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A Question of Prosperity

To the Editor of The New York Times:

I am surprised that a man of Mr. Carnegie's undoubted acumen should bring forward as an argument in favor of great accumulations of wealth in the possession of individuals the alleged fact that the working classes are best off in the lands in which there are most millionaires. If this were true, (and it seems to me dubious at any rate, that there is more pauperism in France than in England,) might it not be taken with equal justice as proof of the fact that laws which favor the annexation of other people's earnings work most successfully in countries where there are the largest earnings to annex -- or, in other words, that parasites thrive best on fat and full-blooded animals? Clearly, Mr. Carnegie's argument proves nothing at all. If he should ask what laws I refer to, I would give as examples our corrupt protective tariff, our land laws, which leave the unearned increment in private hands and give the natural gifts of coal, oil, and iron to a privileged few; our transportation laws, which allow railroads to build up fortunes by differential rates, and the charters of our gas and trolley companies, which have given away the people's streets and made them the basis of tribute.

Ernest H. Crosby.

New York, April 11, 1902