

depend upon the intelligence with which it has been exercised. To know that a law has been enacted in Dublin rather than in London will stimulate the pride of the Irishman; but if that enactment be not in conformity with the laws of nature, no permanent good will result. In other words, it is not the source from which the law springs, but the nature of the law itself, that is all important.



First and foremost among the problems that will confront the new parliament will be the land question. No country has felt more keenly the results of land monopoly; and in no country has the question been more widely debated; yet it is doubtful if the Irish are yet ready to deal with it intelligently. The very extremity to which the country has been reduced stands in the way of the right solution. Absentee landlordism was so glaring that many people looked upon it as a question of large holdings by absentee owners; and they took kindly to the peasant proprietary act. But as it makes little difference to the tenant whether his landlord spends his money at home or abroad; so it matters little whether the land be held by a few great landlords, or by many small landlords. Though the Irish landlords spend their money in London, poverty there is as bad as it is in Ireland. And though the French law compels the division of the land into small holdings, the lot of the tiller of the soil is no easier than that of the Irish peasant. The evils of landlordism lie not in the form but in the essence of private ownership. So long as any human being must pay another human being for the mere privilege of using the earth just so long will the evils of landlordism persist.



Ireland has a great opportunity. All other questions sink into insignificance in comparison with the land question. The eyes of the world are upon her. Is the universal sympathy that has been manifested for her during the long struggle for Home Rule, to end in disappointment, or is it to be rewarded by fruitful action? s. c.



Business Men at School.

"He stood and talked to us like a college professor lecturing a lot of raw undergraduates," reported one of the party of manufacturers that called on President Wilson to protest against so-called "hostile legislation." If President Wilson did talk so it was because the business men badly needed the instruction. Perhaps the attitude of

a college professor was inappropriate. That of a kindergarten teacher might be more effective in imparting information to grown men who have not yet grasped the idea that people in need of food, clothing and other things do not refrain from buying or making these things because of doubt concerning proposed legislation. Whatever depression exists may clearly be traced—not to any proposed laws—but to laws that have long been on the statute books. These are the laws that restrict and prevent access of labor to opportunities, and the laws that interfere with and hamper exchange of products. It is not fear of a proposed anti-trust law that keeps people in need of food from engaging in food production, but fear of an existing law that denies them the right to use of the earth. No pending law is preventing any one in need of clothing from buying it. What does prevent him is denial of a chance to produce wealth to exchange for clothing. Business men or other men, who have failed to take note of such evident facts, are surely incapable of giving advice of any value to the President concerning removal of business depressions. s. d.



Roosevelt and the Democratic Party.

In a public statement ex-President Roosevelt blames the administration for failure to solve the trust problem. He claims this would have been accomplished had measures advocated in the Progressive party's national platform been applied. Further he makes the following broad and unverified assertion. "It has been shown that the reduction of the tariff in no shape or way helps toward this solution." Colonel Roosevelt's position is vulnerable, but, nevertheless, Democratic partisans of the Underwood or Champ Clark type will probably be unable to make a satisfactory reply. The strength of Roosevelt's position lies in the unwillingness or inability of those whom he criticizes to take advanced democratic ground.



Solution of the Trust problem requires abolition of all privileges including tariffs and other taxes on labor. The amount of tariff reduction obtained through the Underwood law is ridiculously small in comparison with what a correct settlement of the tariff question requires. Colonel Roosevelt betrays an amazing lack of understanding of this question when he declares that so absurdly inadequate a reduction shows that "reduction of the tariff in no shape or way helps toward this solution." But since the Democratic party