

Vol. 7

(fols. 149 - 183)

1914

Francis Davey

[914]

(149)

ALSO "AFTER BLENHEIM".

Near by to —, a Flemish town,
Close to the Yser stream,
As I lay resting from the fight,
I had a curious dream.
Old Caspar came upon the scene
And greeted little Wilhelmine.

"Hello!" he said, with honest joy,
"Who thought to see you here,
May I be rude enough to ask
Why you have come, my dear?"
Young Wilhelmine, she only sighed
And as I watched, I saw, she cried.

I waited: — soon she dried her eyes
And lifting up her head
She, with a sad and puzzled air,
Quite slowly spoke; and said —
"Now tell me all about the War
And what they fight each other for."

"Why, as to that," Old Caspar said,
"There's many points of view;
These can't be sifted all at once,
But this I know is true —
Each country swears by holy writ
It wasn't them that wanted it."

The eyes of little Wilhelmine
Then opened very wide,
And shades of doubt swept over them
As softly she replied, —
"If no one really wanted War
Whatever do they have it for."

"I do not know that I can tell,"
He said, "Why wars are made,
But wiser heads than mine have said
It has to do with Trade;
And Trade, my dear, alone can give
Us all the things by which we live."

"But why can't Trade be carried on,
Was Wilhelmine's reply,
"Without these horrid heaps of dead
That round about us lie;
To help us live and kill us too
Seems such a stupid thing to do!"

Old Caspar stood, and rubbed his head
And uttered not a word,
Then kissed the child and stroked her hair,
Then muttered, — "how absurd!
It's rather odd and yet I'm sure
I never thought of that before."

Then Wilhelmine bade him goodbye,
And as she went away
— With Caspar gazing after her —
The old man heard her say; —
"What good can murder ever bring
It's just a wicked, silly thing."

F. Davey

Daniel Kiefer of USA

(1856-1923)

Form 2289 B

150

to Joseph
Fels

WESTERN UNION



NIGHT LETTER

THEO. N. VAIL, PRESIDENT

RECEIVED AT N. W. Cor. 15th and Chestnut Sts., Philadelphia ALWAYS OPEN

520 WK 50 N L

CINCINNATI 0 JAN 11 1914

W *968M*

JOSEPH FELS

CARE EARL BARNES NO 3640 CHESTNUT STREET PHILA

LAUSBURY HAD FULL HOUSE EVERY SEAT TAKEN NEVER HAD SPEAKER TO SO
SATISFY OUR AUDIENCES APPLAUSE CONTINUANCE WHEN HAD FINISHED HE HAD
TO HANDSHAKE GOOD SHARE OF AUDIENCE AND WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED MEMBER
OF BIGELOW CHURCH IS CONTRACTED COME CINCINNATI WHENEVER IN THE COUNTRY
YOUR ENTHUSIASM FOR HIM FULLY WARRANTED.

DANIEL KIEFER

1113 P

WORKMAN'S D APATHY IS RT BIG PROBLEM

Motor George Lansbury of England Here on Visit



GEORGE LANSBURY, M. P.
Socialist Extremist in House of
Commons

George Lansbury, the English labor leader and former member of Parliament, has been in Cambridge.

As soon as his presence was made known a Sunday Post reporter sought him out for an interview.

He is an interesting character. He resigned from Parliament because his party went back on the woman suffrage movement.

He shares with Mrs. Pankhurst the credit of going on a hunger strike.

The apathy of the average American workman is the greatest industrial problem in this country today, Mr. Lansbury told the Sunday Post reporter.

He said that his few weeks' study of conditions in this country have convinced him that there are more brutal conditions here than in England, though he admitted that the American workman has more to eat than his

Mr. Lansbury's hunger strike came about in rather a peculiar way. He is reported as having said that human life was more sacred than property and that the war he and his followers were waging would not cease until all destitution and exploitation be swept away from our civilization.

The police officer who heard the remarks deemed them an act of sedition and Mr. Lansbury was arraigned in court on that charge.

The judge before whom the case was tried apparently did not think the words sufficiently inflammatory in themselves to warrant imprisonment.

But he warned Mr. Lansbury that such words would not improve by repetition, and wanted the English labor leader to be bound over to hold his peace in the future.

This Mr. Lansbury refused to do. He was then sentenced to serve six months in prison, and thereupon promptly went on a hunger strike, and was released after being in prison three days.

Conditions Here Brutal

"I have been here but a few weeks and cannot speak with much authority on labor conditions in America," said Mr. Lansbury. "I do not hesitate to say that in some ways industrial conditions are more brutal here than in England."

"Such conditions as exist among the strikers at the Calumet & Hecla mines could not exist in England at the present time. The spirit of unrest and the dangerous mutterings among the miners disclose a state of affairs that is almost incredible."

"The American workers get more to eat than their English cousins. There is no doubt about that, for the truth is attested in very plain language by a study of their physical conditions as compared with those of the here."

"Taken collectively, the great body of American workingmen are content to sit down forever without seeking a better state of affairs. There is no organization among them. That is the trouble."

And in speaking of workingmen, Mr. Lansbury wishes it understood that he in no sense limits that body to those who work with their hands.

He contends that the great body of men whose daily work depends upon their brains rather than their hands, are quite as much workingmen as the other group, and should therefore be as alive to industrial conditions.

Includes Brain Workers

"That is a point which should be distinctly understood," he said. "We should do away with that distinction that puts only the man who uses his hands in the class of the 'workers.' The great middle class must realize that the problems of the manual worker should be the problems of the brain worker, too."

In spite of the fact that Mr. Lansbury is such a worker in the cause that characterizes as "industrial freedom," he is in no sense an alarmist.

In fact, he is thoroughly convinced that the world is growing better, and despite the terrible conditions that exist today in certain lands that there is a general improvement all along the line.

"More and more the people who control great wealth and have high positions in the industrial world are beginning to appreciate their responsibilities," he declared.

"I am convinced that such a state of affairs is true in England, and my limited experience in this country has led me to believe that conditions are no much different here."

"The motto of the 19th century seems to be 'eat all you can,' whether in a position of power. There will be a higher ideal in the 20th century."

"The man or woman who gets

something for nothing in our later day will be looked upon with scorn and reproach. The people are beginning to realize that the biggest thing in life is what one gives, not what one gets out of life."

Wants Public Ownership

As a remedy for conditions, Mr. Lansbury believes that the conduct of the railroads, mines and other great corporations must be put in the hands of the men who actually do the work.

Mere government ownership will not help much, he believes, and cites the case of the State railways in France, where, he says, the employees are little, if any better off than they are in England.

"Within two years the railways in Great Britain will undoubtedly come nationalized," he declared.

"My idea is to have the men learn their duties of their management so thoroughly that when the time comes they can say to the State: 'This is our railroad and we want to run it on a contract with the government.'"

The same plan, he believes, could be applied to almost all the great corporations, and that while at the present time there may not be a sufficiently large number of men in the ranks capable of holding the high, executive positions, he thinks the number is constantly growing, and cites the number of cases when the heads of the great corporations have risen from the ranks.

When it comes to a question of "votes for women," Mr. Lansbury is a suffragist through and through. And yet he is so opposed to violence that militancy among the suffragettes does not, as a rule, appeal to him, though he contends that in Mrs. Pankhurst's peculiar case it was perhaps necessary.

Condemns Force

"Argument is a stronger power today than force," he said earnestly. "For that reason I doubt if there will be another great war. Everything points the other way."

"And yet if it had not been for the militant methods of Mrs. Pankhurst and her followers, women's suffrage would be almost a dead issue today in England. Of that I am convinced."

"And it must be remembered that in no case have the militant suffragettes of England taken life. They have destroyed some property but property can always be replaced."

"The prosperity of any nation depends upon the women of that nation, and not until the women become keenly alive to their civic responsibilities can they become intelligent mothers, capable of bringing men into the world who will be of service to humanity."

"We must abolish ignorance and poverty. We must do away with our dual standard of morality, which condemns the woman and puts little blame upon the man."

The present uprising in South Africa, where the English government is faced with its most serious problem since the Boer war, Mr. Lansbury believes to be an indication of the spirit of unrest all over the world.

"Conditions in parts of England are very bad, more particularly in the colliery districts, where the condition of affairs among the miners is something terrible."

"It has been said that every scrap of coal that comes from the ground is stained with blood and that is almost literally true at home, where deaths and accidents among the coal workers are so common as to cause no comment, and those workers who escape injury obtain wages sufficient only to maintain an existence."

Yet in spite of all this Mr. Lansbury is an optimist.

And the "great panacea for the ills" he thinks is general education among the people.

"Education is the greatest foe to poverty there is," he said. "It will be impossible to keep the workers of the world down much longer. But there will not be any revolution in the ordinary sense of the word."

"There will be a period of unrest and dissatisfaction, which we are now passing through, that is bound to cause a great deal of trouble in the readjustment of things, and after that conditions will be better than ever before."

NAVY SAVES MILLION

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—Another million dollars was saved to the treasury by Secretary Daniels when he placed contracts for \$1,317,340 worth of a new pierce and common projectiles, which at last year's prices would have cost \$3,025,200.

ONE OF THE NUMEROUS AUTOCAR DELIVERY VEHICLES BEING USED BY BOSTON MERCHANTS.

Leave for West France
at end of month to
complete my cure.

I hope the Boss' Councils
will allow you though
wanted by the Police as a House
to speak in Public Halls!

