

FOUNDATION.

An Economic System that Corners Our Natural Opportunities.

THE LORDS OR THE LANDLORDS? The Essentials to Existence—Have Not All a Right to Them?—A Question of Title—Discovery and Ownership—Some Facts of History.

FIFTH PAPER.

The topics treated of in preceding papers have doubtless great interest in any consideration of the pressing question of sociological reform, but they all pale into insignificance before the root evil with which we have to deal, the land question. Of course there are people who are ready to cry out, "Land question?—Isn't there land and to spare in this great country for unborn millions?" Now, with all due respect to these people such a query in no way touches the vital question. It is, in the first place, an avoidance of the issue as to the righteousness of the existing land system; in the second place it assumes that, because there yet remains land in other parts open to settlement and appropriation, no evil results from the system in use, which I deny; and in the third place it is, in a degree, an admission that there were not unappropriated lands subject to a claim by a discoverer.

Now we have evidences all around us—particularly where the population is dense—that the effects of our land system differ only in degree from those in Britain, in France and in Germany; and the difference in our favor is due, not to any superiority in our people or country, but to the fact that the large areas of new territory have served as a safety-valve to relieve the pressure. The principles we proceed upon are practically those which have produced in the old lands an aristocracy of landed barons and a population of savagely competing serfs who remain in the country by their landlessness.

Three conditions are essential to life on this planet—access to earth, air and water. Without these life cannot be supported. In the economy of creation these are so well balanced to fit our requirements that life is fairly enjoyable in most parts of the globe. Water and air become matters of proprietary interest only under special circumstances involving peculiar personal exertion in supplying them. When a diver is at work the supply of a sufficient air pressure by artificial means becomes an object of purchase. When a village (as some villages do) suffers from extreme drought water-haulers sell water, but, as in the case of the laborer involved—the recompense is for the labor involved—the artificiality employed (if I may use the term) rather than for the natural gifts of water itself. I have no doubt, however, that were some means discovered to corner the air and water of the world we would soon see these elementary gifts of nature monopolized by "private owners," and by the taxes derived from the sale of rights to breathe and drink a race of plutocrats rivaling the Westminsters and Rockefellers would soon aggrandize all the wealth of the world.

To speak of "owning" a certain given proportion of the water that flows down our rivers, rises in vapor and descends in rain, and charging mankind for using it; or to claim a title to a cubic mile of atmosphere with the right to tax those who breathe it, would be to court suspicions of insanity. It can be anyone tell me why the other element necessary to existence should be placed by human enactment on a different basis? Can anyone tell me why—apart from the fact that conditions have rendered it possible to fence it in, and the mighty have done so and by the law they have enforced—a long possession have asserted a right to it—a man should own, and be entitled to exclude others from, the earth any more than from the air or the water?

Bought and paid for? Whom did they buy it from? No man can sell what he does not own. A cannot sell a lot that is owned by B and give me a good title to it. Whose is this earth, anyway? Is the earth the Lord's, or the landlords'? I only recall one instance in which the owner of the planet gave any specific instructions to a people in regard to their dealings with each other in land and the record saith: "The land shall not be sold forever, for the land is mine." The system in vogue did not therefore come from Him. He who planned a universal brotherhood of man no more calculated that one man or one million men should own the earth and thus be empowered to treat the rest of mankind as slaves, than He ordained that universal peace and industrial happiness should be achieved by Krupp guns, smokeless powder and a war of tariffs. The professing Christian who advocates them is either an ignoramus or a hypocrite; he either fails to appreciate the meaning of facts coming under his own observation, or, appreciating it, is satisfied with a mere profession of a religion to which the course he approves is a disgrace.

assigns, have given a certain kind of sanctity. I say "sanctity," because without that feeling on the part of the people who paid tribute to these men for the right of remaining on the earth, these laws could not have been enforced. Might cannot properly be said to rule now; once let the masses fully comprehend that they are oppressed, wronged, and they will find a remedy, constitutional or otherwise. It has always been felt to be advisable to give the laws, at least an appearance of right, no matter how bad the law or the motive of its enactors. But there have been times when religion had more power in this respect—to make men submit tamely to bad laws—than it has to-day; and one of these days it will get backbone enough to deny the authority of any law not founded in natural right. In the past, however, it cannot be gainsaid that the suffering masses have endured oppressive laws rather than the confused idea that unequal as was their bearing they had in them something of divine right, and the hardships they endured were ordained of God, then that they did not feel that they were numerous enough or strong enough to unite in resisting such laws. This was the essence of what certain politicians to-day enjoin as loyalty, and lament its decay. There are those who have reason to fear the light that is breaking in upon the masses. But even light brings its responsibilities to those who see.

