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# THE PROBE

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## 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.

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ed room, sleeping or light housekeep-  
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## THOUGHTS ON STRIKES

By Daniel Kiefer.

The strike of the Cleveland car men against women conductors was the same in principle, as would be a strike because of employment of negroes or Chinamen. It was, of course, wrong in principle. Condemnation, however, should be tempered with consideration of circumstances that make such occurrences inevitable. The men feared for their own jobs and with good cause. They knew, in spite of all talk about "a world safe for democracy," that no man's job is safe, in the United States.

They know that employment of women makes fewer jobs for men. They don't know because objectors to trade unions don't know it either, or would express the knowledge if they did—that the reason jobs are limited, is because opportunities are withheld. They don't know that the destruction of monopoly of natural resources will open so many opportunities, that no man need fear competition for jobs of women, nor of any other man of any color or nationality. So, being ignorant, they seek to defend themselves, by the only method they know about—only those have a right to condemn them who are willing to urge a better means of defense.

## COMMENTS

BY NOREN

I have received from the Interior Department in Washington a lot of papers and documents with many articles blue penciled for my attention.

I have read carefully the marked articles and many of the others. The whole thing presents a picture of busy men, active on great projects.

There is Secretary Lane's long letter to the President, pleading for an appropriation to start the work of placing returning soldiers on farms. Mr. Lane says: "A million or two dollars, if appropriated now, will put

this work well under way." A million or two. What a bagatelle!

One million means five dollars from every family in the United States. Two million means ten dollars. Mere pin money. If a man had lived from Christ's time until now and had saved a dollar every day he would still be short \$299,565 of having one million. How easy to appropriate a million or two. But it must first be earned. Plain toil must first produce it. The million or two must be taken from workers. That's where it ALL comes from. And they never get anything back. To them it is a TOTAL LOSS, no matter how rich others get by its being spent.

### A RUSSIAN BOUQUET . . . .

On a postal card view of the Lodge at Roosevelt, Arizona, Dr. Fedor Foss, chairman of the Russian Special Mining Commission, sent by the Kerensky government to the United States, writes:

"I send you greetings from Roosevelt Dam, where I found the Seventh Wonder of the world, not in the dam itself, but in the whole work of the Reclamation Service."—From the Reclamation Record.

Dr. Foss saw the end where the money was spent. That end was great and wonderful. If he could have seen the end where the money was collected he would not have sent a postcard view of it, for that end had a bread line. It had homes where father worked twelve hours and yet had to send his children to school hungry. The good doctor's countrymen at home in Russia are trying to reverse the process, to have their wonders where we have our bread lines.

### A PICTURE FROM MISSOURI

Here I will quote from a letter written by Mr. G. H. Cox, a farmer at Milan, Mo. It is dated December 22, 1918:

"I am 62 years old, 60 of which have been spent in Northern Missouri as my home. I was away many times of course, once for nearly three years. When I was a boy land was fertile and cheap here. Fish and game were plentiful. Everybody, even the Negro slaves seemed happy and always singing and whistling. Cooperation in work and sickness. Not many people but were farmers and producers and plenty of work for all. When the land was rented it was for a fourth, and rent has climbed until it is near the other way about.

"I can now see that the system of

land ownership has changed this country into almost a desert. Most of the farms are worked by hired men and tenants, and everything that would burn has been used for fuel. In many cases the houses have become unfit to live in. The land has been robbed and as the Walsh report says: 'The condition of these people and the land are today the worst ever recorded.' Forcing so-called roads along property lines and poor plowing and management have washed the hills and fertile land into the streams and with the destruction of the timber the rainfall has become too deficient to grow apples.

Where in my youth everyone was singing and happy, all is as silent and depressing as a funeral, and should anyone sing out loud people would all rush out expecting to see some one drunk. Whole rural school districts have not one bath tub or modern convenience in their limits, not even a swimmin' hole. Very few books and in many instances of a kind that makes them worse than none.

"I was down in the railroad yards the other day and saw some forty farmers with wagons in line to buy coal, potatoes, cabbage and apples from cars shipped in. Which shows how hopeless it really is for these people.

We read that the old galley slaves of ancient Rome were fed and dressed up to show their masters' wealth and power on occasions. Even this is denied the modern slaves who are too ignorant and servile to claim their own inheritance from God, air, water and land."

