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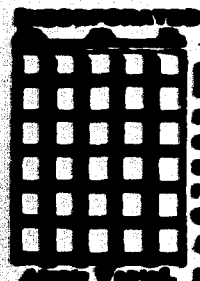

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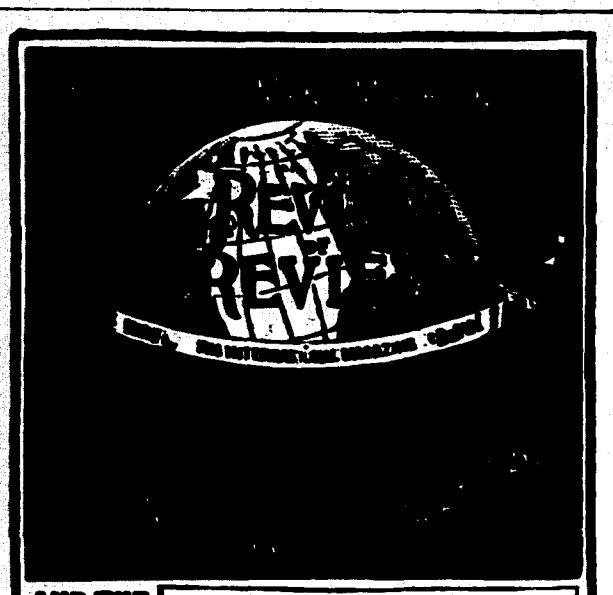

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THE SINGLE TAX IN CONGRESS.—Perhaps the most significant outcome of recent single tax agitation is to be found in the report of the select committee of the House of Representatives on the District of Columbia assessment. We present a summary elsewhere, and have space and time only to say that this report comes from a committee of three, with Mr. Johnson as chairman; that Mr. Johnson's colleagues agree with the single tax arguments and with the conclusions they inevitably lead to, but lacked the courage to recommend that their convictions be embodied in law. It is sufficiently startling to have gained so much.

JUDGE MAGUIRE FOR CONGRESS.—Judge James G. Maguire of San Francisco, known to all readers of THE STANDARD as a leading single taxer of the Pacific Coast, has been nominated as Democratic candidate for Congress in the fourth California district. He is sure of election, as he is a popular man and the district has a Democratic majority of 4,000. This means another outspoken advocate of free trade and the single tax in the lower house of Congress. Judge Maguire will be a welcome and important addition to our strength in the House of Representatives.

The prospect of Judge Maguire's election to Congress is significant and important in more ways than one. A correspondent of the San Francisco *Call* finds in Judge Maguire's nomination evidence of deceitful pretense on the part of the Democratic party in its professions touching tariff reform and its disclaimers touching free trade. Judge Maguire, the correspondent notes, openly left the Democratic party not long since to aid in founding a new party pledged to free trade and the single tax. In Judge Maguire's return to the Democratic fold the correspondent sees an unmasking on the part of the Democratic party, and begs farmers to note that that party is posing as the apostle of immediate free trade and the imposition of all taxes on land values. The *Call* in commenting on its correspondent's letter finds it suggestive that Judge Maguire should leave the Democratic party one year and go back to it a year or two later. "The party," says the *Call*, "would hardly give such a sure district to a man who did not satisfactorily represent its principles."

We are sorry to say that the *Call* and its correspondent are not entirely justified in their belief that the Democratic party is making ready for an immediate declaration in favor of free trade and the single tax, but we are cheered by the fact that the Democratic party is daily more and more congenial to free traders and single taxers. The presence of the small but active delegation of single taxers in the lower house of Congress has done a vast deal to liberalize the Democratic party and to promote the single tax. Whatever equivocal declaration of principles cowards and time-servers may be able to force upon the National Democratic Convention next month, Judge Maguire will take his seat in a Congress *more friendly toward free trade and more tolerant of the single tax* than any previous Congress of the United States, and there is no room for doubt that the end of Judge Maguire's term will see a further advance of the Democratic party, and he will do his share toward promoting that advance.

TORY FAIR TRADE.—Lord Salisbury, the English premier, has declared in a speech at Hastings, that if England is to maintain her commercial prosperity she must abandon free trade for the mis-named fair trade, and enter upon a war of tariffs with such countries as decline to concede the latter. The declaration must be comforting to the friends of trade restriction in this country, but it is not to be taken more seriously than other tentative suggestions of policy by a Tory leader on the verge of a dissolution of Parliament. The British Tory commander is ready to jetison any portion of his cargo for the purpose of saving that most precious freight, the privileges of a landed aristocracy. It has happened very fortunately for the Tories of Great Britain that the English people have been slow to see the great land question behind the home rule agitation, and now that they are beginning to understand that home rule is a mere question of administration, and free land the real issue, the Tory party is looking about for aid in whatever quarter it may be found.

Doubtless, home rule will again be the main surface issue in the next general election, but Lord Salisbury has shown himself ready to treat with any faction, large or small, so long as the sacred privileges of British landholders are left untouched. He has dickered with the socialists and talked of armed rebellion on the part of Ulster Protestants. No one need be surprised to find him coquetting with the protectionists, or with those Englishmen who might, under the spur of supposed self-interest, become protectionists. To most observers it must seem that there is little to be gained by such an appeal, since Lord Salisbury confesses that he dare not tax the food products imported from the United States, while Great Britain's imports of other things, save raw materials and articles not produced in the islands, are comparatively unimportant. There would be little protection in any retaliatory duties that Great Britain might impose, and it would be hard to rally much enthusiasm about a tariff policy that must mean the enhancement of prices on all the articles involved, and no important subsidies to British manufacturers. Lord Salisbury is too able a man and of too sound economic training to be a protectionist, and it is difficult to accept his appearance in the rôle of a fair trader as aught save an insincere device. The tone of the British press, both Liberal and Conservative, touching his latest audacity is such as might alarm any leader less self-confident than the Tory premier.

MORAL OF THE GRANITE STRIKE.—Every great strike contains arguments ready to hand for those who esteem the single tax a settlement of the labor problem. The present strike of granite cutters and kindred trades is peculiarly rich in such arguments. Through the ownership of valuable natural opportunities and a compact organization, the New England Granite Manufacturers' Association enjoys a practical monopoly in the purveying of granite to the New England and part of the Middle Atlantic States. This combination owns or controls most of the granite quarries that lie within profitable freighting distance of New York. It is thus enabled on the one hand to exact of consumers the highest price for granite, and on the other to resist whatever may seem to the association the unreasonable demands of organized workingmen.

The price demanded by the association for its product is, of course, just short of what would stimulate the investment of capital in rival quarries, and the maximum is in large part determined by the fact that the association owns or controls the richest and the best situated deposits. The association's measure of what is reasonable in the demands of granite cutters is the average rate of wages, and the average conditions as to hours of labor and terms of contract in other employments, including, of course, not only employments in which the laborers are organized, but those in which the employer treats solely with the individual workman and those in which the workman employs himself.

In the midst of these conditions the organized workmen at the New England Association's quarries demand that contracts for employment during the year be made, not on January 1st, when the demand for granite workers is at its lowest point, but on May 1st, when the demand is approaching its height. The association naturally esteems this an unreasonable demand, for the granite cutters, being a well-organized body of skilled workmen, are well paid and employed under favorable conditions as compared with the great body of hand workers. The men were firm and the association locked them out. The men then appealed to the allied trades, and many thousands of pavers, granite setters and the like all over New York and New England have quit work and refused to handle the granite of the New England Association. All sorts of people are vastly inconvenieced by the situation, many streets of New York are closed to traffic, and innocent persons, in no way parties to the quarrel, are beset with annoyance and subjected to loss.

Doubtless many millions of Americans who read of the situation are taking sides one way or the other. The great mass of organized workingmen will give a more or less blind adherence to the strikers. The great mass of well-clad and well-fed persons not employed in manual occupations will give an equally blind and instinctive adherence to the employers, because there is a strong element of stupid and respectable conservatives in this country which is as instinctively upon the side of the employer as are the aristocratic and upper middle classes of Great Britain. A third class of honest, well-meaning persons, anxious to do justice, but ignorant of the moving forces behind the labor problem, will weigh the facts as best they can and presently adhere to one side or the other. The fact that the first overt act was a lockout on the part of the employers will incline this third class to side with the employed, but the fact that allied trades have been successfully appealed to, and that, in consequence, innocent persons are subjected to loss and inconvenience will weigh with this class against the granite cutters. Should the men persevere in temperate insistence upon their demands they will probably hold the sympathy of this class. Should they resort to violence, or bring about a long continued paralysis of industry, they will lose the adherence of this class.

As a matter of fact the justice or injustice of the men's demand

from the point of view of the several classes named is highly unimportant. Employers, and those who naturally sympathize with them, would be glad to see such a condition of affairs as would make it possible to treat solely with the individual laboring man, and were we living under natural conditions of justice such would probably be the case. Organized workingmen, on the other hand, would be glad to see such a condition of affairs as would make it possible to bring about an absolute stoppage of all kinds of industry when any one class of workingmen, or, indeed, any one workingman, seemed to have a just grievance against employers. This monstrous condition is, indeed, the ideal of organized labor, and only when we have reached such conditions, will trade-unionism have become a solution of the labor problem. The anxious persons who balance facts and seek to do justice between employers and employed, are easily shocked and horrified at the violence of trade-unionism and the spectacle of a single disagreement involving thousands, perhaps millions, in idleness, loss and inconvenience, but the opinion of this class is worth little, since it is founded upon misapprehension of the real cause of trouble.

To him who sees the situation broadly, the question of justice or injustice in the present case is unimportant. It matters little whether the trouble began with a lockout or a strike. It matters little whether the men are temperate or violent. The strike and the lockout are each acts of war, and their logical outcome is violence. The New England Association must ever be armed and alert for the struggle against the aggressions of trade-unionism, the workingmen's organization must ever wage war with whatsoever weapon comes to hand. Now temperate insistence may serve; later it may be necessary to sentinel the quarries, to drive off, maim or slay fellow workmen in need of work and bread. The methods of employers are less violent, though hardly less cruel than those of laborers.

To the single taxer the lesson of all this is plain. A few men who, through the injustice of present conditions are able to seize natural opportunities, have formed a combination to fight trade-unionism, the only instrument that workingmen have yet devised to aid in their struggle with the pressure that comes of the primal injustice by which the quarry owners profit. So long as that primal injustice continues these periodical struggles, with all their attendant circumstances, must occur. There is a simple and effective way out of all this—the way of justice. Throw open natural opportunities to all by exacting for public needs a rental for the use and occupation of such natural opportunities, and there will speedily cease to be a labor problem, the long war between labor and capital will end in social and economic peace, and both laborer and capitalist shall receive their earnings.

MR. CLEVELAND PROGRESSES.—Reports from the Democratic State Conventions continue in the main favorable to Mr. Cleveland. Half the Virginia delegation favors his nomination, and his friends insist that he has twenty-six out of the thirty-two delegates from Georgia, though Hill's supporters say that Mr. Cleveland has less than half the delegation, and that ten district delegates are for Hill. Congressman Tracy has made this table as showing the attitude of the States and territories that have held conventions.

States.	Cleveland.	Uninstructed or Anti-Cleveland.	States....	Cleveland.	Uninstructed or Anti-Cleveland.
California.....	16	—	North Dakota...	6	—
Connecticut.....	10	2	Pennsylvania....	64	—
Delaware.....	6	—	Rhode Island....	8	—
Georgia.....	26	6	South Carolina..	—	18
Illinois.....	48	—	Vermont.....	8	—
Indiana.....	15	15	Virginia.....	12	12
Iowa.....	—	26	Washington.....	8	—
Kansas.....	20	—	Wisconsin.....	24	—
Massachusetts...	27	3	Wyoming.....	6	—
Michigan.....	28	—	Arizona.....	—	2
Minnesota.....	18	—	New Mexico.....	2	—
Missouri.....	34	—	Oklahoma.....	2	—
Montana.....	—	6	Utah.....	2	—
Nebraska.....	—	16	Dis. of Columbia	2	—
New Hampshire...	8	—			
New York.....	—	72	Totals.....	415	185
North Carolina...	15	7			

Eighteen States have yet to hold conventions. General Tracy furnishes this table showing the expected attitude of their delegations:

States.	Cleveland.	Uninstructed or Anti-Cleveland.	States.	Cleveland.	Uninstructed or Anti-Cleveland.
Alabama.....	12	10	Nevada.....	—	6
Arkansas.....	12	4	New Jersey.....	10	10
Colorado.....	—	8	Ohio.....	—	46
Florida.....	—	8	Oregon.....	4	4
Idaho.....	—	6	South Dakota....	6	—
Kentucky.....	—	26	Tennessee.....	12	12
Louisiana.....	5	16	Texas.....	15	15
Maine.....	12	—	West Virginia....	8	4
Maryland.....	—	16			
Mississippi.....	—	18	Totals.....	96	209

These figures show that Mr. Cleveland will probably have on first ballot within about ninety of the two-thirds majority needed for nomination. Hill's friends concede Mr. Cleveland but 450 votes on the first ballot, or about 150 short of the number needed to nominate. The Hill men profess to expect that a strong anti-Cleveland element will be able to delay his nomination long enough after the first ballot to convince many of those now set down in the Cleveland columns that his nomination would be unwise.

General Tracy's tentative figures as to South Dakota are confirmed by dispatches announcing that the delegates to the State convention thus far chosen are all for Cleveland. The South Carolina convention, under Alliance domination, protested against the nomination of Mr. Cleveland because of his attidude on the silver question. There were but 49 votes against the protest to 237 in its favor, but the complexion and representative character of the convention is indicated by the fact that it voted down a resolution denouncing the advocates of a third party as enemies of the Democratic party, and adopted a resolution endorsing the Ocala platform.

It is significant that the North Carolina Democratic Convention received the name of Cleveland with enthusiasm and refused to be dominated by the Alliance. The platform adopted was the one of 1890, with two planks from the Ocala platform. Free coinage, abolition of the tariff, abolition of national banks, increase of currency by issuing legal-tender notes in lieu of national bank notes, taxation of incomes, and the repeal of the internal revenue system are the chief planks. It was adopted by acclamation. Of the district delegates eight are for Cleveland and ten prefer a Western man, though none are instructed.

SINGLE TAX IN THE FEDERAL DISTRICT.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ASSESSMENT.

Through the courtesy of Congressman Tom L. Johnson THE STANDARD is able to publish to-day a summary of the report on the assessment of taxes in the District of Columbia. This report comes from a select committee appointed to investigate the subject. Mr. Johnson is chairman of the committee, but the report is signed by every member of the committee. Mr. Johnson's associates are Mr. Washington, Democrat, of Tennessee, and Mr. Wadsworth, Republican, of New York. The report was presented May 24. It is based upon a resolution adopted by the House April 13. This resolution cites that the new assessment of the District exceeds the old by nearly 25 per cent.; and then goes on as follows:—

HON. TOM L. JOHNSON.