If we go back to the Norman period in England we will find that when William wrested the kingdom from the Saxons he possessed himself of their lands and partitioned them, in great measure, among his followers. That was title obtained by force and conveyed by favor. I am aware that it might be claimed that he gave color to a title to the throne by an alleged previous will of Edward the Confessor, and also by a form of election; but this was laughed to scorn by his own followers who claimed their titles by virtue of sharing with him the hazards of conquest; and moreover were the claim conceded it would but remove the foundation by force one step further back. It was not, however, until the Tudor period that our present system took shape; and even then the land was burdened with feudal charges which rendered the claim of the following statute of Edward III, and which has never since been repealed, at least nominally effective:

That the King is the universal lord and original proprietor of all land in his kingdom; and that no man doth, or can possess any part of it but what he holds immediately or mediately thereof as a gift from him to be held on fealty service.

In the reign of Charles II., however, a land-holding parliament relieved itself of this "service" or return for the occupancy of the lands of the nation; and from that time forward the men who held the land made the laws to care to legislate in their own interest; to keep up a church that taught respect for law without being hypocritical about its justice or right to bind them; and to enclose for their own use the large commonages that were used by the general public. I find that from Queen Anne to William IV., inclusive, 3,954 enclosure acts were passed, appropriating to private use 4,207,883 acres of lands belonging to the whole people; and I do not wonder that, taken with the other enactments of a landlord parliament, the cost of paupers has aggregated as much as £8,000,000 in a single year in England!

Turning to newer parts of the world, we find force and fraud as usual, complicated with a claim of "discovery." If we shut our eyes to the fact that admitting discovery as a title the aboriginal owners of the country were yet entitled to ask whether the discoverer of America by Columbus could give Spain a good title to America. How much are we to concede to discovery? The acre landed on? The territory bounded by the horizon of the discoverer? All he travels over or around? Would Cruso have a right as discoverer to forbid other people to land on his island, if he chose to do so, if its area were a square mile? or if it were a million square miles? "If he could enforce his refusal?" Ah! Now we get back to the doctrine of force, and on force and fraud will, I think, be found to rest all titles to absolute ownership of the land which God said, "shall not be sold forever, for the land is mine."

If the natural opportunities are owned by the few, how can it be said that all men are equal before the law? If the many are deprived of their birthright, yet heavily taxed to enforce that deprivation, how can competition—the natural condition—be fair? Is it any wonder that starting to build on such a fabric our social and political economy should be a tangle of props and braces most unlovely to contemplate, and whose safety we feel alarm for in every industrial breeze; that in an enlightened age like this we should witness the anomaly of idleness taking the wealth and honors of the world while the industrious and the honest and the virtuous are struggling and starving, and the exponents of the gospel of the Teacher of Truth and Justice patronizingly conceal contentment and praise about the "will of God"?

We must help ourselves. If we put our shoulders to the chariot wheel Hercules will be there. It won't hurt the storm-tossed boatman to pray, but he will find a good pair of oars and ability to handle them very useful in reaching a safe haven. This world has been much abused, indeed sometimes it has almost been presented as a malevolent creation; but I am of opinion that it would be a pretty good place to spend a few years in if we only put our abilities to the use for which they are adapted by nature, cultivated self-reliance and acted up to our best knowledge.

It is thought that the bill of the Imperial Parliament regulating merchant shipping will not apply to Canadian vessels provided Canada satisfies the Home Government that she will legislate on the loadline herself.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

Mr. Foster, replying to Mr. Patterson (Essex), said the charges of improper conduct on the part of Customs Officer Mc. Lagan, of Sarnia, had been brought to the attention of the Government and were now under investigation. Mr. Armstrong moved that all branches of the various chartered banks be kept open for business on Saturdays until 3 o'clock in the afternoon, except when a bank holiday falls on Saturday. He stated that at present great inconvenience was caused to the farmers by the banks closing at 1 o'clock on Saturday.

