

civilization may be preserved without it, and our judicial system must, as the condition of national life, be made to square with the fact that the right of all men to the bounty of the Creator is a birthright, not a gift nor an acquisition, and that it is in its nature equal, inalienable, universal and eternal, the one underlying and unalterable law of social life.

Such a law may be recognized intuitively—consciousness, a sense of the justice and fitness therein embodied, may respond to it, or the consequences of its violation may compel recognition.

Our moral perceptions have been so dulled by habitual disregard of this law, we have so steadfastly refused recognition and obedience, that the consequences of its violation are coming into prominence. There is, as we believe, no other explanation of the threatening social phenomena of our time.

Upon the institution of private property in land, has been built a mountain of social injustice, of privilege, of rights or immunities, not enjoyed by others or all.

Every franchise in every city, village and hamlet of the land is a privilege, a piece of legislative or municipal wrong. There is, in every case, something taken from the many and bestowed upon the few. It may be by authority of law, but it is in violation of right, the consideration (so-called) in such cases consisting simply of a return of an infinitesimal portion of the plunder. Every one of these franchises is capitalized, as if it were so much actual wealth, and the people are made to pay in blood and in tears for what is their own.

Our system of taxation, other than that upon bare land, is such that the burden is borne by those least able to bear it, by the wage earner and the very poor. The reader has only to consider the manner in which personal property taxes are apportioned upon the articles of daily consumption. The man whose income is consumed in providing for his family, is the man who pays taxes—he may saddle them upon no one else—all above him are simply sub-collectors. Herein is wrong so gross, so monstrous, that even the judges of our courts are declaiming against the perversion of justice. While, of our system of tariff taxation, the supreme court of the United States has said, (Loan Association vs. Topeka, case 20, Wall 664), "To lay with one hand the power of the government upon the property of the citizen, and with the other to bestow it upon favored individuals to aid private enterprise and build up private fortunes, is none the less robbery because it is done under the forms of law and is called taxation."

We have only to refer briefly to our financial system and we have done. Our national banks are past masters in the art of showing how something may be made

out of nothing; how interest may be drawn at one and the same time on the same money from two different parties (the people paying in both cases, however), while on the back of every green-back is printed "except duties on imports and interest on the public debt," i. e. one kind of money for me and another kind for you; one kind for the coupon clipper (the good kind) and another kind for common folks.

But under our government are not all men equal before the law? Have they not all the ballot? Yes. They have the ballot, and they may use it in voting either for an elephant or a jackass, as they see fit. There, all equality ends. We may ask in turn, who owns the elephant and who owns the jackass?

We started out with the proposition that there was a privileged class in this country, and that the wishes and interests of this class were paramount in the councils and in the administration of our government. Have we made out our case?

Chicago, July 24, 1901.

WHAT OTHERS SAY OF THE CONSERVATIVE.

Morton's CONSERVATIVE is a coiner of phrases, and utters some lasting truths. It is an originator of ideas and a suggestor of important enterprises. It is a builder up and altogether a good friend of the people.—Hastings (Neb.) Tribune.

J. Sterling Morton's plan to cut Nebraska's roads down one-half and plant the other half to trees is meeting with general approval. The present width of roadways is sixty-six feet. Mr. Morton's plan would be to cut them down to thirty-three feet. What's the use of twenty or thirty feet of sunflowers and rosinweeds and cockleburrs along both sides of the highways? We are not so certain always about the advantage of the trees to take their places—but the growing of trees is certainly not a nuisance.—Fremont (Neb.) Daily Herald.

J. Sterling Morton's proposition to have the highways or roads cut down from 66 to 33 feet in width, should meet with favorable action by the next legislation. The 16½ feet on each side, thus taken from the road, ought to be set out to trees and the trees taken care of by the road district. Nebraska doesn't need a road fund so much as it needs more trees. When not worked too much, the roads are nearly always in good shape. Half the ground now occupied is enough for road purposes.—Hastings (Neb.) Tribune.

The World-Herald thinks when J. Sterling Morton writes about arboriculture he writes very sensibly, but

when he writes about politics he is senile. Perhaps it is the World-Herald's opinions that are warped. It usually admires another paper that will agree with it on matters of public improvements, but cannot stand a difference of opinion on political questions. There are a whole lot of people in Nebraska who consider Mr. Morton sensible all the time.—Norfolk (Neb.) News.

J Sterling Morton will always sing pæans of praise for the Home. He condenses a sermon into these words: "There will be in the New Jerusalem neither restaurants, hotels nor boarding houses, only Homes, Homes, forever and forever." That's the place to go when we die.—Fremont Tribune.

According to J. Sterling Morton, "Many populists believe that the great drouth prevailing throughout the Northwest, and in fact all over the United States, is caused by the big financial combines and corporations called trusts. They have used all the 'water' in getting their stocks sufficiently irrigated to sell to grangers and others who occasionally stray into Wall street." Mr. Morton next advises the populists to adopt immediate measures to increase the corn crop per capita. This sounds very much like the mocking advice which the Prophet Elijah bestowed upon the prophets of Baal. But we have no fears that the populists will imitate the badgered sons of Baal, and do themselves any bodily harm, because they cannot legislate a single kernel of corn into a parched ear.—Atchison (Kas.) Globe.

The democratic convention of the Thirty-third Ohio Senatorial District endorsed the Kansas City platform by a narrow majority, and followed this by endorsing the platform of the Ohio democratic state convention, which body had repudiated the Kansas City doctrine.

WONDERS OF UTAH.

Every variety of climate, generally salubrious and agreeable, can be found in Utah. There are valleys for the farmer, the gardener and the fruit-grower; low mountain land, slopes and terraces for the sheep-raiser; mountains for the miner; scenery, hunting, fishing and bathing for the pleasure-seeker; hot springs and pure air for the invalid, and plenty of opportunity and occupation for men of business and enterprise.

The Union Pacific has put in effect summer excursion rates to Utah lower than made in many years.

For full information, call on or address

E. L. LOMAX, G. P. & T. A.
Omaha, Neb.