

or insult.' In Harper's Weekly of four or five weeks ago, appears a terrific cartoon, representing John D. Rockefeller as a hideous old creature, crouching and watching through a spy-glass the smoking ruins of Colorado; and there is the caption: 'Hell from beneath is moved to meet thee at thy coming.' Now, can any sane man hold that this cartoon does not publicly rebuke a citizen by holding him up to ridicule or insult? And note that it makes not the least difference whether what the cartoon alleges be true; it makes no difference that Rockefeller has admitted under oath his full responsibility for an approval of the hideous crimes in Colorado. 'It is likewise beside the point whether the thing he saw to reprobate was or was not reprehensible!' Nor will the outraged law wait till Mr. Rockefeller makes complaint; it will not leave him to sue for libel, but will send at once to the offices of Harper's Weekly—now that the law has been made clear—and arrest Mr. Hapgood for 'using threatening, abusive and insulting behavior.'

A warning against the danger suggested by Mr. Sinclair's criticism of such judicial restrictions of freedom has recently been given by an author who must demand a respectful hearing. In a philosophic discussion of "The Theory of Social Evolution" that learned and clear sighted publicist Brooks Adams, recalls the fact that social convulsions seem to have been inevitable in the English-speaking race, when "the envelope grew too tight for the growing organism." Mr. Adams, in this connection, asserts that in the United States: "The Bench has always had an avowed partisan bias," and that though the capitalistic class, always "very weak in those generalizing powers which are necessary for its safety," thinks itself secure as it "leans on the Courts" while favorably inclined, there is great danger of a cataclysmic disaster when the social equilibrium shifts and the political court becomes "the most formidable of all engines for the destruction of its creators."

ERVING WINSLOW.



## DEBT AS SECURITY FOR LOANS.

Pittsburgh, Pa., July 19.

I want the government to find out how much I owe, what my debts are: and then I want the government to help me get a long time loan of about sixty per cent of my total indebtedness, at a low rate of interest and take by debts as security. That's the substance of nearly all proposed rural credit schemes and if the government can do it for the farmer it can do it for me. I am as good as a farmer any day.

Land may be a social asset, but to the individual holder of title it is a liability for annual dues to the full value of the privilege of exclusive possession.

It is true we have permitted the possession to become an individual asset, but that is the very cause of our social ailment, and, to make land loans easier through proposed rural credit schemes is to aggravate the disease, not to effect a cure.

Houses, cattle and other labor products are proper security for loans, for these things are assets,

but land is not a proper security for loans; in fact, it is no security at all, for it is a liability. We have seen the bad effect of basing a national currency, even nominally, on a public debt, but this scheme of facilitating borrowing on land at low interest beats the currency scheme, for it proposes blandly to help the farmer to borrow money on his debts. And that's what I want, too. I have lots of debts and nothing else to borrow on. Anyhow, I am as good as the farmer.

H. W. NOREN.



## LAND VALUE TAX IN NEW ZEALAND.

San Francisco, July 29.

In New Zealand the tax on unimproved land values has been in operation for more than thirty years. For a large share of this time a law has been in force under which it is provided that any city or county may hold an election and on a majority vote may place the local rates on the unimproved land values only.

This tax has grown so popular that in the last year, out of twenty-four such local elections held, twenty-two of them voted, by very large majorities, for the adoption of the tax.

The dozen largest cities in the Dominion, including the capital city of the nation, have adopted the local tax, or rating, as it is called. In no case has it been repealed after it has once been adopted.

WALTER THOMAS MILLS.



## SOCIAL INJUSTICE INJURIOUS TO THE RICH.

Charlottesville, Va., June 29.

There is a corollary to the fact that low wages for women is the cause of prostitution, and that poverty is a cause of racial degeneration. Too much money (privilege) in one class is fully as baneful as too little in the other. This point has not been brought out in any of the numerous papers I have seen on the subject of the minimum wage. The corollary helps to prove the theorem. J. W. Bengough's epigram fits in here: "Land monopoly is the concealed armor of privilege that gives wealth to idleness, poverty to the worker, and spiritual death to both."

EDMOND FONTAINE.

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## NEWS NARRATIVE

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The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of The Public for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, August 4, 1914.

### War in Europe.

Diplomatic action among the nations of Europe followed swiftly the Austrian declaration of war with Servia on the 28th. While the armies of