Rose Lamartine Yates

DORSET HALL,
MERTON SURREY.

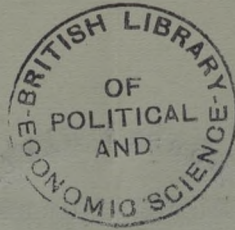
(152)

Feb. 2. 14

Dear Mr. Lansbury,

Just a word to welcome
you home, & back to see that ^{the} Herald
keeps its balance - It needs you
badly - Fire we need, enthusiasm
unlimited but not bitterness against
those whose eyes are not wilfully
closed but simply not yet open -

I suppose the desire to wash dirty
linen in public is irresistible
with some people, but for it all



M449

it is good to know that even those
who have attacked you have had
to state that you stand not for hatred
of persons but for hatred of conditions.

Amidst storms ready to burst around
you & difficulties ahead I should just
like you to know how I, as one of many,
look with confidence to you to hold
up to the ^{world} those highest of standards
in the Herald - & truly let "an injury
to me is an injury to all" - irrespective
of sex, class or creed be the keynote of
the Herald of a real fellowship in
humanity.

My little boy longs to see you - he knows
you are busy - so sends his love till you've
time to bring him one of your youngsters -
by husband joins in a hearty hand ^{shake} ^{your}
Rachamastine Yalis.

Mrs. Walter Coates

~~Southernwood~~
East - Hundred
6, Southwick Street,

Feb 3rd 1914

Hyde Park, W.

153

Dear Bessie -

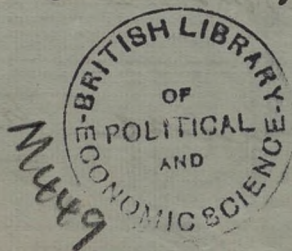
Welcome Home
to you and George -
I hope you had a
good crossing, and
feel none the worse for
your trip - I am looking
forward to seeing you
soon - Will you come
to us the first week-
end you can manage?
This one if possible -
Walter of course has

lots to talk to George
about - and I want
to hear soon about
my home folks and
about - Dolly -

It was nice you did
get to Chambersburg
after all. Mother was
so pleased.

It is very Springlike
here. The birds singing
charmingly.

Hoping you will come
to us. With much love
Eleanor.



C.G. Rowe

Feb 10th 1914

154
The College
Hollisley
Woodbridge

Dear Comrade

you will excuse me taking up your valuable time, but I feel I must thank you for your open letter to Members of Parliament being a Rebel myself. down here one get time to think, sometimes you get down hearted + wonder whether there will ever be a move made for better conditions for us the Bottom dogs. we feel the fearful disappointment the kind of hopelessness that creeps over us after years of organising to get men into Parliament, only to be sold at every turn like oxen when I think of Dublin South Africa the Building Strike the late Dock Strike. the Class war going on under our very nose if the 40 Political Cowards had the pluck of a mouse, all might be so different Down here George two of us in an humble way are keeping the Red Flag flying but it is hard work. its we of the rank + file who have to answer for the doings of the Leader we have blacklegs non unionist, who are glad of the excuse giving them by Political blackleg (the worse blacklegs of all.) there is not one man here from the Boss downwards who has a word to say against you + I am certain if the 40 now there were only half a sound as you, next election would see no other. I like to go for a while all by myself away from man and watch other forms of life in the struggle for life, there is no pushing scrambling lying cheating etc only the humans that have that advantage I sometimes wish I were one of them, but George for Gods sake keep going. we must now let Beave Jim Tarbin be pushed down by the towers whom he hurt. in the May Day, yet to come when you are gone out of this life, though I wish you will live to see the fruit when it comes little children will decorate your grave these Parents will tell them what a Beave Man you were. when Beave Ben were few. so Buck up George keep us who are liable to get weary going. An Arvon sends his kind regards to you

yours for the cause

C.G. Rowe

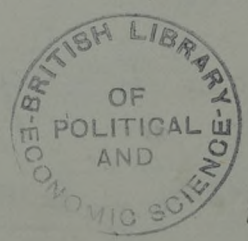
Broomley Beave Gas Worker +
Daily Herald Scavage

P.S. Some of J's other friends seem very indignant, & I fear
mean & remonstrate also severely; So it all may bring
some good results.

Mrs. Josiah Clement Frazier,
Wedgwood (n. Ethel Bowen) 3-111-14

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18, WESTMINSTER MANSIONS,
GREAT SMITH STREET,
WESTMINSTER.



M449

My dear Mr Lansbury.

Thank you ever so
much for your kindness.
Yes, it is infamous; both
the law and, above all, the
~~public~~ social ideas thus tolerate
it. It is infamous too
that this injustice should
be the return to a woman
of 19 years' — the best
years of health & life.

My advice to girls in
consequence would be:
if you marry, do not
be legally married.

~~But the man~~

~~It's rather a blow to~~
me, because I quite
thought even the law
was with me about the
young's children. I wonder
if the lawyers to whom you

spoke clearly recognised that when
I left the house, I did it at his
desire; because he said he
thought he would be less
miserable quite alone, and
didn't know where to go
himself. I did not
"know where to go"; but
I felt the only thing to do
was what he suggested:
There is no "proof" of
that (beyond the ~~to a~~
legal mind - insufficient proof
of my word) except this
that I saw the ^{2 big girls} ~~children~~
off at Foston (because he said
he wanted to be quite alone)

156) Had I left him without his knowledge
or consent, I should of course have
left them to take care of him.

Also that I (at his request)
wrote & telephoned before Lewis
to put off all his engagements
for more days. Also that

I made him coffee & saw him
into his overcoat early in the

morning, as he wished to go out
~~to avoid the children~~ ^{to avoid the children} ~~to~~
before my ~~land~~, He also
very thoughtfully gave me £4,
in case I wanted money.

All these bare facts
are rather incompatible with
a run-away wife, aren't they?
— even to a lawyer's mind.

If you did explain,
never mind; if you didn't

13 March 1914 Wedgwood 157

it might be worth while to do,

But indeed I am ashamed to trouble you so much with my affairs, when you have so many & such big ones of your own. Yet - somehow -

I think that your kindness to me is not the least of your good deeds, - & only a part of your whole big fight for social right for women & men too.

If only

I would stop sports above justice & duty - on public platforms & frankly adopt opposite opinions - the one could at least respect his honesty!

Much love to ~~the~~

both
yourself & Mrs
denning.

Yours ever

Ernest Wedgwood

unless my information indicates a

I do hope this is
Don't bother to reply

difference.

Edgar I. Lansbury
to W.C. Sewell

158

Telephone : LONDON WALL 7977.

The Anglo-Russian Three-Ply & Veneer Co.,

Manufacturers of Solid Mahogany and Oak Three-Ply
and Veneered Plywood Panels in all Woods. = =

WORKS :-

St. Stephen's Road, Old Ford, E.
New North Place, E.C.
Charlotte Street, E.C.
Old Street, E.C.

London, 2 April 1914.

All communications should be addressed to City Offices :-

311, OLD STREET.

Parcels of K/C and S/C Veneers, Bandings, Stringings, Three-Ply, Veneered Panels, always in stock.

Dear Mr. Sewell.

This is just to thank
Mrs. Sewell, yourself & family for the
beautiful rose bowl & your kind wishes
to Minnie & me.

Will you also give Bert & his
family our very best wishes for the future?

Yours always
Edgar Lansbury

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[? post 2 Ap. 1914]

A SOCIALIST WEDDING.

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Mr. George Lansbury's Son Marries Suffragist School Teacher.

Mr. Edgar Lansbury, son of Mr. George Lansbury, the former Socialist M.P. for Bow and Bromley, and editor of the *Daily Herald*, was married on Thursday to Miss Minnie Glassman, who is a strong Socialist and suffragist.

Like all members of the Lansbury family, the bridegroom is extremely popular in the district, but there were few people present at the ceremony in the early morning at the Poplar registrar's office. Mr. George Lansbury was there with his two daughters, Daisy and Jessie, and so was the father of the bride. There were no bridesmaids; but the bridegroom's friend, Mr. Will Yoxley, acted as best man.

After the wedding Mr. and Mrs. Lansbury left for a country honeymoon.

The bridegroom, who is 26 years of age, is a timber merchant, a member of the Poplar Borough Council, treasurer of the local Labour Representation Committee, and takes a leading part in all social work in the district. His bride is a London County Council school teacher.

[d. in - law]

From whom?
G.L.
June 30 1914.

Mrs Mary Fels
10 Cornwall Terrace
Regent's Park N W
Dear Mary:

You ask me to write about my connection with Joe. It is rather a long story, for it covers an uninterrupted period of eleven years.

We came across each other through a speech I made at the Poplar Board of Guardians, parts of which were reported in the "Daily Express". Joe rang up the Guardians to find out something about me, and then rang up Keir Hardie. As a result of these inquiries he called me up on the 'phone and made an appointment to come to see me at Bow. I had very little who or what he was. I had merely been told that he was interested in land, made soap and was American.

His idea in coming to see me was to interest me in the Vacant Lots proposition. I couldn't see how this would help the men in whom I was interested at the moment, for my men were in the workhouse and had no homes, and as you know, he wanted to help men who had homes of their own. but were temporarily out of work. We had a long talk and I succeeded in interesting him in Labour Colonies, told him our trouble, and he promised to see me again.

