

are either so ignorant that they do not know of the monumental injustice that lies at the bottom of their own country's economic institutions, or else so cowardly that they do not dare to lift their voices in protest, hope to establish justice in foreign lands or in foreign relations, while they do nothing to abolish the great injustice at their doors?

In practically every instance, the origin of the political disputes in Europe is found in some phase of the omnipresent land question. The same question confronts the American people. What are the churches, the politicians, the editors, the would-be shapers of international policies, doing to abolish the fundamental injustice of monopoly control of that piece of the earth's surface called the United States?

Ideals of the American Press

THE fact that a poor Polish immigrant, who landed in New York twenty years ago and found work as a house painter, has "made" \$10,000,000 by successful speculation in real estate, has been commented upon by hundreds of newspapers as proof that this is still "the land of equal opportunity for all," and that all other immigrants, and native Americans, can go and do likewise if they will be equally industrious.

Nothing could give a clearer picture of the mental process of practically all the editorial writers for our daily newspapers, than their unanimous approval of a social order in which it is possible for one man to "make" an enormous fortune out of the growth of land values created by all the people of New York City. Not only do they praise the speculator for his wisdom and foresight in getting hold of pieces of land that were sure to increase in value, but they add insult to the millions who have been despoiled and robbed by the system that takes for the few wealth made by the many, by praising the wealth grabber for what he has done to promote the welfare of the land gambling industry. "This man has made ten millions," they parrot, "let that be the answer to the discontented radicals who want to change our institutions so that there will no longer be an incentive to others to follow his example."

The profound ignorance displayed by the editorial hack writers, who grind out what pleases their employers, who in turn cater to the rich and powerful advertising interests, would be amusing if it were not depressing. The pitiful creatures seem to have not the least idea that the man they are praising did not "make" or "earn" a dollar by speculating in land values. What he did was to take advantage of conditions created by our fool laws to get possession of millions of dollars that belong to all the rent payers of New York. He created nothing. He added nothing to the public wealth or welfare. He simply gambled luckily on the expected increase in land values and great was his reward. Every dollar of his vast fortune

came out of productive industry. He gave absolutely nothing in exchange. His position is exactly that of the successful Wall Street operator who bets on stocks and accumulates millions. What the latter "makes" someone else loses. What the "realestater" makes the rent-payers lose.

"These be thy gods, Oh, Israel!" These are the ideals of American newspapers. The man who manages to get hold of \$10,000,000, that properly belongs to all the people of New York, is held up to their admiring readers as a public benefactor!

A Protest and A Challenge

THE most important economic issue that today confronts every industrial country of the world, is that of alleged "overproduction;" the inability of manufacturers to find markets for their surplus products. All over the globe, wherever modern machine methods and factory production have been established, the story is the same: too many mills; too much goods; not enough consumers. So we have the strange situation of the American national government, representing a party that professes to believe that prosperity can be assured by high tariff walls around this country, devoting its money and energies to the task of trying to find new markets in Asia, Africa and other remote regions, and acting as guide and counsellor to our exporters in helping them to get trade away from our European competitors.

The same men who vociferously assert that the American manufacturer cannot possibly compete with the low priced products of other lands in a market that is just at his door, are moving to capture what they call "the world markets" ten thousand miles away, in competition with the cheaper goods from foreign exporters. In the meantime there is depression in many lines of industry because of a lack of demand for goods, and the predatory interests are planning another assault on Congress to secure still higher tariff taxes on imports.

What can be the matter? Didn't the country vote for a high tariff President and Congress? Haven't we the highest tariff taxes in our history? Then why wage reductions, half-time employment, lessened output? Is it possible that the great, good and wise men who run our industries forgot something? Did they leave the consumer out of their calculations? What about that ignored man, the person who buys things? Isn't it about time to consider him? He is the "home market." Why doesn't he buy more? That's the question that the newspapers refuse to discuss. Probably they are wise, for they do not know the answer. Several of the professed journals of light and leading with wide circulations, were recently offered a short compact statement of the real reasons why throughout the world today effective demand does not equal the supply of useful things. Each and all of them

declined the article, one sapient editor declaring that the subject had been worn threadbare.

