

She said, "Yes."

"Then," I said, "I have answered your question."

The day will come when we shall look upon such a deed as taking from a good mother the child whom she loves, and putting that child in an orphan's home, and sending the woman out to service, or perhaps to the poorhouse, as being as wicked a thing as was ever done in the dark ages. We shall look upon it with more horror than we do now upon taking children into poorhouses.

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OLD MAN HARDER REMARKS—

Something About the True Protective Principle For The Public.

"Yes, Tomkins was surely loaded—loaded up to the muzzle with Aldrich stuff; an' he had to come over to the corn field to fire it off at me. Yes, he did stump me a little when he begun to preach about the true principle o' protection. I never heard of it before, an' I thought to myself, if that's so I'll begin to look up the true principle o' burglary an' compound larceny. You never know what you'll find in things till ye look into 'em close. Tomkins swore it was in the Republican platform; but I don't remember of 'em saying anything about it. They mostly spent their time tellin' the folks what Bryan would do to our prosperity if he was elected, an' what a dangerous thing it would be to have him appoint some Supreme Court judges that didn't believe in big navies an' blanket injunctions. Tomkins says, 'Imposts should not exceed the difference between the cost of production abroad an' at home, together with a reasonable profit to American industries.' The platform says it; Tomkins swears by it; an' Aldrich dodges it. He wants more'n a reasonable profit.

"Where's the principle in this thing? Where's the true principle? I asked Ma where it was an' what it looked like? She said that as far as she could see, Industries American by adoption an' royally foreign by birth, claimed to be so weak that they couldn't exist except they were guaranteed a market by the government, where they would be sure of the cost of production an' a reasonable profit. Says I to Ma: 'That looks good for the Industries, but how about the fellers that have to foot the bills for these profits an' other pickin's that's guaranteed?' Then Ma said: 'The people don't know they are payin' it. That's where the 'true' comes in. They ease themselves up for the high prices an' hard times by lookin' at the Industries go by in their auto-chariots, an' by readin' about the gaylorious time they an' their wives are havin' over in the Royal palaces of Yurruup.' Sure! That's jest what the folks that foot the bills are doin'. Besides that, most of 'em

are prayin' that Rockefeller, or some o' the other Industries, will give 'em a few millions to be sporty on. 'Where's the principle?' I repeated. 'It's plain as your nose,' says Ma. 'These Industries that claim to be so weak, call on the government to tax all the other kinds o' business that ain't labelled 'Industries,' to pay the difference they claim exists between cost of production abroad an' at home. Here's where the 'true' ought to be, but it ain't there. Nobody can find the difference in cost o' production. It's an imaginary line drawn around the country by the 'Adopted Industries,' an' the Legitimate Children have to chip in to pay the adopted ones for an imaginary thing. The masses of the people that work, pour into the laps of the Adopted Industries enough of their hard earnings to pay this imaginary difference in cost o' production, an' the profits on imaginary capital; an' the poor people are so blind that they glory in it.'

"'Yes,' I says to Ma, 'I think I see it now. The principle of protection is monopoly of the market for the adopted ones, an' the taxation of the legitimate offspring to pay the expenses of the monopoly. Noble principle! The fun comes in when the parents an' gardeens of the Legitimate an' the Adopted, attempt to find out what the cost o' production an' the difference is, an' limit the gorged an' overfed Adopted to something reasonable. They can't find out what is the difference, an' can't agree on what is reasonable. The Industries claim they know. They merely want profits enough to enable them to monopolize the markets of this country, an' then to go out an' gobble up the foreign markets, too. It's little the Industries want—nothing but the earth an' the fullness thereof. Maybe they will be satisfied when they git it. Yes! The principle of protection is monopoly. The 'true' part of it is not true at all but clear humbug. The misery of it is that the people think they like it. But the principle o' gittin' something for nothing can have nothin' true about it.'