In the meantime however, he went over the business in which I am interested, turned us all inside out, found out all there was to be known about each one of us, and left saying that if we wanted to redeem the place from the bank in whose hands the business was held, I was to go and see him.

I walked to the station with him, and before he left I came to feel that there was a kinship between us. During our conversation he impressed the fact on me that if he was to help the Poplar Board of Guardians, his name was to be kept quiet. This was so unusual for a rich man who was doing something philanthropic that it attached me to him right away. On the station another incident occurred which struck me as unusual. When the train came in I asked him which class he was travelling, and like a shot from a gun came the reply "Third, because there isn't any fourth".

As soon as he reached home, he called me up again and made an appointment for me to go to see him with reference to our conversation. I went the next day and met Walter for the first time. For the next four months hardly a day passed without our meeting somewhere or the other.

In the meantime the Unemployed question was becoming worse and in Poplar we were finding the workhouse too small to accommodate all

those who wanted to come in. We also found that very great distress was being experienced by ~~thous~~ others in the district who were not applying to the Guardians. I asked Joe to put up some money for a vigorous agitation, and this he did. I don't know how many hundreds of pounds he put up, but with his money we organised a deputation of 1,000 women whose fares we paid from Mile End to Westminster, and to whom we gave tea.

From among these women we sent the first deputation of working class women to the House of Commons. It is interesting to remember that this really was the first deputation of its kind which ever entered the House of Commons, and I am certain that it was this deputation which gave Mrs Pankhurst and her friends the idea of deputising the House of Commons for the vote. Mrs Pankhurst and Annie Kenney and some Liberal women came and spoke to the East End women, but I insisted that only working class women should wait on Balfour and Campbell-Bannerman. We also interviewed some scores of Members of Parliament that afternoon. Nothing was done that Session, but Joe was not content to sit still, so we hustled round, got at the Local Government Board, and while I was threatening murder and sudden death outside, Joe was worrying Walter Long to sanction the use of some land he was ready to buy and lend to the Poplar Board of Guardians. The first hundred acres ever put to such a use was that bought by Joe at Laindon in Essex. In buying this land Joe was "done", for someone on the Board let out the fact that we were after the farm in question, and in consequence the price went up more than £500.

We started at Laindon I think in 1904 and we were all so pleased with ourselves that within a few weeks we were taking trips around and across England, inspecting land of all kinds. In fact land agents got on Joe's track to such an extent that every post brought him news of estates of all sizes up for sale.

Mr Goodchild, the man sent to us as an expert from the L C C, who advised us as to the development of Laindon, discovered Hollesley Bay. As you know, this is an estate of 1300 acres which had formerly been used as a college for the sons of gentlemen. We kept our names secret, and on arriving, interviewed the late Managing Director of the College, who treated us very much as intruders and seemed to think that although the place was for sale, it was a very wicked thing for anyone to think of buying it.

We said very little about buying the place, or the use to which we intended to put it if we did so. We were all rather worried about the amount of money needed, which was something over £30,000. We were also worried by the fact that if this were paid, we might not be able to make use of the Estate, as there was no Public Authority to take it over from us.

By this time, owing to the agitation set on foot with Joe's money, the Government was at its wit's end to know what to do. Walter Long called a Conference of Guardians and Councillors, from whom we formed an organisation known as the London Unemployed Fund. This was an organisation which comprised the whole of London, and was composed of representatives from all authorities in London. I was a member of this body, and at the critical moment became very ill. I was patched up sufficiently however to take a cab and attend the first meeting. At this meeting a letter which had been drafted by me, was read from Joe, offering the Body the loan of an estate of 1300 acres for three years free of rent. I rose and quietly moved that this generous offer be accepted, and Grinling of Woolwich, to whom I had previously spoken, seconded it, and before we knew where we were, the motion was carried. I don't believe a single man on the Board except Grinling and I realised what he was doing.

Joe then bought the Estate and within a few weeks we had the place occupied by five or six hundred of the Unemployed. Then arose the question of how to work the land, and after some months Thomas Smith was called in as an expert. We had 500 men there, numbers of whom showed great adaptability and proved capable of doing much better work than working under our conditions. The question arose whether we could not permanently settle some of the men on the land. The difficulty of cottages arose and also whether the Estate would remain public property.

With Joe's money we again set to work and started a terrific agitation in London for the passing of the Unemployed Workmen Act. Again we brought the women out, some 10,000 of them, chiefly from East and South London, and a tremendous procession marched across London, while a deputation of 20 or 30 women and some men representing the London Trades Council, waited upon Arthur Balfour.

We got very little from him at the moment but we persisted, and finally the Bill, the fate of which had hung in the balance up to that moment, was passed, owing, as was thought at that time, to a speech made by Joseph Chamberlain. This was at the end of 1905. With the Advent of the Central Body, set up under the Unemployed Workmen Act, our position was more secure, but even then we had no money to run the concern at Hollesley.

As a result of the appeal made to Balfour by the deputation, Queen Alexandra opened a fund and for one winter this fund provided all the money necessary. In the meantime we persuaded the Central (Unemployed) Body, which had taken the place of the London Unemployed Fund, to take over the Estate, and then it was that Joe came forward and lent another £2,000 with which to build cottages, and another friend of mine gave £200 for building a glass house.

As soon as these cottages were finished they were occupied by London men who had been trained on the Hollesley Bay Estate.

The question of dealing with a larger number of men then arose. By this time it was 1906 and our old friend John Burns had become President of the Local Government Board. Just after his advent we had been able to secure the purchase from Joe of the Estate. He got back the whole of his money, but no more, which meant that he had lent it free of interest during the whole of the two years.

We turned our attention to the purchase of another Estate, and scoured England to find a suitable one. We discovered it quite close to Hollesley, and were on the point of buying it, when John Burns stepped in and forbade the Central (Unemployed) Body to have anything to do with it. It was this action on his part which ruined the Hollesley Bay scheme and I hope you will let this be as clearly understood as possible.

Joe's work in this direction has been criticised a good deal, but the evidence goes to show that if we had had an outlet for the men whom we had trained, it would have been the most successful method of dealing with unemployment ever set on foot. Burns stopped it at the critical moment and all that we could do was to emigrate the men. This is always a most unsatisfactory ending to social work, and it took the heart out of all of us, reducing Hollesley Bay to an institution a little superior to a workhouse.

I think you can claim that whatever good there is either in Labour Exchanges or in Insurance against Unemployment is due chiefly to the fact that Joe put both his money and his influence behind the problem of Unemployment in order to strip it bare, and show people what a horrible thing it is. He also helped to show how topsy turvy the world is where there are millions of acres of land uncultivated, and tens of thousands of men wanting work, ready to cultivate, neither able to reach the other.

During the years we were running Laindon and Hollesley Bay, both of which are still existing and doing good work on the lines I have indicated, we were looking out for land for various purposes. An Estate was bought at Wye in Kent which we tried hard to secure as a Colony for widows. All the plans were laid for this, but once more John Burns, as President of the Local Government Board, prevented us from going on in the matter. Another Estate near by, also ideal for women, was treated by him in a similar way. An Estate at Basildon in Essex was also bought, and this the notorious West Ham Guardians visited several times, seeming on the point of buying. For some reason they did not however. I think this is still in your possession.

You know the story of Maylands perhaps better than I do, except that here again Walter, Joe and I went down to see it for the first time. I do not think either of us will forget our meeting with Thomas Smith. The blunt manner in which he wrote us down as people who knew nothing, while his wife fed us with strawberries and cream is something I cannot describe. We came away however ~~however~~ with the feeling that we had been talking with a man who knew his business and who was a great enthusiast, who would be of great service to the work we had in hand. As a matter of fact Thomas Smith became our adviser and probably if we had followed his advice we would have been not only wiser but would have done much more good.

He was appointed adviser ^{at} Hollesley Bay and also ^{at} Laindon but at both places we found it rather difficult to get on with the other officials and consequently we were always in hot water. People everywhere seem to resent brains, and he had new ideas.

30 June 1914

I had very little to do with the settlers at Maylands. I think two of them were men who had been trained at Hollesley Bay. Walter, Joe and I used to spend days on end, going down to see how things progressed. In fact at that time I think I was spending more time away from business even ~~than~~ ^{than} I am now, for not only those things which Joe had started were calling me abroad, but there was also the work being done at the Garden City at Letchworth, where we

laid out miles of roads, built railway sidings and did a very great amount of useful work for which the Garden City ~~paid, and also did~~ ^{paid} the Great Northern Railway Company. At the same time we were running a great scheme of land reclamation at Farnbridge. Joe had no hand in this directly but it was owing to his persistent agitation of the question, driving the ^{political} parties and the Government into a corner all the time, which compelled them to take this work in hand.

The work at Farnbridge was to reclaim 200 acres directly, but also to save many thousands of acres from being submerged. Although a considerable amount, running into over £10,000 was spent on this, it must be remembered that ~~not only was~~ the work carried on under great difficulties. The men lived away from home and this meant that we practically had to pay double wages, there was a strong running current in the river which made things much worse, and it is a marvel to me that the work ever was done at all. There it stands today however, a record that sea-wall building in England is not a worn-out craft by any means. If a job such as that I have described could be carried through with unemployed labour, much better work might be done in the same direction, ^{with skilled labour.}

We also did work on Osea Island. This too was in the nature of land reclamation and sea-wall building, but on this occasion, as at Farnbridge, the benefit of our work went to private people. Still, for all that, the point that matters in this story is that because of the start made at Laindon, all this other work was set on foot.

