



The first essential change in government: Levy no taxes and collect the ground rent for public purposes.

# THE PROBE

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No. 38

## DEMOCRACY! WHERE?

At a time when the women of Germany are voting as a matter of right, American women are thrown into lousy rat infected pest holes for daring to demand the vote from the Washington autocrats.

### AN IMPRESSION OF THE JAIL

By Mildred Morris, in the Suffragist

As one of the wilful women who keep reminding our traveling President that democracy begins at home I have had the privilege of being jailed under government auspices. I found many things about the jail in which I was imprisoned with 21 other suffragists to arouse my appreciation of this.

In no jail in the country are affairs more economically managed. Wormy meats and other decayed foodstuffs are still purchased and made into savory stews. Not one worm is wasted.

In most penal institutions separate rooms are built for executions. This modern government jail has its gallows in the mens' dining room, thus wasting no space. The sight of the gay death machine adds zest to appetites grown jaded from overindulgence in wormy stews. Executions are not held at mealtimes. There is nothing frivolous about our government in its conduct as a jailer. It does not believe in providing entertainment for prisoners even as an aid to digestion.

The jail has windows but no fresh air is permitted to escape through them. The careful jail authorities are vigilant in guarding against the waste of fresh air on prisoners. Recently suffragists among the inmates demanded ventilation for the women's quarters, where about 30 negro women and 25 white women were sleeping. The shocking women finally had their way. They were able to lower one window about six inches but the jail doctor hearing about this orgy of fresh air rushed in to protest.

"Really," he said in horrified tones, "not even I could stand so much air."

The jail has continued to use soap and water extravagantly since the time another shameless band of suffragists started Congress investigating. One now may clearly distinguish cockroaches and bedbugs as they crawl up and down the walls.

This government jail breeds some of the finest rats in the country. Gorgeously fat creatures! Being government rats they have the contempt of official Washington for the rights of the public and cause the night to be lively with shrieks from the women prisoners who have not the strength to fight them off.

At four o'clock on Monday afternoon, while the sun streamed down through the trees about the White House, six more suffragists left the headquarters of the National Woman's Party with banners of purple, white and gold flying in the golden light and again started a watchfire opposite the entrance of the White House.

Within a few minutes the United States Park Police had rushed across Lafayette Square and had arrested all six of the women on a charge of starting a fire after sundown. As the prisoners were marched off the crowd cheered them lustily and the sun still streamed down in vindication of the World's Almanac which only a week ago proved conclusively to the police court of Washington, D. C., that sundown in the District occurs once each day at 4:58 by the clock.

The fire was kindled this time with pine knots and birch bark brought from the woods of Minnesota by a delegation of women sent from that state to protest against the delay of the federal suffrage amendment and to demand immediate action from the Administration.

Mrs. Bertha Moller of Minneapolis, explained again to the crowd that had gathered on its way home from government offices, why the women of America are not satisfied with mere words from the President so long as he has the opportunity as leader of the party in power to win suffrage in this country. Men and women applauded her talk and protested against the arrests as the police dragged the women away.

Ten policemen had been sent to make arrests, however, and so while the sun poured down they marched six women off to the police station. The fire flamed on through the afternoon and into the dusk, but policemen made no attempt to put it out. Six

women had been arrested for starting the fire; their responsibilities were ended.

In the group arrested were Mrs. Moller, secretary of the Minnesota Branch of the National Woman's Party, who has been associated with educational work in Minnesota, and who has two uncles in the Swedish parliament, where full political rights are granted women; Miss Gertrude Murphy, superintendent of music in the graded schools of Minneapolis; Miss Rhoda Kellogg, president of the Equal Suffrage Club of the University of Minnesota.

### LETTER TO JUDGE McMAHON

By Ellen Winsor of Pennsylvania, in the Suffragist

"Sir—When I looked you in the face on January 14, when you sentenced me to five days in the Washington jail, I wondered how a servant of the law could find it compatible with his conscience to send American women to prison for asking for freedom.

"After I entered the jail I marveled that you could sentence any human being to that pesthole.

"I am one of the board of managers of one of the largest reformatories in the East, and my work with that institution has given me knowledge of how a prison should be managed.

"Do you know that the women's division of the jail is a hotbed for men-

### NOTICE.

News and advertisements must be left at NOREN'S not later than 5:30 p. m. Thursdays in order to appear the following Monday.

