

In traveling on the railroad yesterday and today from Firebaugh to Los Banos I saw many thousands of cattle and more thousands of sheep, but outside of the railroad station I did not see five human beings in the 26 miles on the railroad. Through this territory there are probably over 200,000 acres of as fertile land as can be found in California. If cut up in small tracts it would support not less than 20,000 farmers and their families, and many large towns in addition. But Miller & Lux do not want to develop the country. They employ unmarried men, and pay them such small wages that they never can get married. One of the company officials even said to me that the men could not support wives on the wages they are paid. He said the pay ranged from \$30 to \$35 per month with board and lodging. But such "board!" A bunk in a shanty about 15x20 feet with anywhere from 5 to 40 other men. And the "board!" One of their employes told me it is "mul-ligan," composed of "lump jaw and macaroni." He said Miller & Lux pay a winter wage and a summer wage. The official I spoke to justified this on the ground that there are more men out of work in the winter and the work is not so hard as in the summer, so they pay \$1.10 in summer and \$1.00 in winter for 26 days in a month. The official said that on many of the "divisions" of their ranches the pay roll changes completely each month.

With such a condition existing you can understand why the people in the towns about here see in our Home Rule in Taxation constitutional amendment the salvation of the country. They realize that the only way this land monopoly can be broken up is by taking the burden of taxation off industry and putting it upon land value.

EDWARD P. E. TROY.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

ADVICE TO SINGLETAXERS.

New York City, May 11.

I think I have read as much Singletax literature as anybody, but I have recently re-read Dove's "Theory of Human Progression" with renewed interest and got valuable ideas from it. I urge our well-read Singletaxers to be sure that they are familiar with Dove's presentation of the doctrine from his own original and special point of view, and accordingly to take advantage of Mr. L. J. Quinby's generous offer to send a copy of Miss Kellogg's admirable abridgment of it, together with the clever skit "Shovelcrats," for postage only, twelve cents. If every good Singletaxer would give as generously as Mr. Quinby gives in proportion to his means we should hardly need a Joseph Fels Fund.

BOLTON HALL.



FUNCTIONS OF THE BREADLINE.

Westover, Md., May 11.

In answer to inquiries requesting information as to the functions fulfilled by the breadline* as a New York City institution, it may be said:

Among the more important uses of a breadline is the insurance it gives against bread riots. The bread

line is the American version of the panem et circenses [bread and circuses] of that period of Roman history corresponding to the present period of our own.

Were there no Rockefeller and no Grace Church, and the interests of which these are typical, there would be no bread line. While Rockefeller is trimming roses in Colorado, Grace Church is chiming the hours, and the bread line is only a natural result. Both are unconscious of the volcanoes gathering; or, if vague rumblings annoy, diversions, such as Mexican war, are arranged to do by wholesale and in short order such social surgery as may relieve the pressure for a time.

The text thunders with possibilities of exegesis, but—what is the 'use'?

WESTERN STARR.

*See Public of May 13 at page 413.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of The Public for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, May 19, 1914.

The New British Budget.

The London Daily News & Leader's fuller text of the 1914-15 budget emphasizes the importance of the new revenue measure. The amounts are unprecedented, and the boldness with which the Chancellor meets the new requirements is not a whit less than when he introduced the epoch-making budget of 1909. The new budget involves a finance bill, a revenue bill, an education bill, an insurance bill, a rating, or local taxation bill, and possibly other supplementary measures to complete the Government's comprehensive scheme.



During the three-hour speech in which Chancellor Lloyd George presented the budget to the House of Commons, he dwelt upon the new points involved, and upon old ones enlarged. The readjustment of the relations between local and imperial taxation received careful attention. For forty years, he said, Parliament had been casting new functions of a costly character upon local authorities without making provision to meet their financial liabilities. This resulted in making good statutes dead letters. The acts dealing with housing were instanced. "I am told," said the Chancellor, "that five millions of people in this country are living in slums with very disastrous effects on the future of the race." The local authorities are given the right to clear out the slums, but not the means. "When we are contemplating large projects of cleansing this country from the pollution of slums," the Chancellor

added, "the readjustment of the burdens of local taxation is an essential preliminary."



