

off? He is not without some comfort, however, for he can do as he pleases—till he gets another job. But what of the successful manufacturer? When the demand for his product was ahead of his capacity he practiced philanthropy; when his capacity exceeded his orders he fell back upon business principles. That his spectacular plunge would end thus, was evident to all who realize that society is controlled by natural law, and not by individual whim. A powerful man, falling into the water, may make a great momentary splashing, but if he knows not how to swim he will drown the same as a weakling.



Had our successful manufacturer's head been equal to his heart, he would have seen that his benevolence was possible only with men making equal profits. It is financially impossible for the average business man, under present conditions, to follow his example. It is not that the minimum wage of five dollars is extravagant, but that the burden of privilege laid upon business crushes all but the exceptional, and keeps the profits of the successful close to the margin. Philanthropy may or may not induce others to follow its example of liberal pay to its workingmen; at best only exceptionally favored ones can imitate it. But the removal of monopoly from the business world, and the freeing of the natural bounties of nature will so stimulate industry that wages will rise far above the minimum of five dollars a day. And the wage then received by laborer will be his by right, and not by charity, and he will be free to repel any encroachment upon his individuality.

S C.



### Possibly Innocent Men May Be Punished.

If it is true that it is better that ninety-nine guilty men escape than that one innocent man suffer, then there seems no question but that a pardon should be granted by the President to Frank M. Ryan and other iron workers convicted in 1912 of conspiracy and now refused a new trial. It may be that nothing occurred during their trial that—from a lawyer's point of view—would justify setting aside the verdict. But there were some questionable happenings, nevertheless. One of these was the unusual haste in hurrying the prisoners to the penitentiary before their application for a stay of sentence could be heard. The promptness with which a special train was furnished to take them from Indianapolis to Leavenworth may have been but a coincidence, but had it not occurred there would be less cause to doubt

the fairness of the trial. There seems to be nothing in these circumstances to justify a new trial if one takes the strictly legal view which a court usually takes. But there is much in them to make one feel that the desire to get the men behind the bars was not altogether due to zeal in behalf of justice. If the men are guilty such methods need not have been used to secure their punishment. The fact that they were resorted to makes the fairness of their trial doubtful. The refusal of a new trial prevents clearing away of that doubt. If compelled to serve their sentences the possibility is great that innocent men may be penalized. Only a pardon can now prevent that possibility. S. D.

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## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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### LAND MONOPOLY IN CALIFORNIA.

Los Banos, Calif., May 7.

On last Friday, May 1, I addressed a farmers' meeting at Ceres, a town of about 250 population in the heart of the Turlock Irrigation District. They are getting petitions signed asking the directors of the irrigation district to call an election so that the Turlock District may adopt the land value system of taxation—the same as is in use in the Modesto and Oakdale Districts. They postponed their meeting so I could be there on the 1st. About 125 farmers were present. They favor exempting improvements from taxation. Even those who asked questions said they favored putting all of the tax on the value of the land. From Ceres I went to Fresno. John H. Meyers is located there. Through him I got a meeting of friends of our movement and organized a Home Rule in Taxation League—Fresno Branch. Ernest Klette was elected president.

I am returning to San Francisco on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley. Land monopoly has run rampant here. Miller & Lux, a cattle and wholesale butchering firm of San Francisco, own 533,000 acres of land in three counties—Merced, Madera and Fresno. I stopped over in Firebaugh, then in Dos Palos and this night in Los Banos. In these towns Miller & Lux monopolize everything—butcher shops, banks, lumber yards, general merchandise stores that deal in almost every kind of goods and supplies, town water works and many other businesses. I was told by one of their vaqueros or cowboys that all the employes are paid \$30 per month and have to work 60 days in a month.

In order to keep a supply of hobos or cheap laborers in the country Miller & Lux have maintained what is called the "Dirty Plate Route" for many years. They feed all the weary walkers who come to their ranches on the leavings of the different meals. These poor fellows must eat off the dirty plates. The "Dirty Plate" is the symbol and sign of the land monopolists' slave. The lands of Miller & Lux extend for about 65 miles, in this valley from Mendota to Newman. Their ranch houses and "camps" are many miles apart, so, if they did not keep up the "Dirty Plate Route," cheap laborers would never come near them.

