

larger clump of pipes for another year.
—Mrs. S. E. Jelliffe, in *The Outlook*.

THE SINGLE TAX IN A NUT SHELL.

The people have achieved, and still possess, political equality. By virtue of that political equality they may, when they will, establish their social equality and industrial freedom. They have not yet used their political sovereignty to that end. They have heretofore used their political power to establish and maintain the institutions of aristocracy, and those institutions have, of course, brought the same evils and miseries to the people of this country that they had previously brought to the masses of the people in the monarchical countries of Europe.

Indeed, it is simply foolish to imagine that the institutions of aristocracy will operate more favorably to the people in a democracy than they would under a monarchical or an aristocratic government. It is the institution that crushes—not the method by which it is sustained. It does not matter whether an evil institution is sustained by the votes of a class, as in Europe, or by the votes of the people, as in this country.

Henry George has pointed out the plain, simple, moral and efficient means by which the blighting curse of landlordism can be removed from the new state of Washington and from every state in the union.

The cause of land monopoly in this country—in every country—is the desire that men have to enrich themselves by appropriating the unearned increment which attaches to land in every community with, and in proportion to, the growth of its population, industry, enterprise and virtues. This increment, being produced by the whole people, and not by the owners of the land to which it attaches, belongs, of natural right, to the whole people, who produce it. If taken by the whole people for public use, by the perfectly legitimate, moral and proper exercise of the power of taxation, the incentive to land speculation would be at once destroyed. Speculation in land would be instantly stopped. No man would hold land except for actual use and improvement. All such holdings would be speedily reduced to the reasonable requirement of each occupier, measured by his capacity and the character of his business. All this would be determined, not by arbitrary legal limitations, but by the intelligent self interest of the occupier himself.

Land not so used would be opened to the millions of landless American

citizens for their independent homes and industries. The people restored, under natural conditions, to their natural element, would, like Anteus of old, instantly derive new strength and vigor from it. The lives of millions of noble men and women that are now, throughout our land, wasting and perishing under the restraining blight of exclusion from the land, would burgeon and blossom like flowering plants from which great rocks have been rolled away. The crushing competition of the helpless surplus of labor would disappear from the labor markets; involuntary idleness would be a thing of the past; the recruiting office of the army of pauperism would be closed forever; the vices and crimes that spring from hopeless penury would be no more; the insanity that comes from the awful agony of the fear of want would cease to afflict our people; the independent dwellings of the poor that would illumine our land would be truly "homes of domestic affection," fostering the virtues of honor and industry, and the noble army of oppressed womanhood, now crushed to an un-American serfdom, would be translated from the sweatshops and other slave pens to become,

Blessings of good men's lives,
Thrifty and sober wives,
Mothers of heroes, the charm and the
pride of our land.

The effect of so simple a change in our fiscal system as the adoption of the single tax would thus produce a marvelous revolution in social and industrial conditions, and present to mankind such an example of universal and uninterrupted prosperity and happiness as would make all the nations of the world pure democracies within a decade.

All this would be but the application of a plainly written law of God to the affairs of men; but carrying the principles of pure democracy to their logical conclusion; but executing the promise of the American declaration of independence, which holds "that all men are created equal, and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."—Hon. Jas. G. Maguire, in *The Seattle Daily Times*.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF WATERWORKS.

Cozily nestled among the New England hills is a little village, most of whose houses border on the four sides of one of those commons so often found in New and in Old England. On a hillside half a mile distant is a never-failing

spring, from which hollow logs convey clear, sparkling water to a little wooden tank on the common. Auger holes have been bored in the sides of this box to represent shares of stock, and from each of these holes a pipe extends to supply water to one of the houses scattered around the common. For nearly a century these shares of stock have been handed down from generation to generation. Only shareholders are supplied with water. No annual charges are made, the cost of slight occasional repairs being divided equally among the shareholders.

The difference between this primitive water supply and that of New York city is as immense as is that between the populations involved, yet the difference is more one of degree than of kind. In the great city every inhabitant must be a water consumer, and under municipal ownership he is in a sense a shareholder. In each case the plant is conducted solely for the benefit of those supplied, and not to make a profit on the capital invested. No one objects to cooperation in the case of the little community. Why should it be urged that the great city, in adopting virtually the same plan, is overstepping the proper limits of government and trespassing upon ground that should be reserved for private capital?—M. N. Baker, in *The Outlook*.

RUSSIA AND THE RUSSIANS.

Extracts from an article on "The Czar's People," by Julian Ralph, published in *Harper's Magazine* for June.

In a sentence, Russia is a huge farm, comprising a seventh of the land surface of the globe, and a twenty-sixth of its total area. It has half a dozen men to manage it—according to the policy of one of the six—and the people are divided into 10,000,000 of men and women of the more or less comfortable, more or less educated class, and 119,000,000 citizens, the mass of whom form the dullest, rudest, least ambitious peasantry in Europe. If one travels over Russia to spy out the land, he may go for days across it from west to east without breaking the continuous view of a flat disk, whose only variety lies between its farmed flatness and its waste flatness, its squat, shrinking, unkempt villages and its sandy districts wooded with thin birch or evergreens.

Everywhere it is new, rude and untidy.

Or he may start for the almost limitless forest that belts the north of Russia and Siberia and travel for a greater number of days over a precisely similar flat and tiresome reach of farmland, everywhere slovenly and unkempt, and varied again by sparse woods and