

# 100 ARE DROWNED IN TEXAS FLOODS

FIFTY PERSONS, MOSTLY NEGROES, DIE AT VILLAGE OF SUNNYSIDE.

## 100 MAROONED IN DANGER

More Than 20,000 Homeless Face Cold Wave and Food Shortage—Eighty Refugees Under One Roof. Fifty in a Gin House.

Houston, Tex.—Fifty persons, mostly negroes, are reported to have been drowned at Sunnyside, a small town on the lower Brazos river, according to a long distance telephone message received here. The message said between 400 and 500 persons are marooned on a small mound at San Felipe, and are in great danger. A special train loaded with motor boats was dispatched from Houston to rescue him.

The entire Brazos bottom in Waller county is flooded. A number of houses have floated away and refugees are clinging to trees and house tops.

**Food Shortage Serious.**  
The task of feeding inhabitants along the 40 miles of flooded Brazos valley was succeeded by the problem of providing for 2,000 or more refugees. Reports from the flooded territory show that between 700 and 1,000 persons are marooned in tin houses and plantation residences safe from the flood but in urgent need of food and clothing.

At Horseshoe Bend, above the mouth of the river, could be heard the singing and praying of more than 50 negroes who were facing peril of death in a rocking gin house on an island a mile and a half out.

**Fifty in One Residence.**  
Fifty more refugees were in a gin house over Koppes bridge. In the Parker residence were 80 other flood victims and similar numbers in various plantation houses along the 40 miles of the valley up to Mumford.

A rapid fall in temperature and a cutting wind increased the suffering, especially in the tent colonies along the river banks. Almost all those affected were negroes. Three hundred rescued negroes were gathered at Koppes bridge.

How many negro tenants in the flooded section were drowned is still unknown, and until the water recedes the death toll cannot be estimated with any degree of accuracy.

**Packer Blames Retailer.**  
Omaha, Neb.—If the consumer who buys beef ribs and loins is paying as much as he did this time last year his retailer is absorbing a reduction of about 25 per cent in the price for the wholesaler, according to General Manager Howe of Armour & Co.

**Christmas Tree for Capitol Plaza.**  
Washington.—There will be a community Christmas tree on the broad plaza at the east front of the capitol Christmas tree. Vice President Marshall and Speaker Clark have signed permits suspending capital rules to allow the erection of the tree.

**Pankhurst Free for 7 Days.**  
London.—Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst, the militant suffragist leader, who was arrested at Plymouth, Dec. 4, on her arrival from the United States aboard the steamer Majestic, was released from the Exeter jail on seven days' license.

**Women Call on President.**  
Washington.—Bearing "Votes for Women" banners woman suffragists marched onto the White House to urge President Wilson to advocate an amendment to the constitution providing for universal woman suffrage.

**Stockholm Commodore Drowned.**  
Stockholm.—Carl Werner, a wealthy manufacturer, and commodore of the Stockholm Yacht club, was found drowned. He had been missing for nine days and it is believed he ended his life because of a love affair.

**Cox Buys Shubert Interest.**  
New York.—George B. Cox of Cincinnati has bought the interests of Alvin Untermyer and Andrew Freedman in various Shubert theatrical enterprises. Cox, it was said, paid \$282,000 for his new holdings.

**Two Philippine Officials Resign.**  
Manila.—C. M. Cotterman, director of the bureau of posts, and Richard Campbell, judge of the court of first instance, resigned their positions.

**Two Drown in City Water Main.**  
Cincinnati.—Two men were drowned and a dozen working in a street trench barely escaped death when a 9-inch water main burst.

**Swallows False Teeth.**  
Wichita, Kan.—E. J. Sheriff, a plumber of this city, is in a hospital in a critical condition as a result of having swallowed his false teeth while eating. A surgical operation is the only course that will save Sheriff.

**Bank in Every Kansas County.**  
Topeka, Kan.—Every Kansas county now has a bank. The state charter board has just granted a charter to a bank at Johnston, Stanton county. Stanton has been the only county without a bank.

# GUILTY OF RIDING NEIGHBOR ON RAIL

JURY CONVICTS FIVE WOMEN THAT DROVE PRETTY WIFE OUT OF Volo, Ill.

## VERDICT DAZED DEFENDANTS

Penalty May Be \$200 Fine and Six Months in Jail—Plea of Matron, 72 Years Old, That She Only Beat Pan, Wins Acquittal.

Waukegan, Ill.—Five gray-haired women of the village of Volo who rode Mrs. John Richardson on a rail one night last July because her name was linked by gossip with that of her brother-in-law, were found guilty by a jury.

