

the tidings of what was being done had spread, "there followed him a great multitude of the people, and of women who bewailed and lamented him."

Surely the people who did these things were not the same people that cried, "Crucify him!"

If we *must* call that cry a *Referendum*—a *viva voce* referendum, then the "votes" were the votes of hierarchs and aristocrats and the votes which they controlled; if perchance a few brave negative voices mingled in that fearful cry, they were votes not "called for"—not counted—not heard; it was a referendum to the Jewish *aristos* and not to the Jewish *demos*.

Demos had nothing whatever to do with that aristocratic tribunal. The Jews of Palestine were then subjects of the Roman Emperor, and demos and democratic methods had no existence in that country.



It is not the masses but the classes that have made history a tragedy. Thus far Demos has played a very, very small part in the drama—even in these United States of America. And while, now and then, he may have been guilty of some sin of omission, the sins so freely charged to him have been almost universally the sins of *Aristos*—that defaming hypocrite, that pretender and usurper, who always has been, is now, and always will be, leprous with every sin possible to a ruler.

Let us remember with hopeful and grateful hearts, that the Prince of Peace, so cruelly slain by *Aristos*, has taught Demos to build no longer rude, perishing structures on the sand, but to build gloriously on the rock, and so firmly that he need fear no wind nor flood.

ASHER GEORGE BEECHER.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

PROBLEMS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

South Devon, England, March 21.

The discussion caused by the coal strike in Great Britain is noteworthy for the advance it shows in clear economic thinking since the great Budget campaign concentrated attention on the land question. It is doubtful if any previous labor dispute has revealed more clearly the common enemy of both capital and labor, viz, land monopoly. It has become a commonplace to ask what service the landlord performs in return for the estimated £6,000,000 he receives yearly in royalties from the coal mines. The risks of the capitalist are obvious, and the sufferings of the laborer are better realized each day as the sordid conditions of life in the mining regions are described. But the landlord, without risk or

anxiety, collects a tax of about 5½d. on every ton of coal brought to the surface.

Nobody supposes that a minimum wage concession will secure stable conditions, although it is perhaps the immediate step best calculated to bring about a quick resumption of work in the mines. State ownership and operation is advocated by Mr. Chiozza Money and J. A. Hobson, one estimate of the cost of purchase being £85,000,000! A wiser suggestion is to tax mining royalties heavily enough to compensate for the abolition of the present taxes on tea, coffee, cocoa, sugar and tobacco, a step which would bring a measure of relief not only to the miners but to all wage earners, and would be in harmony with the Freetrade principle.

The sudden and unexpected attack by the Tories upon the Government's minimum wage bill is regarded as a daring, if heartless, attempt to regain control in the game of party politics. But so reckless a move must have been determined by some powerful influence. The land-owning class, frightened by the events of the last few years, and fearful of further assaults upon their privileges, are apparently determined to make another desperate effort to break the power of advancing democracy.



On March 12 the final report of the British Royal Commission on Vivisection was issued as a Blue Book. It defends the practice in these words:

After full consideration we are led to the conclusion that experiments upon animals, adequately safeguarded by law, faithfully administered, are morally justifiable, and should not be prohibited by legislation.

At the same time a number of recommendations are made, advising (1) an increase of the inspectorate, (2) further limitations as regards the use of curare, (3) stricter provisions as to the definition and practice of pithing, (4) additional restrictions regulating the painless destruction of animals which show signs of suffering after experiment, (5) a change in the method of selecting and in the constitution of the advisory body to the Secretary of State, (6) special records by experimenters in certain cases. A majority of the Commission expresses the opinion that present enactments favoring horses, asses and mules might well be extended to include dogs, cats and anthropoid apes. This view is taken also by Lord Cromer, President of the Research Defense Society, in a letter approving the findings of the Commission. Dr. G. Wilson, one of the members of the Commission, in an additional memorandum, maintains that the fallacies and failures of vivisection are far more conspicuous than the successes.

FRANCIS W. GARRISON.



THE INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM IN OHIO.

Columbus, Ohio, March 30.

After an all day session and late in the evening of the 27th, the Fourth Constitutional Convention adopted a Proposal recommending amendment of the Constitution to provide for use of the Initiative and Referendum. While this Proposal is not all the

I. and R. people want, it will make corporation money scarce about the State House at future sessions of the General Assembly, by putting an almost if not an altogether insurmountable handicap on the fine art of stealing by law.

