SOCIALISM, ANARCHISM, OR A NEW KIND OF NOTHINGISM?

Rev. Mr. Bruce Writes on Railroad Privileges as Affecting Clergymen, and "S. L. P." Scores Mr. Glazebrook on the Ground of Ignorance-Two Interesting Letters.

To the Editors of Progress: In your issue of Saturday, Jan. 26, you call attention to the matter of reduced fares to ministers in connection with the editorial

in the Telegraph in regard to the conditions under which they are granted.

You say in answer to the objections that ministers have no rights other than those which belong to ordinary passengers and you tersely sum up the case by saying to them, "pay your fares, gentlemen, or walk." I am very much in agreement with your

view. I am not in favor of exemptions. I believe a minister should live, as other men do, on his income. So far indeed am I in agreement with this principle that I have frequently declined the favor of reductions granted to ministers, in various ways. But your brusque settlement of the matter has called up the question in my mind whether ministers are alone in this matter of favors. It occurs to me that I have had fellow-passengers by sail and train who were well nigh crossing a continent not on half-fare but on even more favorable conditions, "as members of the press." I suppose, Messrs. Editors, you count yourselves as members of that favored brotherhood, and I would like to ask you whether your principle carries you so far as to do away with this favor. Also, is it a case of whose ox is gored with you? or do the objections to reduced fares disappear when the rate reaches zero? or are you really such iconoclasts as to be anxious to smite the whole system of privilege at the root?

As I said, I am very far on in that view myself, and my only question is whether you include every form of the evil, or whether you have only had your attention directed to one case. I take the liberty of saying, for my brethren, even for those of them whose fields lie in the most remote localities, and upon whom, therefore, the necessary expense in travelling falls the more heavily, that they desire no favors, and, indeed, that they would not accept them, except on the grounds upon which they are granted to many others, wisely or not I shall not determine, namely, a supposed public service rendered by them beyond what is their necessary or

remunerated duty.
You have touched upon a complex question, and it may do some good if you will follow it out a little farther.

St. John, Feb. 5. G. BRUCE. [We may say to our esteemed correspon-

dent that we are desirous to "smite the whole system of privileges at the root." While it does prevail, however, newspaper men have, above all others, excuse for availing themselves of passes. Advertisements of railroads are usually printed mainly for public information, at a nominal charge; in almost every issue of any paper, the railroads are given more or less advertising, for which no charge is made; and in many cases it would take a whole book of "annuals" to pay the newspaper for the space it gives up in this way. Our own principle and practice are sufficiently indicated in the following paragraph, which appeared in Progress, Sept. 8 last:

The Maritime Press association will meet at Moncton, Sept. 18, and the Times mentions it as probable that "a jolly excursion party" will be organized from Moncton to Chatham; thence across the country to Woodstock and Fredericton, by rail; thence down to St. John by river. We trust that the jolly excursionists will pay their railway, hotel and other bills contracted en route, as self-respecting newspaper men do when they take a vacation ourney. There is no excuse in Canada for such bummers' picnics as the railway raids of the average American press asso-

We must not be understood as alleging that the offer of half-rates is likely to be taken advantage of by any great body of the clergy. Our prime objection to that offer is that it insults the clergy by placing them in the position of applicants for a privilege to which, we reiterate, they have no right.—THE EDITORS.]

"Socialism and Anarchism."

To the Editors of Progress: If we had not scriptural warrant for the belief that "when the blind lead the blind both shall fall into the ditch," I should hesitate to request your space for any comment on Mr. A. J. Glazebrook's remarkable lecture in the Institute course. I am, however, very loth that his hearers should stagger through life under the burden of such overpowering ignorance as weights him; and I will ask you to allow me to call attention briefly to some of the things he said and did not say:

In the first place, he did not define either Socialism or Anarchism. No one who heard him could determine from his words whether these are theories of society or "something good to eat." The one definition he did venture upon—that of State the powers of the state as it is at present" pose of the so-called "Socialists of the who are the bitterest enemies the State Anarchism, again, he informed us that the latter is the "violent form" of the former, than which nothing could be further from the truth. Socialists are collectivists; Anarchists are individualists; they have absolutely nothing in common, except their disapproval of the present order. Speakto say of the theory of values, which is the

HALF FARES OR NONE? ultimate. Turning then to Anarchism and SHOULDN'T BE EXEMPT. LONDON that their one purpose is "universal destruction"-a most unfair and misleading conclusion, since Proudhon dwells with uncommon insistence on constructive phases of reform. As for the further insinuations that revolution, as taught by Socialists, necessarily means revolution by physical torce, and that, in the Socialist State, "religion would be swept away utterly"-they are not only false, but

horini man.