In addition to this, thousands of men were found employment on useful work in the building of ~~gerricks~~ ^{roads, sidings,} and on recreation grounds and so on.

I have already mentioned how Walter Long was worried at the Local Government Board during all these years. When he was succeeded by Gerald Balfour, of course we turned our attention to him. I think we all agreed that for courtesy and kindness we have nothing whatever to complain of in our relations with either of these men. Gerald Balfour visited Laindon, went down to Hollesley and made himself acquainted with all that we were doing. He took us into his confidence as we took him into ours. This was so unusual that at the time we all marvelled at the way in which the whole business had been worked. Looking back on it, I think it was due entirely to Joe's personality. He convinced everybody that he had no axe to grind but was only trying to help solve one of the most difficult problems of the day. They recognised his disinterestedness and enthusiasm. Of course when we came to treat with them for taking over the various places, he had paved the way and made things relatively easy for us first of all to be heard, and then to get our way.

was

most met before
ref. to 200

6 *have had us had*

He followed up his work by ~~interesting~~ instituting the Vacant Lots Cultivation Society. I ~~think I had~~ a great deal to do with this during the last three or four years but I helped him a good deal at the beginning, getting lists of vacant land and helping him to worry County and Borough Councils and private people.

At the beginning people looked askance at the whole project but I think nowadays those who have come to see it at all, recognise that under present conditions this probably is the best method of helping the casual labourer to a reasonable existence.

Here again of course, he demonstrated the fact that people do not starve because they don't want to work but because they do not get a chance.

This is about all I can tell you on this side of the question, except that about this time Joe ran up against the philosophy of Henry George and became a convinced Single Taxer. I have always felt the greatest regret that I could not see this as whole heartedly as he did. Of course I see clearly that ~~whoever~~ ^{the} possesses the land possesses the people on the land, and so far, have been side by side with him in his fight. I have never been able to trust the Liberal politicians on the subject however. I believe we must either tax out landlords or buy them out and I certainly stand wholeheartedly for taxing them out except of course, when we need land at a particular moment.

to which

There is one other thing I want to call attention ~~to~~. I think it is only one of many similar incidents. We travelled together to many of the great provincial cities, preaching our theory of "Back to the Land." I remember well going with him to Leicester to meet the City Fathers there. We also went to Birmingham. At both of these places a crowd of rich men each one of whom could have put up the money himself, was ever so eager to get Joe to put up some thousands of pounds to enable them to buy land. Nothing came of the visits I think, except that a little more useless work was put in hand.

At Glasgow we succeeded much better. I believe you were with us. We were entertained royally by the Lord Provost at one of the usual Municipal Banquets. You will remember how we talked to those baillies and councillors and how at the end of it they all hoped that their good friend was going to buy them an Estate. We worked on their enthusiasm to such an extent however, that they bought one for themselves which is saying a good deal for Scotland.

Q the This is still in existence as also is another one which was started ~~at~~ Edinburgh Corporation. I believe these are regarded as most successful experiments.

To go back, I had very little to do ~~with Joe~~ except privately, in the matter of the Land Values agitation in England. Of course I spoke for it in Parliament and at my Elections, and generally did what I could to assist in the propaganda. As I have said

however, I profoundly distrust ^{the} Liberal politicians who have this matter in hand. They do not mean what I mean or what Joe meant. He wanted to get rid of his own power to exploit people, and the power of people like himself, ~~by~~ the possession of land and raw material. These Liberals do not mean anything of the kind, and ^{some} ~~some~~ day we shall get down to bedrock with them by clearing them out of the possession of the mines, and minerals which are in ~~the~~ earth, as well as the earth itself.

To leave Labour Colonies and such like matters, I had a great deal to do with Joe in many other ways. I think it was through me that he went down to Woolwich, became a friend of the Grinlings and assisted with a considerable amount of money in the "Woolwich Pioneer".

In the middle of all our activities the first Russian Duma was broken up. The Social Democratic members, together with others of their Party, wanted to hold a Congress in ~~England~~ Europe. No country would have them, and at last they landed in England, stranded without resources. I think H. Brailsford ~~was~~ went to Joe on behalf of these people, and in the morning after an interview, ~~he~~ *Joe* rang me up, and Walter, Joe and I went down to Southgate Road. It was a great sight to see these Russian men and women, in fact they belonged to every nationality in the Russian Empire, confident, self-reliant, with no money for their next day's food. Joe came away, and within a few hours had guaranteed them £2000.

I think very few people in England know anything about this business but I rather think the Russian Social Democrats will remember it while ever they have a Party. There can be no doubt that had not Joe come forward the Russians would have had to go back at the earliest possible moment. At this time we were attending other kinds of Conferences too, and we had a good deal of interesting discussion at these.

At one we met Lever. This was in the Mansion House, with the Lord Mayor in the chair. Lever as usual was talking the ordinary capitalist tosh about more efficiency etc, and after a very short struggle, Joe managed to get a hearing and wiped the floor with them all. It was rather interesting because here were two men in the same business ~~baiting~~ *baiting* one another.

With regard to elections, I believe Walter will know ever so much more about these than I do but there are very few Labour men who directly, or indirectly have not been helped in their first fight by Joe. Not only so, but he also helped them with their great demonstrations on a good many occasions.

In The fight ~~for the Budget~~ when Lloyd George first brought in his Budget, the Liberal landowners, as usual, were in revolt. They did not take the field openly against the Chancellor but secretly they were plotting to upset his apple cart. There was a good deal of talk about the budget being withdrawn, or at least certain clauses, and the risk of a fight with the Lords abandoned. Once again, Joe came to the rescue. His money provided the means for carrying on a tremendous campaign which the Liberal party set on foot, together with some trade unionists. You will remember that we were all at Hollesley Bay on the day of the great Hyde Park demonstration. The Labour party took part in this but insisted

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upon having their own platform and putting their own resolution. It was this series of demonstrations which carried the Budget and brought about the conflict with the House of Lords which ended in the break up of Parliament and an election which gave the mandate for the Parliament Act;

The great thing to bear in mind is that even here again it was Joe's money which influenced public policy on one of the greatest political questions of our time. People had talked about dealing with the House of Lords and with the landlords but it was not until 1909-10-11 that these matters were really, as Churchill would say, put to the proof, and even then ~~the~~ would not have been, had it not been for the fact that money was poured out like water ~~and~~ by an American citizen, in order to ensure that the policy in which he believed should get a start.

Liberals have not proved themselves very grateful for this, for the position of the ~~landlords~~ Land Tax question is still very uncertain, and not at all what it might have been had those who spent Joe's money been half as earnest as he was.

There seems to be a great deal more that I could write about public and private affairs but others I expect will write about them

Although Joe hated the word "charity" and detested the word "palliative", this was only a phase with him for no one ever spent more money on the thing of the moment than he did. In the matter of clinics and work amongst children the work he financed at Bromley was really the first thing of its kind in this country. Dr Eder and others went down and helped make the experiment a success by their personal service, but it would have all been impossible without the public spirit ~~showed~~ by Joe.

shown

However Margaret McMillan is the person best able to write about this part of his work for she is the person who first made him interested in it.

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July 19
1914

RAIL. KNEB WORTH. G.N.R.
TELEGRAMS. KNEB WORTH.

Lady Constance Lytton
(1869-1923)
in answer,

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HOMWOOD,

KNEB WORTH,

HERTS.

Dear Mr. Lansbury,

Thank you very much
indeed for your kind letter.

My answer to the Home Office will
only tell the facts - wrongly referred
to in his letter - quite simply.

It is good to think you are
working for us.

Please give your wife the kindest
wishes from me and thank her for her
message. I've been in bed since
the end of April but am getting
much better now.

Always very sincerely
Yours Constance Lytton.

I have only
a moment to
write to you in
the train -
TEL. 5296 WESTMINSTER.

Aug - 7 - 1914.

(170)

14, GREAT COLLEGE STREET,
WESTMINSTER.

Sir Charles Philips Trevelyan, Bart.
(1870 -

Dear Lansbury,

I resigned because
we have reached a
parting of the ways.

Democracy may rise
stronger out of this
terrible refining fire.

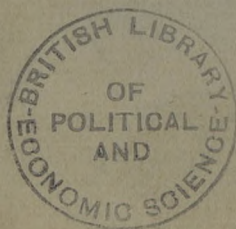
And I hope my
friend that both

the passionate, impatient
 ones like you and
 the slower ones like
 me who do not hope
 for such quick
 realization may
 be ~~more~~ less critical
 of each other than
 we have been -
 For this fearful

common enemy has
 overwhelmed all we
 care about -
 But the seed grows
 in this wonderful
 earth, and perhaps
 what we now
 laboriously sow, ~~and~~
 watered with the
 tears of millions,
 may grow to a

(71)
great harvest.
Let us agree not to
insist ~~too~~ furiously on
our own formulae,
land taxation, socialism
what not. For it is
the right spirit that
gives life, as now
it is the wrong spirit
that killeth.

Yours in sorrow
Charles Trevelyan



M449

Alfred Salter
(1873-1945)

STORKS ROAD,
BERMONDSEY,
S.E.

