

them up again; none but man himself can forge the cannon into pruning shears, such is the LAW.

Providence being beneficent allows us to reap what we have sown; it is so in our individual lives; there is no other way to learn truth.

Would that we could see ourselves.



"Terrible, appalling, horrible," can be heard every day, anywhere as voicing the speaker's idea of this great war; yet we are in the throes of an industrial conflict equally as barbaric, where greater numbers perish and many more are wounded every year.

But Europe's war is spectacular and sudden, and destruction is swift; ours is a slow grinding process that knows no day of rest; it never stops; lives innumerable are blasted slowly by days and years, then snuffed out.

Blasting lives is our business, but being blind egotists we do not see.

We produce all the staple foods and fibers; and in such prodigal quantity that 'tis said we feed the world.

Nature has blessed us with mineral deposits in keeping with our food supply, until by her gifts we are the United States of abundance.

In the face of these gifts and the presence of the Giver we employ nearly two million children in the factories of our "big interests," at the same time that hosts of able bodied men are idle and in want.

Glutted with abundance we destroy this multitude of little children—for of such is the profit of Mammon; indeed, we have closed our eyes and stopped our ears, and have not seen their distress nor heard their cry.

Poverty we have everywhere in the midst of this plenty. Why?

Of property we make a fetish, every mother's son of us from the garbage man to the Kaiser wants property; we talk, think and have our being in property; merchandise is our God, to sell it is man's noblest work; this may not be our ideal, but it is our practical everyday life.

Property is necessary; proprietorship in the earth is vital to our existence, but if we admit the principle of private ownership in land and its monopoly, then, indeed, do we become slaves to the cunning few who, while we work, plan and scheme and pass laws for our despoliation.

Monopoly is the mother of all wars; even religious wars are the fruit of that desire, the religious combatants desiring a monopoly of adherents to their creed.

Let us pray to our Creator that war in Europe may cease, but let us also work with our Creator that industrial war in these United States may be ended.

W. E. GORDON.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

WAR CONDITIONS IN AUSTRALIA.

Bendigo, Victoria, Aug. 22, 1914.

War has been declared between England and Germany and we have settled down to believe that it was inevitable. A few in Australia have misgivings, but the general tone is one of confidence in the British fleet and the non-miraculousness of the German army. At first there was a disposition to lay in domestic stocks of groceries and to encourage a big jump in prices, but, no terrific disaster having made itself immediately felt, people have settled down to buying and selling and marrying and giving in marriage. Great enthusiasm is being manifested in volunteering for service and the Commonwealth's contribution of 20,000 men will be furnished easily. On the whole the personal quality is very high, very few scallawags, and most actuated by a deep and quietly expressed sense of duty. Everywhere the German communities are by resolution in public meeting assembled declaring their loyalty to their adopted country—sincerely I think, for they know they have nothing to fear, the word having been passed round to give them the most sympathetic respect, and the State school teachers having exhorted British children to be kind to German children.

CYRIL F. JAMES.



WAR CONDITIONS IN AUSTRIA.

Budapest, Hungary, August 18, 1914.

To be free and yet a prisoner in a land far from home is the condition of many thousands of Americans who came to Europe for a rest. They will need a very good rest after they get back to the United States. It is doubtful if many of them will ever come to Europe again for a vacation. They will spend their money "at home" in the future. In southern Europe there are no trains and one cannot get to a seaport, and no steamers are sailing anyway to any part of the world.

Money orders and letters of credit are just so much useless paper and rich men borrow for their breakfast and board. Cablegrams are accepted but not forwarded and letters rarely leave the postoffice or even the letter box. The Consul says, "I have no money myself for office expenses, as the banks do no business," and thus European civilization is at a standstill.

Not only are we helpless but some of us are in real terror. In Austria, Hungary and Germany they hate the sight of an Englishman. "English Park," a place of amusement in Budapest, has changed its name. "English Tailor" has changed its name to "German Tailor." "Five o'clock tea," "English styles," and English expressions have ceased entirely. English exports, marmalades, foods, leather, cloth ma-

chines, books, cutlery, pipes, cigarettes, shoes, and even the English language is stopped. A negro comedian from the States was in the act of singing "On the Mississippi!" and the police stopped the act—"No English permitted, Angol tilos—Englisch verboten."

We Americans suffer by it, as we also speak the English language. We do not go on the streets at night, and the mob changes the sign of any merchant who has the word "English" on display.