Each may be fined \$200 and sentenced to six months in jail. The band of militant housewives was composed of Mrs. Emma Stadfield, who weighs 150 pounds; Mrs. LeVina Raymond, Mrs. Alma Waitlan, Mrs. Mary Sabel and Mrs. John Stadfield.

Mrs. Kate Wagner, 72 years old, the sixth woman, who started to assist in carrying Mrs. Richardson outside the village limits, was freed by the jury because she returned home before the victim was given her ride on a rail.

**Defendants Dazed at Verdict.**  
Mrs. Sabel's 65 years makes her the oldest of the convicted five. The women sat huddled and dazed in the court room as the verdict was read. They bore no resemblance to the angry women, outraged because they believed a neighbor preferred the company of another to her crippled husband, who drew Mrs. Richardson from her home by a subterfuge, smeared her with mud, placed her astride a weather-beaten scumpling, bore her screaming and fighting to the edge of town and dumped her to the road with a warning never to return.

The jury deliberated an hour, largely on the question of freeing Mrs. Wagner.

**Civil Suit for \$100,000 Pending.**  
Mrs. Richardson is not vindictive against her former friends. She is satisfied with a conviction, and is agreeable to letting the women off with a fine. She has a civil suit for \$100,000 pending against them.

Edward Kropel was also indicted with the six women. It was charged that, dressed in the garb of a woman, he assisted in riding Mrs. Richardson on a rail. He has disappeared.

After the rail ride Mrs. Richardson fled to the home of relatives in Chicago, but returned to Volo and is living with her husband, who maintains she is innocent of wrongdoing.

**Kaiser Transfers Garrison.**  
Donauerschingen, Germany.—Emperor William ordered the transfer of the entire garrison at Zabern, Alsace, owing to the trouble between the soldiers and the residents there. He also directed that the court-martial proceedings in connection with the recent rioting be accelerated.

**Record Snow Fall in West.**  
Denver, Colo.—The state of Colorado is isolated by snow ranging from 36 inches to 8 feet in depth. Never in the history of the Rocky mountains has anything been experienced to compare with the storm which has raged for five days.

**Two Strike Breakers Shot.**  
Indianapolis, Ind.—Two Cincinnati strike-breakers were shot, one possibly fatally, in an attack by a crowd of striking teamsters and sympathizers on a non-union wagon.

**Mustn't Sign Petition.**  
Little Rock, Ark.—The congregation of the Second Baptist church of this city has started a movement that is expected to spread rapidly through the many churches in this state, to expel members who sign petitions for saloon licenses.

**Man Tied, Then Whipped.**  
Deratur, Ill.—Nocturnal methods of the "whit cappers" were revived at Arcola when five masked men took Harry Sheb from his home, tied him to a tree in his yard and lashed his bare back with a bucky whip.

**Mexican Papers Get Scoop.**  
Mexico City.—El Adelanteo of San Luis Potosi, which has been noted as a journal of strong anti-American sentiments, printed what purports to be a declaration of war by President Wilson against Mexico.

**Cardboard Breaks Nose.**  
Tarrytown, N. Y.—E. F. Giltrap, a teacher in the North Tarrytown school, had his nose broken by a piece of cardboard thrown by a boy in one of his classes.

**Aviation as Profession.**  
Paris.—Aviation took its place as a profession when Lieut. Andre Beaumont of the French navy aéro service was appointed among the local experts to assist the tribunals on various technical points.

**Steals \$4,000, Beats It.**  
Lincoln, Neb.—A telephone message from the village of Primrose says the bank there was robbed of \$4,000 by a highwayman who compelled the cashier of the bank to hand over all the cash and then escaped.

## FROM ALL OVER THE STATE

**Grange Holds Open Session.**  
Moberly.—The Missouri grange, in convention at Moberly, held an open session and C. O. Rains of Canton, Mo., state master of the Missouri grange presided. Addresses of welcome were made by Mayor Nolla Rothwell and Gus T. Gintber, president of the Moberly Commercial club.

**To Throw Wine into River.**  
Hannibal.—According to a decision by Judge David P. Iyer in the United States court here 34 bottles of wine will be emptied into the Mississippi. The wine was shipped to a local dealer by the Sweet Valley Wine company of Sandusky O. and labeled scuppernon wine, a brand made of the scuppernon grape.

It was found to be an adulteration of this brand and to be misbranded.

