

which crushed out the hope, the strength, and the purity of the people."



"The Taproot of Capitalism."

(London) Land Values, Feb.—Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald, M. P., the chairman of the Labor party in the House of Commons, made the following significant statement on the 15th January, 1909, on his return from a visit to Australia: "I have come back more convinced than ever that the first thing the Labor party at home must do is to break up the land monopoly. We are playing with it now, and you don't discover that until you go to Australia and see what they are doing. They are breaking up all the large estates and making it the easiest thing imaginable for a man to get upon the land and have a small farm of his own, and bring up his children there." The Labor party are in power in Australia and they have done something to break up the large estates by the taxation of land values. In crippling land monopoly they have done well, and have their reward in the admitted general prosperity of the commonwealth. The Liberal party in Great Britain have commenced the attack on land monopoly, and the Labor party are with them. It is the solemn duty of every progressive and democratic citizen to press onward with this policy.



Land Monopoly in Nebraska.

(Lincoln) Nebraska State Journal (Rep.), Dec. 25.—A people accustomed to supposing that the country is running short of farm land cannot afford to overlook Labor Commissioner Guye's assertions to the contrary. He makes the astounding statement that only a little more than one-fourth the farm land in the State of Nebraska is under cultivation. . . . Of course a large part of this is accounted for by the semi-arid lands in the western part of the State, lands that will not be thoroughly cultivated till the country is in most desperate straits for food. But Mr. Guye's figures are made by counties, and show that the western counties do not nearly account for the condition. . . . That the case calls for statesmanship of the most far seeing kind is clear. What can be done? "Colonize," says Mr. Guye. But we are confronted with the fact that land seekers have now for years been passing through Nebraska to poorer land beyond. Why didn't they stop here? And why are trainloads of Nebraskans even—farmers living adjacent to these untilled acres and of all men most alive to their great value—going monthly to Texas and Canada in search of land? For no visible reason except that the distant lands are cheaper, or seem so to them. And why, with this immense acreage of the best corn and alfalfa land in the world crying for the plow, are men traveling thousands of miles past it to spend immense labor carrying water to make the desert lands of the far west productive? Presumably for the same reason, that the cost of carrying the water to that dry land is less than the cost of buying our land watered by nature. To sum up, this unused Nebraska land is unused because its owners ask more for it than people can get land for elsewhere.

RELATED THINGS

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LENTEN THOUGHTS.

For The Public.

Do men erect them temples of stone
And call them "houses of God,"
And gather together one day in the week,
For worship?—or for the reward?

The church today somehow seems to be
On the "life insurance" plan;
And the man who keeps his premiums paid
Is the most *religious* man.

The church hands out to him a pass
For the train that is due for Heaven;
And the only question that is asked,
"Have you given, given, *given?*"

Oh, why insult Almighty God
With baubles such as this?
What need has He for temples here
When the *universe* is His?

The whole universe a temple is,
And our hearts are altars fair;
And when we burn the incense, love,
Our God is present there.

Ah, well, erect *those* temples high,
And garnish with gold each part;
The temple of God, know thou, oh, man,
Must be within thine heart.

ANNE W. RUST.



GOODS FOR GOODS.

A Lucid Explanation of Trading Between Nations.*

By Russell Rea, M. P., in the Westminster (London) Gazette.

Suppose you are an importer of American corn, all you care about is your imports, and you will go on importing so long as you can see any profit in it.

The American who has shipped your corn to your order draws a bill upon you for the price at, say, three months' date, payable in London, and takes his bill in duplicate or triplicate copies, with his bill of lading, to his banker in Chicago or New York, who pays him his cash, and, unless you fail to meet the bill, your American exporting correspondent hears no more about it. He disappears from the drama.

In due course the first copy of the bill of exchange is presented to you in London by this American banker's London correspondent, a

*See Volume II of The Public, Jan. 20, 1900, page 5. Also "Ethics of Democracy," by Louis F. Post, pages 197 to 217; and "Social Service," by Louis F. Post, pages 198 to 222.