

Better Than a Canal

Cincinnati, O., Jan. 17, 1904.—In the pulpit of the Vine Street Congregational church today, the pastor, Herbert S. Bigelow, spoke on the question, "What is better than digging a canal?" He said in part:

Since it is proposed to spend so many millions for a canal in Panama, it is well to ask ourselves, "Precisely what good is it going to do us?"

What is a canal? It is a labor-saving device. Will the canal benefit the masses? Have labor-saving machines been of benefit to them?

MACHINERY AND LABOR.

We should not stop inventing machinery because inventions have not materially increased the wages of labor. We should go on with our canal, notwithstanding the fact that wages for common labor will continue to be what a man can live on and no more. We should not put a stop to material progress because, forsooth, the benefits of progress have not been equitably distributed. But it is time we had learned this fact, that of greater importance, even, than digging canals, is the work of amending our laws, to the end that the benefits of public improvements shall reach down to the bottom of society and not be monopolized by a few at the top.

WHERE DOES THE WEALTH GO?

With canals, and railroads, and improved machinery, wealth production has increased enormously. Yet there has been no startling improvement in the condition of the masses. Where, then, does this wealth go? There are only three places for it to go. It must be distributed, either as wages, or interest, or rent.

There has been no increase in the rate of wages corresponding to the increase in the productiveness of labor. Have we not five bridges spanning the Ohio? Mighty triumphs of civilization! Yet it was only yesterday that a father surrendered two of his four children to a charitable institution because the wage he received as a clerk in a railroad office was not sufficient to support them all. This father could not have fared worse in this country a century ago, yet those were the days of ferry boats and stage coaches and hand tools.

Neither has the capitalist absorbed a larger share of this increased production. As a matter of fact, the rate of interest has gone down, and the capitalist, as capitalist, gets less than ever before.

GROUND RENT THE SPONGE.

But not so with rent. While interest and wages have stood still, rents have gone up. On the great average,

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There never was a better opportunity for persons suffering from diseases of the heart, nerves, liver, stomach and kidneys to test, free, a remarkably successful treatment for these disorders. Dr. Miles is known to be a leading specialist in these diseases and his liberal offer is certainly worthy of serious consideration by every afflicted reader. This opportunity may never occur again.

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Col. E. R. Spilman of the 9th United States Regulars, located at San Diego, Cal., says, "Dr. Miles' Special Treatment has worked wonders in my son's case when all else failed. I had employed the best medical talent and had spent \$2,000 in doing so. I believe he is a wonderful specialist. I consider it my duty to recommend him." "For years I had severe trouble with my stomach, head, neuralgia, sinking spells and dropsy. Your treatment entirely cured me."

Mr. Julius Keister, of 350 Michigan Avenue, Chicago, testifies that Dr. Miles cured him after ten able physicians had failed. Mrs. R. Trimmer of Greenspring, Pa., was cured after many physicians had pronounced her case "hopeless."

As all afflicted readers may have his Book and \$3.75 worth of Treatment especially adapted to their case free, we would advise them to send for it before it is too late. Address Dr. Franklin Miles, 205 to 231 State St., Chicago.

Please mention The Independent in your reply.

wages and interest remain on a dead level, but rents shoot skyward. When our forefathers wanted to live and work on Manhattan Island, the Indians required of them but a few strings of beads. But this generation, before it pays interest on capital or wages to labor, must pay the Astors a tribute of hundreds of millions. It is into that ever-enlarging maw of the land monopolist that the first fruits of our advancing civilization go. Ground rent is the sponge that sucks up the wealth of the nation.

THE NET RESULT.

Suppose the Panama canal should so change the course of trade that New Orleans in a decade should grow to the size of Philadelphia. The net result would be that the men who own the site of the Crescent City would be able to collect millions where now they collect thousands in ground rents, while the masses there would be no better off than the masses in the Quaker City. Without the single tax that canal will be of trifling benefit to the masses. The landlords will be the chief beneficiaries. The money sunk in that canal will increase neither interest nor wages. It will swell ground rents. It is the people's money but they will never get it back, until they take these ground rents in lieu of taxes.