But aside from this, Mr. Glazebrook's incapacity to deal with his subject was strikingly shown by the one statement, "It is noteworthy, too, that Karl Marx's books have never been translated into English." I myself have owned copies of three different English editions of his great work, Capital, and the latest, bearing the imprint of Appleton of New York and Swan & Sonnenschein, London, has been widely advertised of late and was noticed in Progress a few weeks ago.

I laughed consumedly when I heard the lecturer speak of the "fierce, semi-savage beings who would come to the front" under Socialist rule. These fierce semi-savages include, on this continent, such fiends incarnate as Dr. Edward Everett Hale, Col. T. W. Higginson, Rabbi Schindler, of Boston, Edward Bellamy, John Swinton, W. D. Howells, Judge Maguirc of San Francisco, Prof. Vrooman, of the University of Kansas, Lawrence Gronlund, and, in the old world, to mention a few out of hundreds, William Morris, Robert Buchanan, Bjornstjerne Bjornson, Hendrik Ibsen, Walter Besant, Mrs. E. Lynn Linton, Walter Crane, H. M. Hyndman, J. L. Joynes, (late head master of Eton school,) and Prof. Caird of Glasgow-leaving altogether out of account the scores of men like John Ruskin, Gerald Massey, Emile Zola, John Morley, William Black and others of equal standing, who give most cordial support to every Socialist activity but have not openly identified themselves with the party.

That Mr. Glazebrook should presume to speak of Socialism, when he has not even read its one authoritative text-book, Karl Marx's Capital, is as saddening, from one point of view, as it is ludicrous from another. I venture to assert, moreover, that he has never read any work by Lasalle, Engels, Morris, Gronlund, Bebel, Joynes or Hyndman, Socialists; any by Proudhon, Tucker, Elise Reclus, Bakounin, Warren, Green or Spooner, Anarchists; or any by Krapotkin, Zemlia, "Stepniak" or Tchernichewsky, Nihilists. His lecture evidenced that he has sought his "facts" in sources hostile to the great movements he pretended to describe. It is as though one should lecture to a Pagan audience on the Christian religion, accepting Bob Ingersoll's definition of the Christian religion!

If Mr. Glazebrook really wants to know something of Socialism, Anarchism and Nihilism-and he needs to-he should study Karl Marx's Capital, Proudhon's What Is Property and "Stepniak's" Underground Russia. If Marx and Proudhon are beyond his comprehension, he can see the constructive phase of Socialism reflected in Edward Bellamy's masterly romance, Looking Backward, and "Ralph Irons" epoch-making novel, The Story of an African Farm, will burn the Anarchist ideal into his very heart and soul. At the very least, he should read Webster's Dictionary. The compilers of that book did not share Mr. Glazebrook's fancies and fears: they defined Socialism as, "A theory of society which advocates a more precise, orderly and harmonious arrangement of the social relations of mankind than that which has hitherto prevailed." S. L. P. St. John, Feb. 5.

[Progress has also a letter from "An Anarchist," which covers essentially much of the ground occupied by "S. L. P." He considers it absurd that Anarchism should be part of the title of Mr. Glazebrook's lecture, when the subject was merely mentioned, and the few references to it were vague, misleading and incorrect. "An Anarchist" ascribes the favorable notices in the daily papers to the fact that the writers are even worse informed than the lecturer. The letter is withheld out of consideration for Mr. Glazebrook, who should not be too strongly criticized for his well-intended modern effort.-EDS. PROGRESS.

The Life of Haliburton.

It is gratifying to learn, as we do from a paper in the St. John, N. B., PROGRESS, by Mr. H. Percy Scott, of Windsor, N. S., that the Haliburton club, of Windsor, Socialism, as aiming at "an extension of have arranged with Mr. F. Blake Crofton, provincial librarian, to publish A Study of -was grossly inaccurate: for that is the | Haliburton; The Man and Writer, a work which has recently engaged the attention chair," pseudo-reformers, mostly professors of the Historical Society of Nova Scotia. of that bastard science, political economy, We predict for a satisfactory life of the talented Judge Haliburton ("Sam Slick" Socialists have. As between Socialism and Dominion appreciation. Progress of January 19 published an admirable likeness of this famous author and humorist .-Toronto Empire.

One of Many.

St. John Progress has a correspondent in Halifax who sends that paper many ining of Socialism, the lecturer had nothing teresting personal items. The "boys" about town are always anxious to see each economic basis of the system, nor did he number of Progress. It is a bright paper devote a single lucid sentence to the indus- and I must say I enjoy reading it myself. trial organization of the state, which is its | -"Chumley" in the Halifax Mail.

