

recently in Cleveland before the Community Welfare Conference. He told his hearers: "There is nothing of charity in your Community Fund; it is business. The prosperity of your banks is founded upon your bankers. These people toil in your mills. There is no successful business without its human scrap pile."

**W**E suppose Mr. Ludlow is a kindly man. He seems to think that the responsibility is imposed upon us to take care of the people who work for him and his class. His instincts seem to be charitable. But it is a curious evidence of class prepossession that he can regard a not insignificant portion of his fellowmen as belonging to what he calls "the human scrap pile." That this seems to him not altogether a bad thing may be assumed, for does he not say that "successful business" is founded on them? And is not "successful business" the most desirable thing in all the earth?

**M**AYBE there is a "human scrap pile." Maybe there are men doomed from birth to build pyramids in ancient Egypt and skyscrapers in New York, to tread the wine press for princes and their harlots in all times, who must work in mills that their owners may draw generous dividends figured on an ad valorem tariff imposed for the "protection" of this same "human scrap pile." Oh, we do not need to be told that the modern toilers, or certain groups of them,—especially those comprising the members of the building trades—are enjoying a large measure of prosperity due to trades unionism. The man is a fool who thinks it can last. The economic forces that must sweep away this advantage are held in temporary abeyance; the inequality in the distribution of wealth is still with us, though here and there large numbers of workers are getting something more of what belongs to them. But the forces that make for their impoverishment have not been altered in impulse or direction; the stupendous charities that minister to insatiate needs, and interminable conferences of futile but well meaning persons to discuss methods of relief, still continue, conferences which if visited by any real glimmerings of what ought to be done would dissolve in utter confusion!

**A**CORRESPONDENT of LAND AND FREEDOM, thinking he would have some fun with the Department of Justice, wrote satirically, as he supposed, that in view of the million-dollar investigation into lead-pencil sharpeners, the Department should next put a few hundred detectives, lawyers, statisticians, etc., at work on the peanut problem. While he did not complain directly of the high retail price of peanuts, he pointed out that the five-cent bag had shrunk to one-half its former size, and suggested that Department experts should measure the bags and give the consumer statistics on the subject.

Much to his surprise, he received the following reply

from the Hon. Wm. C. Donovan, Assistant to the Attorney-General:—

"Dear Sir,

"Thank you for your letter of the 12th inst., advising the Department of the high retail price of peanuts. In January last, the Attorney General filed a suit against the National Peanut Cleaners and Shellers Association and others, the members of which are wholesale dealers, charging the defendants with restraining interstate commerce in the buying, grading and selling of Virginia and Spanish type of peanuts in violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. This case will be brought to a conclusion as soon as possible. While the questions presented in this case do not involve the retail peanut trade, it is hoped that a favorable decision in this case will indirectly affect the retail price.

"No complaints have been received charging the commission of any illegal acts by retail dealers, but if you have any information tending to show that such dealers have entered into a combination to restrain or monopolize the industry, the Department will be glad to give the matter consideration."

**W**E offer a prize of one bag of peanuts—full weight—to any one who will tell us whom the joke is on; our correspondent, the Department of Justice, or that humble and inconspicuous person, the taxpayer, who pays for all this nonsense. It must be the last—all jokes are on him. And if there is anything calculated to bring government into contempt it is such activities as these.

## International and Domestic Justice

**V**ARIOUS Leaguers, Associations, Councils and Societies, with a window dressing of eminent personages on their letterheads, are engaged in a nationwide propaganda for the purpose of inducing the people of the United States to become involved in the petty social, religious and economic squabbles and wrangles of Europe. The professed purpose of these estimable busybodies is to prevent the recurrence of another world war, by throwing the great military and economic forces of this country into the scale of international disputes, but as the proposal is looked upon with either suspicion or disfavor by a great many Americans, an effort is being made to confuse the issue by the camouflage of a pretense that what is sought is America's co-operation in establishing "International Justice." Talk of The League of Nations, and The World Court, has worn out American patience, as long as it palpably meant contributions of American money and men to prevent those dear Europeans from butchering each other, or at least, from killing the wrong lot of people. A new palaver was needed, so now we have vociferous appeals to join this or that society, not forgetting contributions to pay the salaries of a lot of chair-warmers and other parasites, which will carry on the noble work of International Justice.

Again we ask: how can these eminent respectables, who

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