27/9/45
14

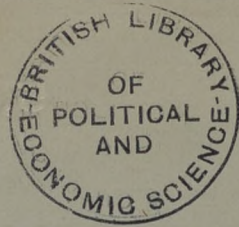
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Dear Mr Lansbury

Many thanks for yr. kind letter of 23rd re
my article in the 'Labour Leader'. I don't think I have written
or spoken to or come across you since the great Disruption
when you practically left the N.P. & went out into the
wilderness.

Will you let me say that I have always loved you so much
that the separation between you & the rest of us has made me
miserably unhappy whenever I have thought of it; & I have not
ashamed to say that more than once I have cried over it -
literally not metaphorically. Your association with the propaganda
of violence of the W.S.P.K. & the bitterness & venom of the 'Herald'
have not made me angry or irritated, but have hurt - more than
ever I can tell you.

Will you believe, too, that hundreds & hundreds of I.L.P.s
who have not been able to follow you since you left the Labour Party,
still love you as deeply as ever & earnestly look forward to the



time when we shall all stand together once again.
And will you let me tell you that many of the most
prominent leaders in the L.P. - men on the N.A.C. who
suffered most from your policy - have again & again said
in my hearing how they wished you were with us & how they
longed to find some bridge by means of which you could
feel able to associate with us all once again.

But whatever line you take I am sure you will
follow what you believe to be right & true & God-ordered,
& so we must leave it. But I long for the fellowship
of actively associated work with you, side by side, & shoulder
to shoulder.

And so do multitudes of others.

Perhaps, perhaps, out of this war & out of the strange
readjustments & reshaping that are taking place, it may be
that we may yet evolve a kinder socialist party - socialist
in spirit as well as in name.

With love & all regards

Yours sincerely

Agnes Waller

Mrs. Harold J. Laska
(nee Frida Kerry)

[18 September 1914]
of vol. 28. a, p. 108
for Harold Laska's letter

Dear Mr. Laska.

Will you let me hope I go tomorrow send
you all my best wishes for the new Herald. I want to
emphasize all that Harold writes of you. I feel that he
has indeed been fortunate to come so intimately in touch with
you & it does us good to know of those such souls for our
friends. We shall look forward to the time when we can know
you still better & when the Herald will be a glowing
success, as I know it must be one day. There will be
no night spot in the week when we receive our
dear old Herald in its new form, but it would spoil
it if we felt you were being unnecessarily worried &
overworked. You won't let us be forgotten will you -
send a little weekly.

With ever best wish.

Affectionally

Frida Laska

Harold J. Laszli (1893-1950)

McGILL UNIVERSITY,
MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
AND POLITICAL SCIENCE.

October 25th /14.

My dear George -

I sent you nothing last week as the two 'Heralds' I have had have seen me absent and so I imagine you have enough of me for the present. Here is a scribble I was moved to write today? I hope it won't get you into trouble with the censor.

I was so glad to hear that at any rate you have been making use of the week-ends - do keep fit and well. This gloom just now is bad enough in all conscience without adding ill-health to your sorrows.

I think the 'Herald' is excellent - I have never had no. 1. which please send out. The notes of the week are admirable but the leaders are the thing and I realise rather painfully how little real need there was of me. It is a heartening paper - and it has a real grip. If I may raise one objection - let us have just a little less of the Gaelic League. It can spot the sun without running into the post three pages. Tell Jack Scarr that his reviews are as good as any expert could have done. Cole & Bellor are noticeably improved. All best to you. I hope to hear good reports of the circulation.

We are very happy and very busy here - I have had some charming letters from your friend Bonar whom we plan to see one day soon. He was most kind in a variety of ways. Your sister-in-law we shall have here directly one or two things have straightened themselves.

I am working a good deal at Canadian trade-unionism on which the stuff for an extensive study later is growing. That has led me on to studying it in America and I am afraid that Cole's chapter on it is so much rubbish - the work will have to be done all over again. I am minded to write you a few articles on the Canadian labour movement - but I will wait until I hear what you think. It isn't very powerful - about 8% of labour and the damned Catholics are starting unions of their own under the bishop's control - no strike to be undertaken without his approval. Tell Francis that and tell him to damn the fruits of ultramontaniam.

Well - in bringing up the young generation here in the way it should go. The stuff is on the whole most companionable - one or two blatant jingles have to be discounted but the reports of Deptford suggest that they are not unknown in England.

Will you ask Jack Scarr to get me for review from George Bell Cole's book (edited by him) on Gifts & Gifts or some such title and Tammist Bland on Documents of Industrial History. They ought both to be done & they are a good bit in my line.

I don't know if you will get in downtown the news that Chastel is howled down weekly by the American Germans for her anti-Frenchism articles there. When

I think of what you made Sylvia into I think she has good cause to congratulate herself on her escape.

The outlook seems very gloomy and even here one begins to have that nervous condition which goes with bad news. In Montreal there are 3500 Austrians Germans and it is they who go bust with the slackening of work. It makes the winter outlook hideous.

Would you like me to send on to you the American 'Nation' each week. It gives a fresh point of view. Last week by the way it accused the Press Bureau of garbling its quotations from German newspapers to intensify the ill-feeling - a damnable thing to do.

Well - for the present good-bye. Our love to you all - especially to yourself

Always -
Hawley Joshi.



M449

Harold J. Laski
(1893-1950)

175

854. dome Crescent

Montreal.

19. XI. 14.

My dear George -

Since I last wrote we have been to Ottawa and spent a thoroughly enjoyable day with Bonar. He is simply charming & we liked him immensely. He was eager to hear about you & what you were doing about the war. He sent a million of good wishes. Incidentally he has proved most kind in getting me information about trade-unionism here.

How do things go with you? That 3d on tea sticks in my throat - I'd far rather he had doubled it on beer or stuck it on the income-tax - though you won a splendid triumph over the wages & allowances - that's among the few English victories so far. Tell me how you keep - I do hope well and remind Francis that I want a reply to my letter.

Things go well with us here - I have started a class for trade-union workers in economics - all on the C.P.R. So far it looks likely to prosper and as they seem to understand Socialistic unionism but little I hope to do some good. It's really Fred's enthusiasm that started the idea. One man has a stinging grievance that you left the House - a boiler-maker from Bradford!

We have liked the Herald tremendously - particularly you and Jack. G.K.C. has been rather disappointing and I must put in a tribute for Bell on the League - he seems to be effecting a transformation. I hope the Glasgow - Edinburgh visit prospered.

I send you an article.

Our love to you all -

Yours always
Harold Laski.

Mrs Cunningham comes to tea on Sunday.

GEORGE LANSBURY.

176a

ER

ation Committee.

ce One Halfpenny.



and there rain'd a ghastly dew
in the central blue;

the south wind rushing warm,
singing thro' the thunderstorm;

and the battle-flags were flurl'd
in the air of the world.

and hope that we ask our
of war and bloodshed, in
up high the flag of Brother-
you all the joys of a peaceful
dare for a moment forget
most world-wide battle front,
as all pray: "Give peace in
and class war, and hasten
will toward men" will be
conduct for all the peoples

GEORGE AND BESSIE LANSBURY.

AND GIRLS.

Christ came to teach us all
war which has called some of
France and Belgium proves
rulers, who rule the world—
teaching. And so this Christ-
often full, not of love, but
to tell you all about the war,
quarrel, so do nations, but
each other.

Christ, and we are told that
best, and on earth peace and
2000 years ago, and, as you
does not mean that the Christ-
that just as you boys and
and good teaching of
women all over the world,
doing the things Christ told
teaching.

and in sorrow because we
Well, all of us must remem-
children in France and
suffering just the same.
like you
ers

and to those who have husband, brother, son, or friend with the Army or Navy, we specially send our love. It is said that to suffer together is the surest cement of human friendship. Just now, willingly and unwillingly, we are all suffering together, and, whatever our views of life may be out of such a struggle, a struggle and a quarrel which we common people had no hand in bringing about, there must come a nobler and a better life for us all.

The whole future none of us can foretell, but there are some things quite certain. At the end of the war some kind of peace will be made, and it is for those who believe in the angels' message, who believe that God is love: it is for all those to come together, and, in church and meeting-place, insist that, in spite of monarchs and Governments, in spite of great capitalists and monopolists, the peace settlement shall be one made by the common people of all the great countries, and shall be such a peace as will secure for all the peoples the fullest opportunities for social and spiritual development.

