

Canada

THE following has been sent to every member of the Dominion Parliament at Ottawa:

GENTLEMEN:

We take the liberty of calling your attention to the fact that in your budget, you have done nothing to protect the laboring classes from the double burden of taxation and the tribute that labor must now pay to the owners of the land especially in the large cities.

In this city the value of the land has risen from nothing in the year 1800 to the enormous figure of \$600,000,000 or a yearly rental of upwards of \$24,000,000. This is the tribute that industry must now surrender, not for any services; but for the occupation of the land. This divides society into two classes: the toilers who must do everything to maintain prosperity, and also bear the burden of taxation, and the spoilers, who appropriate wealth without work, and leave to industry only a fragment of what it produces.

So far we cannot see that you have done the first act to relieve industry from the terrible injustice, which crushes it beneath a greater obligation to the owners of the land, with every increase in the population. Thus the gulf between the palace and the slum grows wider and wider—greater fortune to monopoly and greater burden to industry.

So long as we thus protect the extortion that makes poverty for the workers, and places industry under the double burden of taxation and an increasing ground rent, how can we call this a just government, or expect to enjoy prosperity? With one part of society doing its best to make prosperity, and another part doing its utmost to destroy prosperity, is it any wonder that periodically we have hard times?

Should not taxation be adjusted so as to encourage every one to do his best for the public weal, and so as to remove the temptation to use land for extortion and impoverishment?

We would be glad to receive your reply.

Signed on behalf of the BOILER MAKERS' LODGE
No. 584.

J. KEEGAN, President,
W. A. JACOBS, Secretary.

INSTEAD of levying import duties, we might, for instance destroy a certain proportion of imported commodities, or require the ships bringing them to sail so many times around the world before landing at our ports. In either of these ways, precisely the same protective effect could be secured as by import duties, and in cases where duties secure full protection by preventing importation, such methods would involve no more waste.—*Henry George.*

LANDLORDS are, perhaps, the only great body of men whose interests are diametrically opposed to the interests of the nation.—*Buckle.*

Home Ownership Better Than Tenancy

LONG-TERM tenancy is better than short-term tenancy; but home ownership by the working farmer is better than either. The great problem is not the devising of better leasing systems, but the removal of the speculative element from American agriculture. Either the road to ownership for the actual farmer must be made easy, or the development of a permanently submerged tenant class—an American peasantry—must be expected.—E. E. MILLER, Editor *Southern Agriculturist*.

SEVEN hundred miles of costly streets of Manhattan and Brooklyn run past vacant lots, and every man, woman or child that passes and repasses a vacant lot contributes to the support of the owner through the increase in value they cause just as surely as though they dropped their nickels or dimes into his hat at each passing.

JAMES R. BROWN.—

“ALL that can safely be said,” remarks our cautious neighbor, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, “is that both the California and Montana earthquakes were tectonic.” This should offend no real estate dealer in either state.—JOHN W. RAPER in *Cleveland Press*.

And what is there for which life gives us opportunity that can be compared with the effort to do what we may, be it ever so little, to improve social conditions, and enable other lives to reach fuller, nobler development?

—HENRY GEORGE.

ANY law which is reduced to absurdity in its administration must be bad.

BOOK NOTICE

A GOVERNMENT OF, BY AND FOR THE PEOPLE

This book is an argument for the reconstruction of the political and economic institutions of the world. The author is known to readers of this paper by his many able contributions to the *SINGLE TAX REVIEW* some fifteen years ago on *The Land Histories of the Early Colonies*. Some of the chapters in this book of nearly five hundred pages are elaborations of the treatment accorded to subjects in the articles named.

But it is much more. It is an inquiry into the origin of government and shows evidence of scholarship and wide reading. Its style is clear and illuminating. The author has designed to teach, not to write something arresting or striking, the all too common practice of writers trying to get the public ear without much regard to the truth of what they write.

There is an examination of the causes of Roman decay. This is traced to “the great estates that ate out the heart of Italy.” The parallel between Rome and conditions in the modern world is indicated, and the author presses the point with many illustrations that privilege—and especially landed privilege—brings forth the same results in all countries and all times, making for social disorder, slavery, disruption, and decay of the body politic. Rome lost all she had won because her vitality was sapped by tribute. In our day this tribute, which