Whereas, Said old assessment on the land values alone in he District is $76,000,000, when it should be more than $300,000,000; this shows an extraordinary undervaluation, and, what is still worse, the greatest injustice between the valuation of the land used for business purposes, which in many cases is assessed at less than 14 per cent. of its true value, and land used for residence purposes, especially where the small homes are situated, which is assessed at from 70 to 80 per cent. of its value, while in many cases land held for speculation is assessed at less than 10 per cent. of its true value. The foregoing facts were brought out by an expert valuation on enough land in the District to furnish an average. A public hearing was held by the commissioners, in which this subject was thoroughly discussed, and after a careful examination they say "the figures embraced in these showings seem to have been carefully and conservatively prepared;" and

Whereas, The new assessment should not only show the true value of property in lawful money, as required by law, but should also preserve an equality in assessment of the land in different localities, and not bear more heavily in some sections than in others; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That a select committee consisting of three members, be appointed by the speaker, which shall have power and authority to investigate and report upon the method of ascertaining land values by the board of assistant assessors in the District of Columbia; to inquire whether there is in the assessment now being prepared discrimination in favor of any section over others, and generally to inquire into all alleged inequalities pertaining to the assessment of land values.

Such committee shall have power to send for persons and papers, to examine witnesses under oath, may employ a stenographer and one clerk, and shall report the result of its investigation to the House, with such recommendation as it may deem proper to make. The expense of such investigation shall be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

The report then says:

The testimany shows that the facts recited in the resolution are substantially true; that as a result of this investigation the assessment on land has been raised $125,000 000, and yet $225,000 000, more than half the value of land in the District, escapes taxation; that there is much inequality and discrimination; that land values are increasing at an enormous rate—on a conservative estimate to the amount of $40,000,000 annually, enough to pay off the entire bonded debt of the District in six months; that the assessment of buildings and the under-assessment of land is operating to discourage greatly the growth and improvement of the capital; that the assessment has been made in violation of the law, without proper publicity

or inquiry, and in a careless and reckless manner; and that on a fair assessment of land alone it would be easy to obtain by a tax rate less than one-half of the present all the revenue required for the needs of the District. This would make the tax rate of the city of Washington 60 cents on the $100, a lower rate than that of any large city in the country.

The committee find that the assessors have, in accordance with ancient precedent, directly disregarded the law which requires property to be assessed at its true value, and says:

The fact is that what amounts to the distribution among individuals of $3,000,000 a year, without check or publicity, is, by the present system, placed in the hands of three gentlemen whose inducement to assume this duty is the ability it gives them to serve their friends, and who have been permitted and encouraged to act as though the matter were one with which the general public had no concern, and in which they were entirely independent of any law or regulation.

Furthermore, the report says that the assessors interpret the words "true value" to mean the price property would fetch at forced sale under adverse circumstances.

Nor have they even followed their own rule, since from the testimony taken by us, and embodied in our report, it will be seen that they have in some sections assessed at from 70 to 80 per cent. and in others at from 30 to 50 per cent., and in one case which came to our knowledge a piece of property was assessed at 25 per cent. more than it had recently sold for, while the greater part of the property on the same square was assessed at less than 50 per cent. of its true value. But perhaps the most striking instance of the loose way in which it has been the habit of these assessors to discharge their most important function is given in the fact that, as discovered by your committee, they had within the week elapsing between two examinations by us of their field books added $588 000 to the assessment of one square, changing the figures from some $900.000 to nearly $1,500,000, and that so entirely upon their own motion that they were at first inclined to conceal from us the fact that they had made such an important change.

The report then condemns the present system of assessment by three assessors, who afterwards joined with a fourth to form a board of equalization, and outlines a new system which provides for constant re-assessment to meet changes in value, and the appointment of an officer whose business it shall be to represent both the Government and the people in seeing to it that assessments are equalized. The report notes the absolute lack of conscience on the part of property owners in evading taxation, and expresses the belief that this in part results from the fact that men feel the injustice of taxation upon personal property, and, indeed, upon improvements upon real estate. Continuing, the report says:

When a man puts up a house in the District of Columbia he does something that adds to the wealth and stock of conveniences of the whole city, and he instinctively feels that it is wrong that his taxes should be increased for having done so. The poor man with a small and poor house has to submit. A few dollars' difference in the assessment will not pay him for the time and trouble of protesting. But the rich man, with the costly house, not merely has more time and larger interests, but finds the difference in the assessment a more important matter. Thus, in both the e ways, there are powerful tendencies constantly at work to produce unjust inequality in the taxation of buildings and improvements. These tendencies mu·t act direct·y and powerfully upon the taxation of land, with which the taxation of buidings and improvements is conjoined.

The committee finds a strong senti..ent in the District in favor of assessing taxes upon land values only. The committee says that this seems the correct principle. The man who holds land that would yield him an income were he to improve it, ought to pay as much toward the expenses of the District as he who by improvement actually does receive an income from his land, and the committee sees how much the suggested method of levying assessments would stimulate improvements and promote the growth and prosperity of the District while lessening the tendency toward inequality. The committee thinks that the District being the seat of the National Government, and for that reason attracting many persons, the taxation should not be laid with sole reference to the interest of loca property owners. The report notes that every citizen called to the nationa capital finds it his primary care to provide himself with living accommodations, and apropos of this the report says:

As any assessment that falls on the erection and maintenance of buildings necessarily checks building and increases the cost while diminishing the comfort of living accommodations, it thus tends to lessen the comfort and increase the expenses of all citizens who are called on to reside in or visit Washington. On the other hand an assessment on the annual rental value of lands, such as these property owners recommend, has no tendency either to diminish house accommodation or to increase its cost. It simply takes from what the owner of land would otherwise put in his pocket, and, by making it as costly to him to keep land idle as to fully improve it, would tend to stimulate building and increase accommodation. It would thus promote the comfort and economy of citizens residing in or visiting the national capital, and instead of discouraging enterprise and improvement would tend to discourage the business of monopolizing land that is needed for the purposes for which the Federal District was formed.

Furthermore, the report points out that the beautification of the district at national expense benefits local landowners, and it is therefore expedient that the assessment for local revenues should fall upon the beneficiaries. Then says the report:

Out of the twenty-four millions a year which the landowners of the district are already enabled to appropriate to themselves, and the forty millions a year which is being added to the salable value of their property by the growth of the District, it is surely but little to ask that they should contribute less than $500,000 more than they now contribute to municipal expenses. A tax rate of 51 cents on the $100 is now needed to raise the required revenue from land and improvements, but a tax of only 59 cents on the $100 would raise it from land alone, leaving all improvements exempt from taxation.

The report declares that to collect only 12½ per cent. of the annual rental value of land would suffice to raise the District's proportion of the increased sum of $6,000,000 asked of Congress by the District commissioners, and 25 per cent. would suffice to raise the whole, so that not a penny need be asked of the National Government. This could be done without increasing the cost of living in the District, and, indeed, with the result of checking land speculation, and bringing land held for speculative purposes into use, an effect in turn, which would increase legitimate land values and thus enlarge the fund to be drawn upon for the District's needs.

If the National Government should assume the entire cost of the District government only the landowners would be benefited, since they could still demand the full rental of land regardless of the fact that it had been relieved of taxation. The effect of such liberality toward the Federal District on the part of Congress would be to increase enormously the few large fortunes and to drive a great number of citizens into narrower quarters. Indeed the report declares that it would have a tendency to make it more and more difficult for Government employees to live within the Federal District on moderate salaries. The single tax lesson is then driven home by the report in this fashion:—

Analysis shows that the rental value of land does not arise from any expenditure of labor or investment of capital by the owner of the land. The value which the owner of land may create by the expenditure of labor and capital is a value which attaches to buildings or improvements. The value which attaches to the land itself comes from the growth of the whole community. It is this growth and improvement of the community itself which has given to land in certain parts of the Federal District a value amounting to over three millions of dollars an acre. If the owners of this land had left their land idle, if they had been absentees or idiots, this value would have attached to the land to the same extent and in the same manner. It comes from the growth of population and general improvement, and is primarily due to the fact that this particular place has been selected as the site of the National Capital. Thus, every one who adds even temporarily to the population and business of Washington does something to add to the value of the land, something to increase a fund which may be taken to defray all the expenses of government without levying any tax on legitimate property or improvement, or which will in any way increase the cost of living. No matter how he lives, so long as he lives here, every resident must directly or indirectly contribute to the rental value of land. In this way every resident, and, indeed, every sojourner, may be said, in what he pays for the use of land, even though it be for a single night's lodging, to pay a just tax, sufficient to provide for the legitimate expenses of the local government and to make the most ample public improvements. But if the individual landowners are permitted to put the proceeds of this tax in their pockets and taxes are then levied that fall on use and consumption, the body of citizens are really twice taxed.

Having made this single tax argument the committee concludes that the principle of confining the assessment of taxes in the district to the annual rental value of land would do essential justice, but as the assessment of land by its annual rental value involves a radical change in American custom, the committee concludes that it would be sufficient to assess upon the selling value and exempt all improvements from taxation.

HON. JOS. E. WASHINGTON.

Mr. Johnson's colleagues agree with him in his argument, and in his conclusion, but the report states that when the proposition was made to recommend the insertion in the new District Appropriation bill of a clause providing for the assessment of taxes solely upon the selling value of land, Mr. Johnson's colleagues dissented, and the recommendation accordingly provides for the assessment of taxes upon improvements as well as upon land values.

The clause to be inserted in the appropriation bill, however, provides for the assessment of real estate only upon the amount it would bring if sold under ordinarily favorable circumstances. It also provides for radical changes in the method of equalization and contains the following provisions:

The journal of the board shall be open for public inspection during the office hours. It shall commence with a statement of the total assessment of land values in the District of Columbia on the first Monday in June, 1892, taking for that purpose, for the cities of Washington and Georgetown, the assessment now being prepared, and for the remainder of the District the last assessment. The journal shall thereafter be made to show the amount added to or taken from the aforesaid total assessment, so that the total assessed value of land in the District shall at all times appear. Forty days before the first of November and the first of May in each year the journal shall be closed, and the total amount of the assessment, less the amount assessed on land by law exempt from taxation, shall be reported over the signature of the president and prosecutor of the board to the commissioners of the District of Columbia, who shall determine and fix the rate of taxation necessary to raise the revenue required, not exceeding the limit fixed by law. The commissioners shall transmit said report and the rate to the assessor and collector to guide them in the preparation of the tax duplicate for that period of six months.

There shall be kept in the office of the Board of Equalization two sets of maps under the direction of the prosecutor, one set showing the District of Columbia in not more than four sections, with all the subdivision of squares and tracts in the outlying districts; and on each square and tract shall be marked the contents in square feet or acres, the total land value, and the average valuation per square foot or acre, according to the assessment on the first Monday in June, 1892. The other set of maps shall show each square or tract on a separate sheet in book form, designated by the number of the square or tract, which square or tract shall be subdivided into lots showing each separate ownership, and on each such subdivision there shall be marked the contents in square feet or acres, the total land value and the value per foot or acre, according to the assessment on the first Monday in June, 1892. And thereafter changes in assessments on land or new assessments shall be marked on the face of both sets of maps until such time as in the judgment of the prosecutor new sets of maps become necessary. On these maps all public grounds and Government property on which no assessment is levied shall be indicated by a distinct color; and another color shall indicate all private grounds assessed, but by law exempt from taxation. The assessor shall turn over to the Board of Equalization all maps and plats now in his possession.

All maps shall be open to public inspection during office hours.

The Board of Equalization shall, as soon as practicable after the closing of the books, make an estimate of all taxable land in the District of Columbia, showing the annual rental value of each square and tract, exclusive of improvements, ascertaining as nearly as possible the annual rent that the land would bring if put to its best use. The amount of this annual rental so ascertained, with a statement of the amount of the taxes levied upon the land represented by it, and showing what percentage of the annual value is taken by taxation, shall be reported by the president of the board to the commissioners of the District of Columbia for publication in the annual report.

Appended to the report is a table showing percentage of increase in the

value of lands and in the value of improvements, and the percentage of increase in the total assessment, and the percentage of land values to total assessment in Washington City from 1890 to 1893. The estimate for 1893 is based upon the careful examination of 27 typical blocks. It shows an increase of 160 per cent. in land values and of 7 per cent. in improvements. The proportion of land value assessments to the total assessment in all these years varied from 48 to 53 per cent. In the tentative assessment for 1893 it is 73 per cent.

Another table shows the same facts as to the whole District. Other tables show comparisons of the proportion of value of the improvements to total value in business blocks and in blocks occupied by small houses. Here are the conclusions drawn from these tables:

Assessed values in the twenty-seven typical squares in the city of Washington for fiscal year ending June 30, 1892:

Land	$5,295 394
Improvements	4 750,178
Total	$10,045,572

Land assessment is therefore 53 per cent. of total assessment.

Assessed values in the twenty-seven typical squares in the city of Washington for fiscal year ending June 30, 1893:

Land	$13 748.746
Improvements	5 099,100
Total	$18,847,846

Land assessment is therefore 73 per cent. of total assessment.

Increase in new assessment over old:

Land	$8,453 352
Improvements	348,922
Percentage of increase on land	160
Percentage of increase on improvements	7

Increase in total assessment is therefore 87 per cent.

Assessed value of all the taxable land and improvements in the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1892:

Land	$76.451 028
Improvements	69,030.250
Total	$145,481,278

Assessed value of land is therefore 53 per cent of total assessed value.

The new assessment being 160 per cent. more on land and 7 per cent. more on improvements than the old assessment, the probable assessed value for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1892, assuming that the Board of Equalization make no increase, will be as follows:

Land	$198.772.672
Improvements	73,862,367
Total	$272,635,040

Assessed value of land will therefore be 73 per cent. of total.

The average increase in the assessed value for the last thirteen years from 1880 to 1892, for the entire District as is shown by Table 2:

Average percentage of increase in value of land	5⅛
Average percentage of increase in value of improvements	4 2-5
Average percentage of increase in total assessed value	4½

The percentage of increase of the new assessment over the old shows:

Percentage of increase in value of land	160
Percentage of increase in value of improvements	7
Percentage of increase in total assessed values	87

While each year for the past thirteen years the assessment on land and improvements has been substantially the same in amount, the indications, judging from the twenty-seven typical blocks, are that the assessment for the entire District will be for 1893:

On land	$198 772 672
On improvements	73,862,367
Excess of land over improvements	$124,910,305

This increase of practically $125,000 000, is, in the judgment of the committee, almost entirely due to the agitation and investigation of inequalities and under-assessments of land values in the District.

In proof of this we call attention to square 253, the assessment of which between two investigations only one week apart, was raised from $907,439 to $1,496,061, an increase of $588,622.

Almost all of this increase in assessed value has been on valuable business land. While the increased assessment falls with enormously heavier burden on the most valuable land, it is relatively and absolutely lighter on residence land, owing to a correction of the gross inequality of assessment that has hitherto shifted the greater part of the weight from the former to the latter.

The assessed value of land in the District for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1893, will probably be, as shown in the foregoing tables, about $300 000,000, which, judging from the ratio exhibited by the twenty-seven typical blocks, is only 47 per cent. of the true value—$423 000,000.

A tax rate on the true value of land in the District of 59 cents on each $100 would raise $2 500,000, being one-half of the amount now annually appropriated for District purposes.

A rate of 71 cents on each $100 would raise $3,000,000, one-half the amount estimated by the Commissioners as necessary for District purposes.

At 10 per cent. annual increase, the *minimum* rate testified to by witnesses before the committee, there would be an increment to land values of $42,300,000 each year. This represents the annual profit of landowners, and when it is considered that improvements in the District are only $73,000 000, or one-fifth of the total, it seems entirely just that taxes falling on the latter depreciating property—improvements—should be shifted to that part of the taxable value that receives such an enormous increase each year—land.

