

and to grant them the use of a small plat of land near their cottages for this purpose." He further says that he favors establishment of a rural credit plan similar to what has been proposed for the United States in the Fletcher bill. In answer to complaints he promises to investigate the action of the insular police during a recent strike. But he adds to this that speakers who have been arrested must necessarily be in jail "for violations of the law of which they were duly convicted by a court of justice." [See current volume, page 1020.]



Alberta Penalizes Land Speculation.

The Alberta legislature on October 17 passed a bill to place a special tax on wild lands held for speculation. Commenting on this new law C. W. Cross, Attorney General of the Province, was quoted in the Toronto Globe of October 24 as follows:

I regard the passing of the bill providing for a tax upon wild lands as the principal piece of legislation arising out of the recent session of the Alberta Parliament. There are thousands of acres of land in our Province, as in all the other western Provinces, which have been held for years, in many cases, by speculators and investors, and have not been improved in the least. We say now to these absentee landlords, "You must use this waste territory in some way or pay a tax on it equal to \$10 per quarter-section, or about 6¼ cents per acre." By legislating against absentee landlordism in the rural districts of Alberta to this extent, the annual revenue of the Province will either be increased by nearly \$1,500,000, or the agricultural area under cultivation will be extended with great rapidity. The idea is to encourage a movement of people to the fertile lands of Alberta. And they are going out to the farms from such cities as Edmonton in large numbers already.



Eleventh Hour Plutocratic Appeal.

Two days before election a card was sent to every voter in Nebraska urging defeat of the pending taxation amendment widening the power of the legislature in dealing with the subject. The cards were signed "The League of Taxpayers," an organization of public service corporations. Among arguments used were the following: "It will cost the taxpayers of the state millions of dollars"; "Let well enough alone"; "It will re-open the old controversy over exemptions of church property." "Laurie J. Quimby, chairman of the Nebraska Press Association's Committee and a well known singletaxer, in his report says: 'All personal property taxes should be repealed, and only land should pay taxes.' This means Socialism. Why should the owners of land pay all taxes." "Amendment No. 1 was proposed by singletax advocates." [See current volume, pages 880, 974.]

Walker's Progressive Stand on Taxation.

In his speech at Malden, Massachusetts, on October 28, Joseph Walker, Progressive party gubernatorial candidate, who was the regular Republican candidate in 1912, made the following statement:

In a former speech I have called attention to the fact that for ten years our state expenditure has increased at the rate of \$1,000,000 per year, and that for twenty years our net state debt has increased at the rate of \$1,000,000 per year. I have pointed out the various ways in which the state could economize. I have shown that added revenue is imperative and that this can be obtained from those who now dodge their taxes, thus imposing the burden of taxation upon those who are least able to bear it.

I now wish to suggest a great tax reform which goes to the root of the whole taxation problem, and which would solve the question of revenue without imposing one additional cent upon either the consumer or producer. I refer to a tax on the unearned increment of land. Germany and other European countries have already tapped this great source of revenue. It is time that Massachusetts laid this soundest and least burdensome of all taxes.

Such a tax would lift the burden of taxation from the consumer, would free the producer, would remove the tax incubus from commerce and industry, would yield an enormous revenue without injustice to any man; would lessen the cost and stimulate the use of land, and would tend to reduce the cost of living. I stand for granting the right to our cities and towns to tax land at a higher rate than the improvements on land.

[See vol. xvi, pages 963, 988, 1037, 1082.]



New Haven Directors Indicted.

Indictments for violation of the anti-trust law were handed down by the Federal grand jury in New York on November 2 against directors or former directors of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company. Those indicted are William Rockefeller, George M. Miller, Charles F. Brooker, William Skinner, D. W. Barney, Robert W. Taft, James S. Elton, James S. Hemingway, Lewis Cass Ledyard, Charles M. Pratt, A. Heaton Robertson, Frederick F. Brewster, Henry K. McHarg, Edward D. Robbins, Alexander Cochrane, John L. Billard, T. DeWitt Cuyler, Theodore N. Vail, Edward Milligan, Francis T. Maxwell. The allegations on which the indictments are based are as follows:

- 1—To secure by purchase all of the capital stock of other carriers or to secure control of the same.
- 2—To secure other properties by leases.
- 3—To compel said carriers to make combinations and enter into arrangements to carry out "the designs of said conspirators."
- 4—To prevent all competition.
- 5—To exercise secret control of the Joy line and the United States Transportation Company, so that all independent steamship companies had to quit or sell out to them.