**Will Plead Unwritten Law.**  
Carthage.—John Thralls, 40 years old, of Webb City, Mo., will be placed on trial in circuit court in Carthage for the first-degree murder of Edward Skelton, a former Joplin alderman, the night of May 22 last. Thralls will plead the unwritten law. Thralls and his wife were divorced before the killing and he blamed Skelton for his marital troubles.

**Workman on Old Capitol Dies.**  
Fulton.—David Pollock, 57 years old, who helped build the old state capitol at Jefferson City and lived to see the new one started, is dead at his home in New Bloomfield. Pollock was a stonemason and worked on the old capitol in 1820. He was a native of Pennsylvania, but lived in Cole and Callaway counties the greater part of his life.

**Routing Three State Highways.**  
Chillicothe.—Col. Frank Buttom, state highway commissioner, is in Chillicothe engaged in mapping three highways across Missouri. The first route runs from Omaha, Neb. to Brunswick, Mo., where it will connect with the cross-state highway and thence lead into St. Louis through Moberly, Centralia, Mexico and Montgomery City. The second route will start at Brunswick, pass through Chillicothe, Gallatin, Pottsville, Albany, Maryville and stop at Tarkenton. The third route starts at Kansas City and passes through Excelsior Springs, Lawson, Polo, Braymer, Chillicothe, Laredo, Harris and on to Cedar Rapids, Ia., where it will join the Red Ball route into St. Paul.

**W. C. T. U. Protests Busch Statue.**  
Sedalia.—At a meeting of the Pettis County Women's Christian Temperance union a resolution was unanimously adopted directing that a letter be sent to the St. Louis branch of the order protesting against the erection of a monument to the memory of Adolphus Busch in a St. Louis park.

**Horticulturists Elect Officers.**  
Springfield.—The following officers were chosen by the Missouri State Horticultural association, which met in Springfield: T. C. Wilson, Columbia, president; H. S. Wayman, Princeton, vice-president; W. T. Flournoy, Marionville, treasurer; Dr. Paul Evans, Mountain Grove, secretary.

**Jasper County Fights Consumption.**  
Carthage.—The Jasper County Anti-Tuberculosis association has launched a campaign to raise money for construction of a sanitarium. Every minister in the county Sunday will urge donations.

**Missourian 60 Years a Hunter.**  
Columbia.—Boone county's oldest sportsman is R. B. Price, 81 years old, president of a Columbia bank, who took out a hunting license this week. He has been hunting around Columbia 60 years.

**Dead After a Beating.**  
Johnston City.—Adolph Frank, a Frenchman, who was reported as having been beaten by an officer who arrested him for being drunk after attending a christening at Marion and who left his home in Johnston City, was found dead in a creek near West Frankfort and identified by relatives. It is believed he was beaten over the head so severely that he became delirious.

**Mormon Young People Convene.**  
Holden.—The young people's societies of the Latter Day Saints, including Wyandotte, Johnson and Miami counties, in Kansas, and Jackson, Cass, Johnson, Lafayette, Saline and Cooper counties, in Missouri, are assembled here in their thirtieth annual convention. More than 100 delegates are present, presided over by W. A. Bushnell of Independence.

**City Ownership Postponed.**  
Jefferson City.—Municipal ownership of public utilities received a setback, for the time being at least, in Jefferson City, when the city council, by a vote of 7 to 2, adopted a resolution that no further action be taken at this time on the proposition.

**New Press Club Head.**  
Owage.—Mrs. Emily Newell Blair of Carthage was elected president of the Missouri Women's Press club, which has just ended a three days' annual convention in Hollister.

**Ownership of Paper Changes.**  
Warrensburg.—Warren C. Kapp, formerly owner and editor of the Warrensburg Journal-Democrat, has purchased the interest of Charles D. Middleton of the Warrensburg Star-Journal, and becomes its manager and editor.

# Making Tomorrow's World

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## LAND MONOPOLY IN GREAT BRITAIN.

London, Eng.—More than one-half the land of England and Wales is owned by 4,300 persons. Nearly 30,000,000—or two-thirds of the entire population—are landless. Eight per cent of the population of Great Britain live in houses with only one bedroom. Estimating the total national income at \$9,205,000,000, this income is divided one-half to five and one-half million persons and one-half to the remaining thirty-nine millions of the population.

