

Congressman George on "Jim Crow" Legislation.

An inaccurate press dispatch of February 7 did a great injustice to Congressman Henry George, Jr., and probably to other democratic Democrats on the House District Committee. Before that Committee was a bill to put in force "Jim Crow" regulations on the street railways of the District. There appears to have been enough members of that Committee with anti-democratic views on the race question, to report it out favorably. Press dispatches falsely reported that all the Democratic members, including Mr. George, joined in the favorable recommendation. All who knew Mr. George's views at once recognized the statement as one of the many examples of an incurable tendency which afflicts the news-gathering association, to disregard accuracy. But unfortunately there were some who did not have this knowledge and unquestioningly accepted the statement as true. For these Mr. George's own statement of the matter in a letter under date of March 2, written on being shown the press dispatch, should be convincing. Mr. George says:

I am not for the "Jim Crow" cars, and shall, if the opportunity is given me, vote against the bill. I think the article submitted to me was written without any further information than the fact that there was such a bill and that the bill had followed the House of Representatives routine of being referred to the District of Columbia Committee. I certainly am not for this bill and have given notice that I was opposed to such a proposal. It is repugnant to my deepest sentiments and I am grateful for this opportunity of expressing myself.

A more pronounced declaration against this undemocratic bill would not be possible. S. D.



Investigations That Are Worth While.

That the faith reposed in the Commission on Industrial Relations has not been misplaced is evident from the fact that the Commission is now entering upon a new phase of its work. It proposes to make a thorough investigation into the American land question in its relation to Labor and Capital. Beginning at a public hearing in Dallas, Texas, on the fifteenth, it will inquire into the cotton crisis. It will determine as far as possible the relations of land owner and employing farmer, tenant, and farm laborer. It will consider the tendency toward concentration in land ownership, the rapid increase in tenant farming, the movement to raise rents, the development of class feeling among the white tenants, the inter-racial competition growing

up among the Mexican, Negro, and European immigrants, and the native white tenants of the Southwest.



From the very foundation of the Government efforts have been made to get the people to the land under the most favorable conditions and circumstances. And since the formation of the Agricultural Department a great deal of assistance has been rendered the farmer in the operation of his farm. Not only has he had expert advice in the selection of seed, the planting and cultivation of the crop, and the raising of livestock, but he has had much done for him socially, in the extension of the rural free delivery, and the nominal postage on reading matter. But never has there been an intelligent inquiry into the relations of farm owners and farm operators. It is easy to see how a man taking up a hundred and sixty acres of land at a dollar and a quarter an acre, in a community where it soon rises to a hundred or a hundred and fifty dollars an acre, may retire to city life, while a tenant tills his land. Such a farmer may be considered a successful business man. But the success of the tenant who goes upon this land at a high rental is too much shrouded in mystery. It is highly important that the public should be informed on the question. S. C.



Houston's Great Misfortune.

The decision of Judge Read of Houston declaring illegal the Houston plan of taxation means, until the decision can be reversed either through legislative action or otherwise, that industries had better stay away from Houston. The city has made an earnest effort to deal fairly with those who contribute to its prosperity. But Judge Read declares that it must, whether it will or not, heavily fine every year every man who erects a building, starts a factory, or otherwise does anything useful. He further declares in effect that every dollar of deposits in Houston banks must be listed for taxation and that the assessors must investigate and learn the value of household goods in every home. A city where such conditions prevail can not be a desirable place, in which to live or do business. For this blow to their prosperity Houston's citizens may thank first of all the land speculators who brought the matter into court, and next Judge Read. The duty of the Texas legislature to provide relief is more plain than ever.

S. D.