The committee took no testimony as to land values outside of the cities of Washington and George-town, but unofficially they learn that the county contains nearly 40 000 acres, some of the least valuable of which was taken to form Rock Creek Park and the Zoölogical Garden, for which the Government paid about $1,400,000, or $700 an acre. Estimating all the land in the county to be worth no more than that, the total assessment should have been $28 000,000. Instead of that it was assessed at less than $10,000,000. Some of the land lying outside of Boundary street and forming a part of the county proper, has been sold at the rate of from $8,000 to $10,000 an acre, and the lowest estimate the committee could get on the entire 40,000 acres was over $100,000,000. This shows that the inequalities in assessment of the county are very great, and probably the land now stands assessed at a good deal less than one tenth of its real value. It must be remembered that in what is defined as the county are such places as Le Droit Park, Eckington, Brookland, Tennallytown, Mt. Pleasant, Anacostia, Brightwood, Washington Heights, Columbia Heights, etc.

THE AUSTRALIAN COLONIES.

JOHN FARRELL.

SYDNEY, New South Wales, April 15, 1892.

Parliament has gone into recess without any attempt having been made to carry out the pledge given by the ministry to hold a short supplementary session for the purpose of again passing through the popular chamber the electoral reform bill. Your readers may remember that the nominee Upper Chamber rejected the one-man-one-vote bill on the false plea that it had not public approval, while eagerly passing the tariff proposals, which were distinctly sprung upon the colony against the balance of public opinion by a chance administration. The rejection by the Council of the electoral reform proposals was the signal for loud talk and much posturing on the part of the labor members in the Assembly. In response to this Mr. Dibbs promised a short session to deal with the matter. The ardor of most of the labor members cooled off considerably, however, and the subject was quietly allowed to drop. The present position is that no principal measure which the labor members were elected to support has been carried into law, while the tariff, any interference with which they were pledged to block, has been altered. There is much discontent and division among the labor bodies in consequence, and votes of censure upon their members are now being carried.

In the meantime the increased taxation is being felt more and more keenly by the great masses of the people, and general depression prevails in a more marked degree than ever before in this colony. A government labor bureau has been established, the purpose of which is to place unemployed persons and possible employers in communication with each other, and to provide free railway passes to needy persons asking help to reach places where their services may possibly be required. The exhibition building in which Henry George lectured to between five and six thousand people when he was here, is now, by the permission of the mayor, converted into a barrack for the accommodation of ablebodied paupers. There are on the books of the labor bureau the names of nearly 8,000 applicants for work, while hundreds of families are in receipt of public or private charity. A pretty state of things to prevail in one of the best naturally endowed countries in the world, which has not yet a population of one person to the square mile, isn't it? In the meantime Mr. Dibbs contemplates a trip to England for some mysterious purpose which he declines to reveal, and Parliament will probably stand adjourned for five or six months.

In Queensland public feeling has been strongly aroused on the black labor question. Just before the meeting of Parliament about three weeks

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John Farrell was born in December, 1852, at Buenos Ayres, La Plata, of Irish parents. In the following year he accompanied them to the gold fields of Victoria. In Victoria, after many vicissitudes, the family settled down upon a farm in the interior of the colony. Here the next eighteen years of Mr Farrell's life were passed, and here he received a rudimentary education at a public school At the age of nineteen he abandoned farming and went to learn the brewing trade in the city of Sandhurst. He remained there two years and then started on a gold-digging expedition to the gulf country of Queensland, then almost unknown. After two years spent in wanderings, which resulted only in a harvest of hard experience, he returned to Sandhurst, and resumed work in the brewery. In 1876 he married and two years later went to live at Albury, in New South Wales, as manager of a brewery. This post he occupied for six years, in the meantime contributing, chiefly in verse, to several magazines and journals, and taking an active part in local political proceedings. Leaving Albury, he, in conjunction with a partner, established tolerably successful breweries in two towns.

In 1886 Mr. Farrell, then a protectionist from tradition and want of thought, had his attention called to "Progress and Poverty." He read it, and, deeply impressed by its humanitarian fervor and unanswerable logic, lost henceforth no opportunity of preaching the gospel of social salvation through the observance of justice. In 1887 he decided to abandon the brewing business and devote himself altogether to journalism. Filled with the idea of forcing men to think upon the question which Mr. George had brought so prominently forward, he purchased a weekly paper in Lithgow, the chief inland coal-mining town, and under the title of the Australian Land Nationalizer, ran it as an organ of the single tax. This was the first paper of the kind in New South Wales, and the most important in any of the colonies. For sometime before its appearance Our Commonwealth, brought out monthly in Adelaide under the management of L. H. Berens, Ignatius Singer and other enthusiasts, had done very good work. But the Nationalizer was a much more costly and ambitious organ. Its proprietor devoted its editorial columns to the exclusive work of explaining and advocating the single tax, and at the same time used every means in his power to bring together into compact organization the scattered forces of reform.

In the course of the year the name of the paper was known throughout Australia. It had a large circulation, and single tax leagues had been established in many centres. But, as might have been foreseen, it was a failure in a financial sense. A company was then formed which took over the other local paper and, incorporating the two, ran the combination for another year, but at a loss, in the interest of the single tax. Finally this company sold out its Lithgow interest and sent Mr. Farrell to Sydney to establish and run the Australian Standard, which failed ultimately for lack of funds, and was succeeded by the Democrat, under the editorship of Frank Colton. Mr. Farrell had in the mean time continuously contributed letters and articles on the single tax to the metropolitan and country papers. In 1890 he was for some months editor of the Daily Telegraph, the principal daily paper of the colony, and is still on its editorial staff. That journal is the strongest Australian press advocate of land value taxation.

Mr. Farrell has published a volume of verse which has been one of the pronounced Australian successes in that class of literature, several of the poems having gone the round of the world.

ago, Sir Samuel Griffith astounded the colony by announcing his conversion to the ranks of black labor advocacy. The prominent position which Sir Samuel has reached in the public life of Queensland has unquestionably been due to his resistance of the nefarious slave trade carried on in the past. In the name of humanity he opposed the interests of the banks and sugar planters, and succeeded in having the brutal traffic in flesh and blood (I quote his own words) stopped. Now he has succeeded without an appeal to the people in having it opened again. The bill warranting its renewal was rushed through both houses of Parliament in an incredibly short time, and now only awaits vice-regal sanction. Just as I write the Assembly is considering the land grant railway bill. The purpose of this measure is to authorize companies to construct railways, which are either to remain the property of the builders for a time, or to pass at once into the hands of the State, payment being made in grants of land under certain conditions. This principle Sir Samuel Griffith once resisted with his whole strength, but he will now passively acquiesce in it.

The plea in this matter, as in that of black labor, is that something must be done to give employment to the white population. Railway construction cannot be proceeded with on the old lines because the flotation of government loans is no longer easy. The introduction of Kanakas to work the sugar plantations would, it is said, create openings for white workers which do not now exist. The real motive is to provide the cheapest of human beasts of burden for conscienceless taskmasters. To the credit of the clergy of Queensland it must be said that they, at the risk of much loss of popularity among certain powerful classes, stand together pretty solidly in opposition to the government bill. One, the Rev. J. G. Paton, chairman of the New Hebrides Mission of the Presbyterian Church, has issued a strong and striking denunciation of the whole business, which has had a marked influence. The missionaries, who have had an opportunity of seeing how the recruits were obtained from the islands for the Queensland market in the past, regard the resumption of the traffic as a national crime. Certainly as it was formerly carried on it was no less. A royal commission which inquired into the question some years ago disclosed a state of things which sent a shudder through the colonies. The unfortunate islanders were either grossly deceived as to the contracts they were led into making or kidnapped and forcibly torn away from their relatives. Such a record of villainy and atrocity as the commission's report it would be hard to equal.

While this earnest attack is being made by the Queensland clergy upon thinly disguised chattel slavery, it is gratifying to note that their brethren of South Australia are wrestling vigorously with the veiled industrial slavery of unconditional private ownership of land. The Rev. E. G. Rowe, on April 7, delivered, by invitation of the Adelaide branch of the Amalgamated Engineers, an address on the "Social Question" in the Trades and Labor Council Hall, which was a rousing and unmistakable single tax utterance. The reverend gentleman dwelt at length upon the poverty, degradation, and misery which, in the richest and most thickly populated countries, are the most notable and alarming social features of our time, and showed pretty clearly how such a fearful state of affairs has come into existence. He pointed out that in South Australia similar causes were beginning to produce like results, quoting from a locally delivered political speech to show that many of the farmers who were tenants of the South Australian Company were unable to employ labor because the payment of rent left them crippled, and were even compelled to enter into competition with other laborers on district council jobs. Mr. Rowe did not hesitate to declare his belief that the remedy is to be found in a just system of taxation.

Altogether, the march of single tax knowledge and sentiment is rapidly becoming a triumphal one in South Australia. Hardly a week passes without discussion in the pages of the Adelaide papers or those of the country districts on some phase of the question. There are many able and ready writers on our side who give an excellent account of themselves on every possible occasion. A considerable money prize was recently offered by the mayor of Port Adelaide for the best essay upon the single tax. This was won by H. S. Taylor, a gentleman who, after having done much heavy and valuable work as secretary of the Adelaide branch of the League, has, unfortunately, been compelled to retire for a while owing to impaired health. The Pioneer, the organ of the movement, keeps on its way bravely, and the minds of the people are becoming gradually leavened. It is impossible that the ardent propaganda which is being carried on could fail to open the general understanding somewhat. A prominent member of the Assembly only the other day publicly declared that the action of the single tax party has had the result of rendering land unsaleable. It has not quite come to that yet, however. If the gentleman in question had said that the prospect of a just land value tax being imposed in the near future is preventing speculative sharks and syndicate boodlers from preying upon the people to the same extent as formerly, he would have been much nearer to the truth.

Victoria—alas for Victoria!—is now in the throes of a general election which has no particular issue or motive before it. The colony has simply run down. Quarter of a century of high tariff protection, profligate borrowing and spending, and generally ignorant and shoddy statesmanship, have left it in a deplorable condition. Retrenchment of the sharpest kind, economies that pry into almost every detail of departmental working, and further taxation in several new directions is what the present government proposes. Political thought in Victoria is backward and conservative, hence the party who demand that all men shall have equal voting power will probably be defeated. The vote "for thrift" is likely to secure the support of a majority. Mr. Shiels, the new Victorian premier, is fairly liberal and as advanced as his surroundings will permit him to be with any chance of practical success. He favors one-man-one-vote and the changing of the present Victorian land tax on country areas to a tax on land values. Sir Graham Berry, the father of Victorian protection and the high priest of this silly and unjust tax, has reappeared in Victoria after an absence of half-a-dozen years in London as agent-general for the colony. He will contest a seat, and will probably soon again play a prominent part in Victorian politics, although what that part may be cannot be forecast. So far, his chief public utterance has been directed against Mr. Shiel's land value taxation proposals.

But a large number of the candidates favor land value taxation, and the beginning of a change in Victoria is very palpable. There are only thirty-three labor candidates announced (there being ninety-five seats altogether), and it is thought that but a small percentage of these will be returned. Most of them support the taxation of land values. The Railway Gazette, the organ of Victorian railway workers of every grade, has lately been publishing a series of excellent leading articles, showing how the railways could be made to pay without the miserable device of reducing the wages of those employed in connection with them. Mr. Max Hirsch, whose admirable pamphlet on "Protection in Victoria" was noticed some time ago in THE STANDARD, has lately been doing much effective propagandist work. As a lecturer, Mr. Hirsch has the same gift of lucid and convincing exposition which his writings disclose, and he is an indefatigable worker with voice and pen. On the whole single tax principles are gaining adherents and making excellent headway in Australia. Of what is being done in New Zealand I hope to tell you in my next letter.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

HENRY GEORGE, JR.

William J. Stone, of Kentucky, was one of the men who inserted five chapters of "Protection or Free Trade?" in the Congressional Record. He is a fine-looking, large, powerfully built man, with a long grayish beard; and he walks with a crutch and a cane, having lost one leg in the war. His seat is in the last row at about the middle of the Democratic side of the House. Just across the aisle, with one seat intervening—Roger Q. Mill's old seat—is the seat that Tom L. Johnson occupies. But Mr. Johnson is little in it, having permission of the House to carry on his District of Columbia taxat on investigation in the room of the Committee on Territories. Underneath his desk Mr. Johnson keeps a large pile of the Congressional Record edition of "Protection or Free Trade?" enveloped, but not franked. The books are left there with an invitation to all the members in the House to come and take what they will, each man sending out what he takes under his own frank. This enables members with the least inconvenience to answer requests of constituents for a copy or two, though sometimes small packages are made up from the pile, Speaker Crisp, for instance, getting thirty copies for thirty cents received from one of his constituents. But these cases are few, most of those members who wish to send out a number of copies of the book doing it by special order.

Mr. Stone sits in his seat, and with twinkling eyes watches the Johnson desk. Presently along comes a member, looking around at the desks in a perplexed manner.

"I hear Johnson——" He is interrupted by Mr. Stone.

"I know," says the Kentucky member. "You want 'St. George.' Over there at Johnson's desk, just past Colonel Mills's seat. Johnson put five hundred copies there this morning. Only one hundred and fifty remain."

The member finds the books and takes one away with him. Presently another member comes looking around. He is a Republican. Mr. Stone's face lights up with a smile. He knows what the gentleman looks for, but he assumes innocence.

"Looking for anything?" he says.

The Republican member hesitates a moment. "I'm trying to find where Johnson keeps"——

Mr. Stone does not let him get further in his speech. He bursts forth in exultation, while he points out the desk of the member from Ohio. "Coming for the book, eh? Makes good campaign reading."

"There's a fellow in my district"—— starts in the Republican member; but Mr. Stone finishes the sentence for him—

——"Who wants a copy. You should look after that man; he has good, sound sense. But what a pretty figure you cut, coming over here for a book in the very first pages of which your name is printed as favoring a proposition to strike it out of the Record. There's consistency for you. You one day condemn the book, and next day you come to get a copy to send out over your frank. Made a mistake, didn't you? Never mind. Just take all the copies you want and send them out. They'll do heaps of good."

The Republican member tries to explain that he is only complying with a constituent's request, but the Kentucky member's banter is too much for him and he precipitately retreats. Many incidents of this kind occur every day now, and Mr. Stone wouldn't miss the fun for anything. In this way a number of Republicans and several of the few remaining Randall protection Democrats have been forced to make pilgrimages to the Johnson desk and get copies of "Protection of Free Trade?" This is embarrassing, but it is nothing like so distasteful as the having to frank the books for the mail. "I wouldn't object so much if I did not have to put my name on the envelope," said a Republican member to Mr. Johnson the other day. "I hate like blazes to do it."

"You'll catch blazes if you don't," answered Mr. Johnson. "Your constituents are asking for it, and you'll have to send it. You can't have my frank. Only free trade Democrats can have that—if they want it."

But free trade Democrats don't want it; they are willing, indeed, anxious to use their own franks. They are beginning to discover the strength of a truly free trade fight, and are sending copies of the book into their districts as fast as Mr. Johnson can supply them. But sending out copies seems only to freshen the demand for them; the book's popularity seems ever to be increasing. Mr. Bynum says that amazing popularity is manifested throughout Indiana and that a tremendous amount of discussion is going on everywhere in the State. The papers are full of the book and the subject it treats, and a very large number of books will have to be put out before long. Other members declare that the publication of the book in the Record was the cleverest political stroke that has been accomplished

this Congress, while more than one of the timid and negative Crisp leaders in the House now admit that the book is attracting an attention they had little anticipated.

