

# THE STANDARD

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THE STANDARD advocates the abolition of all taxes upon industry and the products of industry, and the taking, by taxation upon land values irrespective of improvements, of the annual rental value of all those various forms of natural opportunities embraced under the general term, Land.

We hold that to tax labor or its products is to discourage industry.

We hold that to tax land values to their full amount will render it impossible for any man to exact from others a price for the privilege of using those bounties of nature in which all living men have an equal right of use; that it will compel every individual controlling natural opportunities to either utilize them by the employment of labor, or abandon them to others; that it will thus provide opportunities of work for all men and secure to each the full reward of his labor; and that as a result involuntary poverty will be abolished, and the greed, intemperance and vice that spring from poverty and the dread of poverty will be swept away.

John Morley, who stands very close to Mr. Gladstone, made a notable speech in Camberwell recently, outlining the liberal programme. He gave some striking instances of how the ground landlords of London are able, on the expiration of building leases, to tax tradesmen on the good will of the business they have built up, and called attention to the fact that even the death duties fall upon landed property far more lightly than upon personal property. But his main point was as to the injustice of ordinary taxation. Following the lead of Mr. Gladstone, who recently very significantly called the attention of the people of London to the fact that while they had been compelled to defray the cost of the Thames embankment it had added millions to the value of the property of the contiguous ground owners, Mr. Morley dwelt upon the fact that the £50,000,000 which the London board of works has in the last thirty-five years spent on permanent improvements has been raised by taxes which add to the cost of housing, and falls upon every man who hires a lodging for a week or for a night, while none of it has been paid by the ground landlords. "Yet," he went on, "these permanent improvements have added so much to the value of their property. The landlords have not paid; but in the inelegant and unclassical expression which I can hardly bring myself to use, but which has found its way into parliament this month, 'they walk off with the swag.'"

Mr. Morley declared that the liberal party had committed itself to the principle that land owners must contribute a fair share to local taxation, and were prepared to make a fight for it, but added:

I do not mean to say—and I hope you will not understand me as meaning—that this is the end of the land question. But, as I said before, I am for taking one step at a time, and this, it seems to me, is the next step lying most immediately in front of us. And let me tell you, to show that it is not a Jacobinical proposal, that the chairman of the committee for procuring the redress of this matter of ground rents is my friend Lord Hobhouse, who is a great lawyer and one of the most scrupulous and upright of her majesty's judges. (Cheers.)

Working with and behind this great lawyer, thus indorsed by Mr. Morley, are such men as William Saunders, S. M. Burroughs, Thomas Briggs, Rev. S. D. Headlam and the most radical of English single tax men, who, quite willing to take one step at a time, look forward to continuing those steps until the whole rental value of land is taken for the use of the people.

John Ferguson, who with Michael Davitt was one of the original founders of the Irish land league, publishes a letter in the

Cork *Eagle*, taking strong ground against land purchase, by which he says the Tory government is striving to plant in Ireland 50,000 small landlords owning from 5 to 20 acres each, to support 12,000 men who own 15 out of every 19 acres in Ireland. He tells the tenants that what they are asked to buy is in part their own improvements and in part the economic rent—that as for their improvements they will get them without buying, if they only wait a little; and as for the economic rent the Irish people, to whom it justly belongs, will certainly demand that.

Nothing can now keep back from Ireland her national parliament. Scotland and Wales are determined to have theirs, and it is said by well-informed men that the Tories will most probably compete with the Liberals as to which shall carry Home Rule. Ireland will need all her "economic rent" and the "unearned increment" for her own national expenditure. She cannot afford to give these away in foreign tribute, either as "absentee rent" or "absentee interest." If the farmers now enable Tory government and its landlord friends to coerce or seduce them into a compact to give away the natural revenue of Ireland for forty-nine years, let them be assured before nine of those years have gone the Irish nation will demand from them that which no men can buy or sell, the annual natural value of the soil.

Mr. Ferguson goes on to say:

Let one who doubts the progress of the true ideas upon land reform look at the British radical papers. See how the *Star* by boldly touching the "bottom truth," that "rent" is state property, has sprung up to a circulation approaching 300,000 copies; see other papers of immense influence ridiculing the idea of landlordism being tolerated either in town or country; see Sir George Trevelyan, who, at the Bridgeton election, heard the doctrine of the "Land for the people" for the first time, now supporting it. Let them note that in the west of Ireland every liberal candidate must accept the doctrine that "ground values" and "unearned increment" are to be taxed, and that labor and capital must be set free.

This noble doctrine gives private property to him who creates it, and to his heirs forever to keep, to use, or to sell. It reserves to the nation that which the Father Almighty gave it, air, land, water, minerals, sunshine, and all "natural agents." For the use of these the nation has a right and a duty to ask rent from the individual. "The land shall not be sold forever," saith the Lord. But that which the individual adds in value to the land by his private action is his private property. This is the doctrine which, embodied in practice, will prevent the poor growing poorer, while not preventing the rich growing richer, a doctrine which accords with the moral law and the constitutional law of England. When we appropriate to the service of the state the entire natural or economic rent, then labor and capital set free from present burdens will place the commerce of this empire again far ahead of the nations, and good wages and good profits will reward our efforts in every department of industry.

What Mr. Ferguson says of the circulation of the London *Star* is, I think, true. The *Echo*, the old established half-penny evening paper which the *Star* has far distanced, is what a little while ago would have been called a thoroughly radical paper. But while it has had a good deal to say against landlordism and its abuses in a general way, it has always treated coldly the idea of settling the land question by taxing land values, and has favored allotment schemes, peasant proprietorship, and such "go nowhere" measures. T. P. O'Connor, like the rest of Mr. Parnell's followers, was, until he started the *Star*, merely an advocate of peasant proprietorship—at least he had made no public avowal that went further. But in starting a paper intended for the masses of London, he had the good sense as well as courage to come out squarely for a radical solution of the land question by the taxation of land values. There is no question that it is this more than any-

thing else that has given the *Star* so quickly its great circulation.

A few weeks ago I went into a little London news shop to buy an evening paper and asked for the *Star*.

"We have no *Stars*," said the woman; "we sold out and sent for more. But here is the *Echo*."

"Of which do you sell the most," I said, the *Star* or the *Echo*?"

"The *Star*—very much more."

"Why is that?" I asked; "is the *Star* the best paper?"

"No, it don't seem to be because it is the best paper, but it is the most radical. They buy it for that."

And with this, and because of this, the *Star* is doing a great work in making the Irish cause popular with the London masses. From the first starting of the *Star* Mr. O'Connor has recognized what the Irish leaders, with the exception of Michael Davitt, so long failed to see, that the Irish struggle was but a local phase of the great struggle for the rights of the masses in the three kingdoms. In a recent issue the *Star* itself says:

There was an idea in some quarters that the next great struggle with the enemy should be fought on Ireland and Ireland alone. Nobody will doubt the eagerness of our desire for the emancipation of the Irish people; but an appeal to the country on Ireland alone would, we are certain, be not only unfair to England and above all to London, but also would be a great tactical blunder. Our needs in London are too great, too sore, too urgent, to brook further neglect. Every day increases the number of mouths that cry for bread; the strong hands that ask vainly for work; and the grant abuses that raise their insolent heads in the luxuriant growth of all corrupt things. The incursion of new hangers every hour among us is one of the many penalties we have to pay for the destructive land system, which eats at so many points into the vitals of the nation. It is to the land system, again, that we can trace rack rent—and rack rent as much of the single room in the attic as for the house of many chambers. It is to the land system that we can trace the breakdown, after lives of toil, of as many of the industrious middle as of the working classes. Indeed the land system of England is like an infectious disease. No man, no class, no corner of human industry, no refuge of human misery can escape it; it pursues without rest; it overtakes the swiftest foot; it passes through iron doors; it visits with impartiality the mansions and the cabin; it is like some great natural force—omnipotent, omnipresent, relentless.