Long years ago, Lord Tennyson wrote in his beautiful poem "Locksley Hall":

Men, my brothers, men the workers, ever reaping something new:
That which they have done but earnest of the things that they shall do;

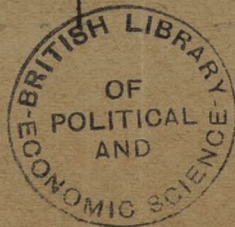
Far I dipt into the future, far as human eye could see,
Saw the Vision of the world, and all the wonder that would be;

1765

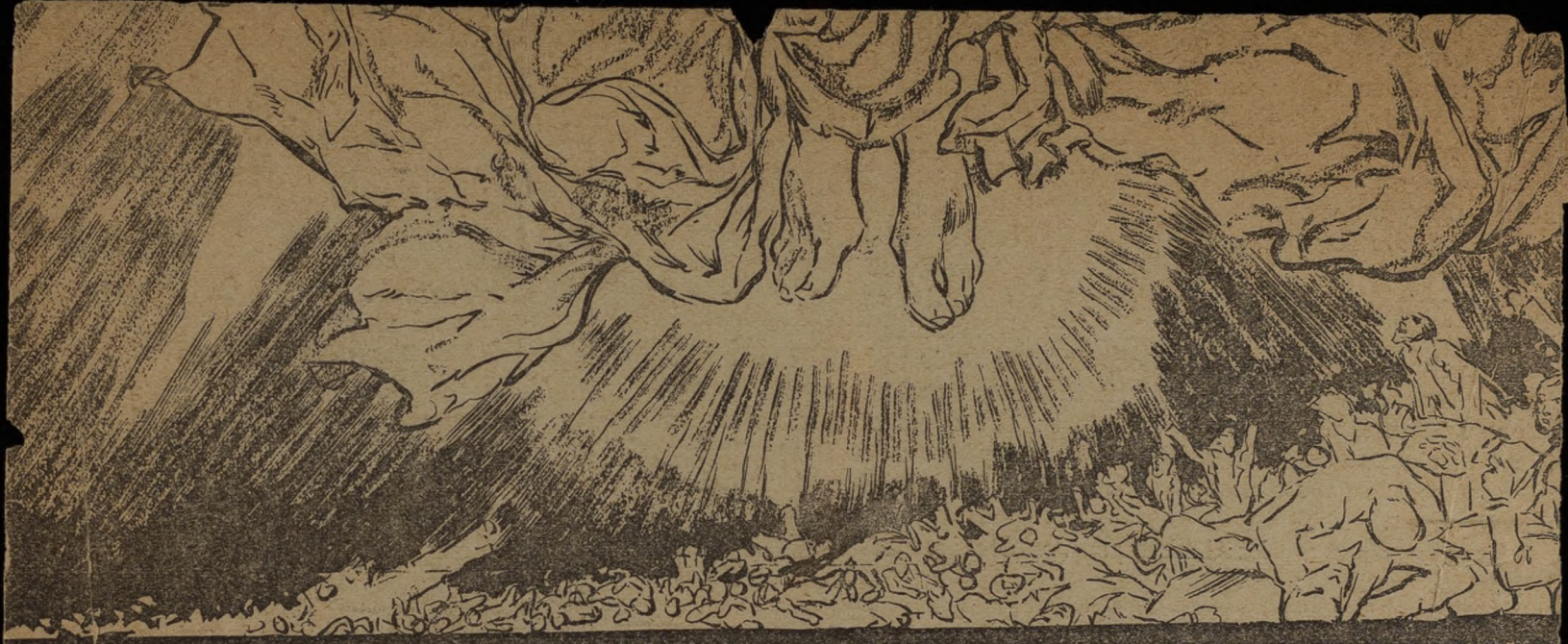
a much better life, and you will find that obtain if you will now, when you are using your might to "Love one another." the world for us all, and God and Nature for us all, and so long as we each think of us are happy. But when we want evil and wickedness comes in. So, before our usual Christmas message of a bright you all, we ask you once more to think of those born into this world just like you, grown men and women how to live, and when the war, lift up your hearts and join in prayer, and when you are older, always when you are and selfish, remember that the message from Bethlehem to us all is: "Little children, if we do that, there will be neither war nor poverty abroad. Here is a verse from a poem by a poet named Longfellow when his country was at war with another:

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep,
Love is not dead nor doth sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right shall prevail,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

GEORGE



M449



PEACE

"The star of that divine Birth appearing o'er Bethlehem filled th

By Will Dyson

HIGHER WORKMEN'S WAGES.

--- 76C

A joint meeting of the Labour Party and the supporters of Women's Suffrage, was held in the Wealdstone Schools, Grant-road, on Saturday night, a fairly large gathering being presided over by Mr. C. J. Peer. The speakers were Miss Dorothy Lansbury, Miss Elspeth McClelland and Councillor H. H. Grimwood, prospective Parliamentary Labour candidate for the Harrow Division.

POLITICAL ENCOURAGEMENT.

Mr. C. J. Peer, in a few opening remarks, said men and women at the present day were not encouraged in politics, as they might be if they were conducted on more simple lines. The Labour Party were out to show the working man who earned 25s. a week that he did not get full value for one of those shillings. He then introduced Miss Dorothy Lansbury.

MANHOOD SUFFRAGE.

Miss Dorothy Lansbury said that for the present state of the movement they owed everything to a few hardworking women in the North of England, who had been trying to raise their fellow workers from the very bottom rung of society. Three of the Women's Suffrage Bills presented to Parliament had passed the Second Reading, each majority being larger than the previous one. When this first Bill passed its Second Reading she was in the House, and shouted herself hoarse with delight, but she was not so enthusiastic when the next Bill reached the same stage for she had become more experienced. On the first occasion she believed the politicians really meant what they said. Mr. Asquith had now put before the House a Manhood Suffrage Bill with a promise that if the House was in favour of an amendment including women, he would give it his support. The women must get that amendment passed and make the Premier keep his promise, or they were going to be dished again. The passage of this amendment depended upon Mr. Lloyd George's power of cajoling the members to vote for it. If the women were left out of the Bill and Manhood Suffrage was settled they would be out for a very long time, at least 30 years, a generation. If the Labour Party played them false they would regret it, for the suffrage women would not sit down quietly and behave like the Liberal women had done. The Labour Party would suffer a great deal more than the women. She moved "That this meeting is of opinion that a Franchise Bill that does not include women on the same terms as men is neither just nor reasonable."

Miss Elspeth McClelland, in seconding the motion, said there had been a horrible waste of time on this question by the Government. She also had been tired of the fight for five years and her mother had been tired of it for 45 years. All great questions upon which women felt very strongly were of little political consequence as there was no vote behind them. The women needed the vote because there were a great many questions upon which men could not, or would not, give any consideration, and a man could not represent a woman's point of view on any question.

The vote of the women would not be detrimental to either political Party, but would permeate the votes of all Parties and tend to a better state of Government.

Councillor H. H. Grimwood said it had been decided to "run" him at the next General Election, on the support which was found at Willesden. He thought that if he had depended upon Harrow and Wealdstone for his support he would have had a very poor chance indeed of reaching the top of the poll. And yet in Wealdstone they had a great many slums—(cries of No). He knew it was so, for he had been in some of the poorest houses in the neighbourhood and could, therefore, speak from experience, and many of the workmen's houses in Wealdstone could be called nothing better than slums. Poverty was still with them, and men were still unemployed, and the Labour Party had come to the conclusion that the only remedy was by seeing that the wages went up and that property came down. It was absolutely necessary that wages should be raised, and when

[See below and also p. 4]

COME TO BOW BATHS, SUNDAY, JANUARY 3rd: ADDRESS BY

THE WORK

The Organ of the Borough of Poplar Trades Council and Labour Represent

Series No. II. 4.

DECEMBER, 1914.

Pri

CHRISTMAS, 1914

LAST year we sent you a Christmas message from America. We were then among friends in a land which, although it is foreign, is still by most of us considered as much a part of the British Empire as England itself; yet in the United States of America there is a people gathered together from all parts of the world, owning allegiance to no King or Emperor, governed and administered, at least in theory, by the people for the people. Germans and Russians, French and Austrians, Serbians and Hungarians, Turks and Indians, Poles and Belgians, British and Irish, all live side by side with people of every other race in peace and harmony, except for the frequent industrial wars, such as lock-outs and strikes, in which race plays very little part, as only classes are recognised in what is, after all, a class-struggle.

Last Christmas we went out into the great public square of Philadelphia to listen to the carol-singing, to look at the huge municipal Christmas-tree, and in some small way enter into the American spirit of keeping Christmas. As we went about we found that people all those miles away talked and thought of Christmas much as we do. It was a time of goodwill, when men and women endeavoured to show all that is best and brightest in their natures. And although, somehow, the vision of Dublin and its fearful Labour struggle would rise up before us, there was still the insistent thought that some time somewhere "Peace on the earth, goodwill toward men" must and shall prevail.

Now we are spending Christmas at home, in Bow. On Christmas Day we shall think of our family and our friends, but joy will be mixed with sorrow. After a lapse of 44 years Western Europe is in the throes of horrible, devastating war—war brought about by ambition, by greed, by hatred, and by lying. Governments have plunged at least half of mankind into a struggle the ultimate end of which no man can tell. In some ways it appears a mockery to send out the old Christmas song, "O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing," yet those of us who retain our faith in God and humanity must do so. For we must never forget, however evil the days may seem to be, however dark and gloomy the outlook, God's message to man, so far as we can understand it, is still true, "Love one another, do good to those who despitefully use you, love thy neighbour as thyself." The world is plunged in war because it refuses to literally accept the teaching of Christ. Some day, when mankind has grown tired and weary of other teachers, the old, old doctrine will be heard again. It may come to us in a new guise, but no teaching can be more blessed, no message more full of hope, than the message and the teaching of Him whose birthday we celebrate once more on Christmas Day.

And so, friends, at this time we send you all our Christmas greetings. To those who have lost their loved ones in this war,

Heard the heavens fill with shouting, and
From the nations' airy navies grappling

Far along the world-wide whisper of the
With the standards of the peoples plunging

Till the war-drum throb'd no longer, and
In the Parliament of men, the Federation

It is in this sure and certain faith that our friends in Bow and Bromley, in spite of outrage and atrocities, to keep the hood and of Peace, and, in wishing you a Merry Christmas here at home, we none of us but your comrades and brothers on the army and from the depths of our hearts let us pray for our time, O Lord," peace from racial hatred, the day when "Peace on earth, goodwill toward men" not only the song but the rule of life and of the whole world.