Newspapers print only fixed news, and as no foreign papers reach us we do not know what is really going on in the world—or even in Europe. Nothing can appear in the press or in the stores without the sanction of those who are working at the war game. They have taken all the able-bodied young men away to the wars and have left the old men and the cripples. This is government by proclamation. Whenever the powers choose to send a letter or a message or the news of a battle they do it—otherwise the women do not know when they become widows. Women manage street cars and subways, as the men have been led to slaughter.

After it's all over Europe will awaken from her bloody nightmare. Her young men will be in graves or in hospitals and they will wonder—those who are still among the living—what it was all about. Europe is bankrupt today. Treasuries are empty and food is scarce. After the battles, the living will "make a break" for America, the land of many dreams of the future of the race.

NICHOLAS KLEIN,
Attorney of Cincinnati.



CONNECTICUT DEMOCRATS ARE PROGRESSIVE

Hartford, Conn., Sept. 19.

The campaign for progressive measures, which was launched by Democrats at Lake Compounce June 27th last, is beautifully reflected in the platform adopted by the Democratic State Convention at Hartford this week. This favors every one of the eight proposals put forward by the Compounce Committee as follows: Nominations by petition and direct primary; the initiative and referendum; the short ballot; votes for women; repeal of the personal tax; abolition of contract labor in jails and prison; home rule for all communities; and prohibition of special legislation. These questions were referred to the registered Democrats of the State, by means of a post card ballot. Several thousand answers were received, and with the exception of votes for women, the favorable majorities were overwhelming. The platform declaration on the suffrage question calls for the submission of the necessary constitutional amendment to popular vote.

CHRISTOPHER M. GALLUP.



NATIONAL TAX CONFERENCE AND SINGLETAX.

Denver, Colo., Sept. 15.

The National Tax Conference held on September 8 to 10 was interesting, especially the final session, which was devoted to the singletax discussion. There was presented a paper by Mr. F. J. Dixon

of Winnipeg which was read by Mr. A. C. Pleydell. F. C. Wade of Vancouver, who was to oppose the singletax, was not present but contributed a paper that was read by one of the delegates from Iowa. This was followed by a short speech by Pleydell in defense of the singletax. R. E. Smith of Roseburg, Oregon, followed with the usual stereotyped speech about the farmers owning much of the land and singletax being in the interest of the rich fellow. Smith's effort was rather sophomorical and I would judge that it did not make much of an impression. Thomas S. Adams, State Tax Commissioner of Wisconsin, immediately followed Smith. Without committing himself on singletax Adams played havoc with Smith's argument about the farmers. He showed that the great burden of personal property taxation in Wisconsin rests upon the farmer. The discussion had a good effect although it did not partake of the nature of a debate and was a rather tame affair.

JOHN B. McGAURAN.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

A HERESY TRIAL SUGGESTED.

Cincinnati, O., Sept. 18, 1914.

The editorial on page 890 under the heading, "A WAR-LIKE CLERGYMAN," is suggestive. Would it not be a wholesome proceeding for the Baptist denomination, in fact all Christian denominations, to try the Rev. Mr. Haldeman for heresy? We have had heresy trials in the past for difference of belief as to matters of fact inessential to Christian life. Why not expel Brother Haldeman for rank heresy in denying one of the supreme teachings of Jesus? Whatever the practicability and efficacy of the Golden Rule, it would seem unthinkable that a man should be a Christian clergyman and deny its applicability to life. A heresy trial as to fundamentals would be interesting.

EDWARD F. ALEXANDER.



MORE ABOUT THE RED CROSS

New York, Sept. 18, 1914.

The militarists are coming to their peaceful friends in droves now, pleading through Press and Pulpit for funds for the Red Cross, and many a heart melts at the thought of bringing healing and comfort to the "poor victims of war." Let us look at the matter calmly, we radicals, and speak the truth about this although it may make us seem unkind. Logic is frequently unkind, and offends the sentimental.

Our Comrade Bolton Hall wrote an answer to appeals for charity which the Public has often quoted. It is unique in its way, so perfectly does it cover the ground. And I shall quote some of it here once more, to show how, with some slight changes of words, it will serve as an answer all Singletaxers may rightfully make when asked to contribute to the Red Cross Funds.

Mr. Hall says:

"Asking help from supporters of things as they are is merely asking the persons responsible for poverty, misery and disease to do something to relieve