

## The Real Cause of the High Price of Anthracite Coal is Monopoly

THIS monopoly is made possible through our unjust laws which recognize as a proper subject for private ownership, natural resources created by a beneficent God for the use of all his people.

The Girard Estate (outside Philadelphia) according to its 1924 report received in royalties \$3,995,338.67 for permitting 12 mining corporations to dig 2,807,750 tons of anthracite from its holdings; an average of \$1.40 per ton. This part of the Girard Estate, assessed at \$12,340,741, shows a gross return of 31.5 per cent. on that valuation.

The Girard Estate (neither during the lifetime of its founder, Stephen Girard, nor since his death more than 90 years ago) ever mined a single ton of coal. It merely permitted others to do so.

The price of such permission at the time of Stephen Girard's death was at a rate around seven cents a ton as against \$1.40 in 1924.

It can be seen from the above it now costs 20 times as much for mere permission to dig anthracite as it did ninety years ago.

The Girard Estate virtually belongs to all the people of Philadelphia as the municipality is trustee and the income goes to support Girard College, a really remarkable institution founded under the will of Stephen Girard, which supports and educates more than 1,500 orphan boys. Therefore, so far as the Girard Estate is concerned, the whole people of Philadelphia are the beneficiaries of its income from royalties on coal. It might be noted however, that to the extent of nearly \$4,000,000 annually, the consumers of anthracite coal are co-philanthropists with Stephen Girard.

**AS WITH THE GIRARD ESTATE THE PRICE CHARGED BY OTHERS FOR PERMISSION TO MINE ANTHRACITE COAL HAS GONE UP MORE THAN 2,000 PER CENT.**

Anthracite deposits having been put where they are by Almighty God for the use of all his children; any law which nullifies this by permitting but a few to monopolize the benefit, is obviously unjust.

A larger population with its greater demands for fuel is alone responsible for the use or rental value of the coal fields. The royalty collector, having rendered no service, is therefore entitled to no compensation.

Collection of this rental value (created by all) by government for its maintenance would make the present dishonest system of taking (taxing) private property for the public purposes unnecessary.

Since no one has the hardihood to deny that the earth is the birthright of all mankind nor that the value of its use is created by their mere presence on it, it follows that: **THE RENT OF LAND BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE AND THAT THE FIRST DUTY OF THE GOVERNMENT IS TO COLLECT IT.**—*Pennsylvania Commonwealth.*

## Why Not Give Them The Larger Life?

THEY were sons of the soil. Their lives, as George Eliot says in "Daniel Deronda," were "well rooted in some spot of a native land, where it may get the love of tender kinship for the face of earth, for the labors men go forth to, for the sounds and accents that haunt it, for whatever will give that early home (of childhood) a familiar unmistakable difference amid the future widening of knowledge: a spot where the definiteness of early memories may be inwrought with affection, and kindly acquaintance with all neighbors, even to the dogs and donkeys, may spread not by sentimental effort and reflection, but as a sweet habit of the blood." If the millions of children in the slums and crowded sections of our cities could be brought up in little worlds like that, would we need to fear for the future? Think of what it would mean to these orphaned children (orphaned because they are robbed of the very kind of life they most need) could they enjoy the sunshine that streams across green fields and wooded hills and lovely streams, and "think of the nightly heavens as a little lot of stars belonging to one's homestead!" Take a child who has been brought up in a home where there is not even a yard in which to play, out into the country, and how he will enjoy the companionship of birds and poultry and sheep and cows and horses and dogs! Country life may seem constricted and uninteresting to many, but it is in a real sense the larger and the truer life—the best kind of nursery for children to grow up in.—*Lutheran, Philadelphia, Pa.*

## South America

THE new Governor of the Province of Cordoba, Dr. Carcano, has issued a decree establishing a general plan of valuation of land of all the cities and towns in the Province, with the object of taxing land irrespective of improvement values. There has been a land value tax of 7 per thousand in the rural areas since 1914.

The leading paper of Buenos Aires, *La Prensa*, says that "In order to prepare the necessary data for a modification of the tax system, in so far as it affects the land tax in the urban districts, the State Executive, through the medium of the Finance Department, has issued the following decree, which reveals its intention to adopt the system of laying the heaviest burden upon the land, apart from improvements."

It then quotes from the Decree as follows:

"Whereas valuation by zones, apart from improvements, is the most equitable system for assessing property for the purpose of land taxation;

"Whereas said system has been adopted in the province since 1914, for the valuation of rural property;

"Whereas this system does not penalize labor nor burden