

principle and of ascertaining the true causes of such a perversion of moral sentiment. Such a state of things implies the existence of evils which cannot be really cured till their cause is known, and the shortest way to discover the cause is to give a hearing to the alleged reasons." If we are, as seems inevitable, to have an expansion of the powers of government and the state, we will do well to guard more jealously the rightful boundaries of individual freedom.

+ +

The Italo-Turkish War.

The (St. Louis) Mirror (ind.), Oct. 5.—Italy's attack upon Turkey is a wanton one, made even as Turkey pleaded her helplessness. There is no valid reason for it. The treaties as to Tripoli are writ plain and all the difficulties, mostly invented by Italy after the manner of the wolf that ate the lamb for dirtying the stream below where the wolf drank, were clearly justiciable. The Turks are not Christians, but justice is due them none the less. But Italy is probably only a catspaw. When the facts prior to the attack are known, it will be found in all likelihood that other Powers connived at the movement, notwithstanding the professed indignation of the chancelleries. The Italian government's action is infamous. Its people are the most overtaxed in Europe and now the expense of a war is piled upon their backs. For what? For the benefit of a pack of concessionaires in Tripoli. If Italy's claims were just, there was the Hague tribunal; but no, that would not do; this was the time to make a grab in Africa. Is Germany behind it, having been prevented from taking Morocco? Is it a move to embarrass England's power in Africa? We shall see.

+

Friends' Intelligencer (Philadelphia), October 7.—Italy goes to war with Turkey with a view to getting possession of Tripoli and Cyrene, because, say the Italian diplomats, "These regions should be admitted to the benefits of the progress realized by other parts of the Mediterranean." This sounds very fine. And yet the International Peace Congress which was to have met in Rome this month had to be postponed till spring on account of the prevalence of cholera in Italy. A true devotion to progress and human welfare would in these days keep cholera out of Rome, as the fever has been cleared out of the once pestilent Panama. There are a few of the people of Italy who see through their government and its designs and who are opposing the war and calling attention to the need for taking vigorous measures for introducing the "benefits of progress" among the squalor and poverty and disease-breeding conditions of Italy itself, especially Sicily and Southern Italy. These who protest are as yet so few and have so little strength on their side that they are cried down as unpatriotic and riotous, and they are shot and hustled by the soldiers. But the movement represented by these protestors, against the war is growing in Italy, and the time will come when the people will be strong enough not to permit themselves to be rushed away into war under false pretenses, and to the neglect of important duties at home.

RELATED THINGS CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

THE WORLD'S WITENAGEMOTE.

For The Public.

German jungles' open spaces once were legislative halls,
Where free peoples met in conclave and knew not law's technic thralls.

Plain of Salisbury's eighty thousand cast their viva voce high,
Fearing not some vain court's veto, knowing not its nay or aye.

Then the thrall of law fell o'er us, did we as some ruler said—
Walked we o'er the rocks of ages by the hand of custom led—

Ruled by far-off congress, cortes, by some reichstag, parliament,
Robbed of sovereign will and power, swayed by dead hand's precedent.

Now a ripple sweeps earth's people as a wavelet sweeps the sea:
Asks a workman of his brother, "What has life for you or me?"—

Asks a Cornwall miner's helper of his Lehigh brother nigh—
Nigh by spaceless, thought-filled lightning and by Union's comrade tie.

So the word goes out in wavelets, flows in wave on wave o'er earth,
"Come to conclave! Come to conclave! Let us find a man's true worth!"

"Come to conclave! Come to conclave!" herald voice of Demos cries;
We will find, if found it can be, where the springs of power rise."

So they're coming, men are coming, through the day and through the night,
Coming upward, coming homeward, to the world's grand plebiscite.

I am going, you are going, thrilled by sweetest cosmic note,
To one world-wide mighty conclave—to the World's Witenagemote.

RALPH W. CROSMAN.

+ + +

BUSINESS MEN AND LAND VALUE TAXATION.

Speech by Joseph Fels to a Special Meeting of Business Men at Birmingham, England,
October 4, 1911.

I am going to speak on the taxation of land values. Some of you may regard this as a question for politicians, or for socialists and other