Three Cent Fares

Cleveland, O., Jan. 15, 1904.—Some twenty years ago, when the writer first had the pleasure of making Mayor Johnson's acquaintance, he was impressed with the fact that here was a man of more than ordinary attainments, and made the statement at that time that, given health, the history of this country would never be written without a prominent place having been given to Tom Johnson. Continued years of acquaintance have verified this prophecy. Today, unmindful of reverses, indifferent to criticism, pursuing the straight-forward persistent policy of a man who has a definite end in view, Mayor Johnson is applying himself to the task that he has laid down for himself.

Almost any day, if you are in Cleveland, you can see Cleveland's chief executive walking up to the city hall at about 11 o'clock. By this time he has disposed of his day's correspondence. He receives no mail at the mayor's office; all this is delivered at his home, where he has his workshop and secretary. So before he starts out on his day's duties, he has already disposed of a large correspondence, and the tremendous amount of work that comes to a man who carries a load of responsibilities. Once at the city hall, every energy is bent toward the accomplishment of betterments for Cleveland's future, which he never allows to become obscured. Silently, persistently, he brings every power of his large experience and resourceful originality towards the accomplishment of these purposes.

The newest phase in these efforts was the late passage by the city council of two new franchises and an ordinance to place fares at 3 cents upon the existing railway lines within certain limits. The car lines of Cleveland are arranged somewhat in the form of a half wheel, the hub being at the public square, where all lines converge. A franchise had been granted a company which proposes to operate a road at three-cent fare, with other favorable stipulations as to transfers and ultimate municipal ownership, on Denison avenue, a west side street running as a cross-town line. This was tapped at the center point by a branch representing one of the spokes of the wheel, and leading to the public square. Another spoke represented by Woodland avenue, now under operation by the old street car lines, which franchise expires next September, was granted in this new franchise to the three-cent line. This gives a through line, reaching from the west side across the river, through a populous district of the east side. Of course, all this means that the old companies must capitulate or fight in the courts to prevent the loss of some of their lines. Whichever way this may terminate, the fact remains that the corporations realize that they have to deal with the most energetic and resourceful man that ever undertook to represent the people's interest. There is no doubt in the minds of Mr. Johnson's friends that, in the end, he will be successful.

Already, one injunction has been granted on the Denison avenue line of the new road, which has tied matters up there for the time being. The date of the expiration of this injunction no sooner begins to approach than another injunction has been granted, which will delay the building of this road and its operation to a further date.

There is a general belief, however,

that the three-cent fare fight in Cleveland is reaching a climax, and no one, I believe, will be surprised to see within the next few months a settlement of the whole controversy, and that upon the single cash fare of three cents, which has been Mr. Johnson's position from the beginning, and from which he has at all times refused to be swerved.

GOVERNOR TAFT PROMOTED

The Governor of the Philippine Islands Succeeds as Head of the War Department and the

HON. ELIHU B. ROOT RETIRES

This Ends the Alleged Boom of Governor Taft as a Candidate for President.

The Philippine experience of Governor Taft just appointed and confirmed as secretary of war will be valuable to the president and cabinet. Military duty in the Philippines promises to be the principal work of the American soldiery for the next generation. The governor of the islands ought to bring back to America some ideas concerning colonial military movements important to the army as well as the nation. His career in Manila has been creditable. He seems to have won the approval of the governed as well as the governing power and his promotion to a cabinet position is a merited promotion.