Mr. Foster said he doubted whether Parliament could make any regulations as to the closing of banks. The hours were regulated by the demand, and he thought the banks had always shown themselves willing to accommodate themselves to the wishes of their customers. The motion was lost on division.

Mr. White (Cardwell) drew attention to the fact that the Bill did not require the banks to present a return of their business outside of Canada, and hence the monthly returns of some of the banks did not give exact details of the condition of the banks. Mr. Blake suggested that the third reading of the Bill be deferred until it was ascertained what were the views of the banks in regard to this course being taken.

Mr. Lanckerkin moved that banks which closed before 3 o'clock should not be allowed to protest notes on that day. The amendment was lost on division. The Bill was reported, and the third reading fixed for to-morrow.

Mr. Foster moved the third reading of the Tariff Bill. Sir Richard Cartwright said he would protest for the last time against the importation of these duties. The Finance Minister had informed them that there was a surplus of \$2,500,000 on last year's transactions, that he calculated on a surplus of \$2,500,000 on the present year's transactions, and expected a surplus of \$2,500,000 for the next year, yet under these circumstances, the hon. gentleman, contrary to the practice of civilized nations, instead of using that surplus for the purpose of ameliorating the burdens of the people, added to the taxes already inflicted on them. If there was a principle which should be well established and which should commend itself to everybody, it was that in a young country which desired civilization and had large areas to settle up, they should avoid imposing taxes on articles of primary necessity to the whole people, and that they should adjust taxation so that it should be as far as possible equitably distributed over the whole country, and not press unequally on the various classes, and least of all on the poorest classes; that they should avoid increasing taxes on raw material imported for our industries, and that no tax should be imposed in favor of one Province against another. Under the existing circumstances they ought to be careful not to impose taxation of such a nature as to involve retaliation on the part of their neighbors.

With an existing surplus and an anticipated surplus of over two millions it was proposed to add one million dollars to the burdens of the people. The taxes on flour and meat must and would of necessity add to the cost of articles of food largely consumed among the very poor class of the population, would injure trade, and would increase the cost of the production of lumber. If the Government wished to benefit the farmers, they ought not to increase the duties on pork, but admit free of duty corn and the raw material out of which pork was made. The Government attempted to justify their course by pointing to the example of the United States. The market in the latter country, however, was larger, and the population was greater, the climate was varied, and they could to a very great degree produce everything that a nation could require. He moved "that the bill be not now read a third time, but that it be resolved that in view of the official statement of the Finance Minister showing a surplus revenue for the past year and a probable surplus for the present and succeeding years, the increased taxation proposed to be indicated upon the people by this bill is unjustifiable and unnecessary."

Mr. Foster said the changes in the tariff were not made with any idea of enlarging the amount of revenue, but to correct anomalies that exist and to provide for industries that were not sufficiently protected, having special reference to the farmer. Instead of deriving a revenue, there were several items, such as glass, molasses, etc., upon which a considerable amount would be lost. One result of the tariff would be to reduce the importation of meats from foreign countries by the increased production of the same classes of meats in our own country. There would have to be months of actual experience before they would know the result of all the changes in the tariff. He said with all the changes he could command that they had waited long enough, and the sentiments shown in the United States did not justify their waiting any longer. What they had to do was to sit down as citizens of a free country and make their own matters square with their own interests.

Mr. Charlton said now the farmer was beginning to feel the evil effects of the so-called National Policy, the Finance Minister brought down a subterfuge in order to make him believe he was about to receive a little protection for the robbery to which he had been subjected in the past. It would not deceive the Canadian farmer any more than the McKinley would deceive the farmer in the United States.

Mr. McMillen observed that the Government had promised that the National Policy would obtain a home market for the farmers. Not one of their promises had been fulfilled, however. The farmers now had their eyes open, and the Government would not be able to shut them again. The House divided on the amendment, which was lost on a vote of 62 yeas and 93 nays.

