

to judge the goodness of the reason, he would say: "The man who gives the reason shall be the judge himself." Still nobody claimed the dollar, till one night a man said: "I can give a good reason."

"Give a good reason why you should tax a man more for improving land than for doing nothing with it?"

"Yes."

"Well, what is your reason?"

"We don't know any better," said the man.

"Here is your dollar."—Bolton Hall, in "Life" for Easter, 1904.

A BIG PROBLEM.

The entire East side in New York is in a state of rebellion against the landlords. This is the portion of the city in which the poorer classes live, and thousands of families are affected by the increased rates. Popular feeling against the landlords is so high that last week a mass meeting attended by more than 2,000 tenants was held for the purpose of discussing the question, and some very bitter speeches were made. Socialist agitators have taken advantage of the situation to prosecute a vigorous campaign in favor of their tenets, and the movement is rapidly gaining adherents. That the matter is serious is admitted by many conservative people, and Charles Sprague Smith, director of the People's Institute, calls for the creation of a municipal commission to inquire into the question of rents and suggest methods of ameliorating the condition of tenants.

The question naturally involves the whole problem of existence. It seems to be a fact that the condition of the common people in this generation is much superior to the conditions which prevailed in earlier times. Wages are higher, and people of the present day possess many more conveniences and comforts than were possessed by their ancestors. At the present moment, however, these conditions appear to be changing. There seems to be a retrogression. The cost of living appears to be increasing more rapidly than wages, and people in all ranks of life, the laboring classes most of all, but not alone, feel the effects. Some prices are high owing to temporary causes, but on the whole the tendency is upward, and it promises to continue.

There ought to be no halt in the steady improvement in the condition of the laboring classes, in which is included the larger portion of the race. If there is to be none, however, some means must be devised to counteract present tendencies. The problem is a great one:

and the situation of the East side tenants in New York shows that before a solution is obtained many are certain to suffer.—Editorial in Grand Rapids (Mich.) Press of April 12.

HOW TOWNS DEVELOP UNDER OUR PRESENT LAND SYSTEM.

An extract from a private letter from a new town in the State of Washington, written under date of March 29, 1904.

One year ago in January last the first house was built here; the forest had just been cleared off. Now there are over 700 houses, six stores, one plumber's shop, one barber shop, two restaurants, one little church; also a school of 67 children (junior grade). All the older pupils for a distance of four miles go to —, where there are seven teachers. Mr. H—, who founded this town, owns all the land around here. He builds houses and sells on the installment plan—\$100 down, \$15 per month—city water, etc.

I began to talk single tax to him one day, and he said: "Why! I have some books on that subject. A friend who believes in it sent them to me. But I am so busy selling land I haven't time to read up the land question."

His office is near our house, and we see a crowd there from morning till night—Sundays especially—all coming to look for town and acre lots. Sometimes he opens up a tract with a big barbecue—roast ox, barrels of apples, bread by the hundreds of loaves, gallons of milk, and so forth, galore. There will be a crowd of 2,000 or 3,000, lots will go like hot cakes, and the next week the houses will begin to spring up.

It is just simply a kindergarten lesson on the land question, to watch developments in H— City, and it shows the hunger people have to own a bit of God's earth and a little home of their own.

The street car company is making a fine thing out of it. It is not the S— Electric that owns this line, but a Boston company, and they are very indifferent about the comfort and convenience of the people, simply because there is no opposition at present.

THE PROTECTIVE ARGUMENT.

"And now, fellow citizens," said the orator, "let me take up another question. They charge our protected industries with selling goods abroad at lower prices than they get for the same goods at home. They taunt us with this as though it were a crime. They challenge us to deny the fact. Why, gentlemen, we do not deny it. We admit it—nay, we boast of it! We glory in it!

"Consider the good we do in thus selling our goods abroad at the lowest possible prices. The poor, benighted pauper laborer of Europe, with wages cut down almost to the starvation point, is thus enabled to get some of the necessities and comforts of life of which he would otherwise be deprived. He could not afford to pay European prices, but he may possibly be able to pay American prices. Our policy, my friends, gives him a chance to live. It makes his unhappy lot a little brighter, tends to reconcile him to his situation, makes him less anxious to emigrate to America. By thus checking an influx of foreign labor to our shores, it diminishes competition here and enables us to keep up the high standard of wages now prevailing in our mines, factories and workshops. Is it not, therefore, a boon to American labor to sell the products of our protected industries cheaper abroad than at home?

"But they ask, if we can afford to sell goods in Europe, why do we need a tariff to sell them at home. Fellow-citizens, the answer is obvious. We need a tariff to keep these goods from coming back. Just suppose that some shrewd European operator, with hostile designs on American prosperity, should buy an enormous quantity of these goods at the low prices at which we sell them abroad and then send them back and dump them on our shores. What would be the result? American industries would be ruined. Mills, mines and workshops would be closed; millions would be driven out of employment and our people would be on the verge of starvation.

"But, fortunately, there is no danger of this. The size and enthusiasm of the audiences I have addressed in this campaign assure me that the magnificent system which permits us to sell goods at high prices at home and at low prices abroad will not be disturbed."

And when the speaker sat down he received an ovation.—William E. McKenna, in Puck.

TOM L. JOHNSON ON THE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION.

Tom L. Johnson is emphatically and unequivocally not a candidate for the presidency of the United States. He made the announcement last evening and expressed the hope that it would not require repetition at any time during the campaign.

The impression had gone out that the peculiar resolutions adopted at the twentieth district convention Saturday were in the nature of an incipient boom for him, planned and executed by Charles