

Mr. Wrights of that day were advocating better education of the negro, gentler conduct by their overseers, even a little religion of the expurgated sort. The Ingersolls of that day saw no hope for the negro or for the white but through the total abolition of chattel slavery. Both Capital and Labor are subject to humiliating relations of subserviency to the relatively small group who, through our absurd and iniquitous fiscal laws, hold and exploit all access to American soil. Perhaps the closer intercourse between Capital and Labor, which is urged by Mr. Wright, may bring to both the realization of their common enemy, the cause of their own difficulties and distress. Let us hope so. As yet, however, we see very little fruits of the larger understanding from these internal adjustments in some of our larger industrial concerns. We shall welcome them when we find them. In the meantime, we trust that the leaders of the industrial conciliation movement are under no illusion regarding the efficacy of their various devices. Their little umbrella may keep a dry spot for a while, but is of no avail against the gathering storm and deluge. The ostrich's vain hope of escaping the whirlwind by hiding its head in the cosy comfort of the sand is typical of this hurrying of our big business to the cover of such frail little devices as profit-sharing, united industrial committees, etc. We expect better things from the leaders of big business.

IN its issue of Jan. 4, 1920, the *N. Y. Times* thus refers to a report recently made by Dr. W. S. Rankin, at a meeting of the American Public Health Association:

"He said that of the 110,000,000 citizens of this country, 45,000,000 are physically imperfect; 15,000,000 die annually; 3,000,000 are in bed all the time; 1,000,000 have tuberculosis, and from 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 have hookworm and malaria. Only 37,500,000 are fairly healthy and 19,500,000 in full vigor. With all our vaunted support of higher educational institutions, it is interesting, perhaps surprising, to find that there are more persons in the insane asylums in this country than in all the colleges and universities. It is also estimated that the former cost more to maintain than do the latter.

These figures offer a strong argument for a National Department of Public Health, he said, with extensive organization and personnel, that will have among its duties those of building up the health of the people of the country. Such a department could accelerate and support to a marked degree the work already undertaken by the State and other local departments, and by such organizations as the Rockefeller Foundation."

It will occur to an increasing number of thoughtful citizens, that the deplorable situation denounced by Dr. Rankin needs for its cure something more than the creation of a new bureaucratic machine. Poverty and economic injustice are the source of most of our social mal-formations.

IT is very gratifying news that Mr. James A. Robinson, National Organizer of the Single Tax Party, sends us from the Southwest. Missouri is organized; a representative State Committee composed of some of the finest of the "Old Guard" of that State are in control, as will be seen by reference to our news columns.

What Will Zionism Bring Forth?

FROM a belated report of the proceedings of the annual meeting of the Zionist Organization of America, held at Chicago in September last, we have pleasure in reproducing a significant paragraph or two from a message sent to the Convention by Dr. Max Nordau. It is a strong document, clear in its message and high in its purpose. Dr. Nordau defines five objects which he urges the Zionist Organization to strive for. The fourth object in the list is the land problem. It reads as follows:

"4 All the land in Palestine that has belonged to the late Turkish Government must be made over to the new occupants, but shall remain the perpetual and inalienable property of the Jewish nation, and proportioned to individual occupiers only on a system of a renewable emphytheusis, in accordance with our wonderfully prophetic law of Moses of the Sabbath and Jubilee Year, which Rivadavia practically in the Argentine, and Henry George theoretically in North America, have tried to modernize."

"You American Jews have behaved wonderfully in these horrible years of war and ruin. You have given lavishly your millions. You have shrunk from no sacrifice. You have realized works of solidarity, unparalleled in history. This will be recorded forever in our annals and remain your eternal glory. But money is not everything. We now ask of you, and expect from you, that you will make a new and far more decisive effort to act efficiently in the direction of the five points I venture to submit to you."

The conspicuous part already played by the Jewish people in the history of the world, their fidelity to their race and its traditions, gives exceptional importance to every step taken toward their resurrection as a nation. It is inconceivable that, at such a time, such a virile people, disciplined in adversity and inspired by high, intense ideals, should defraud the world's expectation. That, indeed, would be the Great Betrayal.

Absentee Ownership— An Increasing Problem

UNDER the above title, the *Weekly News Letter* of the U. S. Department of Agriculture of Dec. 31, 1919, contains a report by David F. Houston, Secretary of the Department. He says:

"Land, however, is peculiarly important to all the people, and the welfare and prosperity of the community, as well as its economic and social progress, depend so vitally on its use and the relationship of the population to it that serious thought must be given to the problem of limiting absentee ownership."

