

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