

ated to the real issue as the branches of a tree owe their life to the parent trunk.

The problems confronting the American people have their primary cause in indirect taxation. Indirect taxation is the upas tree which is constantly poisoning our national life. Drawing its strength through its roots sunk deep and wide in land monopoly and special privilege, each decade sees the American people lessened in the virility of freemen, so subtle and insidious are the enervating influences of this source of all the plagues that scourge our nation. Passing so quickly into the decline of national life after but 132 years of political freedom, as we have, it is difficult, nay, impossible, for the masses of our people to believe that one by one their liberties have been taken from them and that today they are in the shadow of a feudal age.

To overthrow the system of protection alone is but taking an outpost of the citadel of the taxing power of the people. Enthroned and enshrined as it is by tradition and custom, only an unceasing campaign can awaken the American people to see the lighted path to real liberty. Special interests die hard. Each defeat at their hands would be merely the loss of a battle by the forces of righteousness with the powers of evil, but however long the war waged no retreat should ever be sounded. True free trade would emancipate labor. Not an emasculated free trade labeled "a tariff for revenue only," but a commerce that would be as free as the flight of a bird, and unrestricted by geographical boundaries. All taxation resting upon land values, the power of every tribute exacting interest would at once be destroyed, for this power has its whole source in land monopoly.

Such is the answer to the query, "Shall the people rule?"

The people do not now, nor will they ever, rule so long as shadows are pursued in the name of "issues;" but the predatory forces, constantly gathering strength in the Republic will continue to weaken the people's power of resistance to their encroachments upon political and economic freedom and social peace.

The American people have it in their power to destroy this gigantic evil. Once awakened to their danger, there is yet time to become a great cohesive, homogeneous and irresistible force as they see the central truth. Where now grows the towering wrong of privilege can be planted the seed of a mighty tree of true Free Trade, in whose shade shall be felt the redemption of labor and whose fruits shall be for the healing of the nations.

JAS. A. WARREN.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

AUSTRALIA.

Corowa, N. S. W., November 20.—The Federal High Court has given two more important decisions. It has declared the Federal union label to be unconstitutional, and the Surplus Revenue Act (p. 488), which authorizes the Federal government to retain a quarter of the revenue from customs and excise duties, even if it does not spend it all, to be constitutional.

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The Federal Parliament consists of four parties. At the end of last month the numbers were: Ministerialist 15, Labor 27, Opposition (direct) 20, Opposition (corner) 12. The Labor party had up to that time supported the ministry, but early this month Mr. Fisher, the Labor leader, stated that it would do so no longer. Shortly afterwards the ministry was defeated on an unimportant point; Mr. Deakin resigned, and Mr. Fisher formed a Labor ministry.

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The land valuation bill which was introduced into the State parliament of Victoria in September (p. 560), never reached the Legislative Council. It was opposed by the members of the "country party" supporting the government, so the Premier, Sir Thomas Bent, who is an opportunist, dropped it, and reconstructed his ministry by leaving out some of the more liberal members and replacing them with members of the country party, thus making it more conservative.

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The Legislative Assembly (lower house) of Victoria has passed another woman suffrage bill.

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A general election has just been held in New Zealand. The returns are not yet complete, but it is certain that Sir Joseph Ward, who succeeded the late Mr. Seddon, has been returned with a good majority, although one of his ministers was defeated. Mr. George Fowlds, the single taxer and minister for Education, was re-elected.

The Prohibition party has made further gains, for no-license was carried in at least six new electorates, and reaffirmed in the six in which it is now in force.

ERNEST BRAY.

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The healthy eye ought to see all visible things, and not to say, I wish for green things; for this is the condition of a diseased eye. And the healthy hearing and smelling ought to be ready to perceive all that can be heard or smelled. And the healthy stomach ought to be with respect to all food just as the mill with respect to all things which it is formed to grind. And accordingly the healthy understanding ought to be prepared for everything which happens. But that which says, Let my dear children live, and let all men praise whatever I may do, is an eye which seeks for green things, or teeth which seek for soft things.—Marcus Aurelius Antoninus.