

Cincinnati, O., is chairman and the other members are Jackson H. Ralston, of Washington, D. C.; Lincoln Steffens, of Boston, Mass.; Frederick C. Howe, of Cleveland, O., and George A. Briggs, of Elkhart, Ind. Assisting these gentlemen is an advisory committee composed of William Lloyd Garrison, Dr. Mary D. Hussey, George Foster Peabody, Hon. Edward Osgood Brown, H. F. Ring, Louis F. Post, F. Cyrus Leubuscher, Fenton Lawson, Bolton Hall, Mrs. Jennie L. Munroe, James W. Bucklin, C. H. Ingersoll, Henry George, Jr., Joseph Dana Miller and Rt. Rev. Charles D. Williams, Bishop of Michigan. The Treasurer of the Fels Fund is Tom L. Johnson, Mayor of Cleveland, to whom all believers in the George theory of taxation should send remittances in such sums as they can afford, at the office of the Fels Fund Commission in the Commercial-Tribune Building, Cincinnati, Ohio.

How is the fund to be used?

Briefly in furthering the campaign for the taxation of land values only, through the device of the Initiative and Referendum.

Conditions for such a campaign are ripe in Oregon and in Missouri, where the Initiative and Referendum are in operation; also in Rhode Island, where the tax reform movement has been supported by the most representative business concerns of the State. With the people having a voice in taxation, the result can only be, as we see it now coming in Great Britain, that the taxes will be laid upon the land values now engrossed by those who simply hold land and let the work of other people increase its value. The money will be expended upon literature, making clear the cause, on press bureaus, speakers, conventions and general systematic propaganda of the facts and the deductions therefrom as to the economic, political and social curse of the private monopoly of land values.

With the example of Great Britain and Germany; with the object lesson afforded in the sinister and subterranean reversal of the Roosevelt policy of conserving this country's natural resources in the public lands; with the piling up of taxes upon the industrious to the relief of the idle; with the results before us of the scheme by which the burdens of the poor are increased by the scheme of tariff protection; with the growth of taxes on everybody but the landlords in all our cities, the growth of which benefits first and chiefly those same landlords, there is inspiration for work and sacrifice by those who know the remedy that shall set labor free, through setting land free of those who, in holding it, own the people who must live and work upon the land.

Every Georgian should give of his means.

He can afford to do so. He won't miss a small

free gift, when he considers what the present land system and unjust taxation upon industry robs him of for the benefit of the monopolists.

The people's eyes are opening. A very little money comparatively will open them more, until they shall plainly "see the cat" and proceed to put the Georgian demonstration into practical operation.

There is no greater cause worth fighting for in this world and time.

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## THE FUNDAMENTAL CAUSE OF EMIGRATION FROM DENMARK TO AMERICA.

A Lecture Delivered by Attorney Sophus Berthelsen at the Danish-American Assembly at Roeskilde, Denmark, August 10, 1909. Translated for The Public from the Danish Monthly, "Ret," for August, 1909, by C. M. Koedt.

Even if he has never crossed the Atlantic every Dane will follow with the greatest sympathy the movement which, especially this year, is aimed at closer ties between the home land and those Danes who live in America. We are heartily touched by their love for the old motherland, demonstrated in this summer's festivals for Danish Americans, and we perceive that we here at home can only profit by strengthening and fastening these connections with our countrymen in the foreign land, even if we can not close our eyes to the fact that in the "strange" land where a man and a woman and their children live and labor, perform their work, and reap its fruit, there will sooner or later be found their true fatherland. The father's and grandfather's home country will become a constantly more and more declining memory in the minds of the children, an ever decreasing smaller part of their spiritual inheritance and possession, as compared to the new and great fatherland, which perhaps has a prouder past, a richer culture, a freer constitution and a greater future than little Denmark.

But in spite of this sympathetic tie binding us to our countrymen, who have gone over seas, there is a question or a chain of questions of which every Dane can only think with deep antipathy and displeasure; aye, even apprehension and trembling involuntarily seize many who think earnestly over this matter, which, remarkable as it may appear, has not come to the front in the discussions at this summer's numerous American meetings.