THE TAX-COLLECTOR OUGHT TO VISIT DOMINION OFFICIALS.

In Their Case, Freedom from Taxation Has "Broadened Slowly Down, from Pre-

cedent to Precedent," Until It Takes in a Good Many Classes of Employees. Why should the income of a Dominion government employee be exempt from mu-

nicipal taxation? Because the common law, which is not always common sense, has been interpreted to mean that such an employee is a privileged citizen. His income, being from the

money of the crown, cannot be assessed. This was first decided by the supreme court of New Brunswick in a case brought before it eight years ago. The general principle was laid down that a local government cannot tax anything pertaining to the general government. It was asserted that should a Dominion officer be so taxed his efficiency would be thereby proportionately reduced. There was one voice raised in protest among the judges. It was that of Chief Justice Allen. He was not prepared to assent. It seemed to him, as he said, 'entirely unjust."

But the judgement was given by a majorprecedent by which all judges were thereafter to be bound. The case in question had been that of a St. John customs official. A few years later the court went further and extended the exemption to employees in the general offices of the Intercolonial railway at Moncton. The Chief Justice again dissented on what seemed the very rational ground that this employee

The taxation of the working and producing classes is absurd and wrong in any case. That a man should be assessed on the beggarly sum which it takes to keep body and soul together is hard enough, but unfortunately this country has not yet seen its way clear to make property alone pay the taxes. Such being the case why should an army of non-producers be allowed exemption while the honest workmen are forced to bear burdens for them? The Dominion employee is sure of his pay, whether times are good or bad. The ordinary worker is not. The official enjoys all the benefits and privileges of a citizens and pays nothing for them. He works six or seven hours a day and has the rest of his time to walk or drive over the pavements for which he does not pay, and is protected by lights and police which are paid for by others. The ordinary workman toils twelve or sixteen hours a day and, in St. John at least, is taxed far beyond his

In one of the cases before the court, the plea was made that an official should not be taxed because he has no interest in the prosperity of a city. It was urged that as a city prospered rents and the prices of other things increased. The official did not share in the general prosperity and therefore should not be called on to pay his lot and scot. This was a legal argument. Perhaps it was a profound one.

If any incomes ought of right to be taxed it should be those of the idle, non-producing or mischievous classes. Under one or other of these heads may be ranked capitalists, bankers, brokers, professional politicians, lawyers, liquor dealers and government employees. Most of these classes pay much less than they ought to at the present time, because they can conceal the actual amount of their incomes. The working men, whose means of subsistance are easily ascertained, are assessed on all they earn. The government employee, whose exact salary is known, escapes taxation altogether. This may be the common law of England,

but it is not the common sense of America. What is to be done about it?

Unfortunately the way to a remedy is not easy. The only course is by an amendment to the British North America act by the parliament of Great Brittian. Everybody knows what this implies.

But hopeless as the case is, there is no reason why such unjust discrimination should go unrebuked. So long as we have an income tax the government employee has no more honest claim to be free from it than he has to ask his landlord, his grocer or his butcher to give him a home and a living free of charge. The people and the press should continue to protest against the existing state of things. If they speak often enough and loud enough their voices may be heard at last. A remedy may be found some day.

A Great Day For No. 40.

Last Saturday was a great day for Pro-GRESS. It was No. 40 of the paper and the people celebrated it properly by snatching every available copy. Reports from outside districts show how well the law a complete assortment now in stock, in boxes and half-boxes: 100,000 HAVANA and DOMESTICS.

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BECAUSE it is printing those remarkable articles on "Siberia and the Exile System," by George Kennan, which are attracting universal attention and are being reprinted in hundreds of foreign newspapers, but are not allowed to enter Russia. The "Chicago Tribune" says that "no other magazine articles printed in the English language just now touch upon a subject which so vitally interests all thoughtful people in Europe and America and Asia." They are "as judicial as the opinion of a Supreme Court tribunal,—as thrilling as the most sensational drama."

was not, as in the previous case, a recognized officer of the civil service.

Two years later, the same court went still further and held that Intercolonial mechanics and workmen were also exempt. In doing so the judges overuled a previous decision of their own, in the Landry case. It need hardly be said that the Chief Justice again dissented and Judge Palmer shared his opinion.

Thus it is the law of the land. Judged from a legal standpoint it appears to be sound law. Judged by the standard of common sense, it is outrageously unjust and unfair.

Wery rational ground that this employee was not, as in the previous case, a recognized officer of the civil service.

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