

only contribution it makes toward the expenses of the State government will be entirely immune." Is it true that non-property-owning poll-taxpayers pay no other taxes? Is there not included in the rent they pay, taxes on the houses in which they live? Is there not included in everything that they buy, taxes that have been previously advanced by others? Do not California landowners charge them more rent for the privilege of enjoying the benefits of California's government than they would charge if these benefits were non-existent? If all this is so, then is not the poll-tax a charge for services for which these poll-taxpayers have already paid? If this is not the case then conditions in California are very different from what they are elsewhere. In fact California's government must be one that could, without loss to any interest, be entirely dispensed with if it does not furnish benefits for enjoying which tenants can be made to pay in rent, full value to landowners. The Graphic pays California a very poor compliment in assuming a position, the acceptance of which, logically leads to such a conclusion. S. D.



#### "Real Estate Day" in Chicago.

A new holiday is suggested by the Chicago Record-Herald and Inter Ocean—one devoted to the glorification of Chicago real estate. The Record-Herald's argument is as follows:

Chicago real estate! Pay dirt the equal of any that ever came from a mine and surer pay than 99 per cent of all the mines. . . . Chicago real estate! The foundation of prosperity and the basis of thousands of fortunes. Chicago real estate! As Chicago grows the hem of its spreading skirts touches with alchemy the land that comes within the golden circle.

One objection to the Record-Herald's suggestion is that it proposes an injustice. It would give credit to Chicago "real estate" which belongs solely to Chicago land. "Real estate" includes buildings. There are as good and better buildings in other cities as are to be found in Chicago, and there is no building in Chicago which can not be duplicated elsewhere. But these outside-of-Chicago buildings have not brought to their owners such gains as have come from ownership in Chicago. The proposed holiday would consequently be based on a fallacy. The objection could be surmounted, however, by calling the holiday "Chicago Landlordism Day." That would make clear just where the credit lies. Does the Record-Herald and Inter Ocean accept the amendment?



Further consideration of the proposition will

make one question whether after all this holiday should not be made a day of mourning instead of rejoicing for most Chicagoans. For while it is true that Chicago land is "the foundation of prosperity and the basis of thousands of fortunes," it is also true that Chicagoans who have made this prosperity possible and created the fortunes have not received them. For nine Chicagoans out of ten such a celebration would be as rational as rejoicing over the burglarizing of one's house. There will be better reasons for making the proposed holiday one of widespread joy when values created by the people of Chicago become the sole source of public income. Until then only the individuals need rejoice who have been permitted to reap where others have sown. S. D.



#### Burdening Business.

Chicago papers announce with much satisfaction the sale last week of an eighty-foot lot on Wabash Avenue for \$850,000, that was bought in 1876 for \$54,550. No labor was expended on the property in the meantime, save enough to make habitable a building of such slight value today that it did not enter into consideration in fixing the price of the lot. Yet, although the building is worn out, the property is worth nearly eight hundred thousand dollars more than it was thirty-eight years ago. The property is worth more because the tenants pay more rent; the tenants pay more rent because they can do more business; and business has increased because the city is larger. The increased value of the lot is due to the growth of the city. But all this increase goes to the particular person holding the title to the lot. The citizens at large receive no benefit whatever. All the advantage of doing business in the midst of a large and active population, which, because of this advantage, should have led to cheaper service, has been absorbed by the owners of the land on which the business is done. S. C.



#### Preparing Trouble for College Professors.

Some of the high school students of Chicago and vicinity, who continue their studies in the higher seats of learning, are likely to ask embarrassing questions of the dry-as-dust professors of political economy. The Chicago Singletax Club, acting upon an idea worthy of a wider application, has undertaken to extend its propaganda by offering to the high school students of the third and fourth years small money prizes for the best addresses delivered before the Club the last Friday of each month. The money prizes are not large enough

to beget a mercenary spirit; yet they are sufficient, when taken in connection with the honor of standing first in the contest, to call forth the best efforts of the students. The practice of this plan for the past six months has resulted in a wide interest in the Singletax among the students, and an awakening interest among their parents. s. c.



### Philadelphia's Traction Agreements.

The city of Philadelphia has decided to enter into another agreement with the local traction company. Whether the agreement is a fair one or not is for those conversant with its details to decide. But this much is known. It is only seven years since the city made its last agreement with the same corporation in which the company agreed not to increase its rate of fare. This agreement was violated through withdrawal of the sale of six tickets for twenty-five cents and institution of straight five-cent fares instead. The courts accommodately distorted the English language to legalize the violation. That the same city should make another agreement with the same corporation and depend on the same courts to protect its contractual rights seems poor policy. Has Philadelphia forgotten the saying: "If a man fools me once it is his fault. If he fools me twice it is mine"? s. d.



### Disregard for Law.

At a time when we have an army in possession of a foreign city, impatient for orders to go in and "clean up the country," and reduce it to civilization, law and order, the president of the Illinois State Bar Association, in an address opening the annual convention of that organization, used these significant words: "At the outset we must admit that the inhabitants of the United States are the most lawless of all civilized peoples." And by way of illustration, the speaker said the number of murders per million of inhabitants in different countries was: "Canada, 3; Germany, 4-5; England and Wales, 10-11; France, 12-15; Belgium, 15; United States, over 129." London, in 1912, had 86 murders; Chicago had in the same year 231. And had Chicago's rate been based on London's population, its number would have been 693. Almost three thousand lynchings had taken place in the United States during the past ten years. Nor were civil laws any better observed than criminal.



This is the burden of addresses delivered by

legal experts, from one end of the country to the other; and innumerable are the remedies proposed. That our legal system escaped the drag of the muckrakers must be due to the inborn reverence that the law-abiding have for the courts; and that the system has at last exhausted this superstitious awe is evident from the proposed recall of judges, and judicial decisions, advanced by radical reformers, and eagerly accepted by a long-suffering people. Whatever may be the matter with our legal system—and it is not for a mere layman to criticise the minutia of the law—one thing is certain: If the lawyers and judges do not reform the machinery of the law, the people will. We have lawyer law, and judge judgments, and the result is so far from justice and common sense that the average citizen looks upon the whole legal system as a terrible engine in the hands of his enemies. He believes absolutely that the poor have no redress against the rich, because a clever lawyer with a rich client can continue litigation indefinitely. And with cases dragging on ten, fifteen and twenty years, in the courts, this state of mind is natural.



The American people are no more immoral, and no more criminal minded than the people of other countries. Their disregard for law is due to the fact that the law has invited disrespect. Our cosmopolitan and heterogeneous population contains a large element of people so poor that they feel that wrongs not redressed by themselves will not be redressed at all. And this legal suspicion and hopelessness has so permeated society that we have become the "most lawless of all civilized peoples." There is but one way to make our people law abiding: Make the laws just, and administer them impartially. Quibbling must cease, technicalities must be brushed aside, and interminable delays must be brought to an end. The poor must stand upon the same footing before the law as the rich; and this fact alone requires that the judgment be speedy, and its execution certain. In a word, the law must be converted from an impotent relic of the past into an efficient agent of the present. s. c.



### Individual Humanitarianism.

In the death of Jacob A. Riis the country, and the world, has lost one of its finest citizens; for he was a man who supremely loved his fellow men, and devoted his whole life to their service. In the days of frenzied finance, big business, and the rule of the almighty dollar, he was content to devote