**One-Third of Land for Pleasure.**  
Excluding Scotland and Ireland, at \$9,205,000,000 this income is divided one-half to five and one-half million persons and one-half to the remaining live in houses with only one bedroom. Estimating the total national income where the condition is worse, in England and Wales one-third of all the land is unused for agriculture, industry or housing. In the striking phrase of the late Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, it is "more of a pleasure ground for the rich than a treasure house for the nation." Four hundred peers and peeresses, to say Mr. I. G. Chiozza Money's carefully prepared figures, own 4,729,000 acres, 1,399 great landowners own 8,500,000 acres, 2,500 squires own 4,320,000, 3,500 greater yeomen own 4,750,000, 24,400 lesser yeomen own 4,140,000, 220,000 small proprietors own 4,000,000, 700,000 cottagers own 150,000, while of the remaining 1,000,000 acres half is owned by public bodies and half lies waste. If the ownership be averaged, it will be found that a peer holds an average of 14,525 acres, a great land

owner, 6,525, a squire, 1,661, a greater yeoman, 496, a lesser yeoman, 170, a small proprietor, 18, and a cottager, less than half an acre.

**300,000 Leave Farms in Decade.**  
What is the effect of this concentration of land in the hands of the few?

"Land is the mother and labor the father of wealth," a distinguished economist has written. Land concentrated in a few hands increases the problem of poverty, which Mr. Horace B. Samuel defines as "the economic discomfort occasioned to vast masses of the population by the unequal distribution of wealth." The use of the land is necessary for economic production, whether agricultural or industrial, and for housing, whether in city or country. The whole trend of civilization just now is away from agriculture and toward industrialism. In England this tendency is most marked. Less than nine per cent of the population of England are now engaged in agriculture, 300,000 having abandoned the farm in the last ten years, as many leaving the farm in a single decade as the entire number of farm owners in the state of Missouri. In the United States one person in three is engaged in agriculture in some form; in all Great Britain and Ireland only one in ten is so engaged, and the proportion is growing rapidly less. The general tendency of the situation, to quote the significant and measured words of Mr. Asquith, the British prime minister, is "a process of depletion at one end and congestion at the other, by which every year fresh additions of recruits are being made to the ranks of the casual and unemployed."

**Land Hogging Spawns Great Evils.**  
Land concentration in Great Britain

has promoted agricultural depression, low wages, unemployment and discontent. "It is notorious," said a city of London barrister, "that large areas of land which might be with advantage farmed by desirable tenants willing to pay a fair market rent are kept back by owners, who either sit on the property in the hope of being eventually able to hatch a higher price, or preserve it for the purpose of game or ornament for reasons of social prestige or sheer sporting instinct. The extent of this retention of land is conclusively evidenced by the numerous applications that flow in for every farm that is thrown upon the market and by the frequent abortive endeavors by actual or would-be small farmers to obtain at current market rate new or additional land for agricultural purposes." The evils of this state of affairs are manifold. Not only are many persons thus deprived of the employment which otherwise they would be enjoying, but this swelling of the ranks of the unemployed, some of whom remain in the country and some go to the cities, tends to diminish wages, and so far as farm products are concerned, to increase prices. Poverty, taxation, agriculture, unemployment, housing, the whole economy of the social system, are affected by the land problem.

**Very "Soft" for Noble Duke.**  
The unnecessary burden which falls upon industry by landlordism in the form of mining royalties is another evil result. Mr. Lloyd-George, the Liberal chancellor, estimated it at \$40,000,000 a year. The average amount of royalty on iron ore is 50 cents a ton on every ton brought to the surface and 15 cents on coal. This is paid to landlords for mining royalties in addition to ordinary leases or "dead rents" in British phrase. Of the coal mines visited one example will suffice. A coal mine operating company fourteen years ago sank the mine at an expense of \$2,000,000, and although as yet no coal has been taken out, the company has paid in mining royalties to the duke of Newcastle more than

\$500,000. Nearby is a quarry from which the landlord drew \$7,500 for the clay extracted.

As in agriculture and in mining, so in the towns for factory and business sites the land concentration makes for higher burdens. Some concrete instances, vouched for by Mr. H. R. Stockman, who has made a study of the question, will show the result.

"The obvious creator of land wealth," said that canny Scotchman, Andrew Carnegie, is not the individual, but the community." Mr. Ballour, in an address in the house of commons, said: "The value of all land, anywhere, just as the value of a railway, wherever it may be and by whomsoever it was made, by the state or by private individuals, the value of this, as well as of every other kind of property, depends upon the community." But to whom does the unearned increment go?

**Unearned Fortunes for Landlords.**  
In fifty years the ground rent of the town of Burton-on-Trent increased from \$10,000 to \$350,000. An absentee owner, the marquis of Anglesey, as landlord receives this rent. His local taxes or rates are \$300.