Mr. Desjardins moved the adoption of the report of the Debates Committee, increasing the salaries of amanuenses from \$2 to \$3 per day. Mr. Curran moved that the report be referred back for the purpose of increasing the salaries of the translators. Mr. Langelier said that the French translation of the debates was very bad. In

one speech the translators made Mr. Laurier declare that the French language should be abolished and the French race wiped out of the country.

Mr. Taylor said the translation cost \$9,000. The proper way to deal with this question was to wipe out the expenditure of the \$75,000 and cease publication of the debates altogether. It would shorten the session. At any rate the reporting of the House in Committee should be dispensed with.

Mr. Chplean moved that the Ballot Box Committee have power to send for persons and papers. The object of the motion was to enable the committee to pay persons who had been in attendance.

Mr. Blake said it was outrageous that persons who came to Ottawa to exhibit their particular facts should be paid for doing so.

Sir John Macdonald—Hear, hear. Sir John Macdonald, in reply to Mr. Bryson, said the Government have come to the conclusion that, in the event of the United States Congress reducing the import duty on sawn lumber to \$1 per thousand feet, the Government will reduce the export duty on pine and spruce logs. We will take the opportunity of conveying this information to the proper authority at Washington.

Mr. McNeill enquired whether the Government would bring down a report in reference to the Baltic outrage?

Mr. Cooby replied that there would be no objection to the report being brought down.

Mr. Chplean moved concurrence in the amendments made by the Senate to the Act amending the Electoral Franchise Act. He explained that one of the principal amendments was that in case the voters in a division exceeded 250, the returning officer could make sub-divisions so as not to invalidate the election.

The House went into committee on the resolutions authorizing land grants to the C.P.R. and other railway companies in the Northwest. Mr. Dewdney moved that the C.P.R. be granted 6,140 acres per mile for a branch railway to be constructed from Glenboro for a distance of sixty miles to the Brandon branch.

Sir Richard Cartwright said the Government were practically giving away control of the lands of the Northwest by these various railway grants. According to a statement made by the Minister of the Interior last year, there was a tract of 400,000 square miles extending from the Red River on the one side to near the Rocky mountains on the other, but if this policy of giving large grants to railways were persisted in there would soon be very little of this left.

Mr. Dewdney stated that the fertile belt embraced 135,000,000 acres. Of these 52,141,928 had been appropriated, leaving a surplus of 82,858,072 acres.

Mr. O'Brien said they were so accustomed to these large figures that they hardly realized what they were doing. He pointed out that when the Territories became settled they would probably be divided into Provinces, and then they would have to face the difficulties that they had encountered in the other Provinces in regard to large tracts of land over which the Dominion and Provincial Governments had no control. The difficulty that was experienced in Ontario with regard to the Canada Company was a type of what they would be likely to incur in the new Provinces if they gave away millions of acres to these corporations.

Mr. Blake thought there should be a stipulation made in regard to these grants providing that lands should be thrown open for sale under a maximum to be fixed. The system of land grants pursued tended, he thought, rather to isolate than draw settlers nearer together.

Mr. Davin observed that if some arrangement could be made under which railway lands would be open to settlement under reasonable conditions, it would be a benefit to the Northwest.

Mr. Watson said railway lands should be open to settlers. The Canadian Pacific Railway apparently were of the opinion that it was better to hold the land for speculative purposes rather than throw it open to intending settlers. The Canadian Pacific Railway held their lands at from \$4 to \$10 per acre, which was much too high.

Mr. Ross expressed himself opposed to any maximum price for railway lands.

Sir Richard Cartwright said the Canadian Pacific Railway's policy in Southern Manitoba had driven out settlers. Practically the Government was abandoning control of 100,000,000 acres.

Mr. Blake said the railway lands to be open for sale should be ordinary agricultural lands, and not lands of special value such as coal lands, timber lands, and town sites.

Mr. Mills observed that the railways should be extended from time to time, to meet the wants of the community as settlement extended. The settlement in the Northwest was not what it ought to be, and one of the reasons was the prices at which the land was held. The public interest would not be served by any reliance on the good faith of the railways, as was evidenced during the boom in the Northwest.

The motion was adopted. Mr. Dewdney moved the same land grant for the two branch lines of the Canadian Pacific Railway for a distance of 125 miles. The motion was adopted.