The liberal party, by the great step in advance it made at Birmingham, now stands committed as a whole to a reform on this question which but two or three years ago had adherents only in small coteries and unreported debates in back parlors or unfurnished offices. The monstrous system by which one man is able to hold in thrall the miles of a great city; to pauper its advance; to confiscate its improvements; to gain wealth while he sleeps from its sleepless industry; and finally to pay not one farthing towards the expenditure which makes the greater part of the value of his property—this is a system so foully unjust that its existence was only consistent with the absorption of the public mind in other subjects. But the taxation of ground values we take to be already settled as a reform inscribed on liberal banners; and, therefore, certain of final victory.

In the meanwhile the tory government is imprisoning Irish members, sending men of local prominence to jail and carrying out cruel evictions with reckless ferocity. It is doing in this way all that it can do to make the feeling against landlordism bitter and intense, and to promote the spread of radical opinions on both sides of the Irish sea. A few years ago, when the Gladstone government was coercing Ireland, it might have gone to any length it pleased without exciting any sentiment of indignation among the English masses. But now that Gladstone and Parnell are standing together; now that papers

like the *Star* are contending for the same equal rights for the people of both countries; now that the idea that the land was not made for landlords alone has permeated common thought in England and Scotland, these governmental outrages are telling in Great Britain almost as powerfully as in Ireland. The tories are struggling to save Irish landlordism, not merely for its own sake, but because they know that if it falls British landlordism must soon follow. But in their struggles they are digging deeper and wider the grave for both. Forces are seen gathering in all the three kingdoms that will sweep on fast and far when the time for action comes.

The movement for ballot reform is spreading over the whole country in the most gratifying way. Missouri is, it seems, to be added to the long list of states in which it is probable that the Australian ballot will be adopted this winter. In his message Governor Albert P. Morehouse calls particular attention to the subject in a manner which shows that he has thoroughly studied it. He puts the case so tersely and clearly that his remarks are worth reprinting as an epitome of the argument for the Australian ballot.

Referring to the supreme importance of the purity of the ballot, and to the failure of penal laws to prevent bribery and intimidation, Governor Morehouse goes on:

By enforcing absolute secrecy of the ballot intimidation and bribery may be prevented. When citizens are required to vote in such a manner as to be assured that the way in which they vote cannot be known to any but themselves, the timid no longer fear and the venal will not be trusted. This is demonstrated as well by experience as by reason.

Until 1872 the suffrage in Ireland was controlled through the intimidation of tenants by the landlords, and in England wholesale bribery was a feature of elections. To prevent bribery the British parliament adopted what is known as the "Australian system" of voting. Under this system, owing to the perfection of its secrecy, bribery at the polls has disappeared, and for the same reason intimidation has so far ceased to be a factor in Irish elections that the representatives of the landlord class who formerly sat in parliament from Ireland have given place to Parnell and his followers.

The essential features of this mode of conducting elections are as follows: All ballots are printed at public expense and placed in custody of an election officer, whose duty it is to give to each voter one ballot on which is the name of every candidate. From the time the voter receives his ballot until he casts it he is permitted to hold no communication with any person, but is required in the interval to retire into a booth within the polling place where, wholly isolated, he indicates with a pencil on the ballot in prescribed form the candidates for whom he desires to vote; then folding the ballot with only the mark of its official character exposed, he passes to the ballot box, and after casting it withdraws from the polling place. Special provisions, as consistent with secrecy as the nature of the case permits, are made for the blind and illiterate voters. This mode of voting not only secures the highest degree of secrecy with all the protection to the purity of the ballot box which that implies, but it also reduces to a minimum, if it does not prevent, the selling of nominations and the assessment of candidates, for the executive machinery of parties would have no legitimate use for large sums of money nor any reason for levying assessments, and worthy aspirants for political preferment could not be supplanted on plea of party necessity by the less worthy or the more wealthy.

It does not follow that contributions for party purposes would not be made, but the contributions would be voluntary and could be applied wholly to the legitimate purposes of political parties—that of arousing and educating public sentiment. The printing and distribution of ballots is as much a public function as providing polling places and ballot boxes. To remit it to the control of private interests is to give the greatest latitude for intimidation and bribery, and when it is assumed by political parties, the party

necessity of collecting large sums of money requires the imposition of burdensome assessments, leads to the sale of nominations, tends to exclude from office honorable men of small means and furnishes a mask for the collection and disbursement of corruption funds.

These and similar considerations have induced the adoption of electoral reforms outlined above in Australia, Great Britain, Ireland and Canada where it has long been in successful operation and in the state of Massachusetts, where it is to go into effect next year. To the election laws of these countries, and to the ballot act of Massachusetts, as well as the ballot bill passed by both houses of the New York legislature at its last session, but vetoed by the governor of that state, reference may be had for the details of the reform.

A private letter from one of our most active Missouri single tax men, H. Martin Williams, who is now in Jefferson City, tells us that the message of Governor Morehouse has had a great effect, and that the ballot reform bill will go through "beaming."

Governor Luce of Michigan, also alludes to the matter in his message, and earnestly commends to the legislature "what is known as the Massachusetts system." But for Governor Hill this reform might have been known in the United States as the New York system, rather than the Massachusetts system. But the message of Governor Hill gives hope that he will no longer stand in the way of purifying New York elections. And if he does, so strong is the sentiment for ballot reform growing that it is probable the bill can be passed over his head.

An Australian correspondent of THE STANDARD, J. Brunton of Melbourne, sends us an "electoral right," or as we would call it, a certificate of registration, the presentation of which establishes the fact that the elector is entitled to vote. He says that he has heard of lodging house keepers who managed to get their temporary customers to take out electors' rights and give them the papers, which they keep until election day and then get men to go and vote on them. This, however, is a defect in the system of registration, and not in what is here known as the Australian ballot.

As to the voting itself Mr. Brunton says: "The ballot paper has printed on it the names of the candidates in bold type. The elector, on receiving one from the poll clerk in the voting room, takes it to a desk screened off, where he makes a mark through each name he does not wish to vote for, leaving the names of his candidates untouched." This, as will be seen, is the reverse of the system as proposed here and as carried on in England, where a mark is made against the name of the candidate to be voted for instead of scratching off those not voted for, but the difference is not material. The only way bribery is possible under the system, Mr. Brunton says, is by an elector putting a blank piece of paper into the ballot box, and then carrying the official ballot paper away. This he may sell, so that after it is marked another man can be sent in to deposit it, with the one he receives. This trick, however, cannot be carried on to any extent, and even it requires a discouraging reliance on the briber's part on the good faith of the second party, since he could readily enough either neglect to vote the ballot paper given him or to carry out the blank one he received, in hopes of selling it again. But the possibility of any such trick is prevented by the official indorsement on the back of the ballot, such as was proposed in the New York bill.