This question relates to the reasons for the whole emigration: *What was the cause, dear friends, that you departed from among us? What have we done, that you should leave the home of your fathers to become halfway foreigners? And can we now make up for it? Has it benefited or harmed the home land, that you thus departed*

with your sum of powers and fortitude? Must we here at home continue trying to *increase* this export of good, brave men and women, to strengthen you yonder? Or must we, on the contrary, endeavor to stop this emigration? Perhaps try to prepare shelter here at home for those of our Danish emigrants who do not prosper abroad and long to return? Well, would it not be the most natural, the nearest result of a true feeling of kinship, if we proposed, discussed and possibly answered these many questions, just at this time when our scattered children return to meet in conference with their home-staying kin in Denmark?

This question: *Is emigration a natural undertaking or a sickly abnormality*, for a people? presents itself stronger now than ever before, calling for a reply from the public consciousness.

In considering it, of course, we do not think of the natural impulse of the young to visit foreign lands and peoples, to return to the motherland with clearer thoughts, finer atmosphere, and more powerful mind. Such spiritual fertilization is highly useful, and ought by all means to be encouraged. Any attempt to shut up our public life behind bolt and lock must always be condemned. And even if some of those who journey forth should like the new land better, finding love and home there, well, then, that is our contribution to that country, and we shall very likely be recompensed in other ways—at all events, personal liberty must not be encroached upon.

But this is not the question at issue. "Emigration" is something quite different—this exportation *en masse* of young men and women, who, as if by some unseen power, are driven away from their native land against their innermost good will, and drawn towards a new and unknown country which they expect will give them what in vain they sought for at home—richer opportunities of life. It is a matter of thousands—in a year 8,000 from Denmark, 25,000 from Norway—men and women, and not the worst elements, who are thus alienated from our people to become absorbed by another—if they do not perish there. It is the true cause of this remarkable emigration of nations that we ought to investigate.

What then is this secret power which drives and draws these many thousands away from home? And why can the foreign land offer them better opportunities for livelihood than their own country?

It shall be said here, and said so loud as to be audible to all, that the reason, the general common cause for this great emigration, is not found in any lack of ability on the part of the home land to offer all her children greater and richer opportunities for livelihood than any other country on earth, for that it can—the Lord provided that. But the cause is this, that the home land will not open its fields and meadows and other opportunities for her children; but by means of bad

economic legislation closes them, thus creating such conditions for the always increasing population that it looks as if here were not room for all the children of the nation, so that, not finding natural opportunities for bread and house, by thousands they look around to find opportunities elsewhere.

*It was America's open, cheap land, under free homestead law*, which called Europe's landless masses, and lifted even those who do not directly profit by it, to higher economic comfort than they could obtain in the old country. For nature's economic law of the price of land witnesses that *cheap* land brings high wages to all occupations, even to the industrial worker and the office clerk in the great city, while on the other hand, *high priced* land is the true cause of poverty in urban as well as rural communities. And only such municipal law as accords with this economic law of nature and disposes matters accordingly in the interest of the people, is good popular law.

This then is the true, chief cause of emigration: *legislation*, the written laws, the bad ones at home, the good yonder—as long and as far as they were and are effective!

The reason, therefore, was not that the home country had not room for all its children—quite the other way! Even in our small country we can say, not only with the poets, but with the most matter of fact surveyor and with literal truthfulness, that here are grain fields enough, here is summer sun enough, if only we had human kindness enough, or, more correctly speaking, plain sense of justice enough; for what is needed is not sacrifice, or charity, or gifts, or alms, but just plain justice, the natural consequence of citizenship, equal home right to the native earth. It is this right, translated into civil law, which our people are in need of. But it is not room—not land—we are short of in Denmark. If you all came tomorrow—150,000 Danes from America, and 150,000 more from Sleswick (for we also desire to give the latter homesteads in case conditions under the Prussian eagle become too hard)—came home and desired room, Denmark's mother earth were large enough to give homesteads to all, if the laws were only properly drawn. Here are millions of acres of land which would be tilled many times better than now, if the artificially screwed up price of land did not prevent its best possible use through small holdings. And for every day that passes technical science gives us some new hint for the better development of possibilities and for richer harvests for labor spent on the land. And under such conditions we should all find ourselves richer and stronger—the great, great majority of us. For let us not forget what just the great, probably the greatest of the sons of free America, Henry George (he was of Scotch and perhaps Scandinavian descent), has taught us, that a people is not im-

poorish, but grows in prosperity the more numerous it becomes; that a country's sole, real wealth consists in its living men—if the civil laws are based on the natural God-given laws of justice.