The defenders of predatory privileges capitulated only after exhausting all their resources. From the previous Thursday, delegates had in turn taken revenge upon each other with speeches, some worse than Job's affliction of boils. A few, however, stand out in the memory of those privileged to hear the sessions, particularly the speeches of Fackler of Cuyahoga, Bowdle of Hamilton, Stilwell (Labor delegate from Cleveland), and the concluding address by Herbert S. Bigelow, President of the Convention.

The opposition play had been to fight the I. and R. with the story that it is a Singletax scheme, insidious in approach, far-reaching in evil results, and promoted by a millionaire soap manufacturer of Philadelphia and a millionaire newspaper man of California, all looking to robbing the farmer of his home.

The State Board of Commerce* had for months been spreading terror of Singletax in the rural districts. This having been done in advance and kept up, an inhibition clause was put in to prevent use of the I. and R. by the people to adopt the Singletax on land values; and with the virus of false statement working in the veins of farmer delegates, the fifteen Labor delegates were impressed with the thought that to get confirmation of the I. and R. at the polls the farmer must be protected against the possibility of a land value tax in future.

The final gun of the Opposition was spiked near the end of Mr. Bigelow's speech, when he told the Convention that the friends of the I. and R. were not going to oppose the Singletax inhibition in the I. and R. Proposal. That announcement had about the same effect on leaders of the Opposition as a kick in the stomach. It knocked their breath out, and before they had time to get it back, Judge Peck of Cincinnati demanded "the previous question." They tried to get away from the effect of the sentiment made by Mr. Bigelow's speech by shooting in a flock of amendments, which were one by one either put on the table or voted down. The play to take a recess till morning was made a little too early in the game, and before adjournment for the day the I. and R. Proposal had been adopted.

G. C.



LAND VALUE TAXES IN CANADA.

Calgary, Canada, March 29th.

Singletax advocates in Calgary have won a substantial legal victory. Last December the City Council, sitting as a board of revision, set aside the increased assessment fixed by the City Assessor on certain lands inside the city limits, on the ground that the Council had made an agreement with the owners that they should not be assessed at more than \$50 an acre until subdivided into building lots. Two of the city papers, and of course the Singletax League, protested. The result was that a mass meeting appointed a committee which engaged a solicitor and, raising a fund by public subscription, made an appeal to the court. The City Council, in

*Allen Ripley Foote's organization.

order to maintain their consistent disregard of the public's rights, instructed their solicitor to defend against this public-spirited action of the citizens' committee! But Mr. Justice Carpenter set aside the decision of the court of revision (the City Council) on the 28th, and in consequence the Singletax gospel is heard here with added interest and respect.

H. JACOBS.



MAYOR HANNA'S VICTORY.

Des Moines, March 30.

The common people of Des Moines won a decisive and sweeping victory for economy, good government and municipal ownership last week in the city election. They were opposed by the public service corporations, "Big Business" and three of our city dailies.

A specially bitter fight was made on Mayor Hanna by the local "Grocers' Trust" because he had secured a Market House for the people in spite of the opposition of McVicar, who has been secretly fighting it for years.

Both Hanna and Roe were venomously opposed by the Street Car Co. because of their action during the strike last summer in preventing the thugs who were imported as strike-breakers from carrying concealed weapons. Enforcing the law against strike-breakers the same as against other people spoiled the plans of the company and saved our city from one of those bloody affairs which have disgraced so many American cities.

McVicar, who won his place several years ago by opposing the public service corporations and favoring public ownership, has gradually swung around to exactly the opposite stand, and for that reason was overwhelmingly defeated; being next to last on the ticket in spite of the persistent and desperate efforts of three of our city dailies to save him.

Mayor Hanna led the ticket with over 10,000 votes; more than twice as many as his competitor. Ex-Police Judge F. T. Van Liew stood next with over 9,000; Mr. Roe next with some 8,500; W. A. Needham, the Labor candidate, next with about 8,300, and Ex-Postmaster Myerly last with about 7,500.

H. G. GUE.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of The Public for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, April 2, 1912.

Direct Legislation in Ohio.

By a vote of 97 to 15—only 7 members absent or not voting—the Constitutional Convention of Ohio adopted on the 28th a proposed amendment to the present Constitution of that State, which, upon approval by vote of the people, will supersede Section 1 of Article II of that document. [See current volume, page 300.]