In traveling on the railroad yesterday and today from Firebaugh to Los Banos I saw many thousands of cattle and more thousands of sheep, but outside of the railroad station I did not see five human beings in the 26 miles on the railroad. Through this territory there are probably over 200,000 acres of as fertile land as can be found in California. If cut up in small tracts it would support not less than 20,000 farmers and their families, and many large towns in addition. But Miller & Lux do not want to develop the country. They employ unmarried men, and pay them such small wages that they never can get married. One of the company officials even said to me that the men could not support wives on the wages they are paid. He said the pay ranged from \$30 to \$35 per month with board and lodging. But such "board!" A bunk in a shanty about 15x20 feet with anywhere from 5 to 40 other men. And the "board!" One of their employes told me it is "mul-ligan," composed of "lump jaw and macaroni." He said Miller & Lux pay a winter wage and a summer wage. The official I spoke to justified this on the ground that there are more men out of work in the winter and the work is not so hard as in the summer, so they pay \$1.10 in summer and \$1.00 in winter for 26 days in a month. The official said that on many of the "divisions" of their ranches the pay roll changes completely each month.

With such a condition existing you can understand why the people in the towns about here see in our Home Rule in Taxation constitutional amendment the salvation of the country. They realize that the only way this land monopoly can be broken up is by taking the burden of taxation off industry and putting it upon land value.

EDWARD P. E. TROY.

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## INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

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### ADVICE TO SINGLETAXERS.

New York City, May 11.

I think I have read as much Singletax literature as anybody, but I have recently re-read Dove's "Theory of Human Progression" with renewed interest and got valuable ideas from it. I urge our well-read Singletaxers to be sure that they are familiar with Dove's presentation of the doctrine from his own original and special point of view, and accordingly to take advantage of Mr. L. J. Quinby's generous offer to send a copy of Miss Kellogg's admirable abridgment of it, together with the clever skit "Shovelcrats," for postage only, twelve cents. If every good Singletaxer would give as generously as Mr. Quinby gives in proportion to his means we should hardly need a Joseph Fels Fund.

BOLTON HALL.



### FUNCTIONS OF THE BREADLINE.

Westover, Md., May 11.

In answer to inquiries requesting information as to the functions fulfilled by the breadline\* as a New York City institution, it may be said:

Among the more important uses of a breadline is the insurance it gives against bread riots. The bread

line is the American version of the panem et circenses [bread and circuses] of that period of Roman history corresponding to the present period of our own.

Were there no Rockefeller and no Grace Church, and the interests of which these are typical, there would be no bread line. While Rockefeller is trimming roses in Colorado, Grace Church is chiming the hours, and the bread line is only a natural result. Both are unconscious of the volcanoes gathering; or, if vague rumblings annoy, diversions, such as Mexican war, are arranged to do by wholesale and in short order such social surgery as may relieve the pressure for a time.

The text thunders with possibilities of exegesis, but—what is the 'use'?

WESTERN STARR.

\*See Public of May 13 at page 413.

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## NEWS NARRATIVE

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The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of The Public for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, May 19, 1914.

### The New British Budget.

The London Daily News & Leader's fuller text of the 1914-15 budget emphasizes the importance of the new revenue measure. The amounts are unprecedented, and the boldness with which the Chancellor meets the new requirements is not a whit less than when he introduced the epoch-making budget of 1909. The new budget involves a finance bill, a revenue bill, an education bill, an insurance bill, a rating, or local taxation bill, and possibly other supplementary measures to complete the Government's comprehensive scheme.



During the three-hour speech in which Chancellor Lloyd George presented the budget to the House of Commons, he dwelt upon the new points involved, and upon old ones enlarged. The readjustment of the relations between local and imperial taxation received careful attention. For forty years, he said, Parliament had been casting new functions of a costly character upon local authorities without making provision to meet their financial liabilities. This resulted in making good statutes dead letters. The acts dealing with housing were instanced. "I am told," said the Chancellor, "that five millions of people in this country are living in slums with very disastrous effects on the future of the race." The local authorities are given the right to clear out the slums, but not the means. "When we are contemplating large projects of cleansing this country from the pollution of slums," the Chancellor