

labor organizations; but, on the other hand, the original accusers in this case were swift in charging crime where to others the evidence pointed to accidental disaster, and at more than one point in the investigation monopolistic animus against labor unions has been more in evidence than hunger for even-handed justice. Under these circumstances, the \$100,000 reward—not for the truth, but for criminal convictions, and with unmistakable intimations that the criminals must be labor unionists—is a highly important element.

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A good deal of money is \$100,000. We of Illinois have seen that it will buy a Senate seat. May it not be potent enough, then, to buy the kind of testimony against union labor officials, guilty or innocent, which embittered enemies of union labor are as eager to get for one purpose, as they are to get Senators of their own for other purposes?

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### Involuntary Idleness.

“The burden of proof that monopoly has ‘cornered’ the lands of the globe and causes this kind of idleness,” says the Spokane Spokesman-Review, “rests upon the maker of the assertion.” And the maker of the assertion has proved it. He proved it in “Progress and Poverty.” He illuminated the proof in “Social Problems.” He proved it again in his open letter to Pope Leo, again in “Protection or Free Trade” and again in “A Perplexed Philosopher.” To read, really read, any of those books is to see the proof; but it cannot be seen by persons who will not read. In the editorial quoted from above, the Spokane Spokesman-Review asserts that in places where land is cheap involuntary poverty nevertheless persists. There is no place where land is cheap. Low-priced land there is, of course, and even no-price land. But returns to productive workers are as meager on the lowest as on the highest-priced land. The higher productivity, or the benefit of better location, of high priced over low-priced land, goes to the owner and not to the worker. It may indeed be truthfully said that high-priced rather than low-priced land is the cheaper; for the owners of high-priced land are less affected by temptations to let it lie idle in expectation of still higher prices; and this enforced idleness of land is what makes involuntary idleness of men. Land monopoly does not make *all* involuntary idleness, and no one has ever thought it did. The essential point is that land monopoly is the fundamental cause. It is the cause that would nullify the effect of removing

every other cause; the cause which, if removed, would make the removal of all other causes easier.

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### Daniel Kiefer's Loss.

We are sure that readers of The Public everywhere will sympathize with Daniel Kiefer as with a personal friend, and with his wife whose constant encouragement and co-operation make his public service possible and useful, in their loss by sudden death on the 21st, of their daughter Marian, a child of six and the only daughter among four children.

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### David Stroud Burson.

A long time reader and friend of The Public—David Stroud Burson, of Richmond, Indiana,—died on the 3rd of April at the age of 95 years. He was the last of the grandchildren of Colonel Stroud of the American Revolution, with whose name the origin of Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, is associated. Mr. Burson was one of those simple men of scholarly attainments and intellectual faculties to whom this life seems veritably as the vestibule to a further life, and death but a door between. His religion was neither a plaything for Sundays nor a fetish for prayer meetings, but the very breath of his every day life. The politics and the patriotism of such men rest upon foundations more solid than patriotic traditions or party loyalty, and it was so with Mr. Burson.

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### Social Status in Democratic Office Holding.

Ex-Congressman Robert Baker — “Anti-pass Baker” as he is entitled in honor to be known, for it was he who broke up the use of the railroad pass, that subtlest of entering wedges for the corruption of Congressmen by corporations—may yet come to his own for refusing to make appointments to the Annapolis naval academy and the West Point military academy. Not only are those institutions unnecessary for the maintenance of national defense, but they are hot beds for the cultivation of snobbery. The latter characteristic has long been evident to observers, and an accident has brought it at last to the attention of Congress. Good luck to Congressman Korbly who refuses to be silenced by that Annapolis apology to Miss Beers. The apology is worse than the original offense. She was insulted officially because her social status had been misunderstood. They had mistaken her for a household servant. A woman of that status must not be escorted to an American naval function by a naval cadet,—not