

turbances, that none of the rioters who were prosecuted acted under his orders, and, that not in one hundred prosecutions arising out of the riot was any trace discovered of his participation or inspiration.



### A True Saying.

Someone long ago quoted Abraham Lincoln as saying: "As a result of the war, corporations will be enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow; the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by playing on the prejudices of the people till all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and our liberties are lost." Mr. Lincoln's biographers protested that Lincoln never said this, and it must be conceded that no proof of his ever having said it has yet been produced. But what of that? Whether or not Lincoln said it makes little difference, except to his reputation for prophecy, but whether it is true or not is of vast importance. And isn't it true?



### Make the Tax Fit the Profit.

When business men generally, those who busy themselves in producing legitimately instead of plundering legally—when these business men fully realize what one of the New York business men's organizations has caught a glimpse of, the labor problem will begin to solve itself peaceably and justly. Facing legislation requiring the doubling of floor space in factories in the interest of health and safety, the New York business men alluded to above have sensibly revived demands for the Sullivan-Brooks taxation bill.\* This bill, it will be recalled, would progressively diminish taxes on the value of buildings and increase those on the value of land until, at the end of five years, buildings would be exempt to the extent of 50 per cent of their value, and land values would be taxed enough more to make up the difference.



Realizing that under the present tax laws a law forcing them to increase their floor space would double their rents and add heavily to their taxes, to the profit, not of business but of land monopoly, those foresighted manufacturers of New York urge the enactment of the Sullivan-Brooks bill.



It is indeed the only way out. Crowded and insanitary factories must go. Working girls and working men and children must be protected by

\*See The Public of September 1, 1911, page 893.

sanitary laws if need be; and if these laws require more floor space, then more floor space must be exacted by our health laws. But why should the financial burden fall upon manufacturers? Financially, they will not be advantaged; financially, they will be injured. But the owners of factory sites will be advantaged financially. Then why not couple the factory sanitation law with a tax law that will tend to reduce the ad valorem taxes that manufacturers must pay, and to increase the ad valorem taxes that land monopolists must pay? This is what the Sullivan-Brooks bill would tend to do.



That Columbia University, one of the bloated land monopolists of New York, should be represented in opposition by its economic professors is no more strange than that the other speculative real estate interests also should oppose it; but none of this is any reason on the one hand for offering up the manhood, womanhood and childhood of working classes as human sacrifices, nor on the other hand for imposing fiscal fines upon legitimate business. Let land values pay. The arguments against this are many and long but weak. Better than all of those yet put out against the Sullivan-Brooks bill is this editorial argument the other way, which we take from the Dubuque Telegraph Herald. It is a comment on the support which that bill is getting from the New York manufacturers referred to above: "Here is a very good illustration," says the Telegraph Herald, "of the obstacles met with in attempts to safeguard the lives and the health of workers in the industries. It hits the pocket of the manufacturer. If the cost rests on him he is handicapped in competition with those who don't have to bear the taxes imposed on him. Self-preservation impels him to seek to pass the tax on to the landlord. That's where it ought to rest. There is no competition in land. And the heavier the tax on land, there being exemption of taxes on other property, the more difficult will it be for the land owner or speculator to hold land idle, or land poorly improved. All economic problems lead back to the land. The man who can monopolize that is lord of all he surveys."



### A House of Commons Incident.

An extraordinary debate took place in the British House of Commons last winter. We had no news report of it in this country; it wasn't spectacular enough to be "news." But it echoed throughout Great Britain. The London "Land