### WHO PAYS THE LOSS?

From what I have read in the Reclamation Record the Interior Department is mighty proud of its various projects. Do they pay? That is a fair test. Is the Interior Department self-sustaining? Do the various projects return a sum to the government sufficient to pay all the expenses of the Interior Department, including all salaries and allowances for rentals of its Washington offices? In what manner is it a success if it does not do this and more?

Competing producers, whether on private projects or common farms, must do that much and also pay their proportionate share towards the cost of the general government.

Mr. Ingram of Detroit has exposed a truly shocking condition of affairs among the farmers of Michigan. Mr. Cox furnishes examples from Missouri.

## Weekly Price List

PAY NO MORE

Store opens at 8, closes at 6  
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### SPECIALS THIS WEEK:

A few pairs of extra heavy drawers for boys, grey, fleece-lined, value 75c; price.....25c

Ladies' Plain Cotton Stockings Summer weight, black or white, value 19c; price, two pairs .....25c

Infants' Shirts, button front, all pure Australian wool, all sizes, highest grade all-wool shirts made; value \$1.25; price .....99c

Heavy black woolen sox, value 65c; price.....43c

Boy's Leather Belts .....25c

Rit, washes and dyes.....10c

Gilt 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

"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 grey, each .....25c

Fringe Hair Nets, sometimes called straight; made in France, of genuine hair full size, 38x40, 10c; three Nets for.....25c

Ingram's Perfumes .....89c

Ingram's Talcum Powder.....25c

Ingram's Milkweed Cream.....50c

Ingram's Zedenta Tooth Paste.....25c

Ingram's Therapeutic Shaving Cream .....50c

Ingram's Face Powder.....25c and 50c

Sewing Machine Belts, long enough for all makes of machines, 30c and .....25c

Box Writing Papers, Tablets, Inks, Envelopes, Pens and Pencils, Glue and Mucilage.

Can Openers .....15c

Scissors.....25c to 50c

Bees Wax .....4c

Longcloth .....30c

Shoe Polishes, 10c, 13c and.....25c

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

20-Sheet Roll, 12x15, 5c, 6 for 25c

Patent Leather Belts, black, red and white .....50c and 25c

Avelva toilet paper, 2 rolls.....25c

Linen Corset Lacers, 5 yds. long, ..10c

Needles for all makes of machines, a package of two needles for.....5c

Vye's Sewing Machine Oil, bottle.....10c

Diamond Dye .....10c

Peroxide .....10c

Vaseline .....7c

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 .....55c

Hump Hair Pins, all sizes.....5c and 10c

Canton Flannel .....39c

Flannelette, white .....33c

Flannelette, Pink and White and Blue and White, yard.....35c

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

Silk Hose, black, full fashioned, will wear, pair .....\$2.00

Dark brown Silk Hose.....\$1.25

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



Infant's Knit Bands, without 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, mercerized finish, sizes one to six (up to 4 years); this Shirt is 60% wool, an unusually large percentage at this price, per garment.....95c  
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

"Curver" 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 Curiers, 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 .....20c  
Flannel: Pure all wool Saxony yarn flannel, 33 inches wide, yard .....\$1.09  
Ladies' pure Linen Handkerchiefs, 30c and .....50c  
Ladies' Cotton Handkerchiefs.....10c and .....25c  
Boys' Gloves, Jersey.....25c  
Girls and Boys Gloves, knit.....50c  
Fancy Caps and Hockey Caps 23c to .....\$2.00  
Ladies' Handbags and Purses, \$1.19 to .....\$3.00  
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.....35c  
Mersey cloth, black, for lining, yard .....55c  
Cambric lining, white, yard.....25c  
Pillow tubing, 40-in.....40c  
Mohawk Sheets, 81x90.....\$2.00

### All sizes of Children's Fleece Lined Underwear.

## NOREN'S

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It is said to be still worse in New England. But can we expect anything else when the old time farmers are crushed with taxes and a large part of these taxes are spent to establish competing projects?

### THE WONDER AND THE BREAD LINE

Independent farming WAS A SUCCESS until the government started to crush it with taxes to maintain a thousand vile and wild schemes from a huge navy to professor of potato bugs. And now to cap the climax, the farmer must also pay the cost of setting up fancy project competitors in business. Here we have the two ends again, the grand Seventh Wonder of the World and the bread line, with the bread line supporting the wonder.