B. H. ROBISON, PRESIDENT

of the Bankers Reserve Life Company, wishes to advise the readers of this journal that while Governor Taft has been building up favorable public sentiment and developing genuine prosperity in the Orient, the Bankers Reserve Life has been developing the western field of life insurance and building up a solid phalanx of friends in the western states. The malignant enemies of its earlier career concede its reliability now. They agree that it is aggressive and are astonished at its phenomenal growth. Even the great Life Insurance Trust is ready to concede that the

BANKERS RESERVE LIFE

has earned its spurs in the fair field without favors. The year 1903 closed with \$7,000,000 of the best selected risks ever written by a life company. The year witnessed a marvelous development of the company's business. Every dollar owed by the Bankers Reserve Life on December 31, 1903, was paid. Every loss had been adjusted. It entered upon the new year with a clean slate and its field force will add \$3,000,000 net to the gross amount at risk for 1904. Every reader of this newspaper should advise himself at once regarding the forms of policies issued by the company and get into the ranks of policy holders while the company is young. Be sure to investigate

THE GOLD BOND POLICY.

Buy a FARM That Will Pay

you 50 to 80 per cent annually. Rented will pay you from 20 to 30 per cent annually.

A sure crop every year, and the brightest prospect of doubling your investment in two years or less. These farms are located in the Box Elder valley, northern Colorado.

There are six million dollars invested in sugar beet factories in this valley. Farms are paying enormously, as they have a sure crop and a big one every year, ample water supply, 14 reservoirs, and more than enough. We are selling farms in this valley at \$50 and \$60 per acre, and several have been rented during the past year at \$10 per acre cash rent, paying 20 per cent on the investment. Four miles down the valley from where these farms are located farms are selling at

\$150 to \$200 per acre. Twenty miles further south in the valley, farms are selling at from \$200 to \$250 per acre, paying on this valuation annually 20 per cent. Land that we are offering is equally as valuable when fully developed and improved as the farms that are selling at \$250 per acre.

The crops this year will run about as follows:

- Alfalfa, 6 to 8 tons per acre.
- Wheat, 45 to 65 bushels per acre.
- Sugar beets, 20 to 30 tons per acre.
- Oats, 50 to 110 bushels per acre.
- Barley, 65 to 130 bushels per acre.

We have yet about 4,000 acres of this land to sell with perpetual water right and are of the opinion that anyone purchasing a farm in this valley will double his money within one year. We will certainly have all this land sold soon.

The man who has a good farm in an irrigated country, and a good irrigation right, knows its value. He never sells out and goes back to the farm in the east where too much rain or too protracted drouths distress and disappoint. In any line of business, certainty is the element most desired. Farming under irrigation is the nearest approach to a sure thing yet discovered. Some question of chance enters into almost every business calculation excepting into the combination of good soil, and good water. Given these two, and a man's note is paid, his credit is established and his bank account is assured. Irrigation is simply putting enough water on the growing crops, at exactly the time most necessary; not too much and not too little. That is irrigation—nothing more and nothing less. Then, too, the silt in the water fertilizes the soil and renews it from year to year without either labor or expense. This natural fertilization, and the exact amount of moisture at the exact time brings the greatest yield of all crops, doubling and sometimes quadrupling the returns over farming in the eastern states.

Wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, sugar beets, alfalfa, fruit, all vie with each other in quantity and quality. The result is, farming by irrigation is ideal, and peace and plenty abound.

In comparing irrigation farming with rainfall farming, the Wyoming Experiment Station Bulletin on Irrigation says:

"The increase from irrigation is sometimes four-fold and seldom less than double. It is estimated that if only one acre in four could be reclaimed it would still bring the product of the arid region of the United States up to the product of the balance of the country."

The clippings furnished by us speak for themselves, for they are the story of the contented and prosperous farmers of northern Colorado, whose lines have fallen in pleasant places and among whom discontent is unknown, and poverty never met with. It is probable that nowhere on earth are there as many prosperous farmers as in that section of which Fort Collins is the center.

The building of the new ditches and the cultivation of the new lands in this vicinity, together with the erection of the great sugar factory at Fort Collins, open up new opportunities and provide a place for new farmers, who have only to see and investigate to appreciate the wonderful privilege extended to them.

Which is the better investment:— buy eastern land at \$50 an acre and rent it at \$3 an acre or buy Colorado land at \$50 and rent it at \$10—the eastern farmer gets 6 per cent and the Colorado man gets 20 per cent on his investment.

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