

Mexico or any other country. That is tax based on land value.

A tax to be equitable must be based on a common asset. As land values are the only common asset, they are the only true basis of taxation. Furthermore the expenditure of tax moneys is reflected in the value of the land and nowhere else. For example, no amount of grading, policing or other public service can enhance the value of a building or any other thing made by man. They depreciate in value from the time they are created. But, on the contrary, the land will appreciate in value from the performance of public service. Therefore, land value is the only just basis of taxation. Land increases in value with the population. Thus every member of a population, be he rich or poor, is paying his quota with a tax collected on the basis of land value. With these three points of support the principle of a land-value tax is securely based.

An arbitrary distribution of land would not be practical or desirable. All to be desired is that "occupancy and use" shall become the solid basis of land tenure, and a tax based on land value would naturally gravitate to that end, without fuss or feathers. Tolstoi said the land question is the bottom of all questions. And Emerson seems to have put his finger on the exact spot of unrest, when he said "I cannot traverse the plane, the mountain peak or the valley below, but someone will touch me on the shoulder and say: 'Sir, this is mine.'"

Every title to a piece of land is nothing more or less than a franchise from the community to the individual to enjoy that piece of land. A tax levied on this franchise would prevent land being held out of use. Land held out of use tends to dam up labor and force down wages. Therefore, a land-value tax would liberate the land to the full capacity of the people. It would foster an occupancy-and-use land tenure, and afford a judicious revenue at a minimum cost of collection; without custom houses, detectives or other inquisitorial expensive friction-making paraphernalia.

Such is Mexico's great opportunity. The time is most propitious, on the verge of a new birth, to inaugurate a flexible, judicious social adjustment, not only for herself, but to hold on high an example to a class-cursed world seething in a stifling atmosphere of social unrest.

W. E. JACKSON.



## THE COLLAPSE OF CHRISTIAN CIVILIZATION IN EUROPE.

Cornish, Oklahoma, Sept. 25, 1914.

I have read with interest what many preachers and others have to say about the collapse of Christian civilization in Europe. Therefore, I desire to express my views relative to the same.

There is nothing wrong with humanity; it is the same today as it was in the beginning. It only needs to be trained and directed in the proper channels to induce individuals and nations to do right.

We are all just as we are educated, and it is impossible for us to be otherwise.

The nations of the earth have been taught from time immemorial that war and human slavery were right, and justifiable in the eyes of both God and

man. That a man could be a soldier and a Christian. That he could be shot in pieces on the battlefield and go right off to glory. . . . That God sanctions both war and human slavery. This is a travesty upon justice, a crime upon nature and an imposition and lie upon God.

It is the greed and criminality on the part of the ruling class that precipitates all wars.

War and human slavery are the most potent factors that operate in the interest of the ruling class.

If the people of our country were taught that it is nothing short of murder and assassination to kill our fellow-beings in war; and that human slavery in any form means nothing but degradation for the race, we would soon be on the high way of Christian civilization.

The nations of the earth will never be civilized as long as they sanction and engage in war. Because war and human slavery, and Christianity and civilization will not harmonize.

R. F. RICHARDSON.

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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.

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Week ending Tuesday, November 3, 1914.

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### Election Reports.

Defeat of reactionary Democratic candidates throughout the country is indicated by early but incomplete returns. The party's majority in Congress is thus reduced almost to zero. Defeated reactionaries apparently include Hogan of Ohio, Karel of Wisconsin, and Sullivan of Illinois, the Republican nominees winning. Progressive candidates, including Robins, generally third in race. Whitman pledged favorably to lower rent referendum defeats Glynn in New York, who evaded issue. Kent and Nolan are elected in California, Keating in Colorado, Crosser and Gordon in Ohio, and probably Buchanan in Chicago. Woman suffrage apparently defeated in Ohio and Missouri and in doubt in Nevada, Nebraska, and the Dakotas. Prohibition defeated in Ohio and California and Arizona. In doubt in Colorado. No returns on pending taxation, initiative and referendum or other amendments.



### Mexico and United States.

Confusing and conflicting reports come from the convention at Aguas Calientes. General Carranza's resignation as first chief was qualified by the condition that General Villa also should retire. The convention is reported to have adopted on the 30th a decree deposing both Carranza and Villa from official positions and providing for the choice of a provisional president. The convention is to serve as a sort of congress, which, with the provi-