

country who are still there, especially the growing-up children. More can be accomplished by working with the idea of "stay on the land" than by preachments of "back to the land." The first of improvements must be better schools. The movement for better roads must be fostered. The teaching of better methods of farming and of keeping farm accounts must be extended. Neighborhood co-operation must be encouraged. Schoolhouses and churches must be used for entertainment.

All these improvements must come if the country is not to be more and more depopulated. But back of all betterments, back of all inducements to stay on the soil, there is a problem which underlies all efforts to create a thrifty and wholesome rural population, and this problem is to make it easy for the young man who is to stay on the soil to be the master of that soil and not the rent-paying tenant of a landlord. The only way to do this is to hammer at legislation along the line of Henry George's teachings in regard to the sane and honest method of taxation. The problem in any country would be solved if the revenues needed for the improvements that are so much to be desired were collected from the increased land-values. If all farm and plantation buildings and improvements, all agricultural tools and stock, were exempt from taxation, and the revenues raised from a fair valuation of the bare land-value, then it would be undesirable to hold land out of use. If even the landlords would think of the larger problem of a healthy rural life in the nation, even they might see that such legislation would in the end be good for themselves as well as for their children and their children's children.

J. H. DILLARD.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

RENT.

Seattle, February 7.

In the November-December number of the *Single-tax review*, Albert Firmin shows that in 1912 Manhattan Island alone paid as tribute to land owners \$156,392,623.

The people of every town and city in the land pay this same land rent; comparatively as great; in addition are the taxes collected and used in war preparations and the dividends collected on billions of dollars of watered trust stocks; all of which foot up a tremendous total, every dollar of which is paid by the people in the added high cost of living. This is the fundamental cause of the workers impoverishment the world over; herein we find the answer to the puzzle, that just as we have progressed and mul-

tiplied the means of production a thousand fold, so in like ratio has poverty increased.

The beneficiaries of this enormous wealth taken from the people are enabled thereby to control or influence most every avenue of thought and action, and through press, school and church to befuddle the people's minds with an avalanche of specious argument, wrong teaching and religious sophistry; until numbers of people attribute their want and poverty to the will of God—the same God who has so plentifully filled the earth with the things they need. A most cruel joke were it true.

It is seemingly hopeless—this task of awakening the people from their stupid and stubborn indifference. Every teacher who points out fundamental causes is a victim of their ridicule; it has always been so; but there is hope for the philosopher in knowledge of the fact that everything not founded on the principle of justice must fall.

So with our fundamentally unjust social order of today; while it is bulwarked by established religion and many evidences of wealth and power, its heart has been eaten out long ago; it is only a superficial shell covering the new which has been years forming underneath, and is now writhing in its birth pains; and these pains are interpreted as causes by the ignorant who do not see.

W. E. GORDON.



SOME EXAMPLES OF JUDICIAL COURAGE.

New York City, March 24.

Infringement of liberty is very common, and the people of the United States seem to lie supine thereunder. But here and there are individuals who are willing to fight for their rights, and suffer for them, and now and then comes a judge with real courage to uphold those rights.

A man by the name of Smith was quarantined in the city of Brooklyn to compel vaccination, because Health Commissioner Emory said he had been, or might have been, exposed to smallpox. Judge Gaynor issued a habeas corpus for his release and said: "Life, liberty and property are inviolable, except as affected by express law and due process of law. Arbitrary power is abhorrent to our system of government. If the Legislature desired to make vaccination compulsory it would have so enacted. Whether it be within its power to do so, and if so, by what means it may enforce such an enactment are not for discussion here."

The Court of Appeals of New York, 146 N. Y. 69, in this same case said: "The question presented, like all those which involve the right to restrain the citizen in his personal liberty, demands a careful consideration of the provisions of law, under which the right is alleged to be conferred. The authority is not given to direct, or to carry out, a quarantine of all persons who refuse to permit themselves to be vaccinated and it cannot be implied."

Thus in this case of Smith vs. Health Commissioner Emory, through the courage of Judge Gaynor, Smith was freed from the tyranny of the Health Commissioner, and Gaynor's decision was upheld by the highest court of the State of New York.

The Supreme Court of Illinois in *People ex rel*