

The Value of This is in The Application

IT would be the tragedy of tragedies if after our sacrifices to make the world safe for democracy our democracy would not be of a brand to bless the world. It must be purged of all class distinction, of every vestige of privilege, of every hoary-bearded tradition that fetters justice. It must be a democracy such as Jefferson formulated and Lincoln enforced. Its standard must be equal rights to all, special privileges to none. But this generation must live in the spirit of Jefferson and Lincoln and not be bound by policies which suited their day. We will not be called upon to fight primogeniture and the union of Church and State and foreign control which Jefferson successfully opposed. Human slavery, which Lincoln ended for the good of both races and the glory of his country, no longer needs to be opposed. But let us not doubt that there will be lions in our path if we tread the hard road of duty. Profiteers in war, worse than slackers and cowards, will not be easily routed in peace.

JOSEPHUS DANIELS.

The Bible and the Land Question

TO THE Christian and Bible student, the thought will naturally arise—what does the Bible say in regards to this question? A careful perusal of the following texts will undoubtedly shed some light on this matter:

"If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter: for he that is higher than the highest regardeth; and there be higher than they. Moreover, the profit of the earth is for all: the king himself is served by the field. He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity. When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes?"—Eccles. 5:8-11.

The reader's special attention is called to the ninth verse—"Moreover the profit of the earth is for all: the king himself is served by the field." The bible seems to lay great stress on the land as being an important factor in the accumulation of wealth, and indeed if we will only open our eyes to observation we will find this view to be confirmed. It will be admitted without controversy that the land is the source of all wealth, and is a gift of God to mankind, the same as the air and the sunshine, and is just as essential to our existence as these.

Statisticians tell us that there are enough natural resources in the State of Texas alone to support the population of the United States, and that there are enough natural resources in the United States to support the population of the entire world. Referring back to the bible again—we find that under the Mosaic law, the land was not recognized as being the private property of individuals, as will be seen by the following text:

"The land shall not be sold forever: for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me. And in all the land of your possession ye shall grant a redemption for the land"—Lev. 25:23, 24.

WILLIAM Z. KRICK in *Peoples Christian Bulletin*.

Clinton's Housing Problem and its Only Real Remedy

THAT the working people of Clinton, whether organized or unorganized, are confronted by a condition that not one of the remedies proposed and tried has even relieved—say nothing of having cured, is certainly plain to all. We refer to the housing problem. Day by day and far into the night our working men, their wives, mothers, and sisters tramp this city over looking for shelter from the storms of the oncoming winter, until they almost drop from sheer exhaustion. Home owners, partly out of sympathy for the homeless, partly because the prices offered for houseroom will go well toward the upkeep of the house and partly because of the orders from the federal government to save coal and improve the efficiency of the public service—all three combine to cause many of our citizens to extend to the home seekers such accommodations as their homes afford.

But all this at its best does not solve the problem that confronts both home owners and home seekers; it is at best only temporary relief. It is only a mild ineffectual poultice put over a dangerous affliction to allay the pain. The remedy lies in the prompt and thorough removal of the cause of the affliction and its resultant pain. And in this ever present housing problem, the remedy does not lie in organizing unions to control jobs, or in regulating price. Union men meet, blame house owners for taking high rent and as soon as the meeting adjourns run a race to get first to some house owner and themselves bid up the rent against each other. In view of such conditions is it not as plain as a pike staff that trade unionism, cooperative stores, regulation of prices, protective tariff, tariff for revenue, free silver, single gold standard and even prohibition are all powerless to cure the trouble. Not until the disinherited working men stop temporizing with mere palliatives and apply a remedy that will force into use the 400,000,000 idle acres, held out of use for speculation in human necessity, will there be any real relief of this housing problem. This can be obtained by exempting from taxation all improvements and personal property and taxing only the value given to land by the pressure of population about it.

Clinton (Ind.) *Argus*.

A Clever Characterization of Socialism

IF modern mills are to be owned by politicians and policemen, it will be only by a fiction that they are supposed to be ruled by the jolly miller and his men. They will approximate more and more to the pattern of the great mill established by the State—the treadmill.

G. K. CHESTERTON.