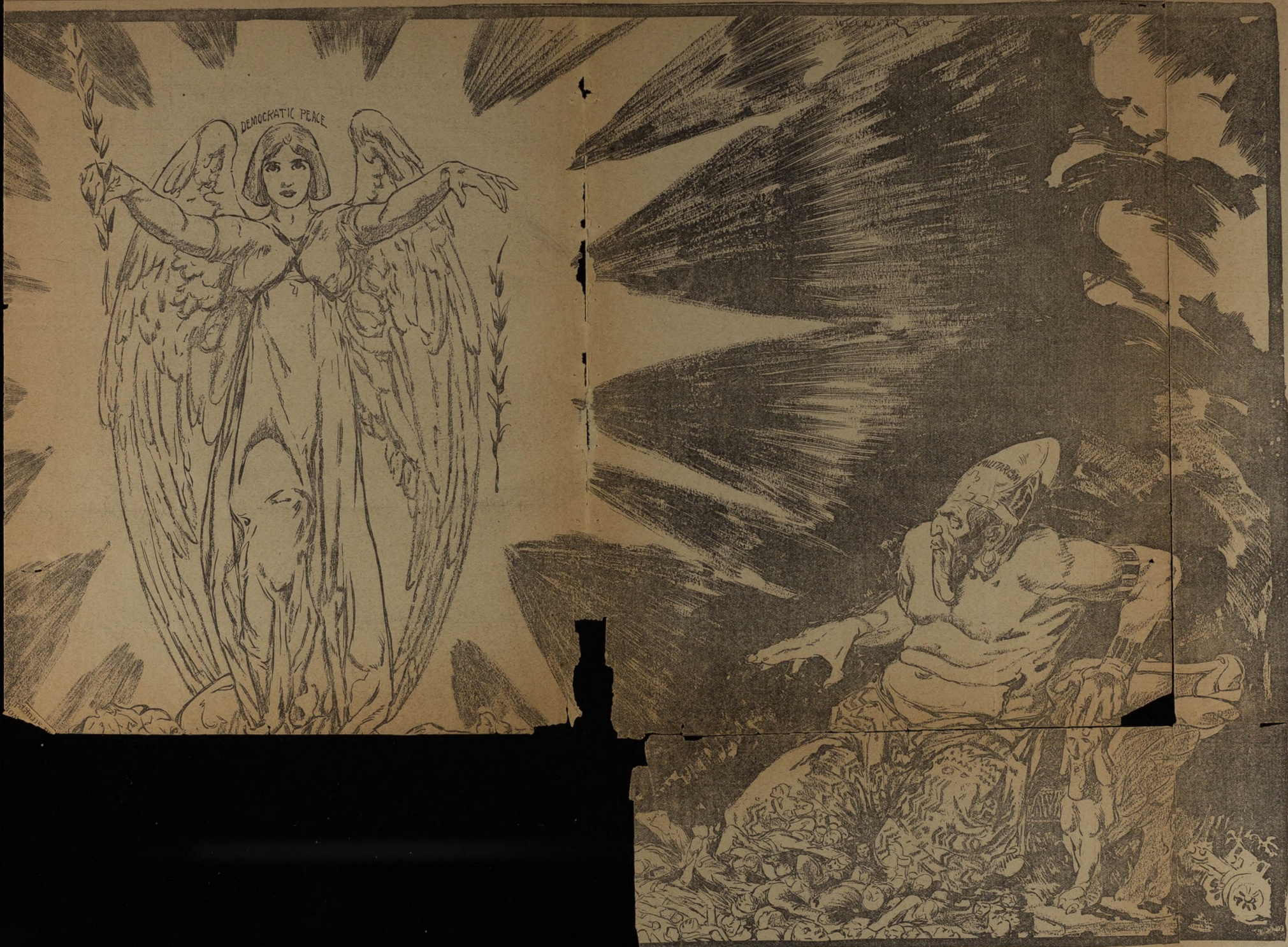
Christmas, 1914.

GEORGE

TO THE BOYS AND GIRLS

WE told you last Christmas that we would tell you how to live. The fearful war has shown you your fathers and brothers to that men—that is, monarchs and governments have forgotten our Lord and all His teachings. Christmas all over Europe men's hearts are full of hatred. Just now it is not possible for nations to settle their quarrels by killing each other. Christmas Day is the birthday of our Lord and the angels sang "Glory to God in the high heavens and goodwill toward men." That was 2,000 years ago, but we know, there is no peace yet. This does not mean that our Christmas message is wrong, it only means that our boys and girls sometimes disobey the good advice of their fathers, so we grown-up men and women must do, instead of following the teaching and the example of our fathers, we have neglected Him and His teachings.

Just now many of us are mourning because we have lost some loved one in the war. In Belgium, in Germany and in Austria, when you are grown-up and are men and mothers, you will manage the world and your fathers and mothers are suffering and



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TIVITY.

of Herod the King with forebodings,"—Hallard's Commentaries.

installed a number of families and looked after them until they were self-sustaining.

Here seemed to be the solution of the problem of the unemployed and the underpaid. They wished more land in order to extend the colony. But a strange thing happened unobserved by them and unforeseen. The success of the colony had demonstrated in a commercial sense that the land in question was more valuable than before the experiment had been made. Hence there was a sharp advance in the price. Then they realized that the more successful the colony and the greater the number of home owners and self-sustaining families they established in the neighborhood the higher grew the price of the next acre of land they had to buy.

* * * * *

It was then that they saw the truth pointed out years before by Henry George that the growth of population and the increased productive power of labor tend only to increase the value of land. They had, indeed, demonstrated this truth. They had brought population upon idle land, and had made the labor productive. Two results had followed: Their own land, which they had put to use, was roundly taxed, while the vacant land surrounding them remained untaxed; and that surrounding vacant land, which was necessary in order to extend the colony, rose in value.

This convinced the practical-minded Joseph and Mary Fels that Henry George had discovered also the remedy for the evil: That the government should be supported by taking, by means of a single tax, the annual value that society confers upon the land.

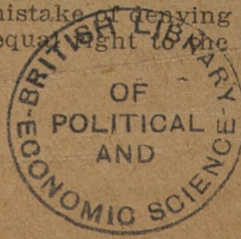
Being, as has been said, plain, common-sensed persons, they now saw upon every hand demonstrations of this truth. Labor and capital co-operated to produce wealth, but the greater their activity the higher they drove the price of land. It was so in London, it was so in the environs of London, it was so in the United States, both rural and urban. Wherever men were working to produce wealth they were adding to the value of the land. Not only that, but efforts made to relieve congested districts by means of better housing and small parks increased the values of the land in the neighborhood, and drove away the very people whom it was sought to benefit.

The would-be philanthropists now saw that it was not a question of helping the poor by giving alms, but of getting out of their way and letting them earn their own living.

Thus simplified, the problem of the unemployed and the underpaid became a question of man's relation to the earth. What Henry George had taught was all plain to Joseph and Mary Fels, and they set out to help convert the world. But they had not gone far before they discovered the truth of what Tolstoy said, that the rich were willing to aid labor by charity, by good counsel, by sympathy, by anything, in fact, except by getting off his back.

There's the rub. It is easy for anyone to see, and people do see, that if one set of persons own the land upon which all must live, the competition of the users of land for the privilege of using it must increase its value. And the fact that land increases in value with the growth of population prompts owners to hold more than they can use in order to speculate on the increase, thus artificially producing the condition that would have been brought about were the earth really unable to support the people on it.

No, God did not make a mistake in creating too many people, or in placing them upon too small an earth. We are making the mistake of denying the right of men to equal right to the use of the earth.



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15 Dec 1914

SINGLE TAX ONE OF TWO GREAT MOVES

Mrs. Joseph Fels Places Woman
Suffrage Next as Most De-
sirable Change in Law.

CURE FOR NATION'S ILLS

No Need to Agitate Prohibition
Under New System, for Whole
Tone of Body Politic
Would Be Raised.

"Single tax and woman suffrage are the two great world movements because both are for true democracy," declared Mrs. Joseph Fels, wife of the late millionaire single taxer and philanthropist, yesterday afternoon, to a group of Omaha suffragists who had gathered at the Rome hotel to do her honor.

"Would you not include prohibition?" asked Mrs. William Berry of South Omaha.

"Under a single tax system, there would be no need to agitate prohibition," replied Mrs. Fels. "It is only the inordinately rich, who are sick at soul and the poverty-stricken, who are sick of their sordid lives that buy forgetfulness. Under the more equable balance produced by single tax, there would be no occasion for such unhappiness."

"Slaves to things" was the manner in which the diminutive little woman characterized the moneyed class. Her listeners were fascinated by the charming manner, earnestness and deep thought of the woman who has made it her life work to further the cause advocated by her husband.

Mrs. Fels, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Kiester, who are Mrs. Fels' traveling companions, had a pleasant chat with Rabbi Frederick Cohn. Mrs. Fels' girlhood home was in Keokuk, Ia., where she was acquainted with the Spiesberger family then residing there. Her secretary, Miss Rothschild, is a cousin to Mrs. Simon Meyer of this city.