Mr. Brunton goes on to say that although the Australian ballot works exceedingly well, there is, he thinks, a further reform needed—putting to popular vote all laws proposed in parliament.

Saturday afternoons, he says, is in Victoria a half holiday, and the voting on bills proposed might be done on certain Saturday afternoons without much inconvenience. I myself believe in this system, which the Swiss call the referendum, at least so far as important measures are concerned. But it is a long step ahead, and the immediate thing for us in the United States is to get a secret ballot. Under our present system, voting either for men or for measures is open to bribery and intimidation. HENRY GEORGE.

#### For Club Houses at Small Expense—Single Tax Note Heads—Mr. Edward Atkinson.

BOSTON, Mass.—I have been much interested in the plan for the establishment of a club house in New York and hope it may be promptly subscribed to, especially by New Yorkers. But I would like to see "a single tax home" or headquarters established in every town. In my journeys here and there I discover occasionally such centers of single tax cheer which however humble, are delightful and profitable.

Take Parkersburg for illustration of what I mean by "single tax home," though I might name a half dozen others. The single tax men in Parkersburg have rented at a small expense a room above a store on one of the principal streets and furnished it with chairs and a table for reading and writing. On the table are books of various kinds, land and labor tracts, the latest issues of THE STANDARD and such interesting matter. There is nothing very ornate about the room but it is a cheerful rendezvous. It is a sort of home, where on every night in the week or once a week the comrades get together in an informal way and strike hands. Nothing could be better and it is easy to do the same in any inland town or city. Rents are not so high nor distances so great as in the great cities. One of the discouraging things here in Boston is that we do not see each other easily, many of us live in the suburbs and it is a long way into town. To hire a hall in a central location would be a heavy tax. But towns like Marlboro, Fitchburg, and even smaller towns can manage it better than we.

Secure a room on the ground floor if possible, or get some member to consent to the use of his store or office one or two nights in the week. Then provide books and papers, get up informal discussions and music if you can. Put huge placards on the windows telling the weary wayfarer to come in and rest. Have pictures and charts on the wall illustrating the single tax. Hold informal discussions by simply selecting a moderator, or even making it "a free for all, catch as catch can."

This is substantially the plan pursued at Parkersburg and at other places and with amazingly good results.

I think, moreover, the single tax men have made a mistake in not getting the women interested. By means of fairs or of some kind of entertainment, such as plays, the ladies can do a great deal to getting the means with which to furnish a suitable meeting room. Press the wives and sisters and daughters into service. In many cases they are waiting to be invited to help. This crusade is their crusade, and we should let them feel it.

A word more about these note heads. The idea is not mine. My attention was called to it by Mr. Oliver Erickson's letters from Minneapolis. The entire back of his note heads was covered with single tax "posers." The idea occurred to me (and later I discussed it with Mr. John W. Jones of Baltimore who had it in operation, I believe), to not only have single tax men write all their letters on these sheets, but to get merchants who were not single tax men to use them by furnishing blocks of them free. I shall like to hear from Mr. Jones concerning its working.

Now THE STANDARD ought to furnish these at a lower rate than any of us could get them up, just as it could furnish huge posters at a low cost. I wish it might be taken into consideration by friends. By proper use of stickers, posters and letter heads in a year we could make our doctrine (as some one said) "as well known as Santa Claus."

Our discussion there with Mr. Atkinson did a good deal for us, though the conditions were not just what we desired. Of course he had to be first instructed and then refuted. He did us the service, however, to distinguish us from socialists, communists and anarchists, and the papers reported us fairly. The lecture was a curious jumble of fact and fancy, with the usual reference to his patent oven. HAMLIN GARLAND.

#### To Hoboken Single Tax Men.

HOBOKEN, N. J.—If there are any men of that single tax persuasion in this city of Hoboken I would like to hear of or from them. J. BLACKLOCK, 78 Blomfield street.

#### A Unique Monument.

Providence Journal.

A large ship is being built at Phippsburg, Me., to be named The American Protectionist. It will represent the principle of protection as applied to American commerce by its solitude as well as by its name.

#### FOR A SINGLE TAX CLUB HOUSE.

##### A Meeting of the Subscribers Called for Monday, February 4—Subscriptions for the Past Week—Letters from Subscribers.

The committee having in charge the collection of subscriptions for the single tax house met last Sunday afternoon at the rooms of the Manhattan single tax club, 8 St. Mark's place, and issued the following call for a meeting of the subscribers:

NEW YORK, Jan. 6, 1890.

The shares of the single tax tontine subscribed having now reached one thousand, a meeting of the subscribers is called for Monday evening, February 4, 1890, at 8 o'clock. All subscribers are expected to attend, and all such as live outside New York city for whom personal attendance may be inconvenient will please write to some one of the committee or some other subscriber giving him power to act as proxy at such meeting. It is hoped by this action to enlist in the work of soliciting subscriptions a much larger committee than at present. The house the tontine expects to purchase is now inhabited in part by the Manhattan single tax club, and the meeting of subscribers will be held in the rooms of this organization, No. 8 St. Mark's place, Eighth street, New York city.

A. J. STEERS,  
W. H. FAULHABER,  
JEROME O'NEILL,  
WM. J. GORSUCH,  
WM. MCCABE.

The subscriptions are still coming in well, as the following acknowledgements show:

|                                                                      |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| R. A. Walsh, 243 East 33d st., city.....                             | 2  |
| H. E. Walsh, 243 East 33d st., city.....                             | 2  |
| Mabel E. Walsh, 243 East 33d st., city.....                          | 2  |
| M. J. Murray, 631 East 13th st. (second subscription) 4              |    |
| C. M. Atwood, 246 Third ave.....                                     | 5  |
| A. Van Deusen, 137 West 47th st., city.....                          | 5  |
| Alvin Simmons, 192 Waverly place, city.....                          | 1  |
| George Hall, 1233 Lexington ave., city (\$1 inclosed).....           | 2  |
| Leonard Weil, 404 East 83d st., city.....                            | 2  |
| S. S., 218 East 107th st., city.....                                 | 5  |
| A. Ledy Friend (\$3 inclosed).....                                   | 5  |
| S. E. Adamson, 137 East 8th st., city.....                           | 5  |
| Fritz Meyer, 232 West 47th st., city.....                            | 2  |
| N. H. Emerson, 1605 Park ave., city.....                             | 5  |
| Fred. C. Leubuscher, Potter building, city.....                      | 10 |
| Theodore Atworth, 138 Jefferson ave., Brooklyn.....                  | 5  |
| Edward Dawson, 466 Seventh ave., Brooklyn.....                       | 20 |
| Henry R. Ochs, 374 Ninth st., Brooklyn.....                          | 1  |
| Mrs. Robert F. Walsh, 36 Van Sien ave., Brooklyn (\$1 inclosed)..... | 1  |
| Richard W. Jones, 36 Van Sien ave., Brooklyn (\$1 inclosed).....     | 1  |
| Agnes Carlotta Sims, 89 High st., Brooklyn.....                      | 2  |
| A. M. Molina, Bayside, Long Island.....                              | 5  |
| Helen Weston, West New Brighton, S. I.....                           | 15 |
| C. G. Zellman, 520 Clinton ave., Albany, N. Y.....                   | 5  |
| William Fox Eustace, Cottage st., Shaw Hill, Troy.....               | 1  |
| Louis Prang, 286 Roxbury st., Boston, Mass.....                      | 25 |
| J. Boncowitz, 1319 Kate st., Philadelphia, Pa.....                   | 3  |
| B. Hartley, Elysian ave., Pittsburg, Pa.....                         | 5  |
| Charles Watson, 1111 Greenmount ave., Baltimore, Md.....             | 10 |
| E. O. Tramp, Pendleton, Ore.....                                     | 10 |

Previously acknowledged..... 166

..... 986

Total to date..... 1,152

The committee hopes that every subscriber will now see that as the project means success he can further it by soliciting subscriptions among his friends. The blank is to be found on this page.

