

REFERRING to the contention that these administrative changes are unconstitutional Prof. Tugwell says, "I strongly suspect that, for the most part, those who criticize them as unconstitutional, dislike them either because of meagre understanding or because some protected privilege will be exposed and abolished." There is a familiar axiom in legal practice which is taken advantage of by less conscientious attorneys that when you have no case you may resort to abuse of the opposing counsel.

IN an editorial under the title "Who Owns the Land" in *America* for Jan. 13, 1934, criticising Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Rexford G. Tugwell's address at Philadelphia on Dec. 29, appear these words "The right to hold property (land), despite the abuses to which it has been subjected, is inherent in man's nature."

America being one of our foremost Catholic organs, would it be amiss to quote from the source of all Christian religion?

"In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth."—Gen. I:1.

"The sea is His, and He made it; and His hands formed the dry land."—Ps. XCV:5.

"For the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof."—1 Cor. X:26-28.

"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."—Ps. XXIV:1.

"Behold, the Heaven and the Heaven of Heavens is the Lord's thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is."—Deut. XI:14.

"The Heaven, even the Heavens, are the Lord's; but the earth hath he given to the children of men."—Ps. CXV:16.

"Thus saith the Lord, the Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool." "For all those things hath mine hand made."—Is. LXVI:12.

"The land shall not be sold for ever; for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me."—Lev. XXV:23.

"Moreover the profit of the earth is for all."—Eccles. V:9.

TO which we may add the following from the greatest of the popes, Gregory the Great:

Those that make private property of the gift of God pretend in vain to be innocent. For in thus retaining the subsistence of the poor they are the murderers of those who die every day for want of it.

UNDER the N.R.A. and the Blue Eagle American industry is taxed as heavily as under Hoover, still pays as heavy tribute to predatory monopolies, is still barred by landowners from use of much valuable land and still pays for what land it may use by giving private individuals ground rent that belongs in lieu of taxes in the public treasury. What kind of "new deal" is this?

THE Brain Trust's next problem is how to tax liquor without giving bootleggers a chance to undersell legal dealers. The solution depends on discovery of the way to make two and two equal five. The Brain Trust holds that to be easy, declaring that eighteenth century mathematical principles have long become obsolete.

Dinner to Mr. McNair

A DINNER was given to Mayor-elect McNair on Dec. 21 at the Town Hall in this city. About 200 were present and it was an occasion to be remembered.

Walter Fairchild was toastmaster and from start to finish kept his audience in good humor with amusing sallies. Before Mr. McNair began his talk there were three minute speeches from a dozen or more of our local Single Tax friends, including Anna George de Mille, Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessy, Oscar Geiger, Dr. William Jay Schieffelin, Hon. Edward Polak, Charles Johnson Post, Hon. Lawson Purdy, Bolton Hall, Miss Grace Isabel Colbron and others.

Mr. McNair told his hearers that he wanted to establish an advertising bureau to tell the nation about the tax advantages of Pittsburgh. "We have something to sell that no other city has," he said. He defended the Pittsburgh half-rate tax on improvements but was candid enough to admit that it had had no social effects. He spoke of the efforts he had in contemplation to extend the system and to take more and more land values.

He said in part: "I do not mean to say that Pittsburgh has escaped the depression, for she has not, but I believe she has suffered less from the depression than have many other cities. Her tax system, which assesses land values fifty per cent more than improvements, has softened for her the hardest blows of the depression."

The newly elected mayor of Pittsburgh created a decidedly favorable impression, and the dinner was one of the most pleasant held in recent years.

High Land Rents and Slum Clearance

IN speaking before the National Public Housing Conference at Washington, Jan. 27, the *New York Times* reports Mrs. Roosevelt as follows:

"Mrs. Roosevelt said limited-dividend housing corporations had failed as a means of slum eradication because they were unable to set the rents at a low enough figure.

She declared that it was necessary to make the public feel that slum owners were 'bad citizens'.

The economic thing that makes low-cost housing difficult is that most people have looked on their land, not as a source of regular income, but as an investment on which they would make a great deal of money, Mrs. Roosevelt said."

THERE was once a President of the United States who, in fighting a depression, courageously insisted on immediate removal of its cause in spite of the bitter opposition of land monopolists, trust magnates and all their ignorant dupes.—BARON MUNCHAUSEN.