Among the women who called on Mrs. Fels were Mesdames Draper Smith, E. M. Fairfield, H. C. Sumney, William Berry, G. H. Bligh, Dr. Adda Wiley Ralston, Mrs. Mary Carmack and Misses Daisy Doane, Minerva Quinby, Bartlett, and Alice MacKenzie

Omaha, Dec. 16
1914

Herald
Dec. 28, 1914

Mrs. Joseph Fels
Reformers Are Inconsistent

By STOUGHTON COOLEY

IT IS apparent that there is much confusion and working at cross purposes among those who are striving to solve the social and industrial problem. Upon the one hand are scientists and philanthropists, aided by foundations, universities and government departments, trying to stamp out disease, inculcate temperance and increase human efficiency, with the expectation that when men are able to take better care of themselves and labor to better advantage they will remove poverty. On the other hand, another set of men, also working for the betterment of human conditions, are making strenuous objections to immigration and are declaring that the labor market is already oversupplied. They claim that any increase in the supply of labor will mean cutting down wages and throwing more men and women out of work.

If the second contention be true, the efforts of the first set of reformers are ill-advised. For if, by tracing out the causes of disease and the inculcation of better ideas of hygiene, men are made stronger and more efficient, it is equivalent to that extent to an increase in the population. That is to say, if two victims of the hookworm who now do the work of only one man be restored to health, it will be equivalent to doubling the population. And if there are already more men than jobs—as the jobless man seems to indicate—manifestly the competition of workers for opportunities to work will intensify present evils. Hence, it might be more humane to kill off the weakly rather than to restore them to strength.

But is this really the condition? Are there too many workers? Are we overcrowded? If we are, if we have reached the capacity of the earth to support human beings in comfort, we had better give over trying to improve physical conditions, and give our attention to removing these individuals who are of least use to society.

It is to be feared, however, that the trouble lies not in too great demands upon the capacity of the earth, but in too small a use of it, and the reason why efficient relief has not yet reached the poor is because no one has yet discovered a means of relieving them without burdening the rich. Just as the preceding generation could discover no way of giving freedom to the slave without depriving the master of his property, so in the industrial world today no way has been discovered to raise the standard of the workers without depriving some one else of what he considers his.

Real progress toward a solution of the problem will come when those who attempt it are willing to substitute justice for charity.

A line bearing upon this point may be got from the experience of

SEES GREAT GOOD FOLLOWING WAR

Herbert S. Bigelow Introduces Mrs. Fels to Congregation of the People's Church.

and Single Tax
ADVOCATES DOCTRINE OF NONRESISTANCE

Preacher Says Only by Love Can Wrongs Be Overcome—Christianity as Religion.

That greater good, a further advance will follow the war is the opinion of Mrs. Mary Fels.

Mrs. Fels is not alone in entertaining this view, but coming from her it has more importance. Mrs. Fels did not leave Europe until late in October last and saw much of the preparation for the war and the spirit that possessed the people.

Then she has traveled extensively much of her life and made a study of political and social conditions. She is the widow of the late Joseph Fels, millionaire manufacturer, and has had the means to pursue her investigations and the mind to comprehend what she saw.

Advocates Single Tax.

Joseph Fels was a disciple of Henry George and devoted thousands every year to propaganda for the single tax or the taxation of land values. Mrs. Fels has continued the work. She has just completed a tour of most the States of this country east of the Rocky Mountains in company with Daniel Klefer, who is head of the fund established by Mr. Fels.

Mrs. Fels spoke before the People's Church yesterday afternoon, dividing time with Herbert S. Bigelow. Her address in the main was in advocacy of the single tax and woman's suffrage.

She was introduced by Mr. Bigelow as a woman who though born a Jew was a Christian according to his conception of what is a Christian.

Bigelow's Address.

That is, "Christianity"

was the subject of Mr. Bigelow's address.

He said many earnest men and women were asking what was the worth of Christianity to the world after twenty centuries of Christianity all Europe and some of Asia and Africa were at war.

He said the war had not brought about a religious revival but it had revived interest in religion. People were inquiring about religion.

One-third of the world's population is Christian, he said.

Doctrine of Nonresistance.

Mr. Bigelow said he believed every person a part of God. Development was the growth of the consciousness of this. All democracy, all justice, all freedom was wrapped up in this. If it was true, as he believed, then all were children of one family, all brothers and sisters.

He said he believed in the doctrine of nonresistance. That wrong could only be conquered by good, hate by love. What if the Belgians had been real Christians and met the invading Germans with love? Nothing would have happened. What if the Germans had gone on and been met by the French with love? Nothing would have happened.

But Mr. Bigelow said it was not possible to practice real Christianity in the world constituted as it is. A Belgian soldier in the trenches who would have thrown away his arms and greeted the Germans would have been shot by the Belgians themselves.

So, if a man in Cincinnati would take off his coat and give it to a brother man without a coat he would himself freeze; one who gave food on the scale prompted by Christianity would himself go hungry.

Mr. Bigelow said not until our society is revolutionized and conditions brought about in harmony with the teachings of Christ would it be possible for the individual man, the individual nation to practice real Christianity.

Christ 'Twixt

Rev. John Goddard of New

Rev. John Goddard than thirty years ago preached yesterday at the Church of the New of Oak and Wines texts "Thou shalt not kill" for he shall save his soul but he shall have life, and so on. He said "At the Church of the New of the Lord, but to give vine law but least make renew our a complete "We do not own heart a thing as in God and that there sin means The fact of enough. "The great of evil was nation. T its lowest

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...war. Christian nations had
to send missionaries to pagan
to preach Christianity and were
making pagan armies to fight
man battles.

Defines Christianity.

So the question is, said Mr. Bigelow:
"Are these so-called Christian nations
Christian?" The generally accepted
idea of what is a Christian was thus
defined by Mr. Bigelow, "One born
into a new spiritual life by the grace
of God through acceptance of Jesus
Christ as his Lord and Savior."

This idea, he said, held that humanity
was lost unless grace came down from
heaven, unless from above came a lift-
ing power. Man must have need and
acceptance of Christ. This idea, said
Mr. Bigelow, was that of the church,
or at least most of them. Some added
other things.

He said the fault he found with the
definition was that the church appealed
too much to the individual, paid too
much attention to the single person.

Where Error Comes.

Mr. Bigelow gave this as his idea
of what is a Christian: "One who find
in the teachings of Jesus a satisfactory
statement of religious truth and who
felt it his duty and desire to bring his
own life and the life of the world into
harmony with the teachings of Christ."

Mr. Bigelow said he did not believe
the teachings of Christ merely because
Christ said them, but because they ap-
pealed to him to be correct. Neither
did he believe all true that is accredited
to Christ. Mr. Bigelow said he might
be accused of picking out what he
liked while there were those that would
say that either all in the Bible was
true or else all was to be questioned.

He said he would not side with this
view. He quoted what he thought in-
consistent things attributed to Christ.
He said no one claimed Christ wrote
anything himself. Much that he was
supposed to have said was not writ-
ten for years after his death. What
manuscripts we have received were
written centuries after his death. It
is therefore probable that error had

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1914
Rev. A. B. Kitchie

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TELEPHONE
EAST 1102.

S. FRIDESWIDE'S VICARAGE,
FOLLETT STREET,
POPLAR, E.

Dec. 30. 1914

Dear Landlady

I have taken 12 tickets
for the Concert at Poplar Town Hall on
Jan. 9th. I fear I am not good at
selling tickets to others but I will try
to give my 12 tickets to folk who will
go, as I see you want a good audience

I was hearing only the other day
how hard the war has hit some
artists. So I hope the Concerts will
be a great success.

Thank you very much for your

Christmas Card & its greeting.

I like the words - you always seem to find something stimulating!

"Are hills too high for climbing?"

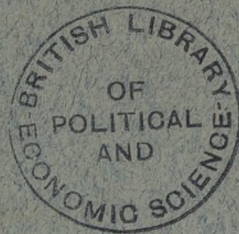
"Are seas too far to find?"

The hills are a bit higher at present.

There is this war and all it means now (& for years to come) which ever way it goes. Then I have a sort-

of local hills in my present-job: -

S. Fildeswide (minus the Christ-Church Mission) is a bit steep at times



As for the hills of personal character how high & far off they seem!

Still

I will lift up mine eyes to the hills
My help cometh from the Lord

I saw in some advertisement the other day about the glory of "Keeping on, Keeping on." I think that is the virtue I seek to cultivate most now when things seem more complicated & bigger than they did once, and also as my sense of ones limitations and my incapacity for dealing with them becomes

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almost comically obvious!

To thank you for your card with
its reminder and have hope.

How are you yourself & Mr^s Lansting
& all the rest? Well I hope.

If you are ever near here do
~~come in to see me again.~~ I have
been very busy since I came & very
short-handed but never too busy
to welcome you if you care to look
in.

All good wishes for 1915

Yours sincerely

A. N. Kelch

Mrs. Mabel C. Stubbs.

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71 Bantham Rd^d
Bantham

[1914-1918
war]

Surrey.

Sir

As the wife of a conscientious objector,
who has just entered Wormwood Scrubs
with a sentence of 12 months hard labour,
I would like to thank you very sincerely
for the help you are giving these men, by
the stand you are taking on their behalf
& earnestly hope you will not relax your
efforts till the right (without penalty) of
the freedom to act up to their consciences
is admitted. It does ones heart good
to know there are such as you in the
world.

Yours very sincerely,
Mabel C. Stubbs.

George Lansbury Esq:

end of
1914