

WHY should it appear to any man possessing a modicum of intelligence that a country needs cheap labor? All wealth is obtained by labor; that is the only way to get wealth unless we steal it from those who do obtain it by labor. The palpable absurdity of a country needing more Hudson Maxims who will work for less pay, will be clear to our friend on reflection. And if he extends his observations a little further he will ask himself why, if cheap labor is such a good thing for a country, China, which has the lowest paid labor, should not be wallowing in prosperity? Of course, Mr. Maxim is thinking, unconsciously, of cheap labor for some employers; it would not be to the advantage of all employers that all labor was cheap labor, for that would mean poor returns to all employers. How curious is the mental inversion! We call times in which labor is cheap—or in other words, where wages are low—bad times. Times of low wages are bad times, times of panics and depression.

Mr. Maxim will see this if he stops to think. Long ago he wrote a clever story in which the truths of economics were admirably illustrated in the form of a delightful fiction. Has he forgotten?

THE suspension of Dr. Louis Levine from the faculty of the University of Montana is interesting in connection with the subject of economic freedom and the article in this issue by Prof. Brinsmade. Prof. Levine's offence consisted in pointing out that the Anaconda Copper Mining Co. paid in taxes to the State 6 per cent. of its income derived from operations in Montana, while other property, especially farming property, paid an average of 10 to 12 per cent.

PROF. LEVINE does not appear to be a wild-eyed radical. He merely advocates a system of taxation in which these mining companies would pay their proportional quota—in other words, the General Property Tax in operation in most of the States. What the officials of the Montana University would do to a professor who advocated some really drastic tax reform measure is too horrible to contemplate.

## A Conspicuous Failure.

POPULAR government is, in respect of taxation, simply the reflection of University teaching in economics. It is, therefore, interesting to record the following dictum of the National Tax Association:

"With the possible exception of municipal rule, taxation is the phase of popular government in which the United States has made its most conspicuous failure. The absence of any broad, rational, logical, uniform system of taxation for city, State and nation is not only unjust, theoretically and practically, but is absolutely destructive to intelligent voting on the merits of government, the very foundation-stone of any republic."

## The Education of the Business and Industrial World.

THERE has never been greater need than that of today for establishing a practical, working understanding between capital and labor. There have never existed more cogent reasons for those capitalists who would deny to labor a just return for the service it renders, as well as proper living conditions to workers, and for those laborers who refuse to recognize the invaluable contribution made by intelligence and capital to the production of wealth, to discard their narrow-minded point of view and to appreciate the rights of each other. For there has never been a time when capital and labor have had so much in common, when each has been so dependent upon the other.—Francis H. Sisson, Vice-Pres. of the Guaranty Trust Co. of N.Y.

Under the growing menace of labor unrest, the education of the business and industrial world is proceeding rapidly.

Some years ago, the "labor question" was pooh-poohed. The topic might interest decayed old Europe, but never our free democracy, where every man might become a Carnegie or reach the President's chair. Today, matters are different. University presidents, heads of banks and great industrial corporations, governors of States, congressmen, senators—have suddenly discovered that there is such a question as an American labor problem, that the glorious continent of opportunity has become a breeding ground of real distress and ominous elements of danger.

The results of this conversion are curious. Without serious study of the subject so long ignored, the academic dignitaries, commercial leaders and captains of industry, assuming a knowledge they do not possess, have entered upon a furious campaign of words, to combat the advancing peril. From Atlantic to Pacific, an amazing flood of homilies is being poured forth. The ancient power of organized sound is evidently relied upon to repeat the miracle of Jericho, when the horns blown by the priests of Israel brought down the walls of the fortified city. The secret of the old miracle, however, lay not so much in the volume of the sound, we may be assured, as in the intensity, directness and weight of the purpose behind it. In competition with the stern voice of labor, and the real distress of the masses, the noise of the professors, bankers and captains of industry is as feeble and futile as the chirping of crickets before the thunder and blackening roar of a tempest.

The business man, awakened from the self-satisfied slumber of a few years ago, must now learn that platitudes about the beauties of harmony and democracy will not do, are indeed deplorably inadequate just now. There is a real problem, a real injustice which, unless quickly and fairly faced, means inevitable disaster. Business men have been too absorbed in their own special occupations, to bring to bear upon the underlying economic problems that keen judgment, clear analysis and steady common sense, with which they are generally and justly credited.

