

to use the natural resources from which life is sustained." So far, they have not told us how this is to be secured, or when they were going to recognize man's equal right to the use of the earth.

Foreigners own over 40,000,000 acres of land in the United States on which American citizens must pay rent, the same as Irish tenants must pay the English landlords. W. W. Astor and the Lord Scully estate alone take millions of dollars each year in ground rent, and like other landlords never earn a dollar of it. Would it not be more in harmony with justice if the people who create this ground rent used it for public purposes instead of paying public expenses from the wage fund?

In this country we have 15,000,000 landless, homeless men, 15,000,000 mothers without homes—workers, all of them. And we have farm laborers who would like to have farms of their own.

But what chance have they to get them? The State does everything it can in the way of taxation to drive men off the farms. Then they throw them sop in the way of National Reserve Banks and farm credit associations. Farmers and miners do not need credits. They are the real producers of the wealth. What they want is equal rights to the use of the earth.

The upheaval at Lawrence and Salem, Massachusetts; the miners' strikes in Virginia, Michigan and Colorado; the outbreak of tenant farmers in Missouri and Texas—are but manifestations of corruption and disregard of human rights. If democracy awakes not, then the people may declare, as did the French Assembly over a century ago, that: "Ignorance, neglect or contempt for the natural rights of men is the sole cause of corruption and downfall of governments."

CRIME AND CRIMINALS

(For the Review.)

By **H. H. HARDINGE**

The principle reason for the failure of "anti-crime" crusades and the general futility of crime discussions is the fact that but one side of the question is discussed by the superficial reformers who engage in these often well meant but silly crusades.

Crime is of three kinds and only three. It is committed by one individual against another, or by an individual against a group, the State for instance; or it is perpetrated by the State, the collective body, against the individual. In nearly every discussion of the crime question that I have heard, it dealt solely from the individualistic standpoint and rarely is it hinted and never is it asserted by our alleged criminologists that the "State," as it is organized and supported today, is the greatest and most vindictive of criminals; yet it

is a perfectly safe assertion that were it not for the crimes of the State against individuals, individual crimes would rapidly diminish. Europe today is a most striking illustration of this; the States are at war, the very States that not only tell the individual that he must not "fight it out," but must "take his case to court."

The State is the only thing in the world today that is huge enough and powerful enough and respectable enough to murder men in wholesale lots and "get away with it;" no individual from a king down or up can do that today. Patriotism (whatever that is), greed, suspicion, hatred, revenge and protective tariffs all play their disreputable parts and tariffs are the worst of the lot, because they nurse the others and keep them alive. Tariffs are the greatest of international stumbling blocks—the greatest obstacles to international intercourse, the greatest foes of international peace in the world today. They are the direct descendants of the ancient piracies on the Mediterranean, and they are backed and buttressed by the worst of modern pirates today, both personal and social.

The evil that individual men do through evil intent are as nothing compared with the evil that states do through ignorance, both of natural laws and moral laws. The "State" has always substituted for the "reign of law," the reign of the bludgeon and called it law when it was nothing but brute force backed by ignorance and the policemen's club.

Nor does the evil of State-committed crimes end here; fully 90% of the crimes committed by individuals against the State and against each other is due to quarrels and animosities generated over the possession and division of property.

Our court dockets are choked with civil and criminal cases; this condition is chronic all over the country and most of the civil cases and also the criminal cases revolve around the question of "property rights," which being properly translated spell property wrongs. In this again the State plays a very prominent part, because it is through the State and interests ordained and nurtured by the State that property is for the average man ever harder to get, just as it is ever easier to produce; this paradox was a State origin; the State alone explains the average millionaire as it also explains the tramp. The millionaire is dimly and in many cases fully conscious of this, but the average tramp never suspects it; he is a victim, not a member of society. No citizen will sell his vote for two dollars, or less, to crooked politicians. Citizenship has no price in terms of dollars. The State "has a price" as a rule, many States have been bought, owned and operated by opulent citizens from kings to plutocrats, whose opulence came from the State and from the State alone.

Most of the vast, intricate, ingenious, expensive and resistless machinery of the State expends itself in shadowing, chasing, capturing, imprisoning, fining and murdering criminals of its own making, for the State is the greatest producer as well as the punisher of criminals; it is the super-criminal. The

State by making private property God's footstool and fostering speculation in the unearned increment, lays the foundation, and with resistless power builds the superstructure of nearly every great fortune; the remainder are produced by an army of economic slaves whose resisting power has been crushed by the State.

The State alone is powerful enough to limit opportunities in a land of such colossal resources as this country, and if the country were ten times as huge and each acre ten times as rich as it is now, the difference would not go to those who produce wealth from the soil, but only those who own the title to it. It is not work, but ownership that gets the fruits of industry. It is not a paper title, but the power of the State back of it that give it validity and vitality.

The State is the greatest of aggressors, the only real monopolist. It is the universal tyrant and back of all the tyrannies of the State, back of its monopolistic powers, back of its blunders, back of its onesided administration, back of its dilatory tactics, its inequities, its partizanships and its injustice, there stands like an impenetrable wall a public opinion that thinks in retail instead of in wholesale, and that views all great public questions through the spectacles of private interest. *This is the real tyrant.* It erects tariffs for private interests, it establishes monopolies that cover and include the earth for private gain. It subsidizes editors, browbeats professors, frightens teachers, maps programmes for preachers and has established a condition right here in America that would regard the golden rule as a huge joke or the act of a mad convention if it were written into the platform of any political party of consequence. This proves incontestably that our people do not practice the golden rule because they do not believe in it. It is a shibboleth; it is not a reality.

For thousands of years man has been a predatory creature, his very existence depended upon it; all around him the predacious instincts of nature held full sway; it was the one condition in which he could survive and his present existence on the planet is due to it more than to anything else, and it stands to reason that this predacious instinct which has in the bygone ages served him so well would be incorporated into his "institutions" just as soon as he developed sufficiently to have institutions. So it has come to pass just as might logically be expected; he has done this very thing, and institutional extortion as practiced today takes two dollars worth of wealth out of every three that is produced from the soil of America and gives it to privilege for doing nothing instead of giving it to industry for doing everything.

Blessed are the privileged for they shall inherit the earth; this is the real inheritance; Blessed also are the meek, for they shall ask no questions, they shall get no information, nor shall they get a resting place for their feet, be they never so weary, for of such is the kingdom of the foolish.