F. C. Leubuscher, New York.—Put me down for shares in the single tax club house. As secretary of the defunct free soil club I sincerely hope that this enterprise will prove more successful. The Harlem republican club, with its club house located in my assembly district, did great service to the cause of protection in the last campaign, and I think that a single tax club of the same character will greatly aid the cause of free trade in the next campaign.

E. Dawson, Brooklyn.—I will be ready with a percentage when you make a call. I am not particular whether it is twenty or one. If you have demands for more than you can supply you may reduce this number to one. I subscribe mostly for the reason that "those who would be free themselves must strike the blow." The slaves do not enthrone much, especially when the "chink" is wanted. I trust this undertaking may prove a disappointment to past experiences.

Theodore Atworth, Brooklyn.—I earnestly hope the enterprise will succeed, yes, beyond anticipation. I am greatly anxious to see rise up in the desert of ignorance and prejudice a never failing spring from which to draw larger drafts of patriotism and humanitarian feelings, and above which we can raise our standard, "Free trade, free land, free men."

Mrs. Robert F. Walsh, and Richard W. Jones, Brooklyn.—What we cannot do now we don't want to do; so now that the club house is a certainty we send our mites, without any promise to pay about it. We hope to enjoy the building in the near future.

B. Hartley, Pittsburg, Pa.—While the distance is so great that I cannot have the pleasure of meeting our friends in the cause very often, yet I am in favor of the movement to the extent of subscribing for a few shares. Accept my best wishes for the early opening of the club house.

J. Boncowitz, Philadelphia, Pa.—I hope that the house will be built with a large speaking hall, as Mr. Wasson suggested in the last issue of THE STANDARD.

I was greatly surprised and delighted to find this morning a significant straw also in Philadelphia. Mind what the Record says in its editorial: "Mr. George is one of the fairest as well as one of the most felicitous writers on economical topics. We are glad to see that his journal flourishes." So is the truth marching on and on. Please inform me

whether its nature of unnaturalized citizens and women to the petition to congress will be accepted. I can get a good many signatures among this class. I hope that the cause of free trade, free land and free men will soon triumph.

Charles Watson, Baltimore, Md.—Believing that whatever contributes to the success of the single tax movement in New York is a contribution to its success here, I gladly subscribe for your single tax club house.

E. O. Tramp, Pendleton, Oregon.—I inclose my subscription of \$10 for ten shares of club house stock. I go to New York now and then, and I want to have a place where I can feel at home. This club house scheme is an excellent one.

#### For a Permanent Organization and Systematic Work in Louisville.

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—Pursuant to announcement in THE STANDARD of December 22 a small but thoroughly-in-carnest body of men met at Liederkranz hall, and after some discussion decided to form a temporary organization.

I am instructed to say to THE STANDARD readers of this city that meetings will be held at Liederkranz hall every Friday night until further notice. It is our intention to effect a permanent organization on Friday night, January 18, and we hope that all single tax men in this city who may see this letter will be present. Perhaps one of the best ways of extending the agitation will be by inviting our opponents to debate the questions involved in our reform. The method has been tried very successfully elsewhere.

ISAAC B. SPARKS, 709 East Market street.

#### The Single Tax (Limited).

Detroit Advance.

Representative Wettlaufer has determined to apply the land tax reform to the conscience and intellect of the assembled political wisdom of the state. He has a bill ready which certainly has many merits, and so far as we can observe, no defects. It is to exempt all personal property and improvements from taxation, thus making real estate bear the whole burden of the tax. It is not Henry George's radical theory, which proposes to gradually increase the taxation of land values until the entire "economic rent" is absorbed, but it merely provides for a change of base in the raising of an amount not greater than is now raised by the miscellaneous assessment of all kinds of property. In fact, the manifest economy of the proposed system will make the amount to be raised somewhat less than is now required. The valuation of buildings always issues in a compromise—an approximation which may miss the mark by \$10,000 in the case of palatial residences, but comes pretty closely to actual facts in the case of the small property holders, thus bearing with unequal weight upon the latter class. The land basis would be determined by a simpler method, and one in which concealment is impossible. Its effect would be to relieve the burdens of those whose improvements exceeded their real estate valuation and to increase the burden to the opposite class, at the extreme end of which latter list stands the land speculator. Nor would the increase in tax in the case of the farmer and small property holder having little or no improvements be so great as might at first be imagined. For the percentage which is now shifted onto their shoulders by the evasions under the present system would under the new plan be fairly distributed among all. And, added to the great simplicity of the system, its effect upon land values—which the rural objector thinks fatal—would be nothing more than a readjustment of the market price of land, always in favor of improved property, be the improvements much or little.

The only real burden in taxation is in the case of the taxpayer who cannot make use of the taxed property to recoup himself for the expense. But land can always be so used. Improvements cannot; they depend upon location, which is land. The increased value given to the farmer's land by the increased demand for its products, on account of the relief of business enterprise from the annoyance and injustice of the present system, would more than offset any temporary increase in his share of the expenses of government.

The single tax reform will be brought before the Minnesota legislature, and probably also before the legislatures of Illinois and other states, this winter. It is proposed to have the system tested in Minneapolis in 1891, and predictions run that if this is accomplished and St. Paul is included in the test, Chicago will need to look sharp after her "urels as a progressive business center. So great is the expected relief to all kinds of industry by the removal of the present system of fines—called personal taxes and taxes on improvements.

#### FOR A SINGLE TAX CLUB HOUSE.

We, the undersigned, hereby agree to buy, at (\$1.00) one dollar apiece, the number of Tontine shares set opposite our respective names, and pay for the same at any time as soon as the minimum number of (5,000) five thousand shares be subscribed for.

Name.....

Address.....

Amount.....

When filled out please forward to William McCabe, 236 East Fourteenth st, New York city.

## THE CONGRESSIONAL PETITION BOOM-ING.

The Committee Having the Work in Charge is Getting Swamped With Signatures and Letters—The Enrollment is Extending Beyond the Most Sanguine Expectations—Letters That Quickened the Blood—The Lecture Bureau.

The rush of signatures to the new petition continues, and the chairman of the enrollment committee reports that it has been impossible, without neglecting more important work, to even find time to count them. The number received has been so great, however, that the committee has been forced to abandon the attempt to mail new blanks to every signer whose name comes in. It would require hundreds of dollars every week to do this, and the committee has no such sum at its disposal. If it had, it would not be willing to use it in postage, while unable to meet the great demand on it for single tax literature. In the course of a week or so, two or more tracts, with blanks and the committee's address will be sent out to every person who has signed the petition. Such a package can be sent for one cent postage, and the other cent will be sufficient to pay for the tracts. This, however, will not begin to meet the demand for single tax literature. The whole country seems to be hungry for it.

