

cent of the land was farmed by tenants, only 66 per cent of whom held leases for periods of five years or more." Whether Mr. Adams drew the obvious inference does not appear in the report. Somewhere in the back or front of his head, however, he must have held it in solution; for he explained that country life is not attractive in most of those neighborhoods, that the average school year for boy and girl is only 98 days, that teachers get but \$35 to \$70 per month, and are inefficient accordingly, and so on. Isn't it plain what that contrast means—that contrast of high land values and low social life? In all history it has meant just one thing, and that is what it means in central Illinois to-day, namely, that high land values tend to lower the tone of rural life by substituting a dependent tenantry for independent working farmers. Nor is central Illinois unique in this respect. With Mr. Adams's local observations for a hint, the agricultural statistics of the census of 1910 may be usefully studied.

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Gliding into History.

Did President Taft and his Secretary of the Interior Ballinger, give to a Morgan combine in which his brother is interested, a monopoly of exit to the sea for a railroad connection with rich coal mines in southwestern Alaska? This is reported as the vital question of the "Controller Bay incident," now under investigation by Congress, upon the basis of news disclosures made last week. One excellent Washington correspondent thinks that "after the dust has cleared away" the incident will "go down to history as an attempt to make a mountain out of a mole hill." But that is about what many excellent Washington correspondents thought of the Glavis disclosures when Mr. Taft and his deft Attorney General were busy bottling them up. Many mole hills grow as they "go down into history."

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INTEMPERANCE.

The Scripture says:

Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish. . . . Let him drink and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.

The wise man puts his finger upon the main cause of intemperance, not upon the cause, but upon the chief cause. Probably no one desires to minimize the evils of drink. We cannot but respect at least the hearts of those who, seeing this great evil, are anxiously doing something to remedy

it, and who are neither discouraged by fifty years of failure nor taught by fifty years of experience.

But if you and I would remedy the diseases of the body politic or cure the evils of the social organism, we must first find out the causes of the evils. What should we think of a Messiah, or even of a clergyman, who pursued the methods of Anthony Comstock, simply catching a few of the many in wrong doing, and by destroying the implements of vice, trying to stop its commission? We all recognize that the true way is, not to cut off this or that vice, not to suppress this or that symptom, but to teach and educate men so that they will know better and abhor such lusts.

So must we do with the terrible drink disease. We must find out, in order that we may cure them, what are the conditions which produce and breed intemperance—the conditions that create the idleness of wealth and the idleness of poverty. Is not the main factor monopoly of land?

Did you ever stop to ask why it is that, whilst intemperance is by no means absent among the well-to-do, its great ravages are made among the laboring poor? As the idle rich drink to remember their misery no more, so the idle poor drink to forget their poverty.

It will not do to say that it is intemperance which makes people poor. Look at the statistics in the leading and the latest authority on the state of the poor, Dr. Edward T. Devine's "Misery, and Its Causes." He reports a careful study of five thousand cases of poverty which confirm the statistics of the Charity Societies, that the "chief cause of need," as the International Conference of Charities calls it, is unemployment (69%). Intemperance accounts for less than 17% of the causes of poverty on which Dr. Devine reported.

BOLTON HALL.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

THE SAGAMORE CONFERENCE.

Lonsdale, R. I.

The Sagamore Sociological conference is held on Cape Cod. Its existence is due to George W. Coleman of Fort Hill, Boston. In the winter season that gentleman presides at the People's Forum in the city, where Congressman Henry George and other progressives this year addressed crowded audiences, and on the last days of June he directs the conference at Sagamore Beach. This was the fifth year of the Conference and the guests numbered 250.

Four topics were presented formally and discussed by competent speakers from almost every conceivable point of view. The two subjects which made the deepest impression upon those present