

A Trustless Industry

DESPITE the claim of the Socialists that the economic laws governing the development of industry make inevitably toward great combinations of capital with power to extort monopoly prices, there is at least one field of productive and distributive activity that has shown no evidence of taking on the form of competition-destroying trusts. This is the great fishing industry, that employs many thousands of workers on sea and shore, and contributes so largely to the world's supply of food. While there are some great companies engaged in catching, preserving and selling the products of the ocean and fresh water lakes, they are all keenly competing with each other and thousands of small concerns. Efforts have been made at various times in the United States to form great central combinations that would dominate the industry, but so far they have not been successful in either raising prices or driving out competition. The consolidation of the sardine-packing interests of Eastport and Lubec, Maine, and the attempt to perfect a national organization handling the bulk of the oyster supply, both failed because of the fundamental conditions that made limitation of production impossible.

The reason for the failure of price-fixing combinations, or of trust methods of abolishing competition, to develop in the fishing industry is found in the basic fact that the ocean is free to all. Anyone who can secure enough capital to build and outfit a staunch schooner or small trawling steamer can go a-fishing on his own account. Very often co-operative ventures are formed by men of small means, who are part owners of the fishing vessel. The much-talked of "equality of opportunity," exists now so far as getting wealth out of the sea is concerned. Any serious attempt to corner fish production would be promptly met by new competitors, attracted by the prospect of profits, and the additional supply would soon bring down prices to a fair and reasonable point. There is a lesson in this for the trust-buster and corporation-baiters. If they would only apply themselves to securing the enactment of legislation by which the natural resources of the land can be thrown open to all who are willing to work in developing them, the power of great industrial units to charge monopoly prices would quickly disappear.

IF Mr. Ogden had come from heaven with flesh on his bones as we now see him and said that the Heavenly Father had given him a title, we might then believe him.—RED JACKET (Indian Chief), Stone's "Life of Red Jacket," chap. V, p. 227.

HERE is the fundamental error, the crude and monstrous assumption, that the land which God has given to our nation is or can be the private property of anyone. It is an usurpation exactly similar to that of slavery.

—PROF. E. W. NEWMAN, Lectures on Political Economy.

Suggestions For Single Tax Bequests

THE paragraph in last issue of the REVIEW referring to the friend who desires advice as to how a bequest to the movement should be administered has called forth a number of letters. As these are of interest both to our friend and others who may be considering the same question, extracts from some of these letters are appended.

A new subscriber, J. R. Williams, of Manitoba, writes:

"The friend who is considering leaving a bequest, and how to use it has touched a subject that I have given a good deal of thought. In my air castles I often think what I should do if I had a million. I should first protect my family and use the remainder to advertise the Single Tax. I should use the regular mediums, the same as business does, advertising Henry George's works, with short extracts from his books, and endeavor to show that, without the Single Tax, the more we progressed, the worse off we should be. Not one dollar, in fact not one cent, would be spent to help elect any one, and this would include the finest Single Taxer in the country.

When an election was on, I should stop all advertising, and if five cents would make Single Taxers of the whole members of the Senate as well as all the legislature, I should not spend it. My idea is to have the people force their representatives to put in Single Tax, and not the representatives to force it on the people. I should discourage any Single Taxers running for office, as I consider he can do much more good outside than inside. As soon as a man gets elected to a political office he is an unknown quantity to me and I think the past proves this."

Mr. J. H. Kaufman, of Columbus, Ohio, writes as follows:

"Referring to the November-December issue on page 163 I note that 'A friend of the Single Tax desires to leave a bequest to the movement * * *,' and asks for suggestions as to how such bequest might be administered.

I do not know the amount of the intended bequest but I once heard a great person of this country say 'One great unselfish soul in each community would actually redeem the world.' I believe this, and taking each State of the U. S. as a community, I know a man in Ohio who, if given \$50,000.00 or possibly just the income from \$100,000.00 to finance a program for a period of five years—possibly less—could put across the Single Tax in Ohio. When Ohio does that all other States will follow.

If I had a bequest to make in support of the Single Tax movement I would seek out that man and put him to work. There are likely other men or perhaps women of the same type.

Single Tax can be made effective by constructive educational activity. Opponents would have no case if brought to the bar. Our methods and failures in regard to taxation constitute the most stupendous blunder of our history. The greatest monument in the history of the world will be erected by a grateful people to the person or persons who make effective the remedy. In doing it, actions will speak louder than words tho words such as appear in the REVIEW and other publications from time to time are very inspiring and are needed to bring us to action. I often wonder why we allow this perjurious, criminal, death-dealing taxation procedure to go on."