FOR SALE—in Greenfield district, frame house with double lot, consisting of 9 rooms, bath and pantry, two sinks, two toilets, cemented cellar, porch, large chicken coop, hot water heat. House suitable for two families. Inquire at Noren's Store. (M. B.)

# THE PROBE

## Weekly Price List

Read this list carefully, prices revised every week.

**PAY NO MORE**

Store opens at 8, closes at 6  
Except Saturdays.

## COUPON

Good This Week Only

Lancaster Gingham, yard, .....17c  
19c Cotton Batting, .....11c  
60c Children's fine rib, part wool  
stockings, .....43c  
10c Palm Soap, cake, .....6c  
Infants' all wool, fold over shirts,  
the \$1.50 kind, all sizes, ....\$1.00  
Infants' all wool bands, 75 kind, ..40c  
Infants' part wool stockings, black  
the 35c kind, .....23c  
The above prices are good only to  
those who bring Coupon.

Turkish Towels, each .....35c  
Turkish bibs, large .....19c  
Fine face cloths .....15c

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HAND MADE REAL HAIR NET

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"Close Fit" cap shape Hair Nets,  
black, dark brown, light brown,  
medium brown and blond, 15c;  
two Nets for .....25c  
"Close Fit" Hair Nets in gray,  
each .....25c  
Fringe Hair Nets, sometimes called  
straight; made in France,  
of genuine hair full size, 38x40,  
10c; three Nets for .....25c

Boy's Leather Belts .....25c  
Rit, washes and dyes .....10c  
Gift upholstering tacks, box .....10c  
Curling tongs .....10c  
Carpet Tacks, all sizes .....5c  
No. 2 Tacks for window shades,  
per box .....5c  
Iron Holders .....15c  
Men's Garters .....25c, 35c and 50c  
Paint Brushes .....10c to 50c  
Ingram's Talcum Powder .....25c  
Ladies' flannelette night gowns,  
one size .....\$2.50  
Black veiling, fine mess with and  
without figure; high grade,  
yard .....25c  
Children's sleeping garments, 2 to  
8 years .....\$1.00  
Bird's eye, diaper cloth, yard .....35c  
Ingram's Milkweed Cream .....50c  
Ingram's Zedenta Tooth Paste .....25c  
Ingram's Therapeutic Shaving  
Cream .....50c  
Ingram's Face Powder .....25c and 50c  
Longcloth .....30c  
Shoe Polishes, 10c, 13c and .....25c

sewing Machine Belts, long enough  
for all makes of machines, 30c  
and .....25c  
Nye's Sewing Machine Oil, bottle .....10c  
Diamond Dye .....10c  
Peroxide .....10c  
Vaseline .....7c  
Box Writing Papers, Tablets, Inks,  
Envelopes, Pens and Pencils,  
Glue and Mucilage .....25c to 50c  
Scissors .....25c to 50c  
all colors of Crepe Papers .....10c  
Bromo Seltzer .....10c and 20c  
Silk Thread, all colors, 50 yards  
only, 8c; two spools for .....15c  
Black and White, 100 yards only .....15c  
Meritas brand, white Oil Cloth,  
1 1-4 yard wide, highest grade,  
yard, .....50c  
Hump Hair Pins, all sizes .....5c and 10c  
Canton Flannel .....39c  
Flannelette, white .....33c  
Flannelette, pink, white, yard, .....27c  
Grey, extra fine grade, yard .....45c  
Boys' heavy Stockings, fast  
black; 59c value, pair .....43c  
Girls' fine mercerized Stockings;  
59c value, pair .....45c  
Celluloid Knitting Needles, pair .....25c  
Steel Knitting Needles, 5c each; a  
set of five for .....22c  
P. K., extra value, yard, .....48c  
Dark brown Silk Hose .....\$1.25

## HIGH GRADE INFANT'S AND CHILDREN'S WOOL GARMENTS



Infant's Knit Bands, with-  
out sleeves, wool plated,  
mercerized finish, the  
kind you have always  
bought, all sizes .....50c  
Same as above, in all  
pure Australian Wool, all  
sizes .....75c

Fold Over Shirts,  
sleeves, Merino, mer-  
cerized finish, sizes one  
to six (up to 4 years);  
this Shirt is 60% wool,  
an unusually large per-  
centage at this price,  
per garment .....35c  
Same as above in all  
pure Australian Wool  
(up to 3 years) .....\$1.50



Knit Shirts, button  
front, sleeves, Merino,  
mercerized finish, 60%  
wool; sizes, infants to  
6 years .....85c  
Same as above, all  
pure Australian Wool,  
silk finish; up to 6  
years .....\$1.25



