

And bridges and charted stars, whereon
And through, over and by, we tramp, with
Steamships, automobiles, palace cars and
yachts,
Street cars, canoes, ox-carts, or on
foot. . . .

As time went on
Each for himself, against nature, grew,
All naturally and innocently
Without sin or force or fraud
Or stealth, or any weak compliance,
Or framing iniquity into law,
To families.

Now, each for himself, had widened
Into each for self, for wife, for children
and the old.

As time still passed, and "each" grew old
and died,

His children, taught by him,
Took from his hand the tools he fashioned,
And the field he tilled, his vine and fig tree,
The ship he builded, the mine he dug,
The road he tramped, and all roads and
seas,

For them to tramp, and said at will,
By inheritance.

God's law and gift, as certain
As the place, for vine and fig tree.

No framing iniquity into law
By the strong possessors
Against the weak was here.
Only the confirming
Of the title God gave the Fathers
To the children

Of all those who took and used
The Creator's gift. . . .

I pray you note
I am not here saying all those who took
And used God's gift, were, or are thereby
Purified or sanctified, or freed from sin or
force,

Or fraud, or stealth, or receiving weak
Compliance, or framing iniquity into law.

Only this I say:
None of these things originated
The right of property in man in severalty,
To God's free gift;
The right to possess, control, exclude
All others from, enjoy, sell, transmit
And use to the full.
Only work did that, and wisdom.

God's gift to man
Of the world whereon to live
Stands to-day as when He gave it,
Only by far improved and grown
By the successive labor of His creatures.
His silent order

When he put men on it
Resounds far louder now
And grows in loudness
With each passing year,

"Work or Perish;"

"I have never seen the righteous forsaken
Nor his seed begging bread." . . .

You House of Want,
You are nearly all the people,
You have all power.
Will you let the House of Have divide and
then abuse you?

Strike from your Constitution
The lying futile word:
"All property shall be taxed."
Frame into law this little piece of right-
eousness:

"All expenses which are common and pub-
lic
Shall be paid by a Tax
Upon the value of the land.
Each one in severalty;
Each shall pay in the proportion

The value of the land he owns
Bears to the value of all the
Land in the district which the
Common public expense relates to.
No other tax shall be paid,
Except on licenses for special privileges,
And an inheritance and income tax.
In fixing the value of each parcel
No regard shall be had to the value of any
Man-made improvement on it, and all par-
cels

Shall be assessed by a uniform and impar-
tial rule."

The divine beauty
Of the Single Tax
On land value only,
After its simplicity,

Appears to me, not in the fact
That each taxpayer, under it,
Must pay in the exact proportion
That he monopolizes land value.
Though this, of course, is enough
To recommend it to all statesmen
Far beyond any and all
Other systems of revenue raising
For public common expenses.

But is this:
After the tax is paid to the treasurer,
Each taxpayer has in his own
Hand and absolute control,
The power to recoup from the
Non-Taxpayers all that he has
Paid beyond his own just, equitable and
proper share

Of all public burden of common expense.
No man can live who does not
Pay to Landowners for what he consumes
Of fire, food, clothes, house and light.
And this at last is what each ought to pay,
Of the common public expense;
What he elects to consume
Of the property God gave to all,
And all have made.

If a man be incapable, a
Prisoner or a pauper, in
Respect for such ones some one in charity
Will pay for what he consumes,
Or he will die.

"If a man will not work
Neither shall he eat."

And in this:

No man, in practice, could
Monopolize such land
Nor hold it long under
The Single Tax,
Unless he used it.
He must milk the land
Or let go of it.

GREATEST ENEMY OF INDUSTRY.

