

A Trust Betrayed

THE *New York World* publishes daily the following statement by its founder, Joseph Pulitzer, of the purposes of that paper:

"An institution that should always fight for progress and reform, never tolerate injustice or corruption, always fight demagogues of all parties, never belong to any party, always oppose privileged classes and public plunderers, never lack sympathy with the poor, always remain devoted to the public welfare, never be satisfied with merely printing news, always be drastically independent, never be afraid to attack wrong, whether by predatory plutocracy or predatory poverty."

It would be an interesting comment on this high-sounding declaration to see a reprint of *World* editorial articles in which the injustice of present methods, under which enormous sums are annually permitted to go into private pockets for permission to live or do business on the earth, was attacked. Has the *World* anything definite to say about the "privileged classes and public plunderers" who are receiving hundreds of millions of dollars every year, that ought to go into the public treasury? Does the *World* show its "sympathy with the poor" by pointing out the chief cause of poverty? Is it "afraid to attack wrong" when it ignores the great fundamental wrong of private absorption of publicly-created land values? Is it "devoted to the public welfare" when it refuses to urge the adoption of the Single Tax, the most certain method for destroying special privilege and establishing a just social order? Has the fact that the *World* is in receipt of very large sums yearly from the speculative interests that are holding valuable land out of use in the expectation of being able to blackmail industry for permission to build upon it, anything to do with the *World's* silence on this all-important question?

Looking down—or up—from the shades, how Joseph Pulitzer must laugh at the success of his heirs in hoodwinking the gullible public into believing that the *World* is living up to the high ideals that he professed.

Mr. Marcossou Makes a Discovery

ISAAC MARCOSSON, author of those popular works of fiction, "Me and Lord Northcliffe," "How Kitchener Helped Me Win The World War" and other stories of great men who have been privileged to make the acquaintance of a modest unassuming American journalist, has emitted a few thousand words and many profound thoughts on the subject of taxation for the edification of the readers of *The Saturday Evening Post*. Mr. Marcossou has made some amazing discoveries, such as the fact that the American people are groaning under an oppressive burden of taxation; that the rich men who pay heavy income taxes would like to escape them, and that tax-exempt securities permit the "malefactors of great wealth," as they were termed by a former President of the United States, to dodge paying

their fair share of the public revenue. Nor is this all that the industrious compiler of opinions of the "thinking classes," the men to whose hands Providence has confided the property interests of the country, has discovered. Hear him: "After a canvass covering practically the whole of the United States it is evident that the overwhelming sentiment of the people is for a sales, or turnover, tax. I found that nearly everybody seems to favor this form of revenue."

Just when and how he made this canvass, reaching "nearly everybody" out of 100,000,000, people, he doesn't say. Probably by wireless, or through his highly developed sense of absorption, which enables him to hear what these millions are thinking. There seems, however, to be something wrong with his telepathic apparatus. Who did he canvass, and how? What leaders of thought did he allow to interview him, and tell him all about the tax question? A little information on these points would help the skeptical readers of what he thought was a contribution to the world's wisdom, to understand why he reached the same conclusion as those eminent friends of the dear people, Messrs. Irving G. Bush, Otto H. Kahn and Jules S. Bache. They are the "whole of the United States." They are "nearly everybody"—in their own opinion. So if they want the SALES TAX all America wants it.

Did Mr. Marcossou ever hear of the 6,500,000 American farmers, who through their great organizations have repeatedly denounced the sales tax as an infamous scheme to shift taxation from great wealth taken from the producers by special privilege, to the consuming public? Does he know that the American Federation of Labor, and other organizations representing the workers, have gone on record as irrevocably opposed to the SALES TAX? Doesn't he know that the SALES TAX is dead and damned, so far as any prospect of its being adopted by Congress is concerned? If he doesn't know this he is very ignorant. If he suppresses these important facts he is dishonest. The columns of the REVIEW are open to him for an explanation.

Spending Money To Reform Society

CHARGES by President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor that the fund of \$800,000 created by Mr. Charles Garland, of Massachusetts, for the purpose of promoting social reforms in the interest of the workers, has been in part devoted to the support of radical papers and organizations advocating what are alleged to be revolutionary doctrines, illustrate the troubles that arise when attempts are made to use large amounts of money for propaganda aims. How often have the ardent spirits who longed with the Persian Tentmaker to grasp the sorry frame of things and remould it, wished that they had a million dollars, with which they were sure that they could reform the world.

It was possibly with a clear insight into his own limitations that young Mr. Garland decided that instead of undertaking a reform programme of his own, he would give