

plenty, poverty would disappear and with it all the social evils and diseases which are such an outstanding feature of present day civilization. There would then be no need nor demand for Insurance bills or any other so-called "social reform" measures. While we feel strongly against this Insurance Bill, we appreciate, no less than anyone else, the splendid spirit and purpose which actuates Mr. Lloyd George and its supporters. What we desire is not to see this spirit crushed, but to see it strengthened and fortified and applied in the right direction. In concluding his speech introducing the Bill, Mr. Lloyd George said that he did not pretend that this scheme was a complete remedy and that before we could get a complete remedy for these social evils we should have to cut in deeper. Yes, we must cut deeper, and into the solid earth, the natural foundation of all genuine social reconstruction. We must first secure a rational measure of land reform.



The Singletax Over the Line.

Everett (Wash.) Herald, Nov. 14.—The passage of the Singletax amendment to the city charter means that Everett will be the first city in the State of Washington to adopt a system of taxation that is in line with the ideas of Henry George—an idea that ever since its first proposal by the American economist has steadily gained ground until now it has adherents in all parts of the world. The place nearest Everett where something akin to the Singletax idea has been put into practice is Vancouver, B. C. The system of taxation resorted to there is credited by many with that city's remarkable growth. But, even after the measure has been adopted here, there are many Everett people who are hazy concerning it. Briefly, it is a land tax as opposed to an improvement tax. Now, both houses and lands are taxed. Under the measure adopted by popular vote, eventually in Everett only land will be taxed, so far as city taxes are concerned, and improvements will be exempt. You will pay taxes on lots upon which your house stands but you won't pay taxes on the house itself. Opponents of the present system of taxation maintain that it is a tax on industry—that the more a man improves his property the bigger tax he is called upon to pay, while, on the other hand, monopoly of land and speculation in it are encouraged. They maintain that those who hold idle land for speculative purposes profit at the expense of the real city and country builders—the men who improve farms and build homes and mills, for it is the latter who increase the price of idle land. The theory of the Singletax is that it encourages the real use of land instead of its employment as a speculative medium, for an increased tax on land will make speculation in it less profitable. This measure, adopted by Everett, will affect only city taxes, and will not be entirely effective until 1917. From year to year the burden will be gradually shifted from improvements to the land until at that time improvements will be entirely exempt. So it will be some time before the effects of what we have done will be noticeable in any great degree; but, if the experiences of other communities are criterions and the theories of students of taxation are correct, the new measure should be a big factor in

encouraging the improvement of property and the coming of industries.

RELATED THINGS
CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

SLUM-CRY.

John Galsworthy in the London Nation.

Of a night without stars, the wind withdrawn,
God's face hidden, indignity near me,
Drink and the paraffin flares to sear me,
Dust-colored hunger—so was I born!

Of a city noon-day—as sand through sieve
Sifting down, as dusk padding the glamor—
I of the desolate white-lipped clamor,
Millioning fester. So do I live!

Of a Poor-house morning, not asking why,
Breath choked, dry-eyed, the death of me staring,
Faces of strangers, and no one caring—
Thou who hast made me—so shall I die!



HOW HENEY WAS MISREPRESENTED*.

From George Creel's Account in the Kansas City Times of a Memorable Conversation Between Frank J. Cannon, Ben B. Lindsey and Francis J. Heney.

Heney is a man of peculiarly winning geniality, with a smile that is a broad, boyish grin. He told—as if it were a boarding school row—of the murderous attack that had been made upon him by Morris Haas in San Francisco, and the way in which public sympathy had been turned against him and to Haas by newspaper accounts of the shooting, not only in California, but throughout the whole country, by the dispatches of the San Francisco correspondents.

"You see, they made it out that Haas didn't want to serve on that second jury which was to try Abe Ruef, the grafter boss of San Francisco; that he fought against serving because he was afraid his prison record would be found out—and he had lived that down, they said.

"They described him as the proprietor of a cigar store, who enjoyed the respect and esteem of the community after years of hard work and square living. And so, when I came along and brutally exposed him—not out of necessity but from the sheer joy of disgracing him—the poor devil went crazy, rushed out and got a gun, ran back again and shot me.

"As a matter of fact, Haas had been the keeper of a low grocery, and was openly living with a woman to the shame of his wife and family. His

*For an instance of the success of this misrepresentation see The Public of November 27, 1908, page 831.