The great enemy of the building in-
dustry is high land values; these values
going into the pockets of private indi-
viduals. A grocery merchant in St.
Louis recently complained that he had
conducted a store for ten years beside a
vacant lot; at the end of that ten years
he found he was very little ahead of
his starting point, while the owner of
the lot next door sold it at an advance
of \$6,000. He inquired how it was
that the "dead cat man," as he called
him, because of the occasional pres-
ence of defunct felines on the lot,—why
he should profit \$6,000 for doing noth-
ing while he, the groceryman, had la-
bored those ten years and earned only
a bare living. The reply was that the

groceryman had made a mistake in
working; that he should have started
in by owning land, doing nothing but
letting others work for him, and this
is true.

The land system is the constant pres-
sure against industry which forces
those who labor to live at the starvation
point, and fattens the idlers who do
nothing. The only way to correct this
evil is to vote to raise taxes on land to
the full rental value, and strike the
taxes off from personal property. The
first effect to follow from such a change
would be a building boom.—Buffalo
Builder and Contractor.

IMPERIALISTIC OPTIMISM.

For The Public.

Two neighbors who differed on Poli-
tics, were discussing the merits of some
apples they were eating.

"I don't think," remarked the Jeffer-
sonian, "that apples this year have as
good a flavor as usual."

"Maybe not," conceded the Hamilton-
ian; but instantly fearing this remark
might be construed as an admission that
prosperity was on the wane, he deftly
forstalled criticism by asking: "Haven't
you noticed, though, that Apple Worms,
this year, taste sweeter than usual?"

This Imperialistic Method of maintain-
ing an equilibrium had the desired effect,
and the abashed Pessimist accepted the
rebuke in silence.

Moral: Never Find Fault as long as
there is *anything* to be thankful for.

T. W. GRAHAM.

THE TRIBUTE PAID BY INDIA.

Neither in the British nor in the
Indian Budget is there any mention of
a tribute paid by India. Yet as a matter
of fact payments are made which, as
they are without economic return, have
according to John Stuart Mill the effects
of a tribute.

These payments consist of various
items:

Interest on debt borrowed in Eu-
rope, part incurred in useful works
and part for military expenditure and
wars beyond the frontier;

Home charges for the maintenance
of the India office, etc.;

Pensions and pay during furloughs—
the necessary result of alien adminis-
tration, which, however able, is some-
times ignorant, always expensive, and
never really popular.

To these items must be added the
savings of British residents in India,
which, instead of being spent in the
country, are transmitted to Europe.

This state of affairs leaves its mark
on the trade returns of India. Every

year there is a great excess of exports and imports. In the year 1901-02 this excess amounted to more than £21,000,000.

Now, this is not only a serious loss to the country, but it is not the whole loss. In his "Principles of Political Economy" (Bk. III., ch. 21, sect. 4), Mill shows that in consequence of the tribute there must be an excess of exports to pay it. Foreign countries must, therefore, be induced to accept a greater quantity of exports than they would take, if there were no tribute to be paid and this can only be done

by offering these exports on cheaper terms, or in other words, by paying dearer for foreign commodities.

The result is that a country which makes regular payments to foreign countries, besides losing what it pays, loses also something more by the less advantageous terms on which it is forced to exchange its productions for foreign commodities.

How long can India support this loss? How can India be other than poor while this drain of wealth continues?—India for Dec. 18, 1903.

AN INTERVIEW WITH TOM L. JOHNSON.

"Speculation as to your attitude in politics is a matter of general interest. What, if any, effect will the recent defeat that you have sustained produce upon your future political action?"

"In announcing as I did a few years ago my intention of devoting myself to certain political ideals, I did it with a full appreciation of the task, and reckoned on not only one defeat but possibly a long line of defeats. Again I repeat, that while Truth may lose some battles, it never lost a war. The man that lightly contemplates the overthrow of special privilege is surely shortsighted and reasons without either sufficient knowledge or careful consideration."

"The eye of the nation has been resting upon you as a favorite son of Democracy. What about your leadership of the Democratic party?"

