

There may be some excuse for the confusion of the average citizen when he attempts to unravel the protective tariff snarl—for there have been so many interested in “mussing it up”—but this is a simple, concrete statement that should come within the mental grasp of all. Behold! If there were no burglars there would be no need of the “25,000 good American citizens earning their livelihood as private watchmen.” Nor would there be any occasion for the manufacture and sale of the burglar alarms, burglar-proof safes, etc., etc. Hence, it is as plain as a pikestaff that since it is desirable that honest men should be employed, burglars are a benefit to society.

The converse also is true:

Whoever reforms a burglar, or in any way discourages burglary, strikes at the welfare of seventy-five thousand honest American citizens. And as it is a fact recognized by all Protectionists that the Freetrade advocates in this country are in the pay of the Cobden Club and other foreign organizations that are seeking to destroy our industrial system, so it is equally clear that the men and women who are engaged in the work of reforming burglars are in the pay of the enemies of this Republic.



An excerpt from the article in question is quoted in an editorial by the New Orleans Picayune, one of the papers that has made such an ado over the proposed free sugar bill in Congress.

To remove the duty on sugar, says the Picayune, means the throwing out of employment of many thousands of honest men and the annihilation of many millions of capital. And why should this be? Because God has been so partial in making sugar lands that whereas the cane has to be planted about every nineteen years in Cuba, it must be planted every two or three years in Louisiana. Therefore, every washerwoman and every day laborer throughout the country who would sweeten a cup of coffee must pay six cents for four cents' worth of sugar.

That is to say, should one boat persist in steaming up the middle of the river where the current was four miles an hour, while another hugged the shore in a current half as strong, it would be necessary to protect the former from the competition of the latter. To prevent shippers from giving all their patronage to the cheaper boat the state would have to add a special tax to its rates. It would require more boats and more men to carry the freight up the middle of the river; hence, it would be the part of wisdom for a paternalistic govern-

ment to see that the cheaper boats were properly handicapped.

It may be noted in passing that there is a peculiar fitness in the sugar duty. Being the largest single item of import revenue, it is fitting that it should be levied upon citizens not in proportion to their ability to pay, nor yet according to the benefits received from the government, but according to their necessities. Thus, the laboring man uses as much sugar as the millionaire, and hence, will contribute as much toward the maintenance of the government—and the support of the Louisiana cane- and Colorado beet-growers. Indeed, the poor man, or the washerwoman, with several children, will contribute a good deal more than the millionaire bachelor. This is according to the eternal fitness of things; for, as the peculiar development of flesh on the person of the child shows nature's intention that it should be spanked, so the broad back of labor proclaims that it was intended to be taxed.



It is inspiring to contemplate such profound thoughts as the sugar bounty, and the protection of burglary. Once before, the protective spirit stirred a man into the utterance of a similar great truth. It was when the head of the Knights of Labor advised the Knights to break the beer bottles after emptying them. This, he said, would make work for the bottle blowers. Here was another simple proposition that proclaimed a great underlying principle. When you have finished dinner, smash the plates; after a spin in your auto, dump it in the ditch; when you have used a horse, kill him. Thus you will make work for labor and so promote the prosperity of the country.

In trying to determine the nature of a distant object some are disposed to look into the small end of the spy-glass. But not so the Protectionist. He insists upon putting his eye to the large end of the glass. And then, because the object looks so far away, he insists that his brother man shall carry him to it.

STOUGHTON COOLEY.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

PROGRESSIVE POLITICS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Grasmere, England, July 6.

The nomination of Woodrow Wilson has caused great satisfaction in England, especially among those whose sympathies are with the great democratic upheaval which is in progress the world over. This happy development in America is paralleled on

this side of the water by the emergence again of the land question as the burning issue of the day.



The great measures which are occupying Parliament—Home Rule, Welsh Disestablishment and the Franchise Reform Bill—do not begin to stir the pulse of the people as does the hope of freeing the land from the grip of feudalism. Home Rule and Welsh Disestablishment are instalments of reforms long overdue which may safely be left to take their course towards the statute book. The Franchise Reform Bill, important in itself as a democratic advance and a curb on privilege, is moreover open to an amendment granting votes for women. Unfortunately the tactics of the physical force party, or Suffragettes, have lessened the chances of such a development as successfully as if inspired with that purpose.