Beyond lamenting the abuse of the Federal farm loan system by speculators, Mr. Houston makes no suggestion

as to how to make absentee ownership unprofitable. He says:

"An analysis of the amount loaned shows that only a small proportion of the net proceeds was ostensibly obtained for the purchase of farms."

"In some sections the growth of tenancy has been stimulated by the fact that the price of land has been higher than the level justified by current earnings. Consequently, it has been more profitable to rent than to buy, unless one wished to speculate in land values. Recently there has been a tendency for prices to increase with extreme rapidity. There has been active, and in many respects unwholesome, speculation which has profited mainly the real estate agents The advancing price of land is especially serious in the case of the undeveloped regions of the country. It constitutes an obstacle to development, for the actual settler is compelled to assume at the outset unduly heavy interest charges."

Our country is carrying a heavy cargo of dead-heads. They occupy seats and pay no fare. By the simple process of paying their fare, they would cease to be dead-heads. The fiscal machinery for enforcing the payment exists. Why is it not applied? Is it a small thing to stultify the development of our country? What private interest has a prior claim to our allegiance? Is this country always to be fair game for the land gambler, the economic dead-head? What brand of Americanism tolerates and foment this thing?

Children Hungry in a Great City

THE New York *Evening Sun* of January 6 had an editorial appeal headed "Ragged Children" which reads in part:

"The Children's Society reports that not a day goes by without the appearance of at least fifty ragged and shivering children at the Society's rooms, asking for help. . . . Colonel Ernest E. Coulter of the Society declares that 'thousands of children in New York today need warm clothes and shoes.'"

And the editorial urges a generous response to the plea of the Society for shoes and clothing for these thousands of unfortunate children.

We hope the response will be generous, even though we realize, as the *Evening Sun* does not, the futility of trying to fill the maw of Poverty with a few old clothes. It is a terrible thing to be cold and ragged—and likely enough hungry, too. Reformers who would go deeper than mere charity and remove the causes of raggedness and hunger, feel far more deeply than charity-urging editors for the sufferings of these poor children. That is why we are reformers—because, like Henry George, the poverty and misery we see around us will not let us rest.

And at least these children have done nothing to deserve their rags and shivers (at least not in this world, which is at present the fact with which we are concerned). We leave for our theosophical friends, and the professors of economics, the discussion of the abstruse questions of the probability

of errors in former incarnations being responsible for the plight of these children. Not that professors of economics fall back on theories of re-incarnation to explain poverty; we recommend them, however, as much more sensible than the usual professorial explanations of the causes and continuance of poverty.

"Thousands of children" in need of warm clothes and shoes. One would hardly believe it, were it not "in the paper." For hasn't prohibition been in effect since July first? The working classes are no longer able to spend their money for rum, and surely ought to have an ample surplus for their children's needs.

And wages—why wages are sky-high; and the columns of the daily press and the editorial pages of the *Evening Sun* are full of wails from the oppressed employers who are facing dire poverty as a result of the heartless demands of labor.

Can it be, that these thousands of children are from the families of the employers? children of bankers perhaps, or of landlords whose rents have been sadly cut into by the high cost of automobiles?

That the inability of the parents of these children to clothe them properly, may be due to the fact that prices are going up in the elevator while wages climb the stairs, and that the rents the workers must pay for the privilege of living in New York have been doubled the past year—these are vagaries of disordered minds, liable to subject those who entertain them to deportation or exclusion from the New York legislature!

The End of An Experiment

THE death of the *Public* marks the end of an experiment. That experiment was the attempt to advance the Single Tax by advocating a number of things in which the Democratic Party was primarily interested, in the hope of getting that party to take up our issues. Many of the things advocated were opposed to the Single Tax.

The *Public*, supported by Single Tax money, was engaged in bringing to others than Single Taxers a mass of miscellaneous reading matter for which they were not willing to pay themselves. The experiment was a costly one.

Yet we cannot but regret its passing. The *Public* was at least a glorious tradition. There were times in the past when it served the cause valiantly. It might have continued to do so. But failing to sense the new spirit and committed to the falling fortunes of the administration, its friends were finally alienated and its support dwindled. The paper founded by Louis Post, with its long and honorable career, has now ceased to exist.

To say that capital is the result of abstinence is about as true as to say that life is the result of not destroying oneself.

—FRANCIS MINTON, M.A.

POVERTY takes away so many means of doing good, and produces so much inability to resist evil, both natural and moral, that it is by all virtuous means to be avoided.

—DR. JOHNSON.