An assemblage of the elementary factors of the economic situation and a brief consideration of their relation and

interaction would have spared the distinguished banker above quoted from making a totally unwarranted assumption. He would never have diagnosed the prevailing economic unrest as a conflict between labor and capital. His practiced eye would at once have perceived beneath the superficial phenomena of strikes, eight-hour agitation, wage disputes, etc., the fundamental mal-adjustment of the relation of both labor and capital to the third factor in production, viz., the land. He would not be long, either, in locating our present fiscal system as the efficient instrument in divorcing both labor and capital from their common, natural, free access to the soil and thus laying them both under perpetual and unjust tribute for the support of government and of a rent-exploiting class. The simple issues of the fiscal and economic situation cannot long escape the cool, keen analysis of leaders in commerce and industry.

In spite of all its incidental absurdities, the widespread and earnest concern of the business and industrial world for a reasoned and rational solution of the nation's economic disorders is one of the most hopeful signs of the times. It is the first step in the education of democracy's natural, competent leaders. When that education is completed, then rapid effective action will be taken; paltry palliative devices, superficial half-truths and dangerous class misunderstandings will be swept away, to give place to an economic system designed in the only durable way, upon natural law, just as we have lately decided that, in international affairs, political chicanery and brute force must yield to the reign of justice and the moral law.

Mr. Sisson will have made a good beginning if he assumes that the interests of labor and capital are economically, if not actually, identical. We have no doubt he will follow that premise to its only logical conclusion, viz., that that identity of interests must be incarnated in fiscal and legal institutions that recognize their equal and common rights to the soil. The implications of that conclusion need scarcely be elaborated here.

## Poster In The Subway Station.

"REAL ESTATE BOOM  
ON IN BROOKLYN  
SECURE A HOME now,  
BEFORE THE OPENING of  
the NEW TUNNELS"  
(Consult the Advertising Columns of the  
BROOKLYN EAGLE

The *Brooklyn Eagle* must be a tame kind of Bird of Freedom to stand by and scream out the auction notices of those who traffic in the freeman's birthright—their country's land—without free access to which the right to liberty, life and the pursuit of happiness is, and must necessarily be, an empty mockery—trinkets on the breast of shackled slaves.

## Luke North

JAMES H. GRIFFES (Luke North) spent his early life in Schenectady, N. Y. He was a newspaper reporter in Chicago when that city had a flourishing Single Tax club of over one thousand members. Here his health broke down, and tuberculosis, which disease was the ultimate cause of his death, developed. He went to Arizona and started a newspaper.

His next appearance was in San Francisco where he became editor of a Sunday newspaper. In that city his wife was killed by a moral pervert, and Luke North, always a consistent opponent of capital punishment, appeared in court and passionately urged a commutation of sentence for the convicted.

He was in Los Angeles when the Macnamara trial was in progress, and worked for Clarence Darrow in unearthing testimony and in creating favorable public sentiment for the accused. His first publication in that city was *The Golden Elk*, an organization paper of the Elks of that city. This most informal of fraternal orders probably attracted North by reason of its singularly loose organization and its teachings of brotherhood. This publication was short-lived. Luke North then published *Everyman*, which began as a journal of philosophic anarchism and later developed into an organ of the Great Adventure, with which nearly all readers of the REVIEW are familiar.

The dead leader was a student of the occult. His eager intellectuality strove to pierce the curtain shrouding the seen from the unseen. A freethinker he, nevertheless, or perhaps in consequence, possessed much natural religion and a fine passion for humanity, which the vision of a free earth roused to an intensity which swept all before it.

He had an intellectual honesty which permitted him to disavow a mistaken conviction. His noble recantation of previously expressed views on the war was actuated by no motive of caution, for he had courage of a high order. "Radicalism, too, has its conventions," he said in a fine, illuminating phrase in the article analyzing the mental change through which he had passed.

He grew bigger intellectually as he grew older. He was, we believe, between forty-five and fifty, and had not yet arrived at the summit of all of which he was capable. Many of his earlier views he had discarded. He grew to embrace the larger philosophy of life and learned more of Henry George in the fierce stress of the two political campaigns in which he was the recognized leader.

Death brings an end to all of life's asperities. The curious antagonisms which are based upon unreasoning refinements, upon differences of individuality, and which develop into fierce hostility utterly incomprehensible to one who surveys these manifestations from a distance, are swept into forgetfulness when death shows their utter futility and triviality.

This is true in the presence of Luke North, dead, about whom there raged a storm from his first appearance as a