"Curvex" Brass Curtain Rods .....35c  
Boys' Blouses, goods that will  
wash; each .....\$1.00  
Pee-Chee White Shoe Cleaner .....25c  
Gas Mantles, 15c and .....10c  
Bungalow Aprons .....79c to \$2.50  
Fancy Aprons .....15c, 33 and 69c  
O. N. T. Machine Thread, black  
and white, sizes, 8 to 100, spool 6c  
Electric Curlers, 2 for .....10c

Snap fasteners .....5c  
Hooks and Eyes .....5c  
Gas Globes, Upright and Inverted 15c  
Lingerie Tape, white, pink, Blue 10c  
Kleinert's Dress Shields .....25c  
Middy Lacers .....5c  
Thimbles (silver), all sizes .....5c  
Pure White Cotton Batting,  
bat .....19c  
Flannel: Pure all wool Saxony  
yarn flannel, 33 inches wide,  
yard .....\$1.09  
Ladies' pure Linen Handkerchiefs,  
30c and .....50c  
Ladies' Cotton Handkerchiefs .....25c  
10c and .....25c  
Boys' Gloves, Jersey .....25c  
Girls and Boys Gloves, knit .....50c  
Fancy Caps and Hockey Caps  
23c to .....\$2.00  
Infants' Mittens, white, pink and  
blue .....25c and 29c  
Boudoir Caps .....29c to 75c  
Ladies' Dressing Combs .....25c to \$1.50  
Longcloth, yard .....33c  
Lancaster Gingham, yard .....25c  
Chambray Gingham, yard .....30c  
Mersey cloth, black, for lining,  
yard .....55c  
Cambric lining, white, yard .....25c  
Pillow tubing, 40-in .....40c  
Mohawk Sheets, 81x90 .....\$2.00  
Boys' Knee Pants, 60c to .....\$2.25  
Window Shades .....75c  
Bias Seam Binding, lawn and  
cambric, black and white, all  
sizes, 12 yards .....15c  
Ric Rac, all sizes .....10c to 19c  
O'Cedar Oil .....25c and 50c

## WAXED LUNCH PAPER

Roll of 20 sheets, 12x15 .....5c  
Patent Leather Belts, black, red and  
white .....50c and 25c  
Avelva toilet paper 2 rolls .....25c  
Needles for all makes of machines,  
a package of two needles for .....5c  
High grade Nainsook .....35c  
Extra fine Lingerie cloth, or Nain-  
sook, yard .....50c  
Dotted Swiss, yard .....22c  
Dimity, yard .....25c  
Toweling, part linen, yard .....27c  
Toweling, all cotton .....19c  
Laces and Embroideries, 5c yard up.  
Curtain poles and brackets, poles 25c  
each, brass brackets, 50c a pair.

All sizes of Children's Fleece  
Lined Underwear.

## NOREN'S

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WANTED—Repairing of all kinds,  
locks, keys, guns, lawnmowers, etc.  
General repair work promptly at-  
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field Avenue.

tal, moral and physical disease of all kinds?

"Do you know that the air is foul? that the prison is filthy? that the inmates are never taken out for exercise? that at night the whole place is alive with rats? that the women and girls, too, are allowed to smoke cigars and cigarettes? that the bedbugs are only equaled by the cockroaches, spiders and body lice?

"These evils are serious enough, but the worst feature is the utter lack of any educational work or training of any kind to fit the inmates for their return to life in the outside world. In fact, the effect is quite opposite. Those who enter jail, no matter what their crime, must leave it with a lowered standard of health and morals.

"I thank you, however, for the sentence you gave me. It has opened my eyes wider to the injustice and the lack of responsibility of the courts; and, above all, it was my first victory for suffrage."

#### BUSINESS MEN PLAN TO SPEND \$750,000 TO PRODUCE MISERY AND VOTE \$100 TO RELIEVE IT.

Members of the Oakland (Pittsburgh, Pa.) Board of Trade enjoyed a spirited meeting and an excellent lunch at their annual meeting last evening. Among the things the board wants for Oakland this year is the great drill hall in connection with the Eighteenth Regiment Armory. The State will pay \$400,000 of the cost of this building. The board adopted a motion that it get after Council to have \$350,000 included in the bond issue for this hall and that it get all similar organizations in the city to join in this petition.

Another thing wanted is a Y. M. C. A. for Oakland and a committee which has that in charge reported that subscriptions have been made towards it.

