herne was more than a great playwright and skillful actor. He was an intelligent and conscientious student of sociological and political subjects and an eloquent orator

who had serious things to say. Though he modestly cherished his honorable reputation as an actor, and was justly proud of his truly remarkable achievements as a dramatic author, yet if he himself had chosen his chief title to immortality in the memory of his brethren, he would doubtless have turned to another phase of his life. He would have named his part in that most genuinely radical and rapidly advancing movement for industrial order and consequent social regeneration to which Henry George gave his work and name.

The very first of his profession to be deeply stirred by George's clarion call, Mr. Herne became a devoted disciple of this "prophet of San Francisco" nearly two decades ago, and so remained during all the years until his death. This devotion, coupled with unusual charms of oratory, made him a welcome guest in many pulpits where the spirit of the Nazarene lingers, and did much not only to promote the cause he pleaded for, but also to break down the barriers between wholesome play-acting and true religion. The fame of an actor can hardly survive the generation that knew him. A playwright's work may somewhat longer keep his memory green. But when Herne the player and Herne the author shall have been forgotten, this modest, sincere, able, useful and lovable man of the theater will be affectionately remembered as a companion and coworker of Henry George.

NEWS

Owing to the supreme court decisions reported last week, intimations were for several days thrown out from Washington that a special session of congress might be called to legislate with reference to the Philippines. Mr. Root, the secretary of war, was reported to be an advocate of a special session, while Mr. Knox, the attorney general, opposed it. In the De Lima case it had been decided that ceded territory ceases to be foreign immediately upon the ratification of the treaty of cession, and that thereupon the general tariff act imposing duties upon foreign imports no longer operates between that territory and the United States proper. This be-