

score a victory over not merely political opponents, but a victory over the deeper and more insidious forces that induce and maintain the hell of poverty. The fight rages round the land question and our solution of the problem. The "Conspiracy of Silence" is forever broken, and it remains for us here in the next few years to acquire an even greater influence in the political arena—in parliamentary circles, and outside—than we have hitherto wielded. This election can only take us a part of the way, and for what's to come, well, the land is far and wide and our people must soon be preparing for the next bold advance.

Henry George, Jr., wrote from London on the 1st: "Our people here are almost drunk with enthusiasm. All signs point to a great victory." In an interview in Reynolds's Newspaper of the 2nd, Mr. George is reported as saying:

What challenges my attention at once in this struggle is the audacity with which the landlord party distorts facts about Protectionism in the United States. A certain Peer, for instance, is reported to have said upon his recent return from New York that he did not see an idle man in America. This shows he could not have looked far. If he had put a two line advertisement in any of the New York dailies offering employment to, say, a carpenter, he would have had ten out-of-work applicants coming to his door. If he had advertised for a competent salesman or clerk, or for a skilled girl typist, he would have been amazed and heart-sick to find how many he would have had to turn away. In Chicago, St. Louis, Omaha, San Francisco—any of the cities, and in fact in any of the towns and villages—he would have found on looking relatively the same condition of things.

The editor of The Public spoke with others at a political meeting at Middlewich, Cheshire, on the 5th in the interest of John F. Brunner, son of Sir John Brunner, who has been himself in Parliament for twenty-five years. Mr. Post reports that the meeting was "touch and go on the land question," and that they wanted to hear about the "protective prosperity" of the United States. The enthusiasm of the meeting seems to have been boundless.

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#### The President Sends a Conservation Message to Congress.

A special message on the conservation of the nation's natural resources was sent by the President to the lower house of Congress on the 14th. The President urged the validation by Congress of the withdrawals of special lands from the operation of existing statutes, already made by the Secretary of the Interior and the President, and the authorization of temporary withdrawals in the future by the Secretary of the Interior of lands which in his judgment need special legislative action for their proper disposition. The President proposed the handling of agricultural lands as such, with reservation for other disposition of "the treasure of coal, oil, asphaltum, natural gas,

and phosphate contained therein. This may be best accomplished by separating the right to mine from the title to the surface, giving the necessary use of so much of the latter as may be required for the extraction of the deposits. The surface might be disposed of as agricultural land under the general agricultural statutes, while the coal or other minerals could be disposed of by lease on a royalty basis, with provisions requiring a certain amount of development each year, and in order to prevent the use and cession of such lands with others of similar character so as to constitute a monopoly forbidden by law the lease should contain suitable provision subjecting to forfeiture the interest of persons participating in such monopoly. Such law should apply to Alaska as well as to the United States." The disposal of water sites to private owners it was admitted might create water monopoly. "Many water power sites have come under absolute ownership and may drift into one ownership, so that all the water power under private ownership shall be a monopoly." "If, however," the President continues, "the water power sites now owned by the government—and there are enough of them—shall be disposed of to private persons for the investment of their capital in such a way as to prevent their union for purposes of monopoly with other water power sites, and under conditions that shall limit the right of use not to exceed fifty years, with proper means for determining a reasonable graduated rental, it would seem entirely possible to prevent the absorption of these most useful lands by a power monopoly. As long as the government retains control and can prevent their improper union with other plants competition must be maintained and prices kept reasonable." Issuances of bonds for irrigation not to exceed \$30,000,000, was recommended for the completion and extension of projects now under way. The maintenance of forests and reforestation was urged. But an apparent indifference to the value of "comparatively small timbered areas" is revealed in the recommendation for such areas "that the acts of June 3, 1878, should be repealed and a law enacted for the disposition of the timber at public sale, the lands after the removal of the timber to be subjected to appropriations under the agricultural or mineral lands laws." Advance with the Lakes-to-the-Gulf Waterway plans was advised to be contingent upon substantial results from the Ohio River improvements.

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Bills for the various recommendations of the message were to have been submitted simultaneously with the message. But Congressman F. W. Mondell, of Wyoming, chairman of the Public Lands committee, refused to introduce them except "by request," which was not satisfactory to the President, and they were returned to the White House.