"Tomkins says we ought to produce everything within ourselves, because if we don't we may become engaged in a war some time an' have all our supplies cut off, an' then we'd have to surrender to some foreign nation. That's one of them other imaginary things. Put it beside the imaginary difference in cost of production. They'll match. But from the looks o' things 'round the world at present writin' the people that believe in imaginary things are in the majority. The visionary minds figure that the way to do business is to capture it by force of arms, an' so we are playin' the game o' big navies. They dream that the foreigner is comin' over to capture us an' our trade, an' so the merry game o' standin' armies goes on. The visionary ones that thinks patriotism is fallin' down to worship the flag, sees it all goin' on, an'

pays what taxes they can't dodge without a murmur. But the visionaries of the nations are in a fair way to perish from their own foolishness. Big navies an' armies an' high tariffs have about reached their limits. One of the fool-governed nations will git hard up some day, an' go out to capture the markets from some other fool-governed nation, an' then there will be such a mix-up that Peace will climb the golden stairs to wait till the fool-killer gits through an' the next generation is born.

"Yes! I'm persuaded the principle of protection is, to git something for nothing—same's burglary. The truth about it is humbug. The thing that keeps it alive is the war spirit. It partakes of the glory of dead an' gone piracy. It masks plunder with patriotism, an' thus manages to remain respectable."

GEO. V. WELLS.

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LAND VALUE TAXATION IN GERMANY.

From a Report by W. R. Lester to the June "Land Values" of London, in Which he Describes the Annual Convention of the German League of Land Reformers at Nuremberg.

The German Land Reform League holds its conference each year in a different place, and this city had been chosen for 1909. The "Rathhaus," or Town Hall, is the building in which the meetings are held, and they last throughout two days, starting at half-past nine in the morning and continuing till eight in the evening, with an interval of two-and-a-half hours for dinner. At 9:30 to the minute, members and guests are greeted in short and appreciative addresses, on behalf of the citizens, by the Burgermeister of Nuremberg and the Burgermeisters of other Bavarian cities, many of which have affiliated themselves to the League, which in this way claims adherents to the number of more than 600,000. Herr Damaschke, president of the League, then gives an account of the work done during the past year, and the business of the meeting begins, though not till the guest from the English League has been invited to say a word as to the position and prospects in his country. The meeting then proceeded to hear and discuss papers on questions of national importance, such as are considered to come within the circle of the League's activities. It is interesting to notice what these questions are, and by whom they were treated. Here is a list:—

"The South German Canal Question and its Solution through Land Reform." By Legationsrath Dr. A. von Schwegen.

"The Importance of Play and Sport Grounds for our Youth." By Professor Dr. Schmidt.

"Really Practical Housing Reform." By Professor Dr. von Gruber.

"The Chief Objections to the Tax on Unearned Increment." By Professor Dr. Stier-Somlo, followed by Professor Dr. Quidde and Professor Dr. Matzinger.

"The Peasant Problem in the Light of Land Reform." By Fraulein Lembke, Director of the First Rural Common School.

"The Cause of Trade Crises." By Carl Martels, President of the League of German Watchmakers.

The audience is a somewhat changing one throughout the session, and numbers usually about 200 persons. As would be expected from the standing of their authors, the papers are very carefully prepared and read, though one thing that strikes a stranger is the impassivity of the audience, who, though listening with marked attention, never once throughout the meetings give oral proof either of approbation or the reverse. As each leaves the platform he receives applause, but generally never throughout the course of his address, which lasts on the average one hour and a half. One is also struck by the composition of the audience. Unlike a similar one in England it is almost exclusively composed of apparently well-to-do middle and upper class people—substantial merchants, manufacturers, professional men, and the like. Our German friends count as a great strength to their League the number of supporters and sympathisers they have in the ranks of University professors of law and history. When such authorities unite in publicly declaring that to tax land values is sound in theory and good in practice, it is a bold man who will say them nay, and such is the position today in Germany. One after another, in Nuremberg Rathhaus, professors of law and history from Bonn, Berlin, Munich, and Breslau publicly appeared to give the movement their blessing.

The general impression left by the papers was that they were of a distinctly theoretical nature, and that though the readers and most of their hearers have full knowledge of and are in full sympathy with land reform as understood by Henry George, they are yet inclined, for reasons of policy, to concentrate in the first instance on such side issues as a tax on "unearned increment," purchase of land by the towns, and when they have got it, the leasing of it out on short lease, so that the increased value may revert to the towns at stated intervals; also the building of canals by means of money provided by a tax on the increased value given to the land one kilometre wide on each side of the canal.

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They appear in Germany to consider that the best way to advance towards the single tax is to avail themselves of opportunities of applying it piecemeal in ways such as these, just as they present themselves, so long as they do not in their judgment militate against the principle itself. They are quite confident that opinion, both public