The board voted \$100 from its treasury for the committee on relief which is raising money to feed the starving millions of Armenian and the Near East."

So the Oakland Board of Trade is busy preparing for the next war. When business men see money in anything, nothing can stop them from going after it. They can show us that the alley Hooligans are mere pikers at the holdup game. \$750,000 spent in Oakland will be some nice little swag for the Oakland land owners. And if the toilers from whom the money will be taken, rebel, the guns will be there with which to teach them a lesson.

Oakland (Pittsburgh, Pa.) is the place where Billy Sunday held forth for a month or more. How well he picked the place where they needed the gospel of Christ. And how miserably he failed. He failed to reach the men who dwell there in darkness. Lower than this no man can fall, than that he plan to kill his fellow man for profit. That's their aim in Oakland; to drill to kill, for \$750,000. On one of the church steeples in Oakland is a blazing cross. Are any of its vestrymen favoring the building of the armory where men will drill to learn to kill? I wouldn't be surprised. It is wonderful how our professional christians (?) act the saint in church, and the savage outside.

If Christ came to Oakland would He not say to the church goers "why mock ye me with prayers when your faith is in yonder guns?" The carpenter of Nazareth would shun the Oakland Board of Trade.

I attended the first meeting of protesting tenants held at the council chamber. All the protests were against landlords who had houses to rent. The protests should have been against those landlords who have nothing but land to rent. Mr. Watkins, against whom most of the protests were made, said: "ninety per cent of all builders go broke." That is true. How then can we remedy the condition of abnormally high rent. It can only be done by making it more profitable to build. We can not expect men to build houses if nine chances of failure to one of success stare them in the face. A builder of houses can make no more money in that business than other men in other businesses. That holds good no matter how high his rents mount. To make more than that he must be a land owner. As a land owner he needs not build, but can lease the land to builders and charge them all that the traffic will bear. The Schenley estate is the typical landlord. It does not build. It leases ground and grows fat at the expense of those who do build. The Schenley estate is said to draw \$3,000 a day net from Pittsburgh. In addition the tenants pay all the Schenley estate's taxes. The Schenley estate can not go broke so long as it does not improve. But if it risked its immense fortune in building houses it, too, would face nine chances of failure to

one of success.

If in the face of all these facts some land owners love to build houses, can we blame them for playing the brute to avoid failure

Thanks to the Pittsburgh Graded Tax law, taxes on homes have not increased in spite of abnormal increases in everything else. On the average home taxes have decreased.

With the Pittsburgh Graded Tax law in force no amount of increase in taxes can cause an increase in rent. If the Pittsburgh Graded Tax law be amended so as to abolish all taxes on buildings, it would be a case of the higher the tax the lower the rent. It is also pleasant to know that then a large part of the Schenley rent roll would be spent on labor in Pittsburgh instead of on high living in London.

#### A Tenants' League.

A Tenants' League is overdue. I can think of no organization more useful. It can outvote every other combination that can be made. Its ultimate goal should be its own extinction, contradictory as that seems.

Its aim should be: "Every man his own home owner." To achieve that aim, land must be as free to the last man as God made it to the first. Unless land is free, man is not free. The value of land is the value of civilization and public services capitalized, and its annual amount should be paid into the public treasury. It is contrary to public and private morals that any man should profit from land he does not himself use.

Restrictive laws against house owners will raise rents.

Our legislative bodies are talking about relieving unemployment, just talking about it. That's all they do. That's harmless. Where they legislate they do not pass measures to open opportunities for employment, they pass measures to restrict opportunities for employment.

The legislature could settle unemployment in an hour by enacting a law to this effect:

"ANY MAN OR WOMAN NOT ALREADY A LAND OWNER IS HERE-

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BY AUTHORIZED TO OCCUPY AS MUCH VACANT LAND OF HIS OR HER CHOICE AS HE OR SHE CAN USE. IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL, AND SUBJECT TO FINE AND IMPRISONMENT, FOR ANY FORMER OWNER OF SUCH VACANT LAND TO DEMAND FROM THE OCCUPANT ANY FEE OR PURCHASE PRICE. THE LOCAL ASSESSING AUTHORITIES SHALL APPRAISE THE VALUE OF ABUTTING STREET IMPROVEMENTS, IF ANY, WHICH IT SHALL BE REQUIRED THAT THE OCCUPYER PAY TO THE FORMER OWNER WITHIN ONE YEAR, THE TAXING AUTHORITY GUARANTEEING THE PAYMENT."