In addition, farmers are the victims of every vicious law, that a Penrose and a Knox can concoct, for the bene-

fit of Wall Street and tariff fed manufacturers?

Can any person read of the outrageous proceedings of the English Scully's in our Middle Western states and not blush for the administration that allows it? Secretary Lane writes beautifully about spending millions on settling a few soldiers on new-made farms. At the same time the English Scully's are driving out thousands of American farmers from the states of Illinois, Missouri and Nebraska. Destroying millions of dollars worth of these farmers' property by compelling them to move or pay impossible rentals. And what does Secretary Lane do about that? NOTHING.

#### LONG DISTANCE ENCHANTMENT

The Interior Department is great for reclaiming land a long ways off. From my attic window I can see one side of a tract that has never been reclaimed. It is VACANT, right in the heart of Pittsburgh. Over seven million dollars worth. I can reach all of it by walking, in a few minutes.

It does not require drainage, nor stumping, nor irrigation. It will grow as fine crops as anywhere in the country. All it requires is an administration with will and purpose to let labor use it.

#### THOUSANDS OF \$13,000 JOBS AT HOME LOCKED UP

The high limit allowed for a soldier's farm seems to be \$15,000, that is, if I read it correctly, for the land alone. That means the soldier assumes obligations to pay \$15,000 for space, for a place on earth on which to earn his living. That shows how

"free" the country was he was fighting for.

But why spend millions in the wilderness and in the swamps to get a job at that price? We have over two hundred million dollars worth of VACANT land in Pittsburgh. Why not place that at the disposal of the soldiers? That will give over thirteen thousand soldiers \$15,000 jobs right at home, within walking distance of every agency that civilization has reared.

What can be the guiding policy of the government in sending men hundreds of miles from markets to produce food and leaving hundreds of millions of dollars worth of land VACANT in the very center of the market? Reader, let me put you wise. The purpose of that brutally sinful policy is to protect land monopoly. Let the American farmer perish. What is that to the Interior Department, so long as the rack renting Scully's and Schenley's are not disturbed?

The lengthy quotation below is taken from an article in the Reclamation Record written by Elwood Mead, consulting engineer U. S. Reclamation Service:

"Before the end of the first year of the war some of the nations engaged were studying how they could best provide farms for returning soldiers who had a liking for rural life and were fitted for it. Before the end Russia had left the war at the front to fight for land at the rear.

"The letter of Secretary Lane calling attention to the need for early action in this country reflected the hopes and desires of thousands of young American soldiers. I say this because of experience gained as chairman of the State Land Settlement Board of California and letters from soldiers asking if its opportunities would be open to them when the war ended.

"The legislature of that State had two years ago created a Land Settlement Board and gave it money and authority to buy, subdivide, and sell the land in small improved farms to settlers on long-time payments with a low rate of interest. It was not a war measure. On the contrary, it was simply an endeavor to create broader opportunities for poor men to become owners of the land they cultivated and to make farm life more attractive and prosperous.

"The demonstration has been a complete success as a peace measure, but I only speak of it because of the light it throws on one of the Nation's war needs.

"The lands were allotted to settlers last June. Four fathers of boys in our Army applied for farms, not for themselves, but to be turned over to their sons when they return. Another tract of land will be settled the last of this month. One father writes: 'I have three sons fighting in France. They

all want to be farmers. Isn't there some way by which I can apply for one farm for myself and another for my oldest boy. The four of us will work the two farms together.' A student of the State College of Agriculture, now overseas, writes to reserve a farm. When I left California in October a large percentage of the farms in this new settlement had been applied for by the fathers of soldiers on the fighting front, and the Attorney General had been asked how far the settlement board could go in giving soldiers a preference."

It is hard to treat Mr. Mead seriously. Manifestly he is out to fool somebody. I suspect that he is out to fool the people of the United States for the benefit of landlords. Mr. Mead is our employee. Mr. Lane, or someone, has hired him for us and we pay him and pay him exceedingly well. But he works for land owners. That is plain to anyone who wants to see. You notice he is from California and that he is, or was, chairman of the California Land Settlement Board. That must have made the land question the chief issue with him.