But large as has been the demand made upon Congressmen for the book, it has not been large enough to satisfy Mr. Johnson. He wants every Democrat to put a large number out in his district, and in every letter going out from him (and he now has an immense correspondence) he sends several little slips bearing the following printed message:

TO THOSE WHO HAVE SEEN THE CAT.

Henry George's book, "Protection or Free Trade?" has been published in the Congressional Record. It can now be sent out under frank of any Congressman at a trifling cost, one cent a copy. You should write to your Congressman, and have your friends do the same, asking for copies. It will show him the interest his constituents are taking in the free trade fight, and will furnish them with the very best argument in existence against protection.

This is important. Do it at once.

Pass this slip along the line.

Before another week passes over these slips will begin to tell, and such a multitude of "begging letters" will be written as never before beset members of Congress.

The lower part of Mr. Johnson's house looks like a "country post office," to use his own expression. Mail bags, packages and big boxes of envelopes not only crowd his office, but line the spacious hallway outside the office and overflow into a large room adjoining, that has been turned into a mailing department, and where a number of girls and young men are kept constantly at work, from early till late. When Mr. Johnson is not at the Capitol he is in his office contriving some new plan for spreading the faith, and he keeps everybody and everything on the jump. "We'll make this the greatest educational campaign that ever was," he said when the first copy of the book appeared; and he is now keeping his word.

In addition to the large quantities going out through Congressmen's hands and in response to orders, two copies of the book have been sent to every newspaper in the United States, nearly forty thousand copies in all. Already the discussion is broadening out from free trade to the single tax. Here is a brief editorial from a Republican paper, the Sioux City, Iowa, Journal:

Two prominent daily papers of Iowa have been considered advocates of the single tax theory of Henry George, the Des Moines Leader and Dubuque Telegraph. Under fire the Leader, if it has been correctly understood, has retreated, and now denies that it considers the plan of Mr. George adequate, reasonable or just. The Dubuque Telegraph, however, still flaunts the banner. It says: "This journal would disturb no man's title to land. It would permit him to have possession or ownership, whichever he preferred to call it. But it would abolish all other taxes and levy a tax equal to the rental value on land alone." As the value of land depends upon rent, present or potential, rising as it rises and falling as it falls, to tax land up to its full rental value is to destroy its exchange value. *If this is not the abolition* of private ownership in land, it is nothing.

Our friend, W. E. Brokaw, of Des Moines, wrote on the 19th inst. about another Iowa Republican paper, the Des Moines Register:

To-day's Register ("Rhet" Clarkson's paper) says: "The farmers and others who are receiving copies of Henry George's book * * * should make it a point to read clear through the volume. * * * It will pay to read from the first chapter to the last, inclusive. * * * No one should stop half way. * * * The way to do is to read all of it. If that is the *understanding the Republican committee ought to help circulate the book.*" And it quotes extracts showing that argument of the book leads to the abolition of "private ownership" of land. The Register, by its brazen opposition, is doing us lots of good. I shall write a note to it offering to send copies of the book to all the addresses it will furnish us.

The Register will as readily furnish such addresses as will ex-Speaker Reed indorse the suggestion of one of his correspondents to supply all the Republican campaign orators with copies of the book. The newspapers and the political leaders who support the idea of protection know too well the utter falseness of their position. They are not prepared, to speak figuratively, to thrust their heads into the lion's mouth, especially when they know that the lion is getting good and hungry. What they will try to do is to raise a false cry and get up a scare. But they have cried "wolf" too many times when there was no wolf.

And the splendid educational campaign that has been so auspiciously begun in this country is more than likely very soon to spread to Canada. It is possible to send the book free through the mails for delivery there under a Congressman's frank, if the envelope carrying it is left open in accordance with Canadian custom house requirements. Copies of the book will in a few days be sent to every newspaper in Canada, and some of the Liberal members of the Dominion Parliament have expressed the desire of following the example of our Democratic Congressmen and of distributing a large number of copies through their constituencies. Inasmuch as the question of free trade, especially free trade with the United States, is allied to the question of annexation, that in turn carries in its train a complication of questions that have from their settlement kept Canada divided into two distinct and hostile nationalities, this book strikes at a living issue, and the whole Dominion will ring in response.

Thus will the educational campaign go along hand in hand in both countries, and the Congressional Record edition of "Protection or Free Trade" be distributed over the whole continent north of the Mexican line.

And what agitates the Canadian people reacts upon our own and quickens discussion here. Those who do not see that all this insures an extremely radical presidential campaign in the United States cannot read the signs of the times. And it may be said to be the work of one man. When Tom L. Johnson goes to Chicago a few weeks hence to take his seat in the National Democratic Convention, to which he has just been elected a delegate from the twenty-first district of Ohio, the district he represents in Congress, he will be in one respect the most distinguished man in all that vast assemblage. He will have made the real platform on which shall stand the candidate of that convention.

Who will help him build that platform? All who will can help by contributing to the distribution fund. Now is the golden time. Ten cents will send out ten books and $1 will at this day do more than a brass band six months hence. Every one should contribute, no matter how small a sum, and soon the agitation will sweep over the country like fire over a parched prairie.

SINGLE TAX NEWS.

The Single Tax is a tax on land, regardless of its improvements and in proportion to its value. It implies the abolition of all other forms of taxation, and the collection of the public revenues from this source alone. It would be CERTAIN, because land values are most easily appraised; WISE, because, by discouraging the withdrawal of land from use and encouraging its improvement, it would expand opportunities for labor, augment wealth, and increase the rewards of industry and thrift; EQUAL, because every one would pay taxes in proportion to the value of the land, of right the common property of all, which he appropriated to his own use; and JUST, because it would fall not upon labor, enterprise, and thrift, but upon the value of a special privilege. It is more fully explained in the Single Tax Platform in another column; and in "Progress and Poverty," by Henry George, every point is discussed and every objection answered.

The underlying principle of the single tax—that the earth belongs equally to all, and that the best way to secure substantial justice is to tax the occupant an amount equal to the yearly value of the land—is sound.—Journal of the Knights of Labor, September 24, 1891.

We have no hesitation in declaring our belief that the ideal taxation lies in the Single Land Tax, laid exclusively on the rental value of land, independent of improvements.—New York Times, January 10, 1891.

The best and surest subject of taxation is the thing that perforce stays in one place; that is land.—New York Sun, August 26, 1891.

Every one of these taxes [on commodities and buildings] the ostensible taxpayer—the man on the assessor's books—shifts to other shoulders. The only tax he cannot shift is the tax on his land values.—Detroit News, November 1, 1891.

The Bee does not say that it will never be a full-fledged single tax advocate. It believes in it in theory now; it pauses only on the threshold of doubt as to the expediency under existing circumstances.—Sacramento (Cal.) Bee.

The products of individual industry should remain at all times untaxed. Take the annual rental value of land without regard for improvements, no matter what it amounts to. The community could put this fund to better uses than the individual landlords.—St. Louis Chronicle.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE SINGLE TAX LEAGUE.

The National Committee is carrying on the newspaper work of the Memphis committee in supplying news companies with single tax matter for their ready prints and plates.

Cash balance remains as reported last week, viz..... $6 72

GEO. ST. JOHN LEAVENS, Secretary.

PROGRESS OF THE MOVEMENT.

A circular has been issued by the State committeeman, E. J. Shriver, of 234 Pearl street, New York City, to single tax men and women of New York State, asking for names to be sent in for regular enrollment as basis of a State organization, and for suggestions as to plans of work that will be desirable in themselves and will insure financial support, the position of the National Executive Committee as regards lack of funds being clearly stated. The circular goes on to say:

"One line of work has occurred to me personally as being possible to organize on a modest scale within our own State if I can get efficient co-operation from individual single taxers. I have now on hand a list of newspapers throughout the United States which have expressed themselves as being willing to publish (under varying limitations) articles on the single tax, with especial reference to the declaration, of which a copy is enclosed, and which was recently signed by a number of prominent men, whose names were then published as thus pronouncing in favor of our doctrines. I would now like to make use of this opportunity for a further hearing, and for this purpose would welcome letters on the subject, not more than 3,000 words in length and preferably shorter, to be sent to me, and by me forwarded to such of the papers on the list as appear to be most suitable for each. This is something on the lines of the 'plate matter' circulated by the General Committee, with the difference that each letter would thus go to the newspaper to which sent as an original communication, and I think it could be organized into a regular service of considerable value, and yet involve very little labor to each of those who will constitute themselves correspondents.

"In case you should desire to take part in such plan, and yet be at a lost for a particular peg on which to 'hang your discourse,' I would sugges that a series of letters, taking as a text the several clauses of the 'declaration' itself, would be of considerable interest."

The declaration referred to is as follows:

Believing that public attention is concerned as never before with the solution of the social problems which confront us, we declare our adhesion to the following principles; and we urge upon all American citizens a careful examination of them with a view to their embodiment in the law.

I.—Taxes should be simple, just, definite, and easily collected.

II.—They ought not to restrict production or saving, nor to favor individuals at the expense of the community.

III.—Labor should always be able to find suitable employment; and for this purpose, only the use of land is absolutely necessary.

IV.—A tax on the rental value of land, exclusive of improvements, is direct, equitable, and certain; it would encourage production and industry, and hinder the withholding of available land from use. It would take for public purposes only the value created by the public growth, leaving to labor and capital their full earnings, free from all tax.

THEREFORE, a single tax on the rental value of land alone is the best possible tax.

Mr. Shriver reports very meagre response in either funds, suggestions, names for enrollment or contributions to be sent to newspapers as proposed; but hopes that New York readers of THE STANDARD who may not have received circulars may do better than those who have not been personally addressed.

WHAT BROOKLYN IS DOING.

The Brooklyn Women's Single Tax Club held another of its parlor lectures at the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Burns Battle, on Monday, the 16th inst. There were twenty-five men and women present. Professor L. E. Wilmarth gave a lecture on "Interest." He presented it in a clear and original manner that made it easy to understand for those who had con-

fused ideas of what was true interest. During and after the lecture there were many intelligent questions asked. Professor Wilmarth is much interested in the success of the Economic Reading Circles, and he has undertaken to write out the necessary memoranda on its course of reading.

The Brooklyn Builders' Association, composed of persons identified with the building trade and kindred interests, has just been organized. Bolton Hall was secretary of the first meeting, and after the dinner which followed Charles Du Bois made a single tax speech.

Charles Preston, of Syracuse, N. Y., asks the Sunday Times of that city: "Is not our America fast approaching the full vigor of middle life? Do not the luxury and consequent corruption of great wealth threaten us?

The Industrial Gazette of the same city answers yea to Mr. Preston's inquiry, but declares that great wealth equitably acquired would injure no one. The Gazette finds that great wealth is acquired by obtaining special privileges, by indirect taxation, and by the absorption for private aggrandizement of the value which society alone gives to land. Taking the Vanderbilt fortune as an example, the Gazette points out that the amount the Vanderbilt road beds would rent for annually for railroad purposes is the exact amount which ought to go to the people. "Render under the people that which *belongs to the people, the rent of land*; render unto Vanderbilt that which belongs to Vanderbilt, all the results of his own enterprise and industry."

DISCUSSION IN CHICAGO.

Warren Worth Bailey reports in this fashion an interesting discussion in Chicago:

Editor James F. O'Donnell, of the Bloomington Daily Bulletin, was to have addressed our club on Thursday evening, and a large audience assembled to greet him, but a railway washout prevented the gentleman's appearance, and we were forced to fall back upon our own resources. These, fortunately, are no longer straightened as they once were. We have a score of ready speakers, and in cases of emergency any one of them may be relied upon to "open the ball." This was done Thursday evening by Mr. Walter F. Cooling, a young lawyer, who, at a moment's notice, took the floor and delivered a speech full of suggestion.

He said that in the present fight against protection the advantage was with the defenders of that system, not because the masses knew or cared anything about the theory upon which it is based, but because of certain plain facts which no tariff reformer had sufficiently explained. The extraordinary prosperity that spread beneficently over the whole land during the war was declared by the protectionists to be the result of the taxes then imposed. Greenbackers asserted that it was due to the larger issues of money. But Mr. Cooling showed both these assumptions to be unfounded and also that the common explanation made by Democrats, when they attempted to explain at all, was wholly inadequate.

The real explanation of the enormous advances of industry and the universal diffusion of prosperity was to be found in the fact that the war scare had the effect of reducing the value of land. Speculative values largely disappeared and labor and capital thus found access to natural opportunity comparatively free. As a result production was greatly stimulated, wages rose, enterprise took on new forms, invention contributed its various aids, and, in spite of the appalling losses of war, wealth was multiplied and its distribution, less subject to the influences of landlordism, brought plenty to every home. He admitted that there were other factors to be taken into account in explaining the prosperity of the war period, but the prime one, he contended, was the general decline of land values. In effect the people at that time had enjoyed the benefits of the single tax.

Mr. Hallowell, a prominent single tax farmer who happened to be present was inclined to take issue with Mr. Cooling. He thought that the increase in the amount of currency had been the chief factor in producing the prosperous condition noted. He did not exactly dispute the point made by Mr. Cooling that land values had fallen, but intimated that such had not been the case. He was a large landowner himself at the time, and the value of his land rose. He said land speculation was then rife and farm lands brought more than at any time since.

Edward Osgood Brown thought Mr. Cooling's idea not only novel, but almost, if not quite, conclusive.

George V. Wells doubted its value. Mr. Gochegan thought the opening of our western empire had been a large factor in producing the prosperity noted, and other gentlemen named other contributing factors. Mr. White held that the value of land must have fallen, not so much because of the war scare as by reason of the withdrawal of labor from production, thus reducing the possible quantity of wealth from which land could take. Mr. Cooling's position, on the whole, was correct.

It had been expected that the Rev. Floyd Tomkins would speak next Thursday evening, but he will not be able to appear before September. Mr. O'Donnell will therefore fill the date, and the following Thursday Professor Welton will come.

James Malcolm is now on the editorial staff of the Herald.

C. S. Darrow has been in ill health for some time. He writes me that he expects to be a frequent visitor to the club hereafter.

Ernest Ford is about to remove to Buffalo to become the secretary of the single tax club of that city. Ernest is a hustler and as faithful to the cause as any man I know.

Clinton Furbish is doing some great work in the editorial columns of the Times. "The cat" peers familiarly at the reader almost every morning.

HOW IOWA IS DOING.

W. Edwin Brokaw, of Des Moines, turns up anew in a discussion of the single tax with Professor G. S. Innis in Farm, Stock and Home.

Mr. Brokaw has received from Congressman Bowman, who helped to have "Protection or Free Trade?" published in the Congressional Record, a letter saying that no one has written protesting against his part in that matter, and that he is deluged with requests for the work. The letter was published in the Daily News, the Daily Leader, and the Register. The Register, though adverse to the single tax and free trade, urges all who receive copies of "Protection or Free Trade?" to read it clear through. Mr. Brokaw sends, under date of May 20, these items of single tax news:

Last night Homer D. Cope read extracts from "Progress and Poverty" and "The Land Question" before the Des Moines Reform Club, after which there was a very interesting discussion. There was the largest attendance we have yet had, and quite a number who wanted to be there were unavoidably absent. County Attorney Spurrier, a Republican, said that although he did not agree with all Mr. George has written that he had almost come to love the man from the spirit of his works. He said that there was no subject the people of this country could better afford to take the time to study than the question of taxation.