The largest perfect diamond in the world is the Imperial, owned by a syndicate in Paris. It is valued at \$1,000,000.

A STORY OF THE DAY.

Lord George Jeffreys as he Appeared During the "Bloody Assize." Who is not acquainted with the blood-stained and infamous record of Lord George Jeffreys, of England? The story of the "bloody assize," in which he is the central figure, will continue to be read with horror and amazement to the end of time. It has no parallel. Perhaps the best account of it is given by Macaulay in his history of England, though every writer of note who has had occasion to touch upon it has grown eloquent in describing its horrors. The author of the brief sketch of Lord Jeffreys in the British Encyclopedia says: "It was in this 'bloody assize' that he was to deepen the stain that already tarnished his fame, and to make the name of Judge Jeffreys a synonym for a monster of bloodthirsty cruelty, blasphemous rage, and brutal intemperance. In the 'campaign' he gave rein to his ferocity; he was maddened with slaughter; and his appetite for blood grew with what is fed on. The horrible glare of his eye, the savage lines of his face, his fierce shouts of wrath, terrified and confounded guilty and innocent alike. With hateful cunning he let it be bruited that the only hope of mercy lay in pleading guilty, and by this cold-blooded artifice lightened his labors. He had a powerful incentive to active butchery; the vacant post of lord chancellor was to be won by good service. The estimates of the number of his victims vary; the official returns to the treasury was 320; Lord Londsdale says 700, and Burnet 600. Upward of 800 were transported to the West Indies as slaves, while others only escaped by purchasing their pardons from the judge at most exorbitant rates." When King James fled Jeffreys made an attempt to escape to Hamburg, but was captured, and after narrowly escaping death at the hands of an infuriated mob, was thrown into the tower of London. There he lay for some months, tortured by anguish of mind and body, dying miserably on the 18th of April, 1689.

When you feel your strength is failing, in some strange, mysterious way, when your cheek is slowly pale, and your eyes, the neighbors say, as they look at you in pity, "To the nearest drug store send, at the earliest chance, a bottle of the Sick Man's Friend. You will get what you want by asking for Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. This medicine tones up and invigorates the weakened system by purifying the blood and restoring lost vigor. It is the only medicine of its class, sold by druggists, under a positive guarantee that it will benefit or cure in all cases of disease for which it is recommended, or money paid for it will be refunded.

After the Introduction. Mrs. Van Twiller (who mistakes Dr. Jovial for a physician)—And where do you practise, doctor? The Rev. Dr. Jovial—Ah, madam, I do not practise; I only preach.

Doomed to die, and oh, so young, is there nothing that can save this poor, hopeless sufferer from the dark and cruel grave? Comes an answer: "Yes, there is: 'Favorite Prescription' try. It has saved the lives of thousands who were given up to die." For all "female diseases," Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the standard remedy, and no woman should despair of recovery until she has given it a trial.

A steel splinter from a chisel buried itself in the eyeball of James Threewall, in an Albany boiler shop, a few days ago. A powerful magnet was applied to the wound and a splinter of steel one-sixteenth of an inch in width and three-eighths of an inch in length was drawn out.

To regulate the Stomach, Liver and Bowels, Dr. Pierce's Peppere excels. 25 taken a day; one a dose.

Be careful of the horse's mouth. Men who jerk the reins because they are too mad to be sensible and humane, should have a bit placed in their own mouths and have it jerked by some brutal fellow who would enjoy giving pain.

D. C. N. L. 21, 90.

Bermuda Bottled. You must get Bermuda. If you do not, it will not be responsible for the consequences. But, doctor, I can afford neither the time nor the money. "Well, if that is impossible, try SCOTT'S EMULSION OF PURE NORWEGIAN COD LIVER OIL. I sometimes call it Bermuda Bottled, and many cases of CONSUMPTION, Bronchitis, Cough or Severe Cold I have CURED with it; and the advantage is that the most sensitive stomach can take it. Another such commendation is the stimulating properties of the Hypophosphites which it contains. Buy it and it for sale at your Druggist's, in Salmon wrapper. Be sure you get the genuine. SCOTT & BOWNE, Belleville.

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