Sheffield, one of the greatest manufacturing cities in England, is owned, in greater part, by the duke of Norfolk. A dry goods merchant in that city held a lease on land at \$75 a year. Seven years before the lease would have expired the duke granted a renewal on condition that the tenant surrendered the unexpired part of the lease, paid \$750 a year rent instead of \$75, spent \$5,000 in improving the building and continued to pay all the taxes.

A large part of the ground upon which London's buildings stand is owned by certain rich peers. Land is

not sold by them, but leased or rented. The renter erects, at his own expense, such buildings as he needs, and pays all the taxes. When his lease expires he must pay the increased rent which his own improvements make possible to charge, or else move, abandoning his own building. Some recent sales show the almost fabulous prices which the absentee landowner receives when he does sell London real estate in the more favored sections.

What is Great Britain to do about it? Democracy, which is, or at least should be, the policeman and the partner of industry, is already in the United Kingdom doing something and plans to do more. "Let well enough alone" no longer satisfies, much less "let bad alone, lest the change bring worse."

**National Ownership Makes Headway.**  
Three general plans of land reform have been seriously considered, and each, to a degree, has been adopted. The three plans are nationalization of the land, the small holdings policy, and taxation. Twenty years ago the great Gladstone said: "If the time comes when the British nation finds that the land should be nationalized, and it is wise to do it, they have a perfect right to do so." Nationalization, which means the ownership by all the people of all the land, is openly talked. Indeed, it is put into practical effect to a degree in government purchase and ownership in the land purchase acts. That striking form of nationalization known as the single tax, which prides itself on being effected without compensation and by the confiscation by the state of economic rent, has many strong advocates. Rent being a value created by the whole community, say its supporters, should belong to the whole community. All economic rent, the rent of the actual land apart from the improvements, is unearned increment. The single taxers would confiscate not the land to the state, but the rent.

**Compulsory Sale and Leasing.**  
Another form of land nationalization is considered, though not seriously. This involves the taking over of all the land by the state, with compensation to the landlord. Small holdings by compulsory purchase and small holdings by compulsory leasing are other plans actually pursued. Under these schemes the landlord is compelled to sell or lease small acreages for actual farm use. Land here by the state and land purchase are involved in this general scheme. A more drastic measure has just been proposed by Mr. Will Thorne on the house of commons. Under the Thorne bill it would be illegal for any person to hold, in agricultural districts, any land, exceeding fifty acres in extent, in a waste or uncultivated state, unless it shall not be possible to cultivate such land for a profit, or unless it shall not have been devoted to some purpose of public utility.

**"A Tax to Burst Land Monopoly."**  
The real attack upon the evils of the present land ownership, the one about which the fiercest contention has taken place, is that in Lloyd-George's budget of taxation. Many forms of land taxation have been proposed, considered and, occasionally, adopted. Land value taxation, in some form, enters into discussion everywhere. This new land taxation, however, recently carried into effect by the Liberal government, is not a tax to raise revenue, but, to quote the pungent phrase of the chancellor of the exchequer in proposing it, "a tax to burst the land monopoly." This new system of taxation included five per cent duty on mining royalties, a taxation of gifts of nature or woodfalls, it included a tax on the capital value of unworked minerals, thus stimulating the exploitation of mines hitherto unworked. The important principles of the new taxation, however, are involved in the increment tax, the tax on undeveloped building land and on leasehold reversion. Under these sections two tax values are placed on land, the site value and the improved value. The tendency of the tax, as shown by its actual workings, is to bring more building land into the market, thus relieving congestion in the cities and the country.

Under the system of long leaseholds, which is peculiar to Great Britain, the owner of the freehold retains, on the expiration of the lease, its "falling in," to employ an English phrase—a property which has substantially increased in value by reason of the general growth of the community and independently of any expenditure of labor or enterprise on the part of the owner.

The budget levies ten per cent duty upon the margin by which the leasehold has appreciated since it was last granted. Agricultural leases are exempt from this duty, as are all leases made within the last twenty years.

**20 Per Cent. Increment Duty.**  
"Founded on the same principle," pointed out Mr. Horace B. Samuel, in discussing this effort to burst the land monopoly, "is the actual increment duty itself. This is a duty of 20 per cent, levied at death, on transfer, or at intervals of fifteen years (about the average period at which all land in the United Kingdom, through one cause or another, changes hands) on the actual site value." Supplementary to these novel forms of taxation—regarded by many in Great Britain as revolutionary—is a provision for a universal valuation of all the land affected.



Village on Duke of Norfolk's Estate.

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