

Testimony from New Zealand.

Frank G. Carpenter, a special correspondent, was sent to New Zealand to investigate the land system of that country. The idea was to write down the single tax or the theories of Henry George as there applied. He went prejudiced against the whole system, and with a determination to write it down, but when he came to investigate it he found that in its workings it is gradually making New Zealand a land of small farms. By the present laws no man who has more than 640 acres of land can obtain any of the public lands. The land officials will not grant more than this amount, and they will not give an applicant more than they think he can develop and care for. The government land agents examine all the applicants, and those who pass their examinations are allowed to ballot for the amount distributed. The government in fact divides the land more as a father among his children than as a land speculator. Everything is done to encourage small farmers. The man whose income is less than \$1,500 a year goes scot free, paying no taxes. He whose farm is worth \$2,500 likewise escapes, and if his estate is worth \$7,500 he pays taxes on only \$5,000 of its valuation. The rich man pays increased taxes on his land, on his income—on everything. For instance, a man with \$5,000 income would pay $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on \$5,000, less \$1,500, \$87 income tax. If he has an income of \$10,000 he would have to pay 5 per cent. on the extra \$5,000, or \$337. But a big trust magnate or a railroad king with the \$1,000,000 would have to pay \$50,000 a year, while John D. Rockefeller or Andrew Carnegie would be obliged under the law to pay half of their income into the state, or anywhere from \$6,000,000 to \$15,000,000. In short, the laws of New Zealand, as now administered, are framed for the poor man as against the rich. The theory is that the land must be preserved for the small farmer. The man with a few acres is not crushed by the burden of taxation. He is exempt. The temptation for the capitalist is not to buy out the small farmer nor to create vast holdings. His accumulations are treated as belonging in part to the state, and the state steps in and insists that he shall pay in proportion to his possessions. The attention of the world is called to this theory of legislation. Every civilization that has heretofore gone down in the night of history has done so on account of the greed of organized wealth. The rich men begin by crushing out the middle class, by ruining the small dealers, by converting the small farms into great plantations and then reducing the working man to virtual slavery. One of the beneficial results of the French revolution was giving the soil back into the hands of peasant proprietors. Henry George proposed to do this peacefully by the virtual confiscation of rents. New Zealand is the first country where his ideas have been put into operation. Even here they have not been carried out to the full limit, but Mr. Carpenter's letter indicates that the experiment thus far is eminently satisfactory.—The Peoria (Ill.) *Star*, of March 13th.

We do not wish to decry the beneficial influences which will undoubtedly follow a course of wholesome and suitable technical education, which will be equally concordant with the requirements of the country, the people and the times. But we do deny most emphatically that it will alleviate want, misery, and suffering in the manner its supporters claim. The true explanation of the phenomena to be seen in Ireland at present is to be found in that most inequitable of all monopolies, *private property in land*, and to the fact that Ireland suffered most was due to the harshness and greed of many of its landlords, which became so severe that protective laws, such as they are, had to be enforced. Until private ownership of the soil is abolished, there will always be found riches and affluence on the one side, and poverty and distress on the other.—*Cork County (Ireland) Eagle*.