A number of contributions have come in recently, most of them being for one dollar. Several people have agreed voluntarily to pay from one to five dollars a month toward meeting the expenses of the work, and a few individual contributions of five or ten dollars, one of \$25, and one of \$100 have been received; all of this is most gratefully acknowledged by the committee, though it does not begin to enable it to meet the demands upon it.

The correspondence, extracts from which are printed from time to time in THE STANDARD, shows that the work of the committee has aroused the single tax people of the whole country to renewed activity and enthusiasm. From all quarters come cheering declarations that since the last presidential campaign there is practically little, if any, difficulty in obtaining a hearing for single tax arguments and signatures for the single tax petition.

To old advocates of our doctrines the numerous expressions of delight that, at last, we are accorded a hearing, are especially cheering. Man after man writes that "I have been regarded as the wildest crank, but now people instead of denouncing my ideas are beginning to ask what they are." There is no doubt whatever that the new plan of campaign has been more successful than even its authors hoped for.

Though the utmost care has been taken to separate the work of the committee from the business of THE STANDARD, many people carelessly write to Mr. Croasdale about THE STANDARD'S business, and many forward their petitions to THE STANDARD office. Of course both parties try to make this all right, but it does impose, without any necessity or excuse, a very considerable amount of needless labor on both. The enrollment committee has nothing to do with the publication of THE STANDARD. It sends with its correspondence, STANDARD subscription blanks, and seeks to increase the circulation of THE STANDARD amongst the petitioners because it regards that paper as the great exponent of the doctrines that the committee was formed to advance, and the best possible publication to be circulated. If people will bear this in mind, and address the committee at 721 Broadway on committee business, and THE STANDARD at No. 12 Union square—the two places are more than half a mile apart—concerning subscriptions, changes of address and so on, they will save both useless bother.

It was a part of the original plan of the committee to organize a lecture bureau, and the chairman now desires correspondence and suggestions on that subject. One of the difficulties is that there are comparatively few men known as speakers in the cause who find it possible to leave their home business, and practically none who can afford to travel and sacrifice their interests without reasonable compensation.

Numerous letters come in asking if lectures cannot be arranged at this, that, or the other place. The chairman's answer is that they can, provided a considerable number of places can assure paying audiences that will justify a competent speaker in leaving his business, and making a

lecture tour. On the other hand, it is practically impossible for any well known speaker to suddenly leave New York for some far western city, and speaking there only, return home. Such an arrangement is a needless waste of time and money.

Nearly every mail brings to the committee scores of letters asking for more blanks. In most cases the writers declare that there is no difficulty in obtaining signatures. Here are a few extracts:

G. H. Bates, a merchant, at River Falls, Wis., writes: "I send you thirty-five signatures, mostly from new men. I think two hundred names can be secured here. Two years ago one other and myself were the cranks of the community, and it was almost impossible to get a listener. To-day but twenty minutes' conversation secures a new convert, and cranks are numerous."

H. Riley, Milwaukee, Wis., writes: "The cause here is growing, and the number of single tax advocates is surprisingly large."

S. E. Fulton, Wymore, Neb., writes: "Many of our citizens are beginning to realize that something must be done about present system of taxation. There are quite a number of Henry George men here, and we are talking of forming a prominent organization."

Frank A. Merrill, Concord, N. H., sends a petition signed by the superintendent of a woolen mill in that state, with whom he has been arguing for several years. The superintendent has at last been brought to admit that "there may be something in the single tax," and says that at any rate he would like a congressional committee to examine into it. He therefore signs the petition.

A police officer in Long Island City says: "I keep in circulation three copies of 'Progress and Poverty,' four copies of 'Social Problems' and one 'Protection or Free Trade?' I also take from news stands several copies of THE STANDARD each week, and keep them going. I've enlisted for the war."

John Black, South Chicago: "Our cause is indeed making wonderful progress. All thanks to the men of New York city. They are the vanguard."

W. Neely, Reno, Pa.—"A large majority of the signers are feeling the effects of the present system of taxation, and are very willing to sign this petition."

W. J. Boreman, Parkersburg, W. Va.—"That New Jersey plan of Judge Maguire's meets with a good deal of favor here."

S. H. Howes, Northboro', Mass.—"Here is another farmer who sees what we want. Four weeks of THE STANDARD, a year ago, and Professor Garland's lecture did the business."

E. P. Withers, University of Virginia.—"I am very anxious to see an investigation by congress into Mr. George's single tax idea."

John Murray, a member of the city council of Newport, Ky., elected by the union labor party, and a manufacturer in Cincinnati, writes: "I saw the cat some four or five years ago and am always making converts to the cause. The single tax men of Newport are forming a tariff reform club, which will hold its first meeting January 5. I heartily approve of Judge Maguire's plan."

Robert Richardson, Secretary Free Trade Club, Mahanoy City, Pa., writes: "Inclosed find twenty-seven petitions. All the signers are not single tax men, but are all anxious to know more about the subject."

A. Severance, Sugartown, La.—"This whole section of the country is all right on the single tax question. Nine-tenths of all those to whom I explain the subject at once fall in with it. I am called upon occasionally to lecture before the Farmers' alliance. I never fail to put in a word for the single tax, and it is always well received. I also write articles on the subject for the Farmers' Union, the organ of the Farmers' union in this state. All that the farming community of the whole country needs is education upon this subject, the tariff, and other tax questions."

Michael J. Murray, 1421 North Ninth street, St. Louis, Mo.—"The single tax men are gaining considerable strength in St. Louis. The reverses that the working men have met show them clearly that they have been fighting the effect, not the cause. They are beginning to inquire into the cause, and the tariff discussion of the last campaign has turned their attention our way."

D. E. Barry, 447 Lexington avenue, New York.—"Attack Jersey at once."

Sewell M. Hall, Baltimore, Md.—"One of the signers is an employer of seven hundred hands, and he says he will write up the amount of taxes he has to pay under the existing law."

Wm. Monahan, Minneapolis, Minn.—"I have watched this movement for the past few years, and I find that hundreds of others have been watching it also. Since the real estate men have raised such a howl I find it quite easy to get signatures to our state petitions."

I. J. David, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.—"The single tax is slowly but surely making headway. The people are beginning to understand it. One of our local papers has just begun to publish articles on the subject."

W. H. Ryan, Darlington, South Carolina.—"This will be the banner single tax county in

this state before long. We are making converts who will take up the work and push it."

John J. Meighan, Freeland, Penn.—"Ten years ago I came to the coal fields from Brooklyn, where I was born. At that time it would have been as much as one's life was worth to speak of tariff revision. Now single tax men and free traders are beginning to spring up in all quarters. The wage slaves of the Lehigh region are beginning to see the cat."

T. J. Griffith, Vernon, Texas.—"I think Judge Maguire's plan of invading New Jersey would be the best mode of attack in the future."

J. S. Cogan, New Brighton, S. I.—"While a single tax man was signing for me in the railroad station the other day, two men who sat by declared themselves opposed to any such idea. We sat down and discussed the matter, and at the end of the discussion both signed the petition, to the amusement of a number of passengers who had listened with interest to the debate."