#### WHAT DR. ELWOOD MEAD DIDN'T SEE

If a man in the position of Mr. Mead, employed and paid by the people to deal with the land question, saw two groups of his employers discussing that issue, he would naturally be interested in what they had to say. There were two such groups in California. One group went to the polls and voted for a land settlement according to Henry George. That group numbered 262,000. The other group numbers, according to all accounts, a handful of people. Is it not strange that a public servant drawing pay from the public treasury should write books at the government's expense about the plan that seemed to interest so few and wholly ignore the plan wanted by 262,000 people? Doesn't that look strange? Imagine a man who can both see and hear well, surrounded by 262,000 people, all speaking to him, and he professing to have neither heard them nor seen them. But there's a reason. And this IS the reason. Singletax that the 262,000 people wanted, would unhorse the land thieves and open the land to the people. Mead and his scheme, wanted by a few people, and some corporations, will open the public treasury to the land thieves.

But Mr. Mead wasn't blind only in California. He investigated the world and he was blind the world over. He gives at length the land policies of Great Britain, Canada as a Dominion, and the provinces of New Brunswick, Ontario and British Columbia, Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand and the Union of South Africa. In all of these countries there are large and aggressive bodies of people who are

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promoting land settlement according to the plan of Henry George. But to these Mr. Mead was blind and deaf. New Zealand and Australia have several legislative acts in operation, embodying the principle of Singletax, but Mr. Mead is blind and deaf as to them also. But there's a reason. Maybe this is it.

The Southern Pacific railroad owns five million acres of land in California.

Miller & Lux own 14,539,200 acres. In Sacramento Valley one hundred men own 17,000,000 acres.

Miller & Lux, Spreckles, and Weyerhaeuser interests own more acres than there are in the German Empire.

Do you see the reason? Every man that Mr. Lane and Mr. Mead succeed in placing will strengthen the hold of the land monopolists. The more projects that are promoted with public money, the richer will be the princes who own the Western empires. Yes, truly there's a reason. Every activity of the Interior Department, from the buying of a pen point to the building of a dam, enriches land monopolists and impoverishes the rest of the people.

How feverishly active is the department now—to benefit soldiers, to make homesteads for soldiers. How many will secure homesteads and be the better off for it? I say, not as many as could be provided for by the use of the vacant land in the heart of Pittsburgh that I can see from my attic window.

But it is not the number of soldiers that Mr. Lane's department is so fever-

ishly active about. No, that is not it.

Mr. Lane has drawn up an act that each state is requested to make its own law. If only one soldier in each state gets a homestead under it, it will yet tend to strengthen land monopoly. Can't we see the slick and lying politicians of the future pleading to the voters not to enact Singletax, because it would tax the poor soldiers' few acres? "Should not the government protect him in that which it induced him to buy," etc etc. The feverish haste is due to a desire to get this monopoly prop into law.

Having it once on the Statute books it will give politicians a starting point for a counter current to the Singletax movement. Yes, there's a reason. Though thousands of long established farms be laid waste and endless bread lines form, though a hundred million people be reduced to rags, yet must land monopoly be preserved. THAT'S the reason.

Granting complete success to Mr. Lane's plans; grant that every soldier becomes a prosperous farmer of a modern farm under tutelage of the government, how will that help the millions who will yet be at the mercy of land monopoly, and who must pay the cost of directing the few to success?

Shall we never get a people's government? Must we always have a government for the thousands at the expense of the millions? Shall a race be destroyed to preserve a specimen?

To BUY land, that is the keystone in Mr. Lane's plans. God placed the

continent here; who shall we buy it from? We have heard of hero robbers who stole from the rich to give to the poor. But we, as a people, propose to have our government tax the poor for the benefit of those rich who stole the continent. In our handling of the Nation's natural resources we are operating on a plan that has less justice and fairness in it than had the plan upon which Jesse James operated. It is said he stole watches and things. I am sure Jesse would have thought it quite a joke if the government had proposed to effect justice by "buying" them back. But we propose to buy back a continent so that those born on it won't need starve to death.

And to think that at one time I was proud because President Wilson appointed a lot of Singletaxers to office. But then I didn't know that the President was going to put padlocks on them, or that they would wear them.

I have read two editors' obituary comments on Theodore Roosevelt. The comments of other editors I skipped when I saw it coming in the headline. The two I read were those of Oscar Ameringer in the Milwaukee Leader, and William Marion Reedy in Reedy's Mirror (St. Louis). Reedy's is much the longest. Ameringer speaks the truth, completely and Reedy omits the truth, also completely.



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