

What is needed is not a public sentiment that condemns the man who gets without giving, but one that condemns the system that permits some men to get without earning.

One giver of large gifts at least has recognized the fact. His name is Abraham Slimmer, of Waverly, Iowa. He is reputed to be worth about \$10,000,000, accumulated in the cattle and lumber business. Says this *rara avis* among the dispensers of bounty: "I accumulated from the masses and back to the masses my dollars shall go." With this end in view he give only to hospitals, asylums for the poor and relief institutions. This man has a true perception of the incidence of wealth accumulation. If it is his desire to die with a fairly clear conscience, he ought to beat Andrew Carnegie, who is said to be notably afraid of two things—first of dying, and secondly, of dying rich.

How true is that pregnant Gaelic motto, or proverb, which, translated, reads: "*Out of his share, alms.*"

In advising the Democrats of Ohio that "they cannot do their party and country a greater service than by burying the Johnson platform under about 100,000 majority", Mr. Pulitzer's *New York World* finally reveals to his astonished School of Journalism how successful a so-called Democratic newspaper may be in concealing its democracy.

REPLY TO MR. SIMMONS.

In reply to a criticism in the last Review, A. M. Simmons says (in an article in *Boyce's Weekly*), that he does not see how the Internal Revenue system of the United States established and maintains the Tobacco Trust in various European countries. He continues: This critic repeats the hundred times exploded statement that 'no trust can permanently succeed which has not either a governmental privilege or land monopoly.' This is true if private property is recognized as a 'governmental privilege,' but this the Single Tax Review will deny. Yet the list of trusts recently published by Moody & Co., gives almost hundreds of trusts, many of which I named in a previous article, which by no stretch of imagination can be said to receive any assistance from 'governmental privilege or land monopoly.'

"Just now there occurs one instance to me which I would like to have the Single Taxers employ their ingenuity on to see if they can account for it on either of these grounds. I refer to the Sewing Thread Trust, having its headquarters in Paisley, Scotland; and covering the whole world. This trust is almost as complete in its control of the market as the Standard Oil, and yet it owns little land, and has no 'governmental privileges,' and in general fits into none of the rule of thumb directions for forming 'natural monopolies.'

The word "trust" is generally used to denote an industrial combination which oppresses the consumer by exacting an excessive price. It was in this sense that Mr. Simon used the word in his first article. But in the above reply he uses the word "trust" to denote any form of industrial combination whether oppressive or not. When THE REVIEW said "no trust can permanently succeed which has not either a governmental privilege or land monopoly" it referred to the same kind of trust to which Mr. Simons first referred, namely, industrial combinations which by reason of monopoly can overcharge.

There are industrial combinations, however, which have practically no competitors for the reason that they furnish services cheaply; these are not monopolies, even though they have the field to themselves, for the essential of a monopoly is not that no one else does compete, but that no one else can compete. If the Sewing Thread Trust derives no advantages whatever from the tariff discrimination, or other privileges (though it probably has valuable patent privileges), then the only reason why it has no competition is because it furnishes thread cheaper than competitors could. Industrial combinations which have no competition simply because they render better service are beneficial, and to these combinations Single Taxers have no objection. But these are not the "trusts" to which Mr. Simons referred. Nor will there likely be many of them under free conditions.

The United States internal revenue system does have some effect in maintaining a tobacco trust in European countries, but the tariffs and governmental restrictions and regulations in those countries have a great deal more to do with maintaining the Tobacco Trust there, and enable it to overcharge. In none of the countries named is trade free or does the government keep its hands off industry. Monopoly is always founded upon unjust, discriminating legislation.

Private property is not a governmental privilege but a right, or just claim, which is the logical deduction from the right or just claim of an individual to the proceeds of his own labor, founded in turn upon his ownership of himself. The governmental privileges to which the Review referred are those special privileges which enable some individuals to obtain possession of the private property of other persons without rendering an equivalent or obtaining their consent.

A contribution to the gaiety of economics was afforded by the recent arrival at Louisville, Ky., of a bushel of snails (in bond). The Customs Officers first appraised them as snakes, but to this the consignee objected and a compromise was finally