

## The Relation between Private Land Monopoly and War

WE have all heard many so-called economists speak of "over-production," and that it is necessary for us to obtain foreign markets to dispose of our surplus products in order to maintain "prosperity." How is it that we have anything to be sold abroad when so many of our industrious people are in want of the necessities of life? Has the fact that men have not access to the land and other natural resources on equal terms anything to do with this accumulation of surplus products of labor?

So long as men are prevented from having access to Nature's bounty except on the condition that they surrender a large portion of what they earn to the landlord they are forced away from the land into some other employment which they think more profitable. Thus many men, women and children are employed in the manufacture of articles which they may need themselves but cannot afford to buy, and as they make more than the rich can use there arises this so-called "over-production" of these articles, which is really "under-consumption."

To keep money in circulation it is necessary to induce the rich to part with some of their money, but as a well-to-do family uses but little more of the necessities of life than a poor family, it is necessary to create artificial wants by encouraging the manufacture of all kinds of luxuries and unnecessary "gimcracks" like expensive clothes, jewelry, toys and other useless things. This finally results in an "over-production" of these articles, so that the surplus must find an outlet in foreign markets. The production of these useless things represents an enormous economic loss to all countries engaged in their manufacture, for evidently something is wrong when in any country a few of its citizens are over-supplied with luxuries while the many are in want of the necessities of life. This system, however, is encouraged under the foolish idea that it "gives men work," while, as a matter of fact, from an economic point of view, these men might just as well be employed moving a pile of stones from one side of the road to the other, back and forth, instead of breaking the stones to make a better road. It is not work that men need, but that they should get what they earn from doing useful work.

As this same system of forcing men away from land and Nature's bounty goes on all over the world, surplus products of the same kind are created in other countries, and soon it becomes necessary to secure foreign markets, either by grabbing land in the shape of colonies in foreign parts, or else by securing a "sphere of influence," or "mandate."

To do this it becomes necessary to have a Navy and an Army, and all the money and labor spent on these is another economic waste on a still grander scale, but this method of disposing of surplus products can give no ultimate relief and will only result in a bitter commercial competition that will end in war, for with modern machinery surplus products will be accumulated much faster than the foreign markets can absorb them, but until this point is reached there will be more or less of a "boom" in trade and in consequence of which ground rents will steadily rise until finally all markets become glutted, manufacturers cannot produce at a profit, wages are reduced, shops shut down, men are thrown out of employment, and we have one of those well known financial depressions, strikes and riots take place and the Army is needed to preserve "law and order," the law made and the order established by special privilege.

This special privilege, which is international in its scope and knows no flag or country, soon scents danger to itself, but instead of removing the cause of the trouble at home by removing the barriers which now prevent man from gaining access to natural resources on equal terms to all, the cry is raised, "An enemy abroad has done this, our foreign trade is in danger," and to keep the attention of the people away from a recognition of the true remedy, this special privilege, whose interests are identical in all countries and opposed to those of the producers, does not hesitate to plunge headlong into a foreign war in order to prevent necessary reforms at home, and under the cover of the excitement and confusion of war there is little wonder that the Lords of the Earth and Finance emerge from the war more firmly seated in the saddle than ever before and more strongly entrenched and fortified in all the strategic economic positions in the world.

War is the price the world has always paid for special privilege and the price it shall always pay, while the special privilege for which this senseless, wasteful, inhuman and bloody price is paid, is the robbery of the masses and their enslavement by the private appropriation of ground rents which belong of right in the public treasury by a law of Nature, just as true and universal in the economic world as Newton's law of gravitation is true and universal in the physical world, and any so-called civilization that defies this law must sooner or later face the sentence "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin."

SINBAD THE SAILOR.