Educational needs were provided for by the scheme proposed by the President of the Board of Education, which readjusts the burden of local taxes, and makes a further advance on the road to an improved educational system. The young must no longer remain untrained while the "flood of political controversy rolls on." In readjusting the burdens of taxation the speaker continued: "We are of the opinion that a national system of valuation for local taxation must be set up—a system far more equitable and more impartial between classes and localities than the present system. We propose that this valuation should be a valuation and assessment of the real value, and should separate the site from the improvements. There is no intention to transfer the whole burden from the composite subject to the hereditament of the site, but we do intend that the taxation of the site value shall henceforth form an integral part of the system of local taxation."



The Chancellor illustrated the relief given by taking three cases of property valued at £50. "In the first case the land value is £10, and the improvements worth £40. In the second the land value is £25 and the improvements are worth £25. In the third the land is £50, and there are no improvements. Assuming that the reduction proposed is equal to a one shilling rate on improvements the first would receive a relief of £2. . . . In the second case where there are improvements of land of equal value the relief will be 25 shillings. In the case where there are no improvements not a penny of this relief will go. This will be a guarantee that the relief will not go to the owner of the site as such. Where the owner of the site has spent money upon it he will get relief. We mean to distribute the relief in such a way as to give the greatest proportion of help to the most hard-pressed areas—where the services are heavy and the ratable value is low, and not merely to the poorer districts, but to the districts which have shown the greatest public spirit in carrying out their municipal duties. They will receive the largest share of relief."



The British Lords and a Suffrage Bill.

In the British House of Lords on May 5 the Earl of Selbourne, Unionist, moved the second reading of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill—introduced by himself—and spoke at length in favor of the measure, taking prominent occasion on his way to denounce militancy as a hindrance to the suffrage cause. Lord Curzon moved the

rejection of the bill, which consisted of one short clause proposing that:

Any woman shall be qualified to be registered in a constituency as a Parliamentary elector, and, whilst so registered, shall be entitled to vote at an election of a member or members to serve in Parliament for that constituency if she is a local government elector for the purposes of any local government election in that constituency.

After two days' debate the bill was rejected by a vote of 104 to 60, its discussion having disclosed two classes of objectors to the measure: those against it because they were opposed to woman suffrage; and those against it because they regarded its limitations of suffrage as undemocratic. [See current volume, page 369.]



Mexico and the United States.

Mediation sentiment continues to grow, and the prospect of practical results are decidedly brighter. The three delegates who will represent General Huerta at the Niagara Falls peace conference, Emilio Rabasa, Augustin Rodriguez and Luis Elguero, together with a staff of secretaries, and members of their families, arrived in Washington on the 16th, where they were entertained by the Department of State until their departure for the meeting on the 20th. The hopeful atmosphere surrounding the mediation question was revived by the statement on the 18th that the Mexican delegates had been empowered by General Huerta to present his resignation, if necessary, to secure peace. [See current volume, page 464.]



Though this statement comes with all the appearance of authority, details are lacking. The conditions of General Huerta's withdrawal, as given out at the time, were that he have some voice in the naming of his successor, that General Carranza be barred, that America lend Mexico \$400,000,000 to be expended under a commission of two Americans two Mexicans one Englishman one German and one Frenchman and that the United States take a ninety-nine year lease of Magdalena Bay for naval target practice at an annual rental of \$1,000,000. Should the delegates submit this proposition and the United States accept it the following questions will be asked: What are the plans of the United States following the resignation of General Huerta? Who will become the provisional president of Mexico? Who will be barred from running for the presidency? Will the United States call a halt on the advance of the Constitutionalists to Mexico City?



President Wilson is reported to have told the American delegates, Justice Lamar of the Su-