That people which suffers from loss by "emigration" proves thereby only that it has sinned against these laws of justice, has denied its own children the child's right at the mother's bosom, the home right to the fatherland's soil, has disinherited the child and pushed it into alienage—where happiness has often been less than was expected, poorer than the festive gladness of these days give to be understood; and oftenest, less than in the home land under good and natural conditions, for the plain man and woman. How much power of deed and thought is lost to our poor little land through this emigration which is of our own provoking? Would one in a hundred have left us, if brighter circumstances here at home had promised sure wages for honest labor? Has it not oftenest been with streaming tears and a thousand heartaches that the drawing in of the gangplank of the emigrant steamer has been watched? Perhaps even a hired band of musicians, as I saw it once in Norway, may attempt to stun the pain by playing "Yes, we love this our country"; that in its terrible irony was one of the most touching scenes one may live to witness!

But if this is the truth, that our motherland has wronged all these many emigrants by tolerating civil legislation worse than that of the foreign land, so that they must emigrate hence, then we owe it to ourselves to stop the continuation of this purposeless, destructive emigration of our people, so hurtful to the fatherland. And this can be accomplished by creating legislation which would open up natural opportunities, and give surety of a bright home for all those willing to do honest work, by securing to every one the results of his own labor, without encroachment by state or monopoly; and to the community right to the ground value created by mutual industry—the fatherland's land value, with equal rights for all. This done, emigration will cease, because the motherland then offers her offspring better conditions than the foreign land, just as a mother should and will do when she is enlightened about it.

And this then must be told the Danes abroad, that an endeavor to realize this indeed patriotic reform of our legislation, was started in Denmark by plain cottagers,\* who upon the foundation of the same natural conceptions which dictated to Thomas Jefferson America's proud Declaration of Independence, and later to Henry George his "Progress and Poverty," have built their economic programme with this reform in view: equal rights for all; right to the products of our own labor; homestead right in the fatherland.

When these reforms are finally carried through,

then we will hope that these rights will be enacted in such a manner that they will be not only secured for the people at home, but also for those Danes in America and Sleswick who long to return to the fatherland and who will then share our mutual home and opportunities with us in brotherly unity.

Accept, then, for all abroad this greeting from all those who stand in the service of this reform movement. We intend in this wise to build up our country, to increase its usefulness, and to care for its needs, for ever and ever. Seek to create a Danish homestead law better and richer than the American, aye, than that of any other country, so that in the peaceful development of culture, with the aid of God, we may lead the whole world!

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## THE HIDDEN BEAST.

Introduction to "The Beast and the Jungle," by  
Judge Ben B. Lindsey and Harvey J. O'Higgins,  
Opening in Everybody's Magazine  
for October.\*

Among the picture puzzles of your childhood there was one that showed a forest of entangled branches, tree trunks, fallen timber and dense underbrush; and the problem was, in that bewildering jumble of lines, to "find the cat." You traced the outline of a tail among the branches; you spied a paw in the crook of a tree limb; you picked out the barrel of the animal's body in the bark of a trunk; an ear pricked up from the underbrush; an eye stared from the bole of a fallen tree. And when, turning the picture on its side, you gathered those clues together in your eye, suddenly you saw—not the house cat you had expected, but the great "cat" of the jungle, crouching there with such a threatening show of teeth that it almost frightened you into dropping the card. Do you remember that?

Well, there is hidden in our complicated American civilization just such a beast of the jungle. It is not a picture in a picture puzzle. It is a fact in a fact puzzle. There is no man among us, in any sort of public business or profession, who has not seen its tail or its paw concealed among the upper branches, or its eyes and ears watching and listening in the lowest underbrush and fallen timber of our life. It is there—waiting. To some it has appeared to be a house cat merely; and it has purred to them very soothingly, no doubt. But some have come upon its claws, and they have been rather more than scratched. And others have found its teeth, and they have been bitten—bitten to the soul. A few who have watched it and stalked it carefully know that it is, at the last, very like the dragon in the old fable of Greece, to whom some of the people were daily sacrificed;

\*See The Public, vol. ix, p. 1013, vol. xii, pp. 55, 183, 787.

\*See pages 958 and 960.