Professor Ed. Amherst Ott, of Drake University, will read a paper before the club next Thursday night and Colonel R. G. Scott is down for the next week. The Saturday Review, a society paper of large circulation, publishes the papers read before the club.

The Single Tax Association of Dubuque has sent to the Senators and Representatives from Iowa a letter urging them to support the bill for applying the single tax principles in the District of Columbia.

T. W. Graham is carrying on a valuable single tax controversy with "X" in the Dubuque Herald.

ST. LOUIS AWAKE AS USUAL.

There is the usual activity in single tax circles in St. Louis. An interesting sign is a short interview with John N. Reilly, published by the Globe-Democrat. Mr. Reilly says that St. Louis is one of the strongest single tax centers in the Union, and notes its importance as a point of distribution for single tax documents.

Percy Pepoon writes that the St. Louis Musicians' Union has appropriated money to buy each of its 400 members a copy of "Protection or Free Trade?" and will urge similar action upon all other musicians' unions in the country.

A petition to the Missouri Congressmen to support Congressman Johnson's bill to institute the single tax in the District of Columbia has been circulated by B. C. Keeler, in St. Louis, and was signed by some of the most prominent citizens, including the largest merchants, bankers and manufacturers.

A new single tax club has been organized in the Twenty-sixth ward, St. Louis, with E. F. Meyer, president, and J. A. W. Schuessler, secretary. For the present the club will meet every Sunday afternoon at the southeast corner of O'Fallen Park.

Meetings of the Single Tax League of St. Louis have been remarkably well attended of late.

A local branch of the National Single Tax Propaganda has been organized, with J. A. Steele, as secretary.

It seems probable that the Democratic State Convention of Missouri will have to choose between two single taxers—Colonel Tuttle, of Petts County, and Judge Pollard, of St. Louis—for its nominee for Lieutenant-Governor.

H. Martin Williams has recently stirred a large audience in St. Louis with an address on land monopoly in the United States. He figures out total land grants for canals, for educational purposes, and to railroads, of 273,803,105 acres. Besides this, nearly 13,000,000 acres have been illegally enclosed for cattle and other syndicates largely composed of foreign noblemen. The alien landowners of the United States own more than 26,000,000 acres, and there are fifty foreign corporations and individuals who own nearly a million more acres of United States land than the whole area of Indiana. Furthermore, Mr. Williams gave a list of thirty American corporations and persons owning over 14,000,000 acres.

Mr. Williams, who edits the St. Charles, Mo., Banner, in a recently delivered article on Thomas Jefferson, prophecies that in time we shall rear to Jefferson's memory a monument fairer than that to Washington at the national capitol, and bearing upon it words like these: "In memory and in honor of Thomas Jefferson, who taught the doctrine that all men have an equal right to live upon this earth; that the natural sources of wealth belong to all alike; that 'the earth belongs in usufruct to the living,' and that dead men have no rights over it."

MOBILE'S INTERESTING ISSUE.

An interesting question of taxation has arisen in Alabama, and, of course, the single tax men are awake as usual. Mobile is to have a new sewerage system and water works, and the General Council of that city proposes to meet the cost of the work by increasing the tax rate 1½ mills on the dollar. E. Q. Norton saw in this his opportunity, and addresses to the Council at communication urging the assessment of the cost upon the land values of property abutting on the proposed sewer, and to be benefited by the improvement. The mayor of Mobile has already urged the assessment of the cost upon abutting property, but Mr. Norton points out that the benefits accrue solely to land values and not to buildings, and urges that the assessment should be made upon land values alone. Mr. Norton's communication has been printed in pamphlet form.

Mr. Norton is about to take part in a labor and Alliance conference at Birmingham on the subject of a third party in Alabama. He says that if the Hill-Gorman-Brice combination should control the Democratic party and stifle the free trade issue, he should be for a third party, and he finds many Democrats in Alabama ready to help split the party, while the Republicans also favor independent action.

IN THE FAR WEST.

William Matthews writes that there is considerable interest in the single tax at Black Buttes, Wyoming, and much demand for documents. He adds:

We are making arrangements to distribute a thousand or more of Tom L. Johnson's edition of "Protection or Free Trade?" among Wyoming voters. We don't forget either that the women are to be taken into consideration during the coming campaign in this State. Matt Muir, county assessor, called on us a few days ago. He at once set to work inquiring into his doubtful points of the land value tax. After I had expounded our position fully and corrected his erroneous ideas, he declared that the single tax, as he then understood it, satisfied his reason and his perception of justice. I supplied him with "Protection or Free Trade?" and other matter and advised him to read up on the subject and be prepared to meet all opposition.

The Mountaineer, of Marysville, Mont., in noting the completion of the assessment of taxes in parts of Lewis and Clark counties, takes the opportunity to urge the single tax, and commends the efficiency of the assessor. "Under the present system the more frequently taxes are assessed and collected," says the Mountaineer, "the more odious become the laws under which the people are thus robbed, and this only hastens the advance of the single tax and the law of exact justice to all God's creatures."

Not less outspoken than the Mountaineer is the Age of Boulder, Montana, though it has ceased for the time being to demand the organization of an independent political party based upon the single tax idea. The Age yields on this point to a great majority of single taxers. The Age protests that the single tax idea is far from being utopian. The practical application of the principles by a nation of slaves, it declares, made them a great people,

and the rejection of the principle has destroyed every great civilization of the past.

FATHER HUNTINGTON AT OTTAWA.

The Rev. Father Huntington lectured at Rideau Rink, Ottawa, on May, 10th, upon the "old and the new philanthropy." The old philanthropy was emotion, unguided by reason. The new philanthropy is not mere indiscriminate almsgiving, which promotes pauperism, but a recognition of the fact that men rightfully stand on equal terms with the common gifts of God. Of course, Father Huntington's lecture was a presentation of the single tax.

HOT BLOOD IN MEXICO.

Mr. Henry Ware Allen, the most active single taxer in the City of Mexico, sends to THE STANDARD clippings that cover an amusing newspaper discussion started by Mr. Allen's criticism of some evils in the politics of the United States. Mr. Allen's patriotism was called in question by a writer in The Two Republics, and defended in the editorial columns of the Anglo-American, and by a communication published in the same newspaper. Matters finally reached so warm a state that there seemed prospects of a duel. An editorial article in the Anglo American, addressed to the writer in The Two Republics, closes thus: "A word of warning is necessary; their identity is known, and as this journal does not believe in any unfair assault, let 'Mat' take the kindly western advice—'let him go home and heel himself.' If he requires to hear any personal opinions regarding himself this office is open from 6 A. M. until noon. Call around, coffee and the other articles if required. In the interests of the public the nefarious and cowardly writings that have appeared recently must be stamped, and there are several more than willing to 'bell the cat.'"

Mr. Allen's offense seems, upon the surface, to have been an unwillingness to be blind to the faults of his native country, but there are some evidences that his activity in the single tax propaganda had something to do with the enmity he has aroused.

SINGLE TAX LETTER WRITERS.

Division A—Hon. J. H. Mellen, State House, Boston, Mass. Mr. Mellen is ex-State Master Workman K. of L. Is now advocating a bill for the more strinent assessment of personal property. Says he is a Democratic protectionist. Show him how the single tax will settle the labor question, its advantages as a method of taxation, and the injustice of protection.

Division B—Mrs. Eliza Trask Hill, Room 9, Tremont Temple, Boston, Mass. Mrs. Hill is a woman suffragist and a champion of the public schools, and would be a valuable worker if she could be convinced of the far-reaching reform the single tax would accomplish.

Division C and O—Rev. A. S. Calthrop, 1571 South Salina street, Syracuse, N. Y. Mr. Calthrop is a Unitarian clergyman, and from being a determined opponent of Mr. George's views a few years ago, has become an admirer of his writings, and might be made an advocate of the single tax if he could be induced to give it further study. He is an influential man in his community.

Division D—Port Richmond, Staten Island, is discussing the best means of raising money for sewers, whether the village be bonded or local assessments made. A mass meeting was recently held at which Theodore Anderson and W. A. Ross opposed the bond scheme, and Abram Greenwald and F. W. Hulsebus favored it. All are of Port Richmond.

Division E—Hon. Henry A. Strong, mayor of Cohoes, N. Y., recently elected, and wants to do all he can to benefit the city. Is not opposed to our views.

Divisions F and G—Rev. Oliver W. Hutchinson, pastor Belmont Methodist Episcopal Church, Malden, Mass., has recently expressed his willingness to investigate.

Divisions H and L—Prof. G. S. Innis, Hamline University, Hamline, Minn., writes on "Objections to the Single Tax" in a recent number of the Farm, Stock and Home. The article is too long to quote, but here are a few sentences which give plenty of ground for discussion:

"The single tax is another scheme to make some one else pay our taxes."

"Place all the tax on land and you must increase the rate from six to eight times. This would drive people from the farm and the suburbs to the heart of the city. Destroy the possibility of ownership and increase the ground rent to meet all requirements for revenue, and the rich only can lease. To take a man's property without compensation is robbery, even if it is done in the name of the State and called law."

Division I—Rev. C. C. Albertson, Goshen, Ind. Discuss the ethical side chiefly in writing him.

Division J—V. T. Malott, president Indianapolis National Bank, Indianapolis, Ind. Recently arrested for refusing to allow assessors access to his books for the purpose of discovering if depositors made correct returns. This in accordance with new tax law.

Division K—John A. Hutchinson, Parkersburg, W. Va. Prominent lawyer of West Virginia. Desires to make this town a better place, freer from the social ills resulting from poverty and intemperance. Is a protectionist.

Division M—Miss M. B. Luck, care of School of Social Ethics, 34 Union square, New York city. In a speech explaining the teachings of the school, said: "We have proven the idea that rent, interest and profit were exploited from the laborer to be incorrect, by showing them to be economic surpluses, over and above the cost of production, which belong rightfully to those who, by the introduction of better methods, have created them. So do we know that taxes are investments, and are not paid by the laborer because he can always shift the burden by demanding back his increased cost from his employer in higher wages."

Division N—F. S. Jaquith, Third and Court avenues, Des Moines, Ia., wholesale dealer in boots and shoes. Favorably inclined, needs urging to further study.

New York, 1674 Broadway. MARIAN DANA MACDANIEL, Secretary.

OBJECT LESSONS.

This department contains facts, gathered from all parts of the world, that are of current interest and permanent value, and illustrate social and political problems. *Information from trustworthy sources is solicited.*

FREE TRADE IN HAMBURG.

Hamburg used be like some other German towns, what is called a free city, that is, it had no custom house. Under this régime it grew to be the fourth city in commercial importance in the world. It also had what is called "free trade in land," for which a small section of so-called English reformers of the leasehold enfranchisement sort are clamoring for. The land was freely bought and sold, but there was no tax upon its value, only upon its use. Therefore the great value imparted to it from the commercial importance of Hamburg was given as a present to the landowners. They have thus got richer by levying a tariff on the people of Hamburg than have most of the enterprising merchants and manufacturers and other workers who have contributed to the prosperity of the city. How much more would Hamburg have prospered under the genuine free trade that is promoted by a single tax on land values?

TAX THEM OUT.

The most valuable vacant lot of land in the city of Mobile, Ala., which fronts on the public square and is worth $30,000, is assessed for taxation at $10,000 on the plea that the property is unimproved and not earning anything. It is, however, let for circus and other tent exhibitions frequently for weeks at a time at $50 per week.

ENRICHED BY OTHERS.

It is a curious fact, says the New Bedford, Mass., Evening Journal, that some of the shabbiest real estate property in New Bedford is owned by one of the richest women in the world. It was Sylvia Ann Howland, who bequeathed to Mrs. Hetty Green, in connection with other heirs, a goodly quantity of material possessions, among which was the before-mentioned real estate. A large part of this is embraced in the two squares on either sides of Commercial street, between South Water street and the wharves.

Mrs. Green is quietly but firmly tenacious of this property. She makes no effort to rebuild or improve the property, and it is impossible to guess how long these old landmarks may stand, just as they have stood since before the memory of the present generation. The shingles are darkest gray with the wear of years, and the walls of those old structures are scarred with long black streaks from leaky water spouts never mended. Mrs. Green doesn't make a study of drainage and sanitation any farther than she is forced to make. In some places the roofs of the buildings are worn to a ragged, fringe-like edge, and on rainy days the water drips at will over the backs of passers-by.

Mrs. Green also owns half of a large lot and house on Achusnet avenue. This is as distinctive in its own way as the other. It is surrounded by progressive business blocks and smart-looking modern tenement houses, but they lend no modern touch to itself. This was the home of Mrs. Green's relatives. The house is utterly unacquainted with paint. On the front is a fence nearly ten feet high, covered with green moss and patent medicine advertisements. At the back of the house is a long garden, so-called, but innocent of verdure, both in summer and winter time. The house standing on low land, this garden is half flooded, and unpleasantly suggests the horrible slough which Bunyan so graphically describes.

The mud-puddle at the back gate is usually the most noticeable thing on the property. After a few days of rain the ordinary puddle develops into a good sized pond, and if the house, on its uncertain embankment of mud, should topple over in a high gale like the "House on the Tarn" of Poe's ghastly legend, it might be swallowed up.

Mrs. Green reserves a room for herself in this farmhouse, and leases the property and the rest of the buildings. She visited it last summer. The farm has one hundred acres of land and is worth $20,000.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

T. Wistar Brown, Jr., writes from Philadelphia: I must congratulate you on the publication of Dr. Rhoade's article, "The Christianity of the Single Tax." It strikes a note which must resound through all Christendom. Talk as we may, the great fact remains that the United States is the most spiritually religious country in the world, outside of England. The millions devoted to religious purposes and the vast amount of time spent in religious work is enough to convince the most skeptical that religion belongs to civilization.

Natural rights have a spiritual derivation and should be fought for in the name of Christianity. The part of those who would do all they can for humanity is to declare the cause a religious one. In hoc signo vinces applies now with as great spiritual force as it did when the cross was first held aloft before the army organized to fight the barbarians. The most poisonous weapon which can be used against the single tax before the people of this country is that lie which seems such a relief to the consciences of religious men, that it has nothing to do with religion and belongs to the realm of socialistic philosophy.

Our position in the battle against wrong cannot be that of an ally to the Christian camp relegated to a subordinate place; it must be in the front and centre where, holding up the cross, we march forward, drawing after us all who wish to fight for the Bible and for truth. The more definite and positive our stand, the sooner will the Christian forces fall in line and support the standard, all pressing on for that great day when we shall bring forth judgment unto victory.

A POPULAR UPRISING.

Brooklyn Eagle.

Twenty-nine thousand people voted for Roswell P. Flower in Erie county. The supporters of the Syracuse Convention protest declare that 23,000 of that 29,000 have signed their adhesion to the May movement. If that is correct, or is anything like correct, the fact is simply extraordinary in itself and as an indication.

PERSONAL.

