

So They Passed a Law

* THE September twenty-sixth address of the Archbishop of Canterbury was printed in the Congressional Record at the request of Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York, who is evidently in sympathy with the views expressed by the distinguished prelate. One paragraph of the speech reads as follows:

There are four requisites for life which are provided by nature, even apart from man's labor: air, light, land and water. I suppose if it were possible to establish a property claim upon air, somebody would have done it by now, and would have made people pay if they wanted to breathe what he would then call his air. So, too, of light. But it has not been found possible to do this.

It is usually necessary to explain to Archbishops and Senators and other recruits who join the grizzled and dust-brown ranks of the land reformers, that light and air are simply part of the land; for who would purchase or rent a tract of land where there was no sunshine or air, or where sul-

phur and iron heated together would as likely yield acetic acid as ferrous sulphite, or where cows might perchance breed cobras?

Man's position in nature is such that only by access to land can he make contact with the substances, laws and forces of nature, vital or biological as well as inorganic, which are an absolute necessity to his existence. As no man can create the smallest part of life, energy or matter, unless he makes something out of nothing, these natural agents can be the property of nobody but the Almighty. In their totality they constitute the mechanism of the universe.

Men have certain rights in the earth, but unless we consult something besides law books in determining precisely what those rights are, we shall go on forever butchering one another by the millions.

For a long time the law said that the earth was flat, but the earth perversely and with malice aforethought persisted in being round, so the politicians passed a new law.

—HENRY S. FORD