

arises solely from the demand for it arising from the mere presence of population. There is only one solution: we must forever destroy land monopoly. We can do it by the simple method of taxing land values only. By taking the ground rent that now goes into private pockets for public purposes we can abolish all other taxes in whatever form.

This would destroy the privilege of land owners to reap where they have not sown, and would make all the unused land practically free to whomsoever wished to use it. Does it require severe intellectual effort to see the result? Labor and capital would then receive all that they are entitled to receive—the full product.

No longer would the non-producers gain at the expense of the producers. But the producers would gain at the expense of the non-producers, receiving the full benefits of advancing civilization. The problem of the unjust distribution of the wealth produced would then be solved, in the only way it can be solved, by recognizing the equal right of all men to the free use of Nature's bounty—the earth.

W. A. CRONENBERGER, in *Ohio State Journal*.

Looting the Public Domain

SELFISH, unscrupulous private interests, aided by corrupt public officials, have robbed this country of its choicest public domains, with the result that comparatively poor resources which "the looters" overlooked are all that remain in the public possession, the fourth volume of the *Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*, published by the MacMillan Company, declares in an article on conservation.

The article is written by F. G. Tryon, an expert attached to several United States bureaus and a member of the editorial staff of the encyclopedia. Professor Edwin R. A. Seligman of Columbia University is editor-in-chief of the encyclopedia's staff.

The administration of Secretary of the Interior Albert B. Fall is condemned particularly in the criticism of the "looting" of the public domains. The article declares that "the administration of the naval oil reserves under Secretary Fall reached the lowest depths of corruption."

The article declares the searchlight of publicity on public corruption after the scandals of the Harding administration aroused the public to the importance of conserving what remained of the once widespread public resources. By the passage of new land laws the conservation movement accomplished one of its primary aims, "the protection of the remaining public domain against looting by private interests," the article asserts.

"The resources to which the nation thus retained title were, however, largely marginal, represent, except for water power, only what private interests had overlooked or passed by as of small value."

New York Times, June 23, 1931.

Private Property

THE Bible says: "the land is mine saith the Lord, and shall not be sold." And again: "the heavens even the heavens are the Lords, but the earth He has given to the children of men." Yet about 95 per cent of the human race is disinherited, and have no right to one square inch of God's bounty, which He created equally for all His children. Please explain.

CHICAGO, ILL.

W. B. S.

Your first text refers to the divine prohibition against selling land beyond the year of jubilee, at which time the land was to be returned to its former owner. See Leviticus chapter 25:23.

The second text shows that God is the absolute owner of all things, since He created them. But by explicit revelation He has given the land to the children of men for their temporal sustenance. God remains absolute owner of all creation, whereas man enjoys only the dominion of use in subjection to God's sovereign right. Man shares in a certain degree in the dominion of God because he has been made according to God's image and likeness. On account of this likeness God said of man: "let him have dominion . . . over the whole earth." (Gen. 1:26.)

This divine grant is not to be understood to mean that a certain portion of this earth has been assigned by God to every individual directly, but in the sense that every man because he is a rational being, *has the inherent right to possess land*, and other external things, as his own.

It is no discovery to find that a strong minority of the human race controls a major portion of the earth. This *unequal distribution* of the land is one of the greatest causes of civil unrest. It gives a handle to the socialist school to advocate the abandonment of the principle of private ownership. The unlimited ownership of land by a few is an abuse of a divine grant no one of common sense will dare to deny. But the gross abuse of the principle of private ownership does not forbid its use, or demonstrate its falsity.

Something, however, must be done towards enabling more people to become land owners, for economic stability will hardly be attained unless the major part of the human race has a small share of what God has granted to all.

The Sign, June, 1931, published by the Passionist Father

THE debt recess, if accepted by all nations involved will not admit our products to Canadian markets from which they have been excluded by the retaliatory legislation of the Dominion.

CLAUDE BOWERS in *New York Journal*.

THE great labor problem during the civil war time was to obtain the requisite number of workers for the fast expanding industries of the land, the more so because industry had to compete with the appeal of great areas of free land in the West. Labor began to organize. During the stern years of the 1870's there was a series of war strikes.—*Boston Herald*.