Robert Jordan Boyd was born at Marlboro, Mass., June 11, 1861. When about nine years of age he went to live at Washington, D. C., and has resided there ever since. He read "Progress and Poverty" about two years after it was issued, and promptly accepted the single tax belief. He had taken some part in propagating the single tax idea before the organization of the Washington Single Tax League, and when that was started, at first as the Washington Anti-Poverty Society, he was elected vice president. He soon resigned this office to accept that of treasurer, which he has held ever since. At the New York Single Tax Convention the Washington delegates elected Mr. Boyd as their representative on the National Committee.

Besides his activity in the single tax cause, Mr. Boyd has been prominent in religious work. He was the first president of the first Christian Endeavor Society organized in Washington, and is now a trustee and also secretary of the Presbyterian Church, to which he belongs.

Maxim, the inventor of the Maxim gun, one of the greatest of American inventors, explains in the June Cosmopolitan how it is possible to build without further discussion a flying machine which will travel through the air at the rate of 100 miles per hour; this without the aid of any gas.

That consistent single taxer and Democrat, Tom L. Johnson, has reduced the hours of work on his street car lines in Cleveland, and increased the pay per hour, with the result of materially increasing his pay roll.

D. A. Osburn, Deputy Sheriff of Benton County, Oregon (Democrat), subscribes for THE STANDARD, and has all of George's works. Joe Wilson, son of the County Clerk, is reading George. Dr. Carter and Senator Crosno (Republicans), have both read George, and no longer poke fun at the single tax. Ex Representative Edward Belknap (Republican), "knows all about George's theories, has read all about them in the newspapers, and knows that there is nothing in them." He is one of the kind that Oregonians sometimes send to make their laws.

The Young Men's Democratic Club, of Monroe, Oregon, was recently organized. It has several single tax men in it. Mr. Adam Wilhelm, who was reported in THE STANDARD some time ago as the owner of 1,000 acres of land, owns 1,900 acres instead. He is a strong single tax man, member of the Young Men's Democratic Club, and though not radical is a careful propagator of the truth. Mr. Wilhelm is the largest merchant and agricultural implement dealer in that part of the county, and has a broad influence.

Miss Belle Hudson, a member of the Chicago Single Tax Club, is a teacher in the public schools, and has for years been in the city's employ in that capacity. She is a woman whose whole life has been one of sacrifice for others, but in spite of her busy, work-a-day existence she has found time to study social and economic questions, and is, perhaps, one of the best-informed women on these topics in Chicago.

BOOKS ON MONEY.

In their "Questions of the Day" series, the Putnams, of New York, have published two books on the money question. One, "The Question of Silver," by Louis R. Ehnich, of Colorado, is directly pointed at the free coinage issue; the other, "Money, Silver and Finance," by J. Howard Cowperthwait, is a more ambitious work. Both are strong books, and neither of them can be ignored by students of the question it agitates on either side.

THE STANDARD is glad to add to its exchange list Turf, Field, and Farm, published in this city. The title of the paper sufficiently explains its mission. It is full of interest to those to whom it is addressed—an interest by no means confined to its editorial and news columns, but greatly enhanced by a large and varied advertising patronage.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

DOMESTIC.

Floods in the Mississipi Valley have done $50,000,000 damage to property and caused the loss of 100 lives. The disaste was felt especially in Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota and Illinois.

Oklahoma Democrats declare for Cleveland, and demand free silver, tariff reform, popular election of senators and statehood.

Free coinage men could muster only seventy five votes in the House on May 19 in support of a motion of Mr. Bland's in favor of coining silver bullion now in the treasury into standard dollars.

The New York World professes to have official information that Blaine did not give an unequivocal negative to the anti-Harrison leaders, and that they will seek to nominate Mr. Blaine regardless of anything he may say, and trusting that he will deem it his duty to accept.

There has just been published a letter, dated New York, May 2, 1880, from General Grant to Roscoe Conkling, protesting against the latter's wish to have the former nominated for a third term in the Presidency. George C. Gorham denounces it as a forgery, and says Mr. Conkling received no word from General Grant while the subject of the latter's nomination was pending.

FOREIGN.

Moorish pirates have captured a Spanish vessel in the Mediterranean and carried off the crew for ransom.

A plot to assassinate the Sultan of Turkey has been discovered.

A hurricane has done enormous damage on the Island of Mauritius, a British possession 500 miles east of Madagascar. Over 1,200 dead bodies have been found, and one estimate of the dead places the number at 15,000.

Spain has raised her embargo on American pork and it is now admitted to all ports of the world.

GENUINE FRIENDS OF LABOR.

Boston Globe.

It seems to be the delight of the New York Tribune to speak of the "genuine friends of labor," such genuine friends being generally those who act on the basis of charity rather than of justice. In the last analysis the "genuine friends of labor" are those who believe in letting labor alone, rather than protecting it through the taxation of itself.

PUBLISHER'S NOTES.

THE STANDARD is a weekly paper of sixteen pages, and is the leading single tax and free trade periodical of the world. Its subscription price is $3.00 a year, payable in advance.

Standard Extension List for 1892.—To introduce THE STANDARD to new readers, the publisher will receive from persons not already subscribers' subscriptions for 1892 at $1.00. This offer is *not for one year*, but for the period from date of receipt of subscription *to the last issue of* 1892.

Payment for The Standard.—All checks and post office orders should be drawn simply to the order of THE STANDARD. In remitting in postage stamps, ones and twos are preferred to those of larger denomination. By complying strictly with this request, correspondents will save the publisher much trouble.

Expiration.—The date or number opposite your name on your paper shows the issue to which your subscription is paid. A change in date is an indication that money for renewal of subscription has been duly received.

New Subscriptions.—The receipt by a new subscriber of his paper is an acknowledgment of the receipt of his subscription at this office.

Always give the name of the post office to which your paper is sent. Your name cannot be found on our books unless this is done.

Communications.—All communications for publication should be addressed to Editor of THE STANDARD. Business letters should be invariably addressed to THE STANDARD, 42 University Place, New York, N. Y.

CIRCULATION OF "THE STANDARD."

Regular subscriptions received this week	21
Extension " " "	27
Trial " " "	282
Total subscriptions for week ending May 23	330
Unexpired subscriptions	6,325
Sales, etc	500
On hand for future sales	150
Total circulation, issue of May 25	7,305
Less exchange and free list	309
TOTAL PAID CIRCULATION	6,996

For the purpose of enabling regular subscribers to see whether or not their respective States are sufficiently represented in the Extension List, we give the list by States. We make no comment; each subscriber may make his own. The list is as follows:

Alabama	7	Mississippi	4
Arkansas	12	Montana	14
California	67	Nebraska	34
Canada	136	New Hampshire	15
Colorado	44	New Jersey	144
Connecticut	74	New Mexico	15
Delaware	13	New York	471
District of Columbia	43	North Carolina	4
Foreign	8	North Dakota	2
Florida	10	Ohio	126
Georgia	9	Oklahoma Territory	2
Illinois	115	Oregon	85
Indiana	24	Pennsylvania	171
Indian Territory	1	Rhode Island	47
Iowa	129	South Dakota	15
Idaho	1	Texas	51
Kansas	40	Tennessee	27
Kentucky	17	Utah	8
Louisiana	16	Vermont	7
Maryland	7	Virginia	20
Massachusetts	165	West Virginia	9
Missouri	96	Wisconsin	20
Maine	44	Washington	54
Minnesota	152	Wyoming	2
Michigan	137		
Mexico	2	Total	2,717

Persons, not now subscribers, who receive this issue of THE STANDARD and wish to subscribe *for the year* 1892, for one dollar, may do so by forwarding the money to THE STANDARD, 42 University place, New York City.

All such subscribers will receive in addition to the paper, his choice from all of Henry George's works in the best paper bound edition.

The paper will be sent for four weeks on trial to any address for ten cents.

ADVERTISING RATES OF THE STANDARD

For June, July, and August, 1892.

½ INCH, 7 AGATE LINES, 50c. EACH INSERTION.
1 INCH, 14 " " $1.00 " "

Discounts for space to be consumed before September 1st, 1893: 3 inches, 10 per cent.; 6 inches, 20 per cent.; 10 inches or more, 30 per cent.

☞ *No concession from above rates. Don't ask it.*

THE HOUSEHOLD.

SOME COZY CORNERS.

ALICE CRITTENDEN.

Whether we are furnishing our houses, our tables or our wardrobes, it is always desirable to strike a happy medium. If a new idea in furnishing seems to you a pretty one, before you adopt it be sure that it will be suitable to its surroundings. I know a lady who spends much time in fancy work, and no sooner does a bit of decorative needlework in a friend's house please her eye than she immediately makes a copy of it for her own parlor. The consequence is that her room is gradually taking on the character of a junk shop.

Cozy corners have become the fashion of the day, and very charming they are in the right place, but I should not recommend any one to transform all the corners in this way. If your parlor lacks a desk and you have not the money to buy an appropriate article, a very pretty and convenient substitute can be built at a small expense.

Procure two boards, one 2 feet six inches square, the other 1 foot 3 inches, and saw from each a quarter circle. The larger board should be 1¼ inches thick, the smaller ⅞ of an inch. These squares can be made of joined boards; fit the larger board into the wall at convenient distance from the floor (probably about thirty inches), to serve as a writing desk. Nail cleats to the wall to rest the shelf on, or secure it with iron brackets; 10 inches above fasten the smaller shelf. This space between the upper and the under shelf may be divided into compartments for writing paper, pens, ink, etc., or it may hold books. About 18 inches above this fasten three small triangular shelves, resting them on cleats screwed to the wall. These should be of ⅞ inch stuff. The rounded edges should be neatly sandpapered, and the whole stained and afterward varnished. From the larger shelf a fulled curtain of silkoline may be tacked on, falling to the floor, if it is necessary to conceal anything behind it, such as games, magazines, etc. If it is stained oak, a curtain of silkoline in cream and golden brown will harmonize nicely; for rosewood have a curtain in old blue and terra cotta.

A scrap-basket is necessary to complete this corner, and indeed it is a useful part of the furniture of every room. The less millinery you have about it the fewer heart-breaks you will have over the fading of the ribbons or silk and the accumulations of dust which take the sheen from its surface. A 35-cent splint or willow basket, to my mind, looks neater without any trumpery adornment of bows and scarfs. If you live in the birch bark region you can make a pretty basket from a gentleman's hat box and the round bottom of some dilapidated sugar box. Cut the hat box a little way up, and lap at the bottom to fit the round board, to which it must be firmly tacked. Glue or sew pieces of the soft gray and brown birch bark to the box, covering the entire surface. If the pieces are large and you are an artist, they offer a beautiful background for some little flower sketch. Line the basket with dark silkoline or silesia.

The above corner arrangement may be varied in many ways. If you have a number of books to be shelved, dovetail rectangular shelves in the corner instead of the little triangular shelves. They may be three feet long and ten or twelve inches wide, and can be hung with very stout galvanized wire if you do not wish to deface your wall by bracketing them up.

For sleeping rooms the two larger shelves alone make a very pretty combination washstand and dressing table. The upper shelf can hold brush and comb box, and such little articles of the toilet, and the toilet set can be stood on the larger shelf. Or, if a washstand is not needed, the same device may be used for a writing desk, which is an article of luxury that your guest will appreciate.

You would never guess the origin of a corner ornament to be seen in a certain up-town New York house, which contains many evidences of the budding genius of one of its inmates, a young architectural student in the Columbia School of Mines. A recess, formed by the jutting out of the fireplace, is four feet wide and ten inches deep. Four shoe boxes were piled, one above the other, the lower just fitting tightly in the recess the next box was ten inches shorter than the first, the third ten inches shorter than the second, and so on. They were straight on the fireplace side, and formed a succession of steps on the other. A narrow molding was run all around the different shelves or boxes, which had been stained and varnished inside before they were put up. Afterward the whole received a coat of stain and varnish outside. The boxes were filled with books. The top contained a plaster cast of "The Gladiator," while on the steps were ranged a jardiniere of ferns, another containing a sword palm, a Japanese vase with a barbaric adornment of dragons and other monsters, and a smaller plaster cast of Niobe's son with the flying scarf.

A large mirror hung in a corner, about five feet from the floor, with a shelf under it a few inches from the floor, makes a pretty corner if the mirror be draped and placed so as to reflect some desirable picture or piece of furniture. Place a palm, a pot of ferns or some growing plant on the shelf. A pot of Cobœa scandens will drape the mirror with its foliage in a single winter.

Floor pillows may be considered by some an untidy corner arrangement, but they are very restful where there is a scarcity of easy chairs. They are made of ticking thirty inches wide and a yard long and filled with finely shredded husks, excelsior or feathers. Denim makes an excellent covering. Two or three pillows piled in a corner offer tempting inducements to a tired person to indulge in a short siesta. Other corner and bay window fitments will be spoken of later.

UNEARNED INCREMENT.

SONG OF THE BUSINESS MAN.

John T. Broderick in New Nation.

Ah, the dreamers see it clearly; we are voluntary slaves,
And a cruel master mocks us while we dig each other's graves.
We can hear him daily, hourly, as he cries in accents stern:
"In the market men must murder, and be murdered in their turn."

No, I cannot rise while Hunger's phantom fills my soul with dread;
And I am bound by tender ties: my wife and children must be fed.
There are thousands pledged to rob them, I must fight as others fight,
And I dare not be a dreamer, though the dreamers see aright.

PARAGRAPHS.

Arbitration gives two parties the halves of a pretty stale and bitter loaf.—Puck.

Things said softly behind a fan may raise a great breeze.—New Orleans Picayune.

Earth has no greater joy than the discovery of a quarter in a cast-off vest.—Life.

Every mother owns the best boy—the worst one belongs next door every time.—Texas Siftings.

Economy is wealth; but it is a kind of wealth that a rich man finds it hard to transfer to his son.—Puck.

The difference between a chef and a cook is that one is paid a salary and the other has to sue for her wages.—Elmira Gazette.

Poet, who is reading his verses to a friend: "Ah, my words seem to touch you. You are shedding tears." "No, only wiping off the perspiration."—Fliegende Blatter.

City Dame (looking for country board): "Do you object to children?" Mrs. Hayseed: "That depinds, mum." City Dame: "Depends on the sort of children they are, I suppose?" Mrs. Hayseed: "No'm; depinds on the sort of mothers they has."—Good News.

Now let the women do our work,
And let us cook the hash,
For now they wear our laundried shirt,
And we —we wear their sash.
—Ashland Press.

Juvenile Johnny, having had the meaning of the phrase "multum in parvo" amply explained to him, and being called upon to give an illustration, replied with great enthusiasm, "Why baby, just after dinner."—Boston Courier.

STORY OF A HAUNTED HOUSE.

E. Bulwer Lytton.

[Continued from last week]—Upon a small, thin book, or rather tablet, was placed a saucer of crystal; this saucer was filled with a clear liquid; on that liquid floated a kind of compass, with a needle shifting rapidly round; but instead of the usual points of a compass, were seven strange characters, not very unlike those used by astrologers to denote the planets. A very peculiar, but not strong nor displeasing odor, came from this drawer, which was lined with a wood that we afterwards discovered to be hazel. Whatever the cause of this odor, it produced a material effect on the nerves. We all felt it, even the two workmen who were in the room; a creeping, tingling sensation, from the tips of the fingers to the roots of the hair. Impatient to examine the tablet, I removed the saucer. As I did so, the needle of the compass went round and round with exceeding swiftness, and I felt a shock that ran through my whole frame, so that I dropped the saucer on the floor. The liquid was spilt, the saucer was broken, the compass rolled to the end of the room, and at that instant the walls shook to and fro as if a giant had swayed and rocked them.

