

"Land an American army at Vera Cruz and start it marching toward the capital and it would encounter only huzzas of welcome. The property-owning classes would regard it as coming to rescue and enforce social order." Betcher life! That's just what the property-owning classes did when the coalition invaded France, along about 1791, with a view of rescuing and enforcing social order, or something equally as favorable to the 5 per cent. The property-owning classes always get out and huzza for armies coming to rescue and enforce their cinch on things, and Mexico would be no exception. . . . A nice figure Uncle Sam would cut upon a mission to rescue order, or a condition, under which a limited land aristocracy has ground millions of Mexicans to the dirt! But we don't see him doing it, and the Mex property-owning classes had better put their huzzas in cold storage.



Lloyd George's Letter to Mr. Raffan.

The Nation (London), January 17.—Clearly, then, a policy that has as its main motive the emancipation of the energies of industry and the creation of the conditions of a good life must remove so obvious and conspicuous an anomaly. If it were made compulsory to levy, say, a penny rate on the capital values of the sites, and to throw all or the greater part of any increase of expenditure above its present amount of site values, with an option to rating authorities to levy a higher rate on these values for the purposes of present expenditure, there would be a great relief to industry and public enterprise. And as the reform would be accompanied by a readjustment of national and local burdens, no large and sudden disturbance of individual fortunes would result from it. Development would be stimulated instead of being penalized. Sloth and under-development would be fined instead of being rewarded as they now are. The economic tendencies set up by such a change would be of great public value and importance. Liberals are looking for some reform on these lines with eager expectations, and not only Liberals, but many who are not Liberals but who are versed in public and municipal administration. Rating reform is called for on its own merits, but its adoption in the circumstances of the hour is of vital importance. If large sums are to be taken from the National Exchequer and distributed among the local authorities, and the latter are still left to raise all their revenue on the present basis, the golden moment will go by. We shall have to postpone, probably for a generation, the realization of the long-cherished hope of carrying what Mr. Asquith has described as "a well-considered scheme, which would free municipalities from the trammels under which they at present act, and which would open the avenue to a new prospect of social and industrial development."



Coercion of Tenants.

Daily News and Leader (London and Manchester), February 25.—Plain folk must wonder what good the Unionist peers did yesterday to themselves and their friends by raising a debate on the political and social intimidation practiced by landlords on farmers and laborers. They secured an opportunity for venting

abuse on Mr. Lloyd George, . . . but they did nothing to shake the general conviction that under our existing land system there is no liberty of thought or political action for the laborer and the farmer who do not happen to share the views of the squire. Even the Unionist peers themselves had to admit that there are some bad tyrannical landlords, but they offered two absurd reasons for concluding that the system as a whole is admirable: the first is that Mr. Lloyd George does not offer documentary evidence of the kind that would satisfy a jury in a criminal case, as though landlords are clumsy enough to put their offense on paper when they are venting their spleen on a subordinate who ventures to be politically insubordinate; the second is that public opinion would long ago have swept away the system if it had been as evil as is said. Everybody knows that up till lately the only public opinion which has effected landlords in the working of the land has been the opinion of the landowning class, and that, of course, approved the pernicious courses. It is only since Mr. Lloyd George took up the land campaign that public opinion in relation to the land has become not merely vocal but effective and therefore feared by the landlords.



How One American Shipowner Protects American Labor.

Coast Seaman's Journal, Feb. 25.—While Robert Dollar is at Washington endeavoring to prevail upon Congress not to interfere with his business, the American steamer "Mackinaw," owned or chartered by Mr. Dollar's company, has successfully evaded the United States authorities by an entirely new scheme. It will be recalled that nineteen Chinese members of the "Mackinaw's" crew were imported to the United States in apparent violation of the Federal Contract Labor Law. Therefore, instead of loading at the American port where the "Mackinaw's" cargo of lumber had been gathered the vessel anchored at Esquimalt, B. C., and had the lumber brought to her in barges—all for the evident purpose of preventing the United States immigration officials from molesting that imported Chinese crew. We wonder if Mr. Dollar will explain the details of this little incident when he appears before the Congressional Committee in opposition to the safety features of the Seamen's bill?



The Plutocrat's Creed.

Pease and Ellman's Real Estate Indicator, New York, October 6.—Our Credo is short, and may be briefly stated. Its tenets, developed as space would allow are: That taxation in New York City is based on an absurd theory that a few people can continue to pay all the expenses of an extravagant and corrupt municipal government, backed by a like one at Albany; that since the benefits that are granted the people of the city are enjoyed by all, all of the people who are given the political franchise should pay their share toward them, each in proportion to his means, be they great or small, and that those who will not or cannot pay should be denied any share in the government of the city and the right to receive any payment from it for services of any na-