Edwin Pope, 1318 Madison avenue, Paterson, N. J.—"The people are becoming very much dissatisfied with the present oppressive mode of taxation, and are eager for any form of relief. During the last presidential campaign they began to open their eyes to the beauty of the single tax. I find it a very easy task to get signatures where six months ago it would have been impossible to obtain any."

Robert Cumming, Sparta, Ill.—"This is a town of 2,200 inhabitants, with a good coal field, and it is springing into new life on account of the discovery of natural gas. I want the new ideas to grow with it. I heartily approve of Judge Maguire's plan of invading New Jersey. I am, and have been since the first explanation of it, in favor of the wise and statesmanlike policy that our friends in New York have pursued, in helping those who are going our way. Some friends may think this statement inconsistent with the fact that my name was used as a candidate for elector on the united labor ticket, but it was so used without my consent and in defiance of my declaration to be a candidate."

M. Ritchie, Richmond, Ind.—"We have a few single tax men here, but their usefulness in advancing the cause would be greatly increased by organization. I would be glad to enter into correspondence with or meet single tax men in or near Richmond to consider the subject." Mr. Ritchie's address is No. 913 South A street.

Charles Rich, Newburg, N. Y., says: "I am seventy-two years old, and have only one leg left and a part of each hand. I received my injuries in the army of producers, under the iron heel of land monopoly, but my head is left yet and I have seen the cat."

R. S. Ganoung, Seneca Falls, N. Y.—"Nearly every body seems to be willing to have the single tax question investigated by a congressional committee. Its circulation serves to start men to thinking, and that is what we want."

Joseph Linton, Canon City, Col.—"I find it much easier to get people's attention since the election than before. Nearly all are disgusted with the way the campaign was carried on. I am sixty-eight years old and an invalid, but am willing to give my time to working for the single tax, if I can have literature for distribution."

S. B. Riggan, Portland, Ore.—"Your scheme is a good one. I rejoice to see the single tax idea growing. It does my soul good to see the New York Times and other anti-George papers melting."

Andrew W. Eastlake, New York city.—"I find the work of obtaining signatures attractive and easy."

L. Ingraham, Summit, R. I.—"It gives me pleasure to return my petitions and those of a neighbor. This is simply a farming district, and the farmers' brains have been intoxicated with the hope of the great benefits promised to follow republican success, but I think that results will open their eyes."

John M. Porter, Clinton, Ill.—"Since the tariff question has come to the front in the shape it has, I find it much easier to make converts to the single tax."

J. L. Cushman, Springfield, Ohio.—"The petition is going well. The last campaign is bearing fruit."

J. Bellangee, Des Moines, Iowa.—"Henry George is coming to speak here January 14, and of course we single tax men are happy. We intend to follow his lecture with public meetings weekly in behalf of the single tax and ballot reform. The democrats have organized a free trade league. At the first meeting the single tax was mentioned, and it was discovered that of ten men present seven were advocates of it. The Australian ballot system is making good headway among all classes. The officers of our single tax club are: L. J. Kassan, president; J. Bellangee, vice-president; John W. King, secretary."

Ulysses Tanner, Cannon Falls, Minn.—"I think you are striking out just right. The tone club house is a good scheme also. Let the good work go on."

L. G. Booth, Cedar Rapids, Ia.—"I have advices from Dakota that are inspiring. The single tax is rapidly permeating the territory, and I predict that when the name of North Dakota is added to the list of states her reve-

nues will be derived from a tax on land values."

A. R. Wynn, Toledo, O.—"The plan to gather the names of persons inclined to listen to us, and then send them literature, is to my mind a good one."

H. B. Epstein, New York.—"The only person who has refused to sign was a man who had \$7 invested in a building and loan association, on the ground that if the single tax were to obtain, the association would go up, and his \$7 with it."

Edwin A. Curley, Brooklyn.—"I have determined to canvass my election district for signatures. If one district in each ward of New York and Brooklyn were thoroughly canvassed we could upon comparing notes obtain a very accurate knowledge of the state of public opinion. Send me five hundred more blanks. I will inclose them in envelopes and address them to the registered voters; then call for an answer and at the same time get the names of such other voters as I can."

E. C. Phelps, Colton, Cal.—"I shall continue my efforts to get subscribers for THE STANDARD, though I am disabled just now with a broken leg."

R. FEENEY, Balston Spa, N. Y.—"I have adopted the following plan to reach my out-of-town friends with the petition. I take a blank, put it into a stamped envelope directed to W. T. Croasdale, and send it with a letter to a friend, concisely stating that I believe the single tax on land values is the best and most economical way of raising revenue, and that we claim that it would make times more prosperous. That at the same time we would not force our doctrine on an unwilling people, but believing it is right, we ask for its examination, agreeing if it is found wanting to abide by the will of the majority. I end up by saying that I don't ask them to believe in it, but simply to aid us in getting congress to consider our claims. This is sure to tell, and is another stroke of our hammer, hammer, hammer."

Warren Worth Bailey, Chicago, Illinois, writes: "Has any cause ever made such astounding strides as this of ours? Every day I am filled with amazement, in view of the multiplying evidence of its growth in the United States, in Canada, and in Europe. My business is to read the papers from every quarter of the English-speaking world, and scarcely one reaches me that does not bear some sign of the great truth proclaimed so magnificently by our guide, philosopher and friend. Only eight years ago I was one of perhaps a hundred single tax men west of New York. Even there the number was scarcely greater. To-day every city has its sturdy contingent, every village almost its crusader armed cap-a-pie for the contest, that broadens with every revolution of the earth. Then but one paper in all the land to my knowledge—my own Vincennes News—was preaching the new gospel, while to-day it has its STANDARD, its New York Times, its Portland News, its Detroit News, its Hamilton Times, its Minneapolis Star, and scores beside, with free discussion in thousands of papers all over the world. It seems to me that there is a reform spirit in the air. I feel it more than before the election. I never saw a defeated party so buoyant as the democrats are here to-day. They actually carry on as if they had won the battle, and they are still in the field with banners flying. Who can doubt the result?"

### Down in Georgia.

AUGUSTA, Ga., Jan. 5.—I have been longing to write you some encouraging news of the single tax movement of this city for some time and at last the opportunity has arrived.

Mr. Horan of Philadelphia is in our midst in the interest of the Keystone watch company, and, desirous of helping the good work on, he gladly agreed to deliver an address to the public on the single tax and electoral reform. The meeting was splendidly attended. He held the audience in rapt attention with his forcible and vivid illustrations, and explained to the satisfaction of all present the ultimate result of our present unjust and corrupt taxation and electoral systems. Mr. Horan will deliver an address at our next public meeting next Wednesday evening.

You will hear from the single tax club of Augusta soon and often, for we have aroused some of our old sleepy heads on the question.

L. A. SCHMIDT, 525 Lincoln street.

### Does Not the "News" Believe in Private Property in Land?

The greatest display of assurance made within the century is that exhibited by the Lehigh valley railroad company in its proposal to sell the city of Newark a supply of water at \$30 a million gallons. This is the company that recently, through a plant legislature, secured the right to abandon the Morris canal. The canal was built to "meet a public demand," and the right to use the waters of the lakes and rivers in the upper section of the state to feed this canal was granted solely with a view of meeting a "public demand." Now the canal is to be abandoned to meet the "demand" of the railroad because the canal takes part of the traffic from the railroad at cheaper rates. And this company, having secured the waters of the lakes and rivers for a canal, which it abandons for selfish purposes, has the cheek to offer to sell this water to the people of Newark. It might as well offer to sell the roving winds that sweep the hills through which the waters flow.