The two workmen were so frightened that they ran up the ladder by which we had descended from the trap-door; but, seeing that nothing more happened, they were easily induced to return.

Meanwhile, I had opened the tablet; it was bound in plain red leather, with a silver clasp; it contained but one sheet of thick vellum, and on that sheet were inscribed, within a double pentacle words in old monkish Latin, which are literally to be translated thus: "On all that it can reach within these walls, sentient or inanimate, living or dead, as moves the needle, so works my will! Accursed be the house, and restless the dwellers therein."

We found no more. Mr. J—— burnt the tablet and its anathema. He razed to the foundation the part of the building containing the secret room, with the chamber over it. He had then the courage to inhabit the house himself for a month, and a quieter, better conditioned house could not be found in all London. Subsequently he let it to advantage, and his tenant has made no complaints.

* * * But my story is not yet done.

A few days after Mr. J—— had removed into the house, I paid him a visit. We were standing by the open window and conversing. A van containing some articles of furniture which he was moving from his former house was at the door. I had just urged on him my theory, that all those phenomena regarded as supermundane had emanated from a human brain; adducing the charm, or rather curse, we had found and destroyed, in support of my theory. Mr. J—— was observing in reply, "that even if mesmerism, or whatever analogous power it might be called, could really thus work in the absence of the operator, and produce effects so extraordinary, still could those effects tinue when the operator himself was dead? and if the spell had been wrought, and, indeed, the room walled up more than seventy years ago, the probability was, that the operator had long since departed this life,"—Mr. J——, I say, was thus answering, when I caught hold of his arm and pointed to the street below.

A well-dressed man had crossed from the opposite side, and was accosting the carrier in charge of the van. His face, as he stood, was exactly fronting our window. It was the face of the miniature we had discovered. It was the face of the portrait of the noble three centuries ago.

"Good Heavens!" cried Mr. J——, "that is the face of De V——, and scarcely a day older than when I saw it in the Rajah's court in my youth!"

Seized by the same thought, we both hastened down stairs; I was first in the street, but the man had already gone. I caught sight of him, however, not many yards in advance, and in another moment I was by his side.

I had resolved to speak to him; but when I looked into his face, I felt as if it were impossible to do so. That eye—the eye of the serpent—fixed and held me spell-bound. And withal, about the man's whole person there was a dignity, an air of pride and station and superiority, that would have made any one, habituated to the usages of the world, hesitate long before venturing upon a

liberty or impertinence. And what could I say? What was it I could ask? Thus ashamed of my first impulse, I fell a few paces back, still, however, following the stranger, undecided what else to do. Meanwhile, he turned the corner of the street; a plain carriage was in waiting with a servant out of livery, dressed like a valet, at the carriage door. In another moment he had stepped into the carriage, and it drove off. I returned to the house. Mr. J—— was still at the street door. He had asked the carrier what the stranger had said to him.

"Merely asked whom that house now belonged to."

The same evening I happened to go with a friend to a place in town called the Cosmopolitan Club, a place open to men of all countries, all opinions, all degrees. One orders one's coffee, smokes one's cigar. One is always sure to meet agreeable, sometimes remarkable persons.

I had not been two minutes in the room before I beheld at table, conversing with an acquaintance of mine, whom I will designate by the initial G——, the man, the original of the miniature. He was now without his hat, and the likeness was yet more startling, only I observed that while he was conversing there was less severity in the countenance; there was even a smile, though a very quiet and very cold one. The dignity of mien I had acknowledged in the street was also more striking; a dignity akin to that which invests some prince of the East, conveying the idea of supreme indifference and habitual, indisputable, indolent, but resistless power.

G—— soon after left the stranger, who then took up a scientific journal, which seemed to absorb his attention.

I drew G—— aside. "Who and what is that gentleman?"

"That? Oh, a very remarkable man indeed! I met him last year amidst the caves of Petra, the Scriptural Edom. He is the best Oriental scholar I know. We joined company, had an adventure with robbers, in which he showed a coolness that saved our lives; afterward he invited me to spend a day with him in a house he had bought at Damascus, a house buried amongst almond-blossoms and roses; the most beautiful thing! He had lived there for some years, quite as an Oriental, in grand style. I half suspect he is a renegade, immensely rich, very odd; by the by, a great mesmerizer. I have seen him with my own eyes produce an effect on inanimate things. If you take a letter from your pocket and throw it to the other end of the room, he will order it to come to his feet, and you will see the letter wriggle itself along the floor till it has obeyed his command. 'Pon my honor 'tis true; I have seen him affect even the weather; disperse or collect clouds, by means of a glass tube or wand. But he does not like talking of these matters to strangers. He has only just arrived in England; says he has not been here for a great many years; let me introduce him to you."

"Certainly! He is English, then? What is his name?"

"Oh! a very homely one—Richards."

"And what is his birth—his family?"

"How do I know? What does it signify? No doubt some parvenu; but rich, so infernally rich!"

G—— drew me up to the stranger, and the introduction was effected. The manners of Mr. Richards were not those of an adventurous traveller. Travellers are in general gifted with high animal spirits; they are talkative, eager, imperious. Mr. Richards was calm and subdued in tone, with manners which were made distant by the loftiness of punctilious courtesy, the manners of a former age. I observed that the English he spoke was not exactly of our day. I should even have said that the accent was slightly foreign. But then Mr. Richards remarked that he had been little in the habit for many years of speaking in his native tongue.

The conversation fell upon the changes in the aspect of London since he had last visited our metropolis. G—— then glanced off to the moral changes—literary, social, political—the great men who were removed from the stage within the last twenty years; the new great men who were coming on. In all this Mr. Richards evinced no interest. He had evidently read none of our living authors, and seemed scarcely acquainted by name with our younger statesmen. Once, and only once, he laughed; it was when G—— asked him whether he had any thoughts of getting into Parliament. And the laugh was inward, sarcastic, sinister; a sneer raised into a laugh. After a few minutes, G—— left us to talk to some other acquaintances who had just lounged into the room, and I then said, quietly:

"I have seen a miniature of you, Mr. Richards, in the house you once inhabited, and, perhaps, built—if not wholly, at least in part—in Oxford street. You passed by that house this morning."

Not till I had finished did I raise my eyes to his, and then his eyes fixed my gaze so steadfastly that I could not withdraw it—those fascinating serpent-eyes. But involuntarily, and as if the words that translated my thought were dragged from me, I added in a low whisper: "I have been a student in the mysteries of life and nature; of those mysteries I have known the occult professors. I have the right to speak to you thus." And I uttered a certain password.

"Well, I concede the right. What would you ask?"

"To what extent human will in certain temperaments can extend?"

"To what extent can thought extend? Think, and before you draw breath you are in China!"

"True; but my thought has no power in China!"

"Give it expression, and it may have. You may write down a thought which, sooner or later, may alter the whole condition of China. What is a law but a thought? Therefore, Thought is infinite. Therefore, Thought has power; not in proportion to its value—a bad thought may make a bad law as potent as a good thought can make a good one."

"Yes; what you say confirms my own theory. Through invisible currents one human brain may transmit its ideas to other human brains, with the same rapidity as thought promulgated by visible means. And as Thought is imperishable as it leaves its stamp behind it in the natural world, even when the thinker has passed out of this world, so the thought of the living may have power to rouse up and revive the thoughts of the dead, such as those thoughts were in life, though the thought of the living cannot reach the thoughts which the dead now may entertain. Is it not so?"

"I decline to answer, if in my judgment Thought has the limit you would fix to it. But proceed; you have a special question you wish to put."

"Intense malignity in an intense will, engendered in a peculiar temperament, and aided by natural means within the reach of science, may produce effects like those ascribed of old to evil magic. It might thus haunt the walls of a human habitation with spectral revivals of all guilty thoughts and guilty deeds once conceived and done within those walls; all, in short, with which the evil will claims affinity—imperfect, incoherent, fragmentary snatches at the old dramas acted therein years ago. Thoughts thus crossing each other haphazard, as in the nightmare of a vision, growing up into phantom sights and sounds, and all serving to create horror; not because those sights and sounds are really visitations from a world without, but that they are ghastly, monstrous renewals of what have been in this world itself, set into malignant play by a malignant mortal. And it is through the material agency of that human brain that these things would acquire even a human power; would strike as with the shock of electricity, and might kill if the thought of the person assailed did not rise superior to the dignity of the original assailer; might kill the most powerful animal if unnerved by fear, but not injure the feeblest man if, while his flesh crept, his mind stood out fearless. Thus, when in old stories we read of a magician rent to pieces by the fiends he had invoked, or still more, in Eastern legends, that one magician succeeds by arts in destroying another, there may be so far truth that a material being has clothed, from his own evil propensities, certain elements and fluids, usually quiescent or harmless, with awful shapes and terrific force; just as the lightning, that had lain hidden and innocent in the cloud, becomes by natural law suddenly visible, takes a distinct shape to the eye, and can strike destruction on the object to which it is attracted."

"You are not without glimpses of a mighty secret," said Mr. Richards, composedly. "According to your view, could a mortal obtain the power you speak of he would necessarily be a malignant and evil being."

"If the power were exercised as I have said, most malignant and most evil; though I believe in the ancient traditions that he could not injure the good. His will could only injure those with whom it has established an affinity, or over whom it forces unresisted sway. I will now imagine an example that may be within the laws of nature, yet seem wild as the fables of a bewildered monk.—[Continued in next issue.]

WELLINGTON'S CHARGER.

Turf, Field and Farm.

In a grave under the shade of a Turkish oak at the Duke of Wellington's country seat lies the remains of the first duke's famous charger, Copenhagen, on which he was mounted at Victoria and Waterloo. The world-renowned horse was the grandson of the famous racehorse Eclipse, was bred by Field Marshal Lord Grosvenor, and purchased from the Marquis of Londonderry for £400 by the duke. His color was a dark chestnut, and he stood fifteen hands high. He was a great favorite of the duchess, who constantly gave him bread and other good things, and wore a bracelet made of his hair. He died in 1836, after an "old age of dignified leisure," and was interred with military honors. The inscription on his grave is as follows:

HERE LIES
COPENHAGEN,
The Charger Ridden by
THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON
The Entire Day at the Battle of Waterloo.
BORN 1808. DIED 1836.

God's humble instrument, though meaner clay,
Should share the glory of that glorious day.

TELLING THE TIME.

Harper's Young People.

Clocks are regarded as curiosities by the Hindoos, and for this reason half a dozen or more timepieces are often found in the apartments of the wealthy Hindustanees. They are not used as timepieces, but simply for ornament, since the old-fashioned way of telling the hour of the day in India, by calculating the number of bamboo lengths the sun has traveled above the horizon, is entirely satisfactory to the natives. It is said that in the country police stations in India, where the European division of the hours is observed, time is measured by placing in a tub of water a copper pot in which a small hole has been bored. It is supposed that it will take one hour for the water to leak into the pot so as to fill it and sink it. When the policeman sees that the pot has disappeared he strikes the hour on a bell-like gong. If he is smoking or dozing, the copper pot may have disappeared several minutes before he discovers the fact; but the hour is when he strikes the gong.

THE LAND SHARK.

Household Words.

"The land shark swallows up earth by acres and leagues; the wehr-wolf of Scandinavian legends never had such a capacity for the marvelous in deglutition. Australia has produced no lion, tiger, grizzly bear, or such ferocious monsters, but it has produced the land shark, and that is a monstrum horridum worse than all of them put together. It is worse because it wears the shape of a man; and, with a face as innocent, as meek and placid as a mauticora or a syren, takes shelter under human laws. In a word, a land shark is the thing which combines all the attributes of the incubus, the cannibal, the vampire, and the choke-damp. Where it lives nobody else can live. It is the upas tree become animated, and walking over the southern world like a new Frankenstein, producing stagnation, distortion, death-in-life, and desolation wherever it arrives. It is the regrater of the old world, against whose inhuman practice so many statutes have been enacted, thus turned up as the opponent of Providence in a new sphere. It is the meal worm of the shop converted by what it feeds on into the hungry caterpillar of these lands. It has gone on obstructing settlement, distorting progress, pushing back from the warm sunshine of existence thousands of human creatures, because there was no place for them in the new and beautiful lands which God has revealed to the deserving uses of crowded Europe."

TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS.

COUNT MEWONOVEM.

[Concluded from last issue.]—On reaching home, I walked from the front gate straight to the outer door of the wood room, which, as usual, stood open and unprotected. One glance at the corner, where, beneath the coal, lay the valuable valise, and I sought the sitting room—the kitchen as well—feeling pretty much as the wrong-doer does when dreading being confronted by exposure. Why not seek to profit by the simple process of the confessional? slid into my mind. Tell my wife the whole story, and so make a clean breast of the matter. Simply for the reason that governs our sex in all questions involving subtleties of the intellect, which will hardly bear to be too strongly scrutinized through the moral lens.

My imp, playing magician, conjured up before my mind's eye the mangled stranger, his head reeling upon his blood-stained neck, his face the while lit up with the same gentle smile it wore within the coffin. There was no denunciation in his presence, no, Banquo-like, pointing to his gashed throat; and yet, the language of the haunted monarch rang in my brain, the story of his participation in the murder of the loyal soldier; and under the influence of the tragic memory I quoted the language of the king:

"If thou canst nod—speak, too. If charnel houses
And our graves send those we bury back,
Our monuments will be the maws of kites.
Shake not thy gory locks at me, I did not kill thee;
Thou canst not say that I did it."

"Come, sit up to the table," said the kindly voice of my wife. And the summons, exorcising my imp, I was made to finish my quotation:

"Now, being gone, I am a man again."

Twenty-five days more of imp-thralldom and I shall be free to "count may gains."

The time at last came round, and after an addition of three day's grace, I broke into my coal vault and exhumed the grip-sack. Listening, with cautious ear, I stole my way to the garret; and there sat down among collected heaps of rags, and surrounded by the debris of many years of housekeeping, to make examination of the valuables the stranger had spoken of. With a key attached by a steel chain to the hasp, I opened the strongly-framed sack, disclosing a variety of valuables. In the first haul was presented a tightly wrapped package of crisp, new notes of different denominations, ranging from one hundred dollar bills to ones, amounting in all to six thousand dollars. Then came a gunny bag, heavy with gold coins, ranging from twenties to ones, amounting to four thousand more; another bag had silver pieces to the amount of $200.

"The silver sum is all my needs now calls for," I exclaimed, as I hastily replaced the notes and gold. The silver I retained, promising in time to redeem the whole. Returning to the family room, I hung the gripsack on a nail, there to remain awaiting disclosures, whether of identification or notification. And there it hangs to-day, covered with the dust of years.

Possession of the needed sum—$200—had brought tranquillity to my soul, forbidding the intrusion of "false creations proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain." There was no robbery in the transfer of the valuables. The stranger was in his grave. And just so in time will yield all obstacles that now obstruct the path of poverty, banishing crushed sensibilities, tears and all manias, each yielding in the processes of evolution.

The two hundred dollars so long desired were used for the purpose for which they were sought, the investment fully realizing my most ardent calculations, while it justified the characteristic sentiments so forcibly maintained by Andrew Carnegie in his "Gospel of Wealth."

