

is shown by the practical collapse of the shipping trust. Even the affiliated land monopolies by means of which the railroad friends of this trust were enabled to give it advantages through their control of hauling and terminal piers has not sufficed to establish a monopoly. The ship building trust is the latest of these giants to collapse. But the steel trust, for example, continues to do a profitable business, and the coal trust absolutely dictates the price of coal, whilst the coal barons revile the public. These are based upon land monopoly, as must be every trust in order to fleece the consumer, unless it can obtain special privileges from the government.

THE NEW ISSUE IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The issue of protection raised in Great Britain by Joseph Chamberlain, the versatile chameleon of British politics, seems to have come to naught. It is difficult to determine whether "Brummagem Joe" miscalculated this time. After having trapped the country into a disastrous and costly war with two little republics, he may have imagined, in the consciousness of his power that has cost England so dearly, that he could even succeed in overthrowing the dearest economic and fiscal traditions of Englishmen. It was either conceived with conscious deliberation and for some purpose not clearly revealed, or it was the most fatuous move in the records of British statesmanship. But whatever the motive, the movement to reimpose a protective tariff has for the time being been called to a halt.

But Englishmen will do well to reflect. The free trade movement has not yet been won, because it is not yet complete. Commercial free trade has been of enormous benefit but much of such gain has been swallowed up in increased land values. The suggestion to reimpose a tariff on foodstuffs is in the interest of those whose land has been depressed in value by the free importation of agricultural products in their interests only, for all other landlords were benefitted by free trade. But these landlords may be won over to the side of the owners of agricultural soils by the new danger that confronts them, and that is the proposal to tax urban values, a measure which was only narrowly defeated in the House of Commons a few months ago. The forces of conservatism are gathering for the final contest. As the cry demanding the relinquishment of their privileges increases in intensity, it is quite conceivable that what remains of the protection sentiment in England, sedulously cultivated by those whose privileges are threatened by real free trade, will crystalize in such shape that it will have to be reckoned with as a political force of some strength. Therefore, this proposal of the colonial secretary, extraordinary and unprecedented as it seems,

together with the timid and hesitating echo of the Premier's speech, may not be, after all, so ill timed as it appears.

The Henry George number of the *Independent*, of Lincoln, Nebraska, is a notable issue. Its twenty-four pages are filled with articles from representative Single Taxers. It is a number admirably adapted to make converts, for scarcely a phase of the question is left untouched. A mere glance at the names of the contributors will testify to the excellence of this unique number. They include Henry George, Jr., who tells of his father's life and struggles; William Riley Boyd, who contrasts Single Tax and Socialism; Joseph Hall, who under the title of "Habits and Customs," treats of the laws of social development; L. P. Custer, who treats of definitions; J. H. Sheets, who writes of "Compensation;" John Filmer, whose contribution "Land Values Without Labor," gives some instances of the increase of land values on Manhattan Island. Articles appear from A. C. Allison, W. H. T. Wakefield, J. H. Dillard, Bolton Hall, Ralph Hoyt, John R. Waters, W. L. Crossman, William S. Rann, Frank H. Howe, and many others. Copies of this issue were supplied, and perhaps may still be had, at the rate of \$1. per hundred.

THE TRUTH HUMOROUSLY TOLD.

In answer to an inquiry regarding vacant lots in Amarillo, Texas, J. L. Caldwell of that town sent the following letter which was printed in the *Amarillo Evening Star*.

DEAR SIR.—Replying to yours of the 21st, will say that I am still owner of lots—block—. Cannot say they are for sale. Bought them for speculation—to forestall after comers. I have no earthly use for the lots myself, but only waiting for the necessities of the people to force them to pay "all the traffic will bear." If this necessity is still growing it may be wiser to hold them out of use a while longer.

If I knew to what extent your necessities were crowding you it would help my calculations. This you could indicate by making an offer for the land. You are permitted to make such offer on the basis of, say one-third cash, one and two years for balance, with maximum legal interest payable in advance, and vendors lien to cinch.

Or, should you want the land for same reason I do—blackmail—then I may give you a fighting chance for a share in the swag.

