

the small dwelling problem in this country. The very great increase during recent years in the cost of all kinds of lumber, due largely to trade combinations fostered behind the tariff wall that shuts out the products of the Canadian forests, is a large factor in the situation. At any rate, we have come upon a period wherein building construction, large and small, with cement as the chief factor, is being carried on to an extent undreamed of in the past.

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AN UNTAUGHT CHILD.

"Nobody allows their children to play with Katy Smith, mamma; she says none of the children round here will go to her house, though she has asked them ever so often; she cried when she told me, so I'm going to play with her, mamma."

"The Smiths are vulgar people, dear—"

"Why, mamma, they have a carriage, just like us, and a pony, too. Are they naughty, mamma?"

"No, dearie, they know no better; but Katy's the little girl that uses such bad grammar and eats with her knife."

"But I know better, and I could teach her, if she comes here."

"Sweetheart, if you play with her, none of the other children will play with you—that's the trouble about having bad manners. You must not play with her."

"But if nobody taught her, it isn't her fault; it isn't her fault, mamma, she cries, and it isn't her fault," the tears filled my little girl's eyes.

I am old and wise; I did not cry.—"The Game of Life," by Bolton Hall.

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A SINGLE TAX ARGUMENT.

An Editorial in *Farm, Stock and Home* for July 1, 1906.

Inadvertently, perhaps, a Le Sueur (Minn.) correspondent of the *St. Paul Pioneer-Press* made an excellent argument recently for the "single tax." He was replying to a former editorial in that paper advocating the selling by farmers of small tracts of their farms to immigrants and others, and thus give them opportunities to make homes on 10 to 20 acres, and therefore increase the population, production and business of the State.

To show that the Pioneer's dream was largely iridescent, the correspondent referred, among other things, to the impossibility of finding farmers who would sell such tracts of land, but rather would find farmers whom he describes thus:

Farmers who have been, for years, engaged in extending their borders in every possible way, and as their wealth has increased they have paid more and more every year to buy out the smaller 60 and 40-acre tracts adjoining them. Most of them have already passed the point where they look upon land as a part of the machinery by which to make a living, but regard it as a distinction and a pleasure to have it. Nine-tenths of them would pay for an adjoining 40-acre tract a good deal more than it is worth for farming just for the joy of owning it and shoving out the line fence a little farther. You could not buy your dreamed-of one-acre and ten-acre tracts for twice their actual value as farming land."

This pictures a condition as broad and universal as our country, and that inspired Henry George to

write his "Progress and Poverty," and to advocate with an ability never before equaled the single tax, or tax on land values only, as a remedy for the conditions he discussed. In the holding of land for the "fun of it," or to profit by its prospective value, he saw an invasion of the natural rights of man and the cause of the conditions he deplored. Land grabbers or land lovers, while hating Henry George and his philosophy, are making converts to it every day, and are hastening the time when taxation will make the holding of land out of use too unprofitable to practice.

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"A PRIVATE MONOPOLY IS INDEFENSIBLE AND INTOLERABLE."

From Mr. Bryan's Speech at Madison Square Garden, New York City, Aug. 30, 1906.

Before any intelligent action can be taken against the trusts we must have a definition of a trust. Because no corporation has an absolute and complete monopoly of any important product, the apologists for the trusts sometimes insist that there are in reality no trusts. Others insist that it is impossible to legislate against such trusts as may exist without doing injury to legitimate business. For the purpose of this discussion it is sufficient to draw the line at the point where competition ceases to be effective, and to designate as a trust any corporation which controls so much of the product of any article that it can fix the terms and conditions of sale.

Legislation which prevents a monopoly not only does not injure legitimate business, but actually protects legitimate business from injury. We are indebted to the younger Rockefeller for an illustration which makes this distinction clear. In defending the trust system he is quoted as saying that, as the American Beauty cannot be brought to perfection without pinching off ninety-nine buds, so that the one-hundredth bud can receive the full strength of the bush, so great industrial organizations are impossible without the elimination of the smaller ones. It is a cruel illustration, but it puts a perfectly accurate picture of trust methods. The Democratic party champions the cause of the ninety-nine enterprises which are menaced; they must not be sacrificed that one great combination may flourish. And when the subject is understood we shall receive the cordial support of hundreds of thousands of business men who have themselves felt the oppression of the trusts, or who, having observed the effect of the trusts upon others, realize that their safety lies, not in futile attempts at the restraint of trusts, but in legislation which will make a private monopoly impossible.

There must be no mistaking of the issue, and no confusing of the line of battle. The trust, as an institution, will have few open defenders. The policy of the trust magnates will be to insist upon "reasonable legislation," and then they will rely upon their power to corrupt legislators and intimidate executives to prevent the application of any remedies which would interfere with the trusts. Our motto must be, "A private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable;" and our plan of attack must contemplate the total and complete overthrow of the monopoly principle in industry.