## SHALL WE INVADE NEW JERSEY?

## Indorsements and Objections to Judge Maguire's Plan.

The discussion raised by Judge Maguire's proposal for single tax men to concentrate their whole strength for an organized campaign in the state of New Jersey still goes on. The following expressions of opinion are taken from letters addressed to THE STANDARD:

## Votes for Invasion.

WEST NEW BRIGHTON, S. I.—I vote for the invasion of New Jersey, full force.

A. B. STODDARD.

## Start the March on New Jersey.

WINCHESTER, N. H.—To Judge Maguire's plan I say amen. March your forces on to New Jersey. I will contribute my mite.

JOHN DALRYMPLE.

## Wants the Proposition Adopted.

VINELAND, N. J.—I hope Judge Maguire's proposition to concentrate on New Jersey will be answered by an emphatic "Yes!"

W. P. NICHOLS.

## Hopes the Plan Will Be Adopted.

PITTSBURG, Pa.—I am heartily in favor of the plan suggested by Judge Maguire, and I hope immediate steps will be taken to put it in operation. Every single tax advocate having relatives, friends or acquaintances in New Jersey should write urging them to join the movement.

B. HARTLEY.

## A Way to Gather the Funds.

BALLSTON SPA, N. Y.—New Jersey is the state to concentrate on and the "sowing society" idea would furnish the funds. But at the same time let us all be up and doing in every way that suggests itself.

R. FEENEY.

## Commence at Once.

NEW YORK.—Let us invade the little states. Commence hostilities at once and fire solid shot of truth into the vulnerable points of error and weakness of the enemy; wake up the lethargic mind of its people to the point that it is unjust to tax industry; that it is wise and fair and equitable to place a single tax on land values. What we must do is to determine to elect senators and assemblymen and all officers of the state. And to commence immediately to bring that about by holding a series of meetings all over the state. In support of this action I will give whatever lies in my power, both in money and personal service.

SYLVESTER BUTLER,  
240 E. 121st street.

## On to New Jersey.

BROOKLYN.—Judge Maguire's idea of throwing our full weight on New Jersey is a good one. I have lived in Brooklyn for twenty years, but advancing rents and heavy taxation are slowly forcing me away and I see no alternatives but moving to some little town out on Long Island or to some place in New Jersey. My cry is, On to New Jersey!

GEORGE L. FAULK,  
433 Fulton street.

## Let's Apply Our Efforts to New Jersey.

MINTON, Pa.—A careful review of the situation thoroughly confirms the wisdom of the course mapped out in THE STANDARD months ago. I have hardly a doubt that Great Britain will ere long adopt the equitable system of taxation. The conditions are especially favorable for a country which has adopted free trade is a step in advance. Let us apply our efforts here to a single state—New Jersey.

CHAS. HINKLE.

## Let's Invade, and After a While We Can Sit Back and Smile.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—I wish to send my earnest approval of the proposed invasion of New Jersey. Often in talking to men of the single tax they say, "It looks well, and I would like to see it tried somewhere." If those who only partially see the benefits of the single tax express a strong desire to see it tried somewhere, the men who see the cat in all its beauty ought to make a grand effort to bring about that result in New Jersey or somewhere else. To my mind Judge Maguire's suggestion is a very strong one, and I am willing to follow our friend Richard Welton's example of backing up my approval by a weekly contribution of fifty cents to furnish supplies for the invading army. Let all readers of THE STANDARD help on this fight, and it will be but a short time before we can take things easy and smile at the frantic efforts of many people to get the single tax who now laugh at the idea.

THOMAS F. DOYLE.

## Wants a Western State Invaded Also.

SEATTLE, W. T.—While I heartily approve of the invasion of New Jersey or some other eastern state as suggested by Judge Maguire, I think there should be also an effort made to "corral" one or more of the incoming states. Why not the people east of the Rockies turn their attention to New Jersey and those west of them carry the war into Washington territory. I believe a persistent fight in this territory would enable us to control the constitutional convention and the first legislature. We would have to convince only about 20,000 or 25,000 voters to control the

territory. I am doing what I can both individually and as one of the editors of the Port Angeles *Commonwealth*, to forward the cause.

Yours truly, F. S. LEWIS, M.D.,  
Cor. 9th and Stewart Sts.

## A Voice of Dissent.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—So many letters have favored Judge Maguire's proposal to invade New Jersey that one of protest may not be out of place. It is easy for an enthusiastic man to believe that the arguments that convinced him will be equally efficacious if brought to the attention of others. This is a grave mistake, as anyone ought to know who has labored fruitlessly for hours and days to show an intelligent man what to him was perfectly clear. The great majority of the people are hopelessly, stupidly conservative, and can be moved in the right direction only when their party leaders profess right principles. For the single tax men to invade New Jersey or any eastern state, with banners flying and trumpets blowing, would be to invite certain defeat and even more disastrous ridicule. Third party movements may succeed in time, but many years are required even when the question is the abolition of chattel slavery, and the abuse exists in but a portion of the country. No, let us do what we can in an educational way in New Jersey and in every other state; but when political work is to be done, let us throw our weight with the party that is going our way, and perhaps we may be able to push it a little further than it intended to go.

GEORGE E. WEST.

## A Dollar a Month for the Invasion.

PENDLETON, Ore.—Judge Maguire's suggestion in THE STANDARD of the 15th inst. is a good one, and it is practical. By all means, let's invade New Jersey. I am too far off to do much fighting, but I can assist a little by contributing to the fund for carrying on the work. You can put me down for one dollar a month until the invasion proves a success. I am anxious for the fight, or rather the invasion, to begin at once. Let me read in THE STANDARD that the invading hosts are advancing, and my dollar will commence to make you a regular monthly visit.

F. O. TRAMP.

## The Point of Least Resistance.

JERSEY CITY, N. J.—Surely the point of least resistance is the paradise of mosquitoes. The protectionists thought they had a dead sure thing here in the recent canvass, and they made a decidedly "educational campaign" and appealed to our "intelligence," but we gave them an "upper cut." The free trade bugaboo was shown us but we didn't scare worth a cent.

The people of New Jersey believe in protection to American laborers; that's why its electoral votes will be cast for Cleveland, Thurman and tariff reform. To be plain, the entering wedge has entered New Jersey, and the dissemination of true free trade—single tax unlimited—ideas would be accepted by our people with relish.

JOHN A. MOLEY.

## Some Objections to New Jersey.

NEW YORK.—The idea of concentrating our energies upon one locality is a good one, but I doubt if New Jersey is the best selection that could be made. We would have to fight combinations of capital and monopolies there larger, perhaps, than in any other state except Pennsylvania or New York.

