

the tidings of what was being done had spread, "there followed him a great multitude of the people, and of women who bewailed and lamented him."

Surely the people who did these things were not the same people that cried, "Crucify him!"

If we *must* call that cry a *Referendum*—a *viva voce* referendum, then the "votes" were the votes of hierarchs and aristocrats and the votes which they controlled; if perchance a few brave negative voices mingled in that fearful cry, they were votes not "called for"—not counted—not heard; it was a referendum to the Jewish *aristos* and not to the Jewish *demos*.

Demos had nothing whatever to do with that aristocratic tribunal. The Jews of Palestine were then subjects of the Roman Emperor, and demos and democratic methods had no existence in that country.



It is not the masses but the classes that have made history a tragedy. Thus far Demos has played a very, very small part in the drama—even in these United States of America. And while, now and then, he may have been guilty of some sin of omission, the sins so freely charged to him have been almost universally the sins of *Aristos*—that defaming hypocrite, that pretender and usurper, who always has been, is now, and always will be, leprous with every sin possible to a ruler.

Let us remember with hopeful and grateful hearts, that the Prince of Peace, so cruelly slain by *Aristos*, has taught Demos to build no longer rude, perishing structures on the sand, but to build gloriously on the rock, and so firmly that he need fear no wind nor flood.

ASHER GEORGE BEECHER.

---

## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

---

### PROBLEMS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

South Devon, England, March 21.

The discussion caused by the coal strike in Great Britain is noteworthy for the advance it shows in clear economic thinking since the great Budget campaign concentrated attention on the land question. It is doubtful if any previous labor dispute has revealed more clearly the common enemy of both capital and labor, viz, land monopoly. It has become a commonplace to ask what service the landlord performs in return for the estimated £6,000,000 he receives yearly in royalties from the coal mines. The risks of the capitalist are obvious, and the sufferings of the laborer are better realized each day as the sordid conditions of life in the mining regions are described. But the landlord, without risk or

anxiety, collects a tax of about 5½d. on every ton of coal brought to the surface.

Nobody supposes that a minimum wage concession will secure stable conditions, although it is perhaps the immediate step best calculated to bring about a quick resumption of work in the mines. State ownership and operation is advocated by Mr. Chiozza Money and J. A. Hobson, one estimate of the cost of purchase being £85,000,000! A wiser suggestion is to tax mining royalties heavily enough to compensate for the abolition of the present taxes on tea, coffee, cocoa, sugar and tobacco, a step which would bring a measure of relief not only to the miners but to all wage earners, and would be in harmony with the Freetrade principle.

The sudden and unexpected attack by the Tories upon the Government's minimum wage bill is regarded as a daring, if heartless, attempt to regain control in the game of party politics. But so reckless a move must have been determined by some powerful influence. The land-owning class, frightened by the events of the last few years, and fearful of further assaults upon their privileges, are apparently determined to make another desperate effort to break the power of advancing democracy.



On March 12 the final report of the British Royal Commission on Vivisection was issued as a Blue Book. It defends the practice in these words:

After full consideration we are led to the conclusion that experiments upon animals, adequately safeguarded by law, faithfully administered, are morally justifiable, and should not be prohibited by legislation.

At the same time a number of recommendations are made, advising (1) an increase of the inspectorate, (2) further limitations as regards the use of curare, (3) stricter provisions as to the definition and practice of pithing, (4) additional restrictions regulating the painless destruction of animals which show signs of suffering after experiment, (5) a change in the method of selecting and in the constitution of the advisory body to the Secretary of State, (6) special records by experimenters in certain cases. A majority of the Commission expresses the opinion that present enactments favoring horses, asses and mules might well be extended to include dogs, cats and anthropoid apes. This view is taken also by Lord Cromer, President of the Research Defense Society, in a letter approving the findings of the Commission. Dr. G. Wilson, one of the members of the Commission, in an additional memorandum, maintains that the fallacies and failures of vivisection are far more conspicuous than the successes.

FRANCIS W. GARRISON.



### THE INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM IN OHIO.

Columbus, Ohio, March 30.

After an all day session and late in the evening of the 27th, the Fourth Constitutional Convention adopted a Proposal recommending amendment of the Constitution to provide for use of the Initiative and Referendum. While this Proposal is not all the