I guess that would settle the unemployment problem in about a week or so.

Reedy's Mirror says: "Prohibition is the beginning of the end of free Americanism."

Prohibition agitation marks the era in which landlordism, by means of private property in land, killed industrial freedom in America. Prohibition would be impossible if every American owned his own home. It can only be enforced upon people who have lost their economic power. Economic freedom is dead. Prohibition, conscription, the espionage act and other autocratic measures so ruthlessly enforced were merely memorial services. A standing army of 500,000 men and a large navy will stand watch over the grave to see that the dead do not arise.

With an obedient army of 500,000 a Wilson or a Burleson can do anything they want. Political protest would be like stopping a bull with a feather. A revolution would be impossible. An army of 500,000 is of imperial size. Picture every living soul in Pittsburgh a soldier and the army would still be short of its quota of 500,000. Give the United States an army of 500,000 and good bye freedom. Nothing but a long big war with a foreign power, will suffice to regain freedom. It required a world war to destroy the Russian army before the Russian people could overthrow the Tsar, one of the weakest of men.

"We ought to see immediately that every boy and every girl who comes out of the public school in the United States has some particular trade."

Sure, make them efficient hewers of wood and drawers of water. "We" need manual freedom, "we" who come out of high-toned private schools, and to make sure "we" get it "we" must see to it that every boy and girl who comes out of the public school get manual slavery. And to think that men who, like Secretary Lane, draw \$12,000 a year from the public treasury get away with that bunk.

The whole country is being searched in order to find work for men who know how to do everything that was ever done in the world. Men who could duplicate the Woolworth building by the miles are hunting jobs. Men who know how to build boats, each one of which could store a hundred Noah's arks, are out of work. We know how to go under the sea and how to fly in the air. We know how to weave silks that would shame the array of a Solomon. Even under hunger and drudgery we do all these things. And Secretary Lane would rob little children of their play time to learn them these things prematurely. The short and precious time of care-free childhood he would blast with hammer, plane and a pot of glue. Play as teachers and teach as fools. Teach every child to make some stools. Herd the children all in schools. And, damn them with a kit of tools.

A little while ago Guy Campbell got on the front page. Mr. Campbell is a congressman from Pittsburgh. He is a Mawsh member. For all he can do at Washington, except draw salary, he Might As Well Stay Home.

But even the dullest of men require some excitement beside the exertion of signing pay vouchers.

Mr. Campbell looked around to see what he could find. And he saw the conscientious objectors. That was a happy find for the Mawsh member. Here indeed was a fit object for his talent. Many of them in prison and with no friend in power, the conscientious objector was indeed the under dog whom it was perfectly safe to kick. So he introduced a resolution in congress to have the conscientious objectors counted and named. And here is what he says about it:

"I hope that my resolution will be adopted, and that it will be efficacious in forestalling the participation of conscientious objectors in politics for their own personal profit or aggrandizement."

There you have Mr. Campbell's picture of himself. "In politics for his own personal profit or aggrandizement" In his district there is no conscientious objector to compete with Mr. Campbell. There are many hundreds of them who could serve their constituents, but in "politics for profit" Campbell has no known competitor. He is in a class by himself. He is the littlest Mawsh in Washington.

The Public is trying to locate the responsible party for the government's autocratic policy towards the telegraph employees. It pretends to wonder if it is Burleson or any one of his administrative agents. You are off the scent. Mr. Editor of the Public. The responsible party is over in France trying to explain 14 points 28 ways.

National Labor Journal: "An immediate attempt is to be made by Senator Kenyon and others to pass an appropriation of \$400,000,000 to be spent in furnishing employment on the public works in all parts of the country."

Statesmen (?) like Kenyon and labor leaders of the Gompers kind are still engaged in the profitable pastime of convincing the workers that to have good times one must feed the politicians well. The crazy scheme is simple too. Collect \$400,000,000 from labor in taxes. Give fat jobs to politicians to superintend the spending of the money on public works. Let labor earn back the money that was taken from them. By thus compelling workers to earn the money twice they are supposed to be benefitted. And they call this lunacy, statesmanship!

Three representative socialists wanted to go to Europe to attend a conference in Switzerland, but our State Department denied them passports. I guess the Wilson brand of Democracy at the "piece" conference wouldn't be safe with three American Socialists at large in Europe.

Euchre to be held on Friday evening, February 21st, 1919, by Division No. 14, L. A. A. O. H., in St. Rosalia Lyceum. Admission, 25 cents. Fine prizes.



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