Mr. Herbert Spencer, during a visit to this country, told us that in spite of our boasted freedom, we suffer with greater patience than any people in the world a thousand small interferences with liberty. Of such a character is the suppression of

free speech by a superservicable police. The peremptory stopping of a Single Tax meeting in Philadelphia on Sunday night by a policeman who objected to what he termed politics on the Sabbath, is an amusing instance of policetyranny. Everything seems to be out of place in Philadelphia except apathy and loot, but that a uniformed policeman should be armed with the duty of deciding that a few apostles of the new economic faith may be deprived of the liberty of proclaiming their doctrines in a peaceful way on Sunday or any other day, is something that, funny as it seems, could hardly have been amusing to the sufferers from blue-coated and brass-buttoned authority. Philadelphia has yet to pay the penalty of its long toleration of bad government and the undisguised mission of plunder that it calls its "politics."

Philadelphia is not the only place that can furnish an example of this police tyranny. Our Toronto Single Taxers are also in trouble. Ordered to cease speaking by one policeman, they moved to another beat. Here the minion of the law did not interfere, but said that if he had his way he would arrest the "whole bunch." It having been reported that the Police Commissioner had decided to stop the meetings, Mr. Walter Roebuck visited the Mayor, who assured him that he was in favor of allowing the meetings to proceed. Our Toronto friends will fight to the last ditch, and will go before the Commissioners with the demand that their rights be respected.

The *Allied Printing Trades Journal*, of Chicago, Ill., for May contains contributions from W. A. Douglass, and Thomas Rhodus, President of the Chicago Club.

The Rev. Madison C. Peters says: "Until God makes men's brains alike, so long will there be rich and poor in human society." If this is so, the reverend gentleman will die a pauper.

Our bright little contemporary, *Taxation*, of Kilgarlie, West Australia, continues to record the progress of the movement among our brethren under the southern cross. In a recent number it publishes a letter from Max Hirsch, which will interest our readers. In it Mr. Hirsch says: "I have for ten years advocated reforms in our constitution similar to those proposed by this Government (Victoria), with one exception. Not one utterance of mine, private or public, can be produced which is not in favor of them. The accusation of 'trimming' and 'yielding to public clamor' is, therefore, pure and unadulterated slander. No one has thought of accusing me of this in Victoria. I believe the *Bulletin* and Adelaide

Herald have done so. Both are old and unscrupulous opponents on account of free trade and single tax. The new taxation imposed by this Government has made it certain that land value taxation will be introduced here next session."

In an article in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* on the subject of the Reservation of the Seneca Indians is a picture of a Single Tax community in miniature that is instructive.

The chief who in his civilized life bears the name of William Hoag, and runs a milk route, has this to say:

"We ask no odds of government; only our rights. Some people appear to think that we are receiving charity, or pensions. Why, not at all. We are drawing about \$4.24 a year from government, but that is not a gift; it is merely the interest on money owed for lands that government took away from us and never paid for. We support ourselves by trades and farming. Yes, the rentals from Salamanca help us, but they are only \$7,000 or so a year. We own some oil lands and have royalties from oil leases that bring us from \$200 to \$300 a month. All of this money is distributed equally among the members of my tribe, except \$2,500 a year, which is set apart for salaries of officers, improvements of roads and maintenance of the poor. The State of New York pays for the schools on our reservation and builds the school houses. We merely have to furnish the fuel." And he continues: "No white man can buy land of us. We merely lease it to him."

Mrs. Russell Sage laments that "the united family feeling of old seems to be gone. Take our rich families for example and see how they are scattered over the earth." It would be more to the point if she took some of the poor families as an example. These are scattered all over the earth, chiefly because as the young folks grow up they find themselves unable to earn a living near the old home, though frequently, on their way to some other employment, they pass by thousands of acres of unused land. Still the scattering would not be so bad if the charges for transportation had diminished in proportion to the cost of other commodities. But despite the wonderful improvements in machinery, the cheapening of railroad construction, and the increased economy in other departments, it costs as much to travel a few hundred miles as it did twenty or thirty years ago. This is another form of land monopoly. When the Single Tax gets to work families will not have to scatter in order to earn a living, and if they separate for other reasons they will be able to see each other cheaply and therefore frequently. Incidentally, however, the income of Mrs. Sage's husband is likely to be somewhat reduced.