

That a large number of blacks and a much fewer number of whites lie dead in Tulsa is because we have treated land as unrestricted private property. That is the cold, hard truth.

Tulsa has shown that she regrets the tragic incident. Conscious of the disgrace that has been brought to the fair name of the city, she has set to work to redeem herself and repair the cruel injury that has been done to the colored population. But will her citizens direct their attention to the underlying cause of these race animosities, and realize that they are really economic in their origin? When they do the end of race riots is in sight.

The Source of Unemployment

THE effect of land speculation is to make jobs scarce and to keep them scarce. Jobs are never scarce in new countries. They are always scarce in old and settled countries, except in war times. Just as the price of land goes up the price of labor goes down. Only war and taxation can reverse this process—and this is precisely what is happening now.

It is the overcapitalization of the raw material of industry that paralyzes capital, turns labor adrift, limits production, produces involuntary poverty, and generates the workless man seeking vainly for a chance to toil. It is an invisible yet all-powerful agency, which by means of its impersonal character hides itself behind a harmless appearing and respectable exterior, and, like a plague, works endless injury to the human race.

Primarily it is not the badness of men that troubles our fair land; it is the absurdly high prices that we ask the capitalist and the laborer to pay for the use of land. We capitalize its fairness, its sunshine, its productivity and its social advantages—all against the man who does, or seeks to do, useful things with his hands and brains and the wonderful machines his invention and saving have accumulated (capital) and who sustains the human race. H. H. HARDINGE.

Thoughts for the Time

THE law of entail is the wisest and best of all economic laws. It was recognized as such by the Norman conquerors of England and confined by them to members of the aristocracy alone. Under its provisions the land can never be sold forever and only the rightful heir can enjoy it. Even after the lapse of hundreds of years if a flaw were found in the title the property would revert automatically to the legitimate family. Hence we have the Anneke Jans claims and many other famous lawsuits, the most notorious being that of the Tichbourne estate in England. Really the law of entail applies to all citizens of the country—the aristocracy being intruders and thieves of the common right. Under their own practices the rightful heirs should be recognized and installed into their property without compensation. Under the true law of entail the whole of the population of the nation are the heirs of the entire land,

and they should follow the custom of the aristocratic heirs in renting their property at its annual value under lease, if possible, to whoever is qualified to use it in whatever areas he or they may desire. It would not be necessary to levy "taxes" which are robbery pure and simple.

INSTINCTIVE WRONG

So repulsive to our innate moral sense is the private ownership of land that the Miller-Lux Corporation in California announce that, in deference to public opinion, they are about to dispose of most of their land holdings. These amount in all to about 22,000,000 acres. If it is a moral wrong for these people to own land is it not an equal moral wrong for anyone to buy their land? These are perfectly honest moral people and their title is legal and recognized by the nation, but if they should not own it, why should anyone else? Of course, public opinion prevents my wearing a straw hat on the 14th of May but I am not accused of being guilty of a moral wrong. I only suffer personal violence.

BETWEEN TWO FIRES

One bright sunny morning a few days ago I turned to cross Broadway, when I heard a lively chirrup. Along came an auto truck at a hard gallop. It was piled with bales of hay and on top of the load sat two chaps smoking glowing pipes with an air of utter and complete enjoyment. I could not help wondering if those bales of hay felt nervous with a hard working gasoline tank below and those two open fireplaces above. After all, that is the way we go through life, serenely unconscious of danger from the over-rich above and the unemployed below. "All's well with the world" is our motto.

UNDER-CONSUMPTION

A lot of these here, now, scientists gathered around the still form of a little blue bird and opened its crop to find out the food it lived on. When they found numerous insects that damage shrubbery and garden produce . . . they decided to protect the bluebirds forever. These same scientists should operate on a robin. I am sure they would find its crop full of cherries, raspberries and other fruit. This would stimulate all gardeners to produce more fruit than the robins could consume, and the principal objection to these songsters would be removed.

DENSE REASONING

The crowded condition of the New York subway in the morning is probably due to the fact that people take a full meal at breakfast instead of eating compressed tablets. This may not seem much at first glance, but reflection will show—well, it will show whatever you reflect. Some people are trying to reduce the high cost of living by following a similar process of reasoning. They want the laborer to take less wages, the farmer to get less for his produce, the storekeeper to charge less for his goods, and the landlord to charge less for his apartments, but nobody thinks of asking the landowner to take less for the use of his land. Indeed everybody smiles with approval when they read that some projected public improvement has caused land values to rise 500 per cent.

—EARSÉN I. SOPÉN.