The doctrine of Henry George has taken a firm hold on a people wise enough to suspect the socialistic expedients which they have been offered, and a discussion of their rights to the soil of their native land rouses enthusiasm. Since my letter of May 29* two by-elections have been fought on this issue and both seats retained by the Liberals. Mr. E. G. Hemmerde, an ardent Singletaxer and at one time president of the English League for the Taxation of Land Values, was returned for North-West Norfolk and is now, with Mr. Arnold, his successful colleague, in the House of Commons giving impetus to the agitation.



Two more contests are in progress, one at Hanley in the potteries district of North Staffordshire, made familiar by Arnold Bennett's vivid stories of the Five Towns, and the other at Crewe. The vacancies were caused by the death of Mr. Enoch Edwards and Mr. Walter McLaren, both of whom underwent a great strain during the recent coal strike settlement. Mr. R. L. Outhwaite, who is contesting the Hanley seat for the Liberals, needs no introduction to Singletaxers. The Liberal candidate at Crewe is Mr. Harold Murphy, a supporter of the land reform policy. The delegates who selected him were reported as "aroused to enthusiasm by his outspoken utterances, his quiet humor and his clear and convincing exposition of the great policy of land reform, towards which Radicalism seems assuredly to be tending."

The harmony that existed between the Liberal and Labor groups in Parliament has been somewhat strained by the determination of the Liberals to contest Hanley, which was considered by the Labor Party as one of their preserves. The result will be a three-cornered fight in both the constituencies mentioned, to the great delight of the Tories. The Labor Party has even threatened to withdraw its support from Government measures in the House, but has not yet done so.

Mr. Outhwaite, whose sole purpose is to advance the cause to which he has long devoted his energies, explained that he had hitherto refused to come into conflict with the interests of the Labor Party.

*See The Public of June 14, page 562.

†Mr. Outhwaite has been elected. See The Public of July 19, page 678.

"I took this action," he said, "because I did not want to prejudice the cause of the taxation of land values. I was doubtful whether the Liberal Party would introduce this great and drastic reform. I felt that Whig influence might be too great and that ultimately we should have to look to the Labor Party. The events of the last few weeks have completely altered my view. We know that Mr. Lloyd George is preparing the way for a great campaign on this issue, using the valuation now proceeding as an instrument of reform. If Labor members do come down in a body to Hanley they will see such support from the workers for this principle as may induce them to be more enthusiastic about it in the future."



The Land Song, the *Marseillaise* of peaceful revolution, is a feature of the political meetings and seems to have taken a spontaneous hold upon the popular imagination.

F. W. GARRISON.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of *The Public* for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, July 23, 1912.

The Land Question in Great Britain.

An editorial in the London Standard (Tory) of the 5th, discloses with special clearness the development of the "land-for-the-people" question which recent by-elections have thrust into British politics as the next dominant issue. [See current volume, page 678.]



In the course of that editorial the Standard says that—

Mr. Lloyd George's land confiscation programme is still in the "unauthorized" stage is pretty certain. No member of the Cabinet, apart from the author, has given countenance to the scheme in public, though it is claimed that the new movement has the full sympathy of the Prime Minister. However that may be, evidence accumulates to show that the Woodford speech was no empty threat. Unionists must be prepared for an attempt to debauch the electorate surpassing in scope and wickedness all Mr. Lloyd George's previous achievements. Today we publish further extracts from the "British Weekly," which seems to be entrusted with the task of preparing public opinion for the Chancellor's plans. Mr. Hemmerde, in his character of favorite disciple, has also added a few illuminative hints, and from these and other sources it is possible to arrive at a fairly clear understanding of the main outlines of the scheme. A tax of a penny or three-halfpence in the pound on land values [about from 2 to 3 cents on \$5 of land value, improvements exempt—or, say, from 4 to 6 mills in the dollar] is to provide the sinews of war. With the millions