

HOW delicate are the economic relations of mankind. A land boom in some Southern or Western State, thrusting back the labor and capital that otherwise would be busy producing, determines the amount of actual wages received by the clerk that bends above his books, the clothing cutter on the east side of New York, the cash girl in the department store, the hard worked physician in the great city, the million or more workers in occupations in which men and women are engaged. The economic world is a complex network in which the interests of all are interlocked.

THE first thing to do is to make men free. State-owned grain elevators, municipally owned-transit systems, co-operative buying and selling, collective bargaining, tax reform, will not do this. Only by making the earth free can man be made free. The land question is not the only question, but it is the first and basic question.

PERHAPS most men thoroughly misconceive the nature of economic society and their purpose in it. We speak of "getting a living." But we do not think of it as an effort to share in the product of the natural co-operation which is the only purpose of economic society. We work, and we conceive that the primary purpose is to enable us to draw our wages Saturday night. But, of course, the main purpose served is that we have contributed that quota to production, and got from it that much sustenance to enable us to continue our contribution.

How necessary, therefore, it is that in this work there should be not only no drones, but no toll-takers. How clear it is that if there is any leak in the machinery the whole operation is vitiated, that if men stand at the machinery abstracting, not contributing, the total product of economic society must tend to lessen, a continual inequality of ownership and distribution set in, and results be as we find them.

Away with the drones and the toll-takers!

Death of Major-General Gorgas

MAJOR-GENERAL WILLIAM CRAWFORD GORGAS, former Surgeon-General of the United States Army, died July 4, in London. He was born in Mobile, Alabama, in 1854. In 1880 he was appointed Surgeon, and successively rose to Captain Assistant Surgeon, Brigade Surgeon, and Colonel Assistant Surgeon, when he helped clean up the yellow fever in Havana, until he was made Surgeon-General. He was chief sanitary officer at Panama. He supervised campaigns against the yellow fever-breeding mosquito in Central America and Peru.

He directed the sanitary forces of the American army in France during the world war. He was made a Commander of the Legion of Honor and knighted by King George of England for his eminent services to scientific sanitation.

Above all, and of chief interest to us, this great man saw what we see. He drew his inspiration from Henry George.

He saw that wholesome sanitation, absence of disease and length of life, depended upon a high wage scale. He saw how wages could be increased, and in and out of office he preached the great truth. His modest courage in making open avowal of his convictions should have been a lesson to those who, holding public office, remained strangely silent. He was a member of the Single Tax Party and a contributor to its activities. He would probably have been the candidate of that party for President had not death put an end to a most useful career.

Somewhere Herbert, we think—we have not his poems beside us—said, in that quaint fashion that was all his own:

"Who sweeps a room as by God's law
Makes that and the action fine."

General Gorgas did his work in that spirit, whether the task set him was humble or lofty. To have cleaned up and made healthy and habitable the pest spots of the earth, is no small achievement. But higher than the achievement itself was the spirit in which the work was performed, his recognition of the laws that make for health and happiness, and his courageous insistence upon the fundamental truth which Single Tax men proclaim.

Henry George Advised His Followers

THE advocates of a great principle should know no thought of compromise. They should proclaim it in all its fullness, and should point to its complete attainment as their goal. Let the time servers, the demagogues, the compromisers, those to whom nothing is right, and nothing is wrong—let them all go their ways. Any cause that may lay hold of a great principle is stronger without them."

Away, apologists, away!
Let fools and cowards make delay,
And choose their texts beyond the moon—
Men cannot right their wrongs too soon.
The landless for their birthright cry,
Brothers their brothers rights deny;
Speak now, for they have waited long,
Say who is right and who is wrong,
Proclaim the truth from every steeple—
God made the land for all the people.

ROBERT CUMMING.

THE *New York Times* of recent date contained an article entitled "Belshazzar as Landlord. Babylonian of Biblical Fame Revealed as Profiteer in Documents Deciphered at Yale." Well, we at least know the fate that befell him. It appears, too, that they had a high tariff in Babylon since there is a record of payment of duty on imported barley.

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