To those who have learned from Henry George the truth that the seeming overproduction is in reality underconsumption, the present situation offers an opportunity to at least try to stir the dull and stupid editors of the country into opening up their columns for a serious discussion of this great issue. As we have often advised our readers, the most valuable service that they can render to the cause of economic freedom is that of stirring up the newspapers and other journals to publish essential facts relating to present economic conditions. Whoever you are, or wherever you may be, you can write letters protesting against the conspiracy of silence with which the real cause of industrial depression is ignored. Challenge the editors to say whether they believe that it is in the natural order of things that men should suffer because they can produce far more than they can use. Ask what the editors think about this omnipresent problem of too much of everything in a world where everyone, with the exception of a beggarly handful, wants far more than they now get. Tell them that you will give their readers the true explanation of insufficient demand for goods if they will allow you space. You will often be ignored, but here and there you will strike an editor who will think that his readers may be interested and this will be your opportunity. In any case, this is your job. See if you cannot stir up the animals a bit.

Antagonistic Farm Economic Policies

OUT of the confused and conflicting expert advice and suggestions for restoring prosperity to the American farmers, put forward by editors, economists, bankers, and politicians, there have emerged what may be regarded as policies favored by two opposing schools, whose study of the problems involved have brought them to radically differing conclusions. On one side there are those who look to some form of government aid;—further extensions of the Federal Land loan system; a higher protective tariff on all foreign farm products; national regulation of, and subsidies for, co-operative marketing associations; Federal maintenance of prices of staple crops by the purchase and storage on government account of the surplus over domestic needs; and the regulation, through the co-operation of the Department of Agriculture, of cultivation, so as to prevent recurring excess production that forces down prices.

As against these plans for what may be termed "prosperity by legislation," there has been manifested a widespread sentiment, found largely among the farmers themselves, and those who by their close business relations with them are in a position to judge of the causes of present un-

favorable conditions in agriculture and the most practicable method of improving them, to the effect that the permanent solution of the farm relief problem is not to be found in paternalistic legislation, but in reducing the farmer's cost of living, through lower tariff and other taxes; cheaper implements, fertilizers and other supplies; and cheaper transportation. Just how this can be brought about may not be clearly foreseen, but the dividing line between the advocates of the two policies, roughly speaking, is that while one school looks to an increase of prices for what the farmer sells, and price maintenance on an artificial basis, the other regards the farmer as a consumer, who is, first of all, interested in low prices for what he buys, low taxes, and reduced freight charges. Behind these conflicting theories there lies the issue of the high wages paid to workers in the tariff protected industries, who are accustomed to much higher standards of living than prevail on the great majority of American farms, which in one form or another will affect the future course of all efforts to put the farmer's earning power on an equality with that of the industrial worker.

Good News For Zion

TIDINGS of great joy come from Palestine, where under a British Protectorate the long-dispersed Jewish people are permitted to live on an equality with the other inhabitants of that land, and an effort is being made to establish a National centre for the Jews of all the world. The sentiment behind the Zionists movement is wholly admirable, and if the plans for restoration are wisely drawn, and faithfully carried out, the result should be to prove that the miserable condition of most of the people of Palestine has been due to Turkish misgovernment, and that under political and religious freedom the land may again be made fruitful and self-sustaining.

There is, however, a discordant note in the song of final triumph over the adversity of many centuries that suggests that the prosperity that is coming will not be for all the people, but for the relatively few who own the land on which the newcomers, as well as the former population, must live. In an interview published in the New York press a representative of the Zionist organization gave as one reason why American Jews should take part in the development of Palestine the wonderful possibilities for making money by buying and selling land. He pointed to Tel-Aviv, a new city built near Jaffa, as showing an increase in the value of lots running from 100 to 300 per cent.; certainly a good thing for the fortunate speculators. But how about the immigrants who want land to build homes upon? Is it to their interest that land prices should soar, as they certainly will if there is an increase in population? Perhaps all the new arrivals will be able to make a living by speculating in real estate, so they need not worry over high land prices. What of the natives of the country,