

the English people. These latter would make the land owner come through, and are going to do it with a vengeance before long.

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#### The Single Tax in British Columbia.

Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat (dem. Dem.), May 2.—In the last ten years the city of Vancouver, B. C., has increased from less than twenty millions of valuation to over seventy-five millions. This year she assesses nearly twenty-four and a half million dollars' worth of property absolutely nothing, concentrating all the city revenues on the remainder of over forty-eight millions. Since 1906 improvements have paid but four mills on the dollar of assessed values. Land has paid sixteen mills. Hereafter land values will pay it all. This city of nearly 80,000 people wants improvements. It places no premium as we do on land speculation—the vacant lot industry.

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#### A Socialistic View of Chicago Corruption.

The Chicago Daily Socialist (Soc.), May 3.—To a mere spectator it looks as though something interesting might happen in the fight for graft in Illinois. John E. W. Wayman went into office as the tool of Lorimer. He quickly decided that it was better to stand in with the Busse-Deneen ring. . . . Lorimer saw how easy it is to scare Wayman and took a hand through the Inter Ocean. . . . Things began to get pretty hot. The Tribune, that had put Busse in the mayoralty chair and received the heads of the school board as a reward, took a hand. Every newspaper in Chicago has, as a matter of regular information, enough testimony on hand to send the present city government to the penitentiary. The Tribune tipped out a portion of its hand in a couple of editorials. The Tribune, having shown Busse that it had the goods, waited for him to "come across." Rumor has it that Busse, like Crockett's coon, came down without waiting to be shot at. . . . At any rate, the Tribune closed up like a clam. . . . The band was now almost complete. Deneen, Busse and the Tribune joined hands with Wayman. . . . But Lorimer was still outside. So the exposures of Busse and Wayman went on. . . . It became necessary to build a fire in the rear. Here was where the Tribune came in. . . . The Tribune built that fire in the rear of the army attacking Busse's strong-arm men. It certainly is a beautiful fire. It has illuminated the whole political situation in Illinois. It has shown that from the lowest patrolman on his beat to United States Senator, the whole political system is simple graduated stealing and bribery; and it is showing even more emphatically that these official grafters are but the petty tools of powerful financial and industrial interests, who are willing to overlook and to shield political thievery for the sake of the vastly richer pickings that come from exploiting labor.

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#### "The Destruction of the Poor Is Their Poverty."

The Cincinnati Post (ind.).—"They were the children of very poor parents." Such is the description of the dozen little girls, none over 13 years of age, who are held in Brooklyn as witnesses

against "white slave" dealers who held out the tempting sight of free moving pictures as a lure for these babes. . . . For 19 centuries the doctrine of brotherhood has been taught. Cathedral and humble mission have united their voices in proclaiming a doctrine of love. Mountains of dollars have been raised to shout the same message across seas. Noble lives have been sacrificed to spread its joyous note. And yet at the end of this time we find that it is possible for dozens of little girls in short dresses to be sold into a worse form of slavery than ever existed in the South! To be in more terrible stress than the child widows of India! "They were the children of very poor parents." The little daughters of the poor turned over as victims to some lustful brute, is the last price demanded by the Powers of Privilege. . . . Every Special Privilege leaves its scars. It may not always demand the little girls' bodies. It may only ask for their labor before maturity. It may only ask for the dolls that would have joyed their little hearts. It may only ask for the outings in summer, away from the heat of the city, with the fresh air that would enable them to grow strong. But as long as Greed is armed with the weapons of Privilege, there will be these tragedies; and to the procession of these little white slaves will be joined those other white-faced, half-starved, stunted souls above whom will be written the banner: "They are the children of very poor parents."

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#### A Filipino Comment on the Sale of the Friars' Lands.

El Tiempo (Iloilo, Panay, Philippine Islands).—How can the government explain the sale to a trust of the San José sugar estate in Mindoro, as a public advantage? To us it seems impossible. It is perhaps because it seems so to him, also, that Representative Martin has denounced this sale before the American Congress. The principal purpose of the Philippine government in acquiring the Friar lands was to solve the agrarian troubles of which they were the continual cause, and which, indeed, contributed so largely to the revolution against Spain. The intention was to give preference in the acquisition of these lands to the tenant families who had cultivated them from time immemorial—an arrangement satisfactory to all concerned. But now, by this sale, there is re-created the same situation which necessitated the purchase from the Friars, the only difference being that the sugar trust is a more powerful corporation than the religious orders ever were. Since this sale has deprived hundreds of Filipinos of the opportunity to buy small parcels of land on instalments, as the law provides, it is clear that the Insular government has adopted a course manifestly prejudicial to the Philippine people, and one which makes unmistakably evident its purpose to encourage the establishment here of the big corporations. Representative Martin, by his denunciation of this course, has splendidly defended the rights of the Philippine people.

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Mother (looking over her boy's shoulder)—"Your spelling is perfectly terrible."

Little Son—"This isn't a spellin' lesson. It's a composition."—Street and Smith's Good News.