"No one can rightfully accuse me of ever having encouraged the thought of leadership. I have at no time aspired to do more than fight the battles of today; to undertake the work that I saw must be accomplished in my own city and State which would lead to the placing of our party upon a solid foundation. In order to do that, a stand had to be taken against those who assume the cloak of Democracy for selfish political advancement; and it was necessary to point out clearly the needs of the people; to show them that the Democratic party—tested by its ful-

fillment of every pledge—was the one hope to which they might turn. To accomplish this end we have fought for the fulfillment of every pre-election promise, and to the best of our ability, have weeded out those people who by their past acts had shown that they could not be trusted to aid in the progress of true Democracy. There is no hope that the people will ever place their affairs in the hands of the Democratic party as long as it is dominated by those who are opposed to the very principles for which Democracy should and does stand."

"Considering the result as a whole, what lessons do you gather from the campaign?"

"That the Democrats have made some astonishing gains, with the independent voters, and suffered some losses among other classes that are but temporary."

"Will the three-cent railroad fare question come up again?"

"Undoubtedly."

"Will home rule continue to be a question of interest?"

"Yes, and outside of a national election, together with the question of an equitable system of taxation, it will attract the attention of the people of this State more than any other issue."

Cleveland, Ohio, Dec. 28, 1903.

FIRE INSPECTION IN CLEVELAND.

Telegraphic news from Cleveland, Ohio, published in Chicago Chronicle of Jan. 3.

City Electrician Dunn thinks the Iroquois theater fire was due to defective electrical apparatus. Mr. Dunn forms this opinion from his inspection of the electrical appliances of the Bluebeard company made when the play was given in Cleveland two months ago.

"I inspected the electrical apparatus when the company reached here," said Mr. Dunn. "Fully one-third of it was deficient and I condemned it and ordered that none of it be used in Cleveland."

"Despite this fact one piece which was used, although I did not sanction its use, almost caused a disastrous fire here. As the electricity was turned on at an afternoon performance a wire became crossed. In an instant every lamp in the piece was smashed to bits and the scenery about it was set afire."

"The operator let the apparatus drop to the stage, where it was picked up and carried to the wings. For three days this burned piece lay in the hallway leading to the opera house stage."

"Two fires were caused by the electrical appliances of the company, but neither was serious. Both were due to

short circuiting of wires, but fuse boxes were attached and the fires amounted to nothing."

A BETTER THAN MILITARY HEROISM.

From the Chicago Chronicle's account of the fire at the Iroquois theater, Dec. 30, 1903.

Robert Smith, a little elevator boy, made three trips through the dense flame and smoke to the roof of the stage and down, carrying to safety the girls who had been caught there. At the bottom of the elevator shaft they were caught by a chain gang of ten men stretching 20 feet to the door, headed by Archie Barnard, chief electrician, whose hair and clothes were on fire. They were carried over the chain and thrown out of the door. . . .

The elevator boy stuck to his post, and by his coolness saved many lives. On the first of three trips through the smoke and flames to the dressing-rooms on the upper tiers he found Nellie Reed, who was in the sixth tier and had inhaled so much smoke that she had fallen to the floor. The elevator was full.

"Please, oh, please, take me down," she pleaded.

"Keep cool and stay where you are," Smith told her. "I will get you on my next trip and you will get out all right."

The same advice was given to the other girls who had to wait, and in two more trips all of them were taken to the stage floor and turned over to the human chain formed by the men. . . .

On his second trip up with the elevator young Smith ascended into an atmosphere that was so thick with smoke that he could not see nor breathe. He found Miss Reed on the sixth floor and then took on another load of girls from the fifth. By the time he had come down with these, the flames and smoke were threatening the men in the chain. The clothing of Barnard and William Price was on fire and their hair was burning. Nevertheless they threw the girls out and waited for the third load.

This load came near not arriving. The smoke was so thick that Smith had to find the girls and drag them into the elevator and by the time he had done this he was almost overcome. The elevator was burning at the place where the controller was located, and Smith had to place his left hand in the flame to start the car. The hand was badly burned, but the car was started and came down in time for the girls to receive assistance from the