

a strong Protestant community and begin to abuse the free schools and the constitution, or let an anti-Catholic agitator go into a Catholic neighborhood and denounce the Pope, and observe how free speech works. Let an anarchist begin to denounce the courts and the government, and he will find free speech is a myth. Let a socialist begin to denounce property rights—as the socialist did out in Pratt, Kan., last week—and he is rolled in the gutter and has no protection of police or courts against the mob. Generally speaking, in most American communities there is free speech about many things—things that are no longer in serious doubt or controversy may be freely discussed. But there is no free speech along lines upon which the community has fixed opinions, such as marriage, property, the constitution, or the system of taxation in vogue.



### The Most Important Issue of All.

The Chicago Evening Post, June 26.—Have we reached the place where landlordism is to be a political issue in this country? The Post's Washington correspondent reports a movement on the part of the Progressive contingent in Congress to have an inquiry made into the alleged monopoly of land in several of the States of the Union. It is an interesting development at a time when this nation is seeking to solve a similar problem in a neighbor country. One-seventh of the acreage of California is said to be controlled by two ownerships. In the Miller and Lux estates are 14,500,000 acres. Three men are said to hold 4,200,000 acres in Florida. Half of the land in the State is said to be in the hands of 182 men. A witness before the House Committee on public lands is reported as testifying that he owned 3,000,000 acres in Texas. These are significant and arresting facts. Consider with them the increase of tenant farmers during the decade from 1900 to 1910, amounting to a little over 16 per cent, and the fact that almost exactly one-third of the farm owners in 1910 had mortgaged farms, and you have some of the elements that may constitute a serious problem, given time for unchecked operation. The fact that the actual number of farms in the United States increased in the decade by only 10.5 per cent, while the population of the country increased in the same period by precisely double this percentage, may not be unrelated to the general situation set forth. Throughout history the land question has been a fundamental question. Sooner or later it has arisen to plague statesmen and to provoke strife. It has been the occasion of more than one revolution. Mexico is merely repeating what is written in the annals of many another country.



### How to Prevent Competition.

The Saturday Evening Post (Philadelphia) June 27.—A big German bank boasts that it is represented on the directorates of more than two hundred corporations, while a bigger rival figuratively gathers about half of industrial and commercial Germany under its wing. As to the corporate connections of eminent Wall Street bankers, one may refer to the Money Trust report. In Germany and the United States, at least, Big Business has de-

liberately—even eagerly—put itself in hock to big banks. The common explanation is that Big Business constantly needs fresh capital and ties itself up with certain powerful banks in order to get itself financed—that is not the real reason, however. A sound railroad or industrial does not need to stand, hat in hand, in Morgan's anteroom or the anteroom of the Deutsche Bank to get capital. The real reason is to restrain competition. Big Business does not flock to big banks as a source of capital, but as a refuge from competition. Undoubtedly the most important function of such institutions as Morgan & Company and the Deutsche Bank is to keep competition in hand. They are a sort of medieval fair, at which traders can meet and discuss and adjust their differences under bonds to keep the peace, and make plans for their mutual benefit without knifing one another. Mellen's testimony pictures Morgan in a dominating position. An important reason for that position was that Morgan, taking it all round, could do more to suppress competition than anybody else. Naturally, therefore, business turned to him.

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## RELATED THINGS

### CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

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#### THE NEW DEMOCRACY.

By Rose H. Phelps Stokes.

I'm with the people—I'm with every man  
Who tills the soil, and sows the potent seed,  
And gathers harvests for the common good;  
Who wields the ax not for himself alone;  
Or if for self, yet harms not any man;  
Who turns the wheels of industry around  
With foot, or hand, or with the active brain,  
Supplying every need for every man—  
Were but supplies with love distributed  
And with a sense of common brotherhood.

I am with those who dream the pregnant dream  
Of happy workers in a happy state;  
Who dream the dream of true democracy;  
Who damn this state which makes for joyless life  
Through cruelest curse of mad monopoly.

I'm for the workers of the present state,  
Who love to serve, and serve because they love;  
Who count the sense of service to the whole  
A greater recompense than greed today  
Counts all its golden millions ("for the good"—  
It likes to say, "they render to the world").

I'm for the joyous workers yet to be!  
They who today consider work a curse;  
They who today are cursed with overwork;  
They who today do starve for lack of work;  
They who today live but from others' work—  
I'm for the joyous workers yet to be.



First we brutalize them; then club them over the heads for being brutes—so brutalized are we.—Harry W. Olney.