DRY GOODS BUYERS.

New York Evening Post.

The principal storekeepers all over the country flock at certain seasons of the year to the great jobbing centres, such as New York and Chicago, and see for themselves what the great jobbers have in stock, and also what the specialty houses, of which we are soon to speak, have to offer in their own lines of goods. These buyers, of course, are capitally taken care of while visiting a jobbing centre. If they are not careful, they are killed with kindness; at any rate, it requires a cool head to stay a week or two in a city like New York, and pick out of a dozen great houses just what one's customers in a remote town will be apt to buy during the next six months. In nine cases out of ten success or failure in the retail dry goods trade depends on the shrewdness with which the goods are bought from the jobbers or commission houses. The trade has a maxim, "Goods well bought are already half sold," and hence it is generally the case that the principals of a firm, or the proprietors of a store, are the ones who do the buying, unless the business becomes so vast that they are obliged to engage experts, who confine themselves entirely to this work. Good buyers command high salaries and are scarce at any money. They must be a rare combination of enthusiasm, courage, and caution. They must have imagination, and yet be phlegmatic. They must kindle quickly at a novelty, and still regard it with almost a cynical calmness, so as to be able to judge in advance its real chance of hitting the taste.

MENDING STOCKINGS.

Mary J. Porter, in Harper's Bazar.

Pair of baby's stockings!
They are small and black and plain,
But I find sweet satisfaction
In looking them over again.

I mended these same stockings—
It must be two years ago—
And then they were laid in the drawer;
There was no one to wear them, you know.

For our own beautiful baby
Had gone to a fairer clime;
She had entered the golden city
Where we hope to meet her some time.

And though in the mending basket
There still were stockings small,
There were none for a tiny baby
With daintiest feet of all.

Yet again from the open heaven
A wonderful gift has come,
And the sound of a baby's cooing
Is heard again in our home.

And tiny feet are moving
Along the nursery floor,
And dainty baby stockings
Are needed now once more.

Is it strange that I find a pleasure
In taking them in my hand?
They speak of our newest treasure,
And of one in the Fatherland.

NO THOROUGHFARE.

London Standard.

Dueling has discovered men who will jest to the very last, and as an example of grim humor under singularly uncomfortable circumstances, the following would be hard to beat: M. de Malsaignes was a determined duelist. Having quarrelled with a brotther officer, they agreed to fight out the dispute in the very room where it took place, when M. de Malsaignes' adversary managed to run him through the body and nail him against the door. "This is all very well," said the transfixed duelist, "but, pray, how are you to get out?"

THE RUSSIAN FAMINE.

Countess Norraikow in Harper's Weekly.

Evidences everywhere abound that the terrible situation is the direct and logical result of the despotic system of government, which is maintained by 1,500,000 soldiers, besides an immense army of police and spies. Contributory if not primary causes are involved in the agrarian or land question, and the outrageous taxation of the peasantry which has been going on for centuries.

THE CENTRE OF OBSERVATION.

It was said of a famous Spaniard, noted for his vanity, that he never attended a wedding without wishing to be the bride, nor a funeral without wishing himself the corpse.

A PRIZE PICTURE PUZZLE.

The above picture contains four faces, the man and his three daughters. Anyone can find the man's face, but it is not so easy to distinguish the faces of the three young ladies.

The proprietors of **Ford's Prize Pills** will give an elegant **Gold Watch** to the *first* person who can make out the three daughters' faces; to the *second* will be given a pair of genuine **Diamond Ear-Rings;** to the *third* a handsome **Silk Dress Pattern**, 16 yards in any color; to the *fourth* a **Coin Silver Watch,** and many other prizes in order of merit. Every competitor must cut out the above puzzle picture, distinguish the three girls' faces by marking a cross with lead pencil on each, and enclose same with fifteen U. S. two cent stamps for one box of FORD'S PRIZE PILLS, (which will be sent post paid, duty free), addressed to **THE FORD PILL COMPANY, Wellington St. Toronto, Can.** The person whose envelope is postmarked *first* will be awarded the first prize, and the others in order of merit. To the person sending the *last* correct answer will be given an elegant **Gold Watch,** of fine workmanship and first-class timekeeper; to the *next to the last* a pair of genuine **Diamond Ear-Rings;** to the *second* to the last a handsome **Silk Dress Pattern,** 16 yards in any color; to the *third* to the last a **Coin Silver Watch,** and many other prizes in order of merit counting from the last. **WE SHALL GIVE AWAY 100 VALUABLE PREMIUMS** (should there be so many sending in correct answers). No charge is made for boxing and packing of premiums. The names of the leading prize winners will be published in connection with our advertisement in leading newspapers next month. Extra premiums will be given to those who are willing to assist in introducing our medicine. Nothing is charged for the premiums in any way, they are absolutely given away to introduce and advertise Ford's Prize Pills, which are purely vegetable and act gently yet promptly on the Liver, Kidneys and Bowels, dispelling Headache, Fevers and Colds, cleansing the system thoroughly and cure habitual constipation. They are **sugar-coated, do not gripe,** very small, easy to take, one pill a dose, and are purely vegetable. Perfect digestion follows their use. As to the reliability of our company, we refer you to any leading wholesale druggist or business house in Toronto. All premiums will be awarded strictly in order of merit and with perfect satisfaction to the public. Pills are sent by mail post paid. When you answer this picture puzzle, kindly mention which newspaper you saw it in. Address **THE FORD PILL COMPANY, Wellington St., Toronto, Can.**

DO GOOD MEN DIE?

Mrs. A. H. Colton.

A good man never dies. His spirit and his work live on. Mortality is but the birth, in eternity is reached the consummation.

A good man dies—his life is simply told. An earnest life filled with thought and deeds. His great heart beats with love for his fellowmen. They are brothers all to him. Why do they wound themselves with selfishness and plot against each other? Has Christ died in the human heart because he lived so long ago? What shame it is that men contend and will not aid each other! Call you it civilization when many starve and a few are rich beyond the counting? What ails the world when honest men would work and yet must live like paupers? His strong mind struggles with this problem, his heart aches with the sight of needless human woe. He sees the wrong—it must be righted. There are, he knows,

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some noble men. He will call them all together; they will help him teach and purify the world. But men are blind, their ears dull, their days are filled with labor. Their children must have bread; what time have they to hear of truth and greater freedom? Yet the good man works on in spite of all indifference. Poor people! they cannot help their ignorance. They hear but one command:

Sow thou thy seed, though thou no harvest see,
Nor springing blade; nor in time are freed
The prisoned peoples, yet they shall be free.
Sow thou thy seed.

Death to him comes quickly and whispers to him gently, "Come help them in your higher life." Another strong soul joins the band of invisible workers who by their inspiration reveal to mortal brothers the "Truth that makes men free."

The poet says: "The spirit world around this world of sense floats like an atmosphere." Can Paradise be other than to continue in our freer spirit life the work begun on earth? There is no happiness higher than "Love ye one another." That with our clearer angel eyes we may guide the friends we leave behind to truth and simple justice, is bliss to contemplate.

SUNSET CLUB

is the name of a new cigar. It is made of long pieces of the most delicious Havana tobaccos. Send $2.00 to Buck & Rayner, Chicago, for a trial box of twenty-five. After that a few whiffs will do the rest.

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SINGLE TAX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES.

PLATFORM

ADOPTED BY THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE SINGLE TAX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES AT COOPER UNION, NEW YORK, SEPT. 3, 1890.

We assert as our fundamental principle the self-evident truth enunciated in the Declaration of American Independence, that all men are created equal, and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights.

We hold that all men are equally entitled to the use and enjoyment of what God has created and of what is gained by the general growth and improvement of the community of which they are a part. Therefore, no one should be permitted to hold natural opportunities without a fair return to all for any special privilege thus accorded to him, and that value which the growth and improvement of the community attach to land should be taken for the use of the community.

We hold that each man is entitled to all that his labor produces. Therefore no tax should be levied on the products of labor.

To carry out these principles we are in favor of raising all public revenues for national, state, county and municipal purposes by a single tax upon land values, irrespective of improvements, and of the abolition of all forms of direct and indirect taxation.

Since in all our states we now levy some tax on the value of land, the single tax can be instituted by the simple and easy way of abolishing, one after another all other taxes now levied, and commensurately increasing the tax on land values, until we draw upon that one source for all expenses of government, the revenue being divided between local governments, state governments and the general government, as the revenue from direct taxes is now divided between the local and state governments; or, a direct assessment being made by the general government upon the states and paid by them from revenues collected in this manner.

The single tax we propose is not a tax on land, and therefore would not fall on the use of land and become a tax on labor.

It is a tax, not on land, but on the value of land. Thus it would not fall on all land, but only on valuable land, and on that not in proportion to the use made of it, but in proportion to its value—the premium which the user of land must pay to the owner, either in purchase money or rent, for permission to use valuable land. It would thus be a tax, not on the use or improvement of land, but on the ownership of land, taking what would otherwise go to the owner as owner, and not as user.

In assessments under the single tax all values created by individual use or improvement would be excluded and the only value taken into consideration would be the value attaching to the bare land by reason of neighborhood, etc., to be determined by impartial periodical assessments. Thus the farmer would have no more taxes to pay than the speculator who held a similar piece of land idle, and the man who on a city lot erected a valuable building would be taxed no more than the man who held a similar lot vacant.

The single tax, in short, would call upon men to contribute to the public revenues, not in proportion to what they produce or accumulate, but in proportion to the value of the natural opportunities they hold. It would compel them to pay just as much for holding land idle as for putting it to its fullest use.

The single tax, therefore, would—

1. Take the weight of taxation off of the agricultural districts where land has little or no value irrespective of improvements, and put it on towns and cities where bare land rises to a value of millions of dollars per acre.

2. Dispense with a multiplicity of taxes and a horde of taxgatherers, simplify government and greatly reduce its cost.

3. Do away with the fraud, corruption and gross inequality inseparable from our present methods of taxation, which allow the rich to escape while they grind the poor. Land cannot be hid or carried off and its value can be ascertained with greater ease and certainty than any other.

4. Give us with all the world as perfect freedom of trade as now exists between the states of our Union, thus enabling our people to share, through free exchanges, in all the advantages which nature has given to other countries, or which the peculiar skill of other peoples has enabled them to attain. It would destroy the trusts, monopolies and corruptions which are the outgrowths of the tariff. It would do away with the fines and penalities now levied on anyone who improves a farm, erects a house, builds a machine, or in any way adds to the general stock of wealth. It would leave everyone free to apply labor or expend capital in production or exchange without fine or restriction, and would leave to each the full product of his exertion.

5. It would, on the other hand, by taking for public use that value which attaches to land by reason of the growth and improvement of the community, make the holding of land unprofitable to the mere owner, and profitable only to the user. It would thus make it impossible for speculators and monopolists to hold natural opportunities unused or only half used, and would throw open to labor the illimitable field of employment which the earth offers to man. It would thus solve the labor problem, do away with involuntary poverty, raise wages in all occupations to the full earnings of labor, make overproduction impossible until all human wants are satisfied, render labor-saving inventions blessings to all, and cause such an enormous production as such an equitable distribution of wealth as would give to all comfort, leisure and participation in the advantages of an advancing civilization.

With respect to monopolies other than the monopoly of land, we hold that where free competition becomes impossible, as in telegraphs, railroads, water and gas supplies, etc., such business becomes a proper social function, which should be controlled and managed by and for the whole people concerned, through their proper government, local, state or national, as may be.

ADVERTISEMENTS OF ORGANIZATIONS

THAT HAVE ADOPTED THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES MADE BY NATIONAL CONFERENCE AT NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 3, 1890.

For each half inch or less a charge of $10.00 per year is made for advertisements in this department.

CONNECTICUT.

MERIDEN.—Meriden single tax club. Meets second and fourth Fridays of the month at 7.30 p. m. at parlors of J. Cairns, 72½ E. Main st. President, John Cairns; secretary, Arthur M. Dignam.

SHARON.—Sharon single tax committee. Chairman, J. J. Ryan.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Washington single tax league. President, Edwin Gladmon; treas., R. J. Boyd; sec'y, Wm. Geddes, M.D., 1719 G. st., n. w.

IOWA.

BURLINGTON.—Burlington single tax club. First Saturday of each month, 805 North 5th st. Pres., Wilbur, Mosena, 920 Hedge av.; sec. treas., Frank S. Churchill.

ILLINOIS.

CHICAGO.—Chicago single tax club. Every Thursday evening at 206 La Salle st. Pres., Warren Worth Bailey, 519 Lincoln av; sec., F. W. Irwin, 217 La Salle st., room 733.

SOUTH CHICAGO.—Single tax club of South Chicago and Cheltenham. Pres., John Black; sec., Robt. Aitchison, box K. K., South Chicago.

MASSACHUSETTS.

BROCKTON.—Single tax club. Meets Friday evenings corner Glenwood av. and Vernon st. Pres., Wm A. McKindrick; sec., A. S. Barnard, 54 Belmont st.

MINNESOTA.

MINNEAPOLIS.—Minneapolis single tax league. Every Tuesday evening, at the West Hotel. Pres., H. B. Martin, Woods' block; sec., Oliver T. Erickson, 2203 Lyndale av., N.

MISSOURI.

STATE.—Missouri single tax committee. Henry H. Hoffman, chairman. This committee is pushing a State single tax petition. Blanks sent on application. It is also forming syndicate for publication of local single tax papers throughout the United States at little or no expense. Write for circulars to Percy Pepoon, sec., 513 Elm st., St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS.—Single tax league.—Meets every Friday evening 8 o'clock in Bowman Block, n. e. cor. 11th and Locust sts. Pres. J. W. Steele Sec'y, L. P. Custer, 4233 Connecticut st.

NEW YORK.

BROOKLYN.—Eastern District single tax club. Monthly meetings on the first Monday of each month, at 94 South Third street, Brooklyn. Pres., Joseph McGuinness, 133 S. 9th st., Brooklyn, E. D; sec., Emily A. Deverall.

Brooklyn Woman's Single Tax Club meetings, third Tuesday of each month at 8 P. M., at 198 Livingston street. Pres., Eva J. Turner, 566 Carlton avenue; Cor. Sec., Venie B. Havens, 219 DeKalb avenue.

OHIO.

DAYTON.—Free land club. Pres., J. G. Galloway; sec., W. W. Kile, 108 East 5th st.

PENNSYLVANIA.

GERMANTOWN.—Single tax club. Cor. Sec., E. D. Burleigh, 13 Willow av. Meets first and third Tuesdays of each month at 4653 Main st., at 8 P. M.

PHILADELPHIA.—Single tax society. Meets every Thursday and Sunday at 8 p. m. Social meetings second Tuesday, No. 30 South Broad st. Cor. sec., A. H. Stephenson, 240 Chestnut st.

POTTSTOWN.—Single tax club. Meetings first and third Friday evenings each month in Weitzenkorn's hall. Pres., D. L. Haws; sec., Geo. Auchy, Pottstown, Pa.

READING.—Reading single tax society. Monday evenings, s e corner 6th and Franklin sts. Pres., Wm. H. McKinney; sec., C. S. Prizer, 1011 Penn st.

TEXAS.

HOUSTON.—Houston single tax club. Meetings every Tuesday evening, 7.30, Franklin st. Jas Charlton, Pres. R. W. Brown, sec. and treas.

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