

The following inscriptions are inscribed on the statue of Dr. McGlynn;

Doctor Edward McGlynn  
Priest Patriot Philosopher  
Born September 27, 1837

Ordained a Priest in Rome March 24, 1860  
Died January 7, 1900

Erected by the Doctor McGlynn Monument Association,  
Sylvester L. Malone, President; Thomas J. McMahon,  
Secretary

On a small sign in front of the statue is the following inscription:

Rev. Dr. Edward McGlynn  
Appointed Chaplain during the Civil War  
In the Military Hospital  
Central Park, New York  
By President Lincoln

## The Bootleg Coal Industry

### AS AN ECONOMIC ISSUE

THE "bootlegging" of Pennsylvania anthracite coal has grown to such proportions as to make it something of a political problem and strikingly raise a fundamental economic and ethical issue.

This alleged "plain stealing" of coal-in-the-ground, by thousands of previously unemployed miners and marketers, is plainly out of line with ordinary "stealing." Their previous involuntary unemployment made their dependence on public or private charity worse than that of the former slave upon his owner, and the need of employment and of its output forces questioning as to the justice and economic policy of coal-in-the-ground "property," just as property in slaves came to be effectively questioned.

The claim that a price was innocently paid to a somehow legalized possessor, does not settle this "present" questioning any more than it did the questioning of chattel slavery, for coal-in-the-ground "property" is similarly questioned ethically even more generally than its legal status as "property" is. But the constitutional wiping-out of similarly based ownership of slaves, and the unquestioned public control of monopoly grants generally, do obviously bring this legal status up for proper determination.

It is certain that this persistent "plain stealing" of coal-in-the-ground, with practical immunity from ordinary legal prosecutions because of overwhelming public sympathy with the "thieves," must be brought to a definite issue and fundamentally settled; for the present lawless "bootlegging" of coal cannot be lightly tolerated without inviting anarchistic conditions generally. And such settlement is more essential to the safeguarding of our civiliza-

tion than the settlement of the slavery question was, for it goes to the vital problem of opening up opportunities for employment,—without solution of which involuntary unemployment must persist with all its inevitable hardships and inherent dangers. Therefore the issue should be squarely raised, not side-stepped; and it should be pressed with all the force that public spirited counsel and executive ability can furnish, and with the adequate backing of public-spirited citizens generally.

Whether the issue is strongly developed by strenuous defense of a humble "bootlegger," as the slavery issue was by like defense of a mere slave in the Dred Scot case, or by defense of a legislative enactment affecting "property" rights in nature's gift of coal-in-the-ground, is a minor matter; and whether consistent interpretation of the Federal Constitution, or required amendment of it, will ultimately attain the essential result, is not vital. But the need of actually freeing Nature's gift from private monopolization as equitable "property," must be impressed upon the minds and consciences of our people to insure the maintenance of self-government and secure a sound civilization. That coal-in-the-ground and like gifts of nature are not private "property" as products of human beings are, must be lawfully established, or our civilization must logically fail as others have.

This brief viewing of the "bootlegging case" as involving a vital economic issue, is submitted with the desire to promptly invite expert legal and administrative counsel into needed action about it; a purpose that of course calls for your own and other influential support.

WALTER G. STEWART.

SYDNEY, N. S. W., Australia—The Georgeist proposal for social land value taxation in order to abolish the quasi-monopoly of all natural resources now existing has been endorsed by *The Commonwealth*, a monthly issued by the Australian Church and published by the Rev. Dr. Strong of Melbourne.

*The Commonwealth* is quoted by *The Standard of Sydney* as follows:

"The land of the world should be made accessible to all persons who want to make use of it. There should be acknowledgement of the fact that the earth is provided for the children of men of all generations. How can this be done in any better way than that proposed by Henry George and others, viz., by each user paying rent to the public for the land he uses?"

HENRY GEORGE NEWS SERVICE.

WHEN the slaveholders of the South looked upon the condition of the free laboring poor in the most advanced civilized countries, it is no wonder that they easily persuaded themselves of the divine institution of slavery. —PROGRESS AND POVERTY.