

THEY DON'T KNOW CONFISCATION WHEN THEY SEE IT.

What is the meaning of the fact cited, that farms are taxed for double or treble what they will sell for? That it is a fact anyone may ascertain who will look into the condition of affairs in agricultural towns. In the first place it is practical confiscation of farm property. A few years of such taxation will see the farm sold for what it will bring; or else it will be abandoned. This means the loss of all his improvements to the farmer. He has paid his taxes with his farm and now he has no farm. A vicious system of taxation is doing this all the time all over the state and our farmers do not know what is hurting them. The moment a farm is taxed for more than it will bring under the hammer that moment confiscation commences. Many men who are dreadfully afraid of confiscation do not know it when they see it.—Rev. John Gregson, in the *Augusta (Me.) New Age*.

NATIONAL VANITIES.

As nations cannot be turned out of clubs, or put in state's prison, or sent to the guillotine or gallows or electric chair, they contrive to keep a degree of complacency which would be difficult for individuals guilty of their habitual offenses. They even manage to look down upon one another, at moments when they each seem, quite honestly, to suppose that the others find something so enviable or desirable in them that these others being, say, French, Dutch, or Spanish, would like to be, say, German, or English, or American. They all take credit to themselves nationally for virtues which belong rather sparingly to the whole of humanity; they speak of English fairness, and German honesty, and American independence, and they really make themselves believe that other peoples are destitute of the qualities which they severally arrogate to themselves. In the meantime the other nations affect to smile at a vanity which they could not imaginably indulge; but in fact they are only waiting their turn in the international scalp dance to celebrate themselves with the same savage sincerity.—William Dean Howells, in *Harper's Monthly*.

ROYALTY AND THE SINGLE TAX.

An editorial in *The Single Tax*, of Glasgow, for February.

A London correspondent informs us that the late queen read with much pleasure and interest Henry George's

"Social Problems." But her majesty found "Progress and Poverty" more difficult to follow. He also reminds us that the new king is pledged to the taxation of vacant land on its full selling value. When, some 15 years ago, he presided, as prince of Wales, over the royal commission on housing he signed the report, which contained the following passage:

At present, land available for building in the neighborhood of our populous centers, though its capital value is very great, is probably producing a small yearly return until it is let for building. The owners of this land are rated, not in relation to the real value, but to the actual annual income. They can thus afford to keep their land out of the market, and to part with only small quantities, so as to raise the price beyond the actual monopoly price which the land would command by its advantages of position. Meantime, the general expenditure of the town on improvements is increasing the value of their property. If this land were rated at say four per cent. on its selling value, the owners would have a more direct incentive to part with it to those who are desirous of building, and a two-fold advantage would result to the community. First, all the valuable property would contribute to the rates, and thus the burden on the occupiers would be diminished by the increase in the rateable property. Secondly, the owners of the building land would be forced to offer their land for sale, and thus their competition with one another would bring down the price of building land, and so diminish the tax in the shape of ground rent, or price paid for land which is now levied on urban enterprise by the adjacent landowners, a tax, be it remembered, which is no recompense for any industry or expenditure on their part, but is the natural result of the industry and activity of the townspeople themselves. Your majesty's commissioners would recommend that these matters should be included in legislation when the law of rating comes to be dealt with by parliament.—Report of Royal Commission on the Housing of the Working Classes, 1885.

Lord Salisbury, Mr. Goschen and Sir R. A. (now Lord) Cross dissented from this part of the report; but the signature of "Albert Edward" was appended without any reservation whatever.

THE SUBJUGATION OF FINLAND.

Finland is no longer a nation, nor are the people of the province recognized as a race distinct from Russians. According to the latest reports from Helsingfors, the Finlanders have small reason to look for any modification of the new Russian policy. A little while ago there was grave anxiety lest the Finnish cadet school at Frederickshamm, one of the most popular institutions in the country, should be suppressed, but this danger seems to have been averted for the present by a visit from Grand Duke Constantine, who ex-

pressed great satisfaction with the condition of the school and the scholars. Other events, however, point to the continuance of Gen. Bobrikoff's repressive and Russianizing policy. Two papers, one published in a provincial town, and a weekly journal in Helsingfors, have been suppressed forever, and the preventive censorship is applied everywhere with the utmost rigor.

The governor general is energetically enforcing the restrictions on the right to hold meetings, and he has in circulars to the provincial governors issued instructions for the introduction of Russian as the language of the provincial government offices, even earlier and more fully than is provided for in the language of the ordinance promulgated last autumn. Denunciations of private persons by secret agents, as well as public authorities, are events of well-nigh daily occurrence, and one consequence of these secret reports is that five university professors have been threatened with summary dismissal unless they "bind themselves to mix no more in political agitation." This was the message given to the vice chancellor of the University of Helsingfors on the latter's recent visit to St. Petersburg. Professors, however, cannot be dismissed except on a judgment passed by a court of justice. The indictment against one is that he delivered a series of university-extension lectures on the constitutional law of Finland. A final decision on the military question, which involves the very existence of the Finnish army as a national institution, is expected before long.—*Chicago Chronicle*.

YOU HAVE SHUT YOURSELVES OUT.

An extract from a recent brochure entitled "The Presidential Election of 1900, and its Probable Consequences."

It is now a recognized fact that no person with limited capital dare embark in any business that is controlled by a trust, and it is difficult to name any not under such control. If a person with capital cannot embark in business without a certainty of loss, what is to be the fate of thousands of young men without other capital than brains who are graduated annually from the numerous institutions of learning, educated often at the expense of great self-denial on the part of parents, and when they enter upon the stage of life find every avenue of employment closed against them except a few