We would have to fight the Pennsylvania railroad company, and it is a byword that "the Pennsylvania owns New Jersey." We would have to fight the New Jersey Central, the Erie, the Lackawanna, the West Shore, the Reading, and the Baltimore and Ohio railroad companies; the Standard oil company at Bayonne, Mr. Bradley at Asbury park, and about fifty New York and Philadelphia millionaires at Orange, Long Branch, Elberon, Atlantic City and Cape May; the gigantic Bartlett syndicate that controls the water sheds of the state and Austin Corbin, with his extensive land interests at Camden and Elizabethport. These men could not afford to let us work unmolested in New Jersey, for they would know as well as we that our success there would mean the destruction of their monopolies not only there but in New York city and elsewhere. These gigantic money powers and monopolies, controlling some of the most valuable waterfronts, landed properties and rights of way in the world, would spend a thousand dollars for every dollar we could raise, and they would bury us out of sight.

This is not all. It is not possible to "frame an indictment against a whole people," but it is very easy to frame an indictment against a large part of the people of the back districts of New Jersey. It is notorious that they are not up to the average in certain qualities that would have to be possessed by a people among whom the single tax was expected to take root promptly and grow rapidly. The chronic corruption of the ballot in those sections is a great obstacle to reform, and there is a lack of education and an indifference to new ideas which would cause great discouragement.

It seems to me that we should work along the line of least resistance. Our ideas have already made considerable progress in Minnesota. Why not devote our attack to the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis? The result of the late election shows us that city populations can be influenced by argument much

quicker than country populations. Then, too, the number of voters not directly interested in land is proportionately greater in cities than in the country. Again, we would have powerful journals like the St. Paul *Pioneer-Press* and the Minneapolis *Star* on our side. Still further, the people of Minnesota are comparatively quick minded and intelligent, and the idea would spread from the chief cities over the state. There are not so many powerful interests arrayed against us in Minnesota as in New Jersey. There are not such contrasts between classes. The masses have not reached the stage of hopeless poverty, with blunted instincts and corruption of the suffrage as a result.

The constitution of Minnesota may be less favorable than that of New Jersey, but if the people of St. Paul and Minneapolis ask the people of the rest of the state to let them try the single tax locally, it seems probable that the request might be granted and the constitution amended for that purpose—a sort of "local option" taxation clause being inserted. This would give the people of the country districts a chance to see how the plan worked in a limited locality, and if it worked well it would, of course, be adopted in other places, and quickly spread to all sections.

Some other locality may offer still greater advantages as a battle field, but we certainly ought to study the country carefully before making a selection.

W. T. LOPER.

## Massachusetts is the State.

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—I do not believe in waiting for green fruit to ripen while the ripe is at hand ready to be plucked. So do I think it would be useless to commence special operations on Connecticut, or any other state, while Massachusetts is the only state that has adopted a pure election system. We should adopt a plan for single tax educational work on the lines laid down by "Veritas Vincit." I agree with "Veritas Vincit" in the idea of levying a large fund for the support of such a campaign. It could be raised if each one of the half million single tax men in this country should agree to subject himself to a monthly tax of ten cents. We would thus be enabled to actually flood Massachusetts with our literature, pay, if necessary, for special articles in the daily newspapers and run a shower of STANDARDS on each town; not a single copy of THE STANDARD but a continued prepaid subscription for three months. And this latter would be our most powerful gun. Organize this state above all others thoroughly, and have a special committee in each town appointed by each organization to forward STANDARDS and other literature to all unbelievers whose names shall be forwarded by their single tax friends.

CHARLES E. REID.

## Concentrate in the North and in the South.

DALLAS, Tex.—We should select one northern and one southern state to concentrate our strength upon. To attempt to concentrate on only one state would arouse in the opposing sections strong prejudices, which are hard to alley, and which, while they last, block the way to reform. I am in favor of selecting Texas as the southern state. It is the largest state in the union, it is a strong democratic state and it is a new state where the people have had the pleasure of seeing the public domain grabbed by foreign land syndicates. It is, besides, a stockraising, agricultural state, where the wealth comes directly from the soil and where the people are more sensitive to land speculation and land monopoly than are the people of the older states. I am with Judge Maguire as to New Jersey, but let's select another state, too, to keep little New Jersey from being too lonesome.

JOHN C. BURGE.

## In Providence.

PROVIDENCE, R. I.—At the sixth meeting of the single tax association of Rhode Island Mr. J. F. Smith delivered a very interesting and thoughtful address maintaining the proposition "that a single tax on land values can be shifted and will ultimately fall on the consumer, the same as other taxes." Mr. Smith's address provoked earnest discussion, which was participated in by Messrs. Barker and Arnold of Pawtucket, Barker, Allen, Bogan and Capelle of Providence and Garvin of Lonsdale. Although no vote was taken at the conclusion, the sentiment of a decided majority of those present seemed to be with the arguers on the negative side of the question.

GEO. D. LIDDELL, Secretary.

## A Pretty Straight Argument.

ORANGE, Mass.—A fair estimate of the employees in "protected" industries of the United States is 1,000,000; average wages paid to each \$350; total, \$350,000,000. Now the protectionist Home market club admits that each of the 12,000,000 families in the United States may pay \$68 per annum more for the necessities of living than it would have to pay if allowed to purchase freely in the cheapest markets of the world. Multiplying the number of families by sixty-eight we have total amount paid \$816,000,000. If the government were to abolish all import taxes and levy a direct tax on each family for the purpose of paying all protected laborers their present wages and maintain them in idleness, thus expending \$350,000,000, would there not be remaining in the pockets of the people \$466,000,000, which now represents the extortionate profits of "boosted" enterprises?

H. W. HAMMOND.

## AT THE HUB.

## Very Satisfactory Condition of Affairs There—Mr. Edward Atkinson—A Petition to the General Court.

BOSTON, Mass., Jan. 7.—Letters full of hope and enthusiasm from many correspondents indicate that Massachusetts is as good a field for work as any commonwealth in the union and that the soil of Lexington and Bunker hill will return to the seed sowing of new ideas as manyfold as that of Trenton and Monmouth, though isolation and exclusiveness of race, creed and class is very rife in our community. A very hopeful feature of our organization is its broad and representative character, is being in no sense a class movement, but attracting men of all conditions who have a regard for justice and fair play. Our most active pioneer workers and speakers are of the wageworking class, but many men of prominence in business and society are with us and working also in a quiet but effective way.

Our recent engagement with Mr. Edward Atkinson has been very productive of good results. Mr. Atkinson is a breezy and sententious speaker, and has far more liberal ideas than the land hunkers, the shoddy aristocrats, snaky financiers and selfish clubmen, who make up the conservative forces in our vicinity.

Out of Mr. Atkinson's admissions, a good case may be made for the single tax, and his objections were so slight and unsubstantial that our opponents even, fail to find comfort or satisfaction in them.

That Mr. Atkinson should condemn rather than approve the single tax is likewise to our advantage, for in spite of his not unamiable qualities of speech and manner, an approval by Mr. Atkinson is one of the things that "kick back" as badly as the indorsement of a Burchard or a Sackville-West.

According to a biography in a current periodical, Mr. Atkinson in early life learned "gumption" on a farm, and it is probably this unfortunate "gumption," of which he is evidently so proud, which has made such a wreck of his popularity with the working masses.

One of the commonest of the miserable expedients of the poor farmers of New England for getting along is to consume at home the knurly apples, small potatoes, tough and unsalable poultry and bob veal, and to reserve all the fair and toothsome production for sale in the market. In his economic addresses to workingmen Mr. Atkinson has proceeded upon this line and has come forth with an eight dollar suit and a tin cooking apparatus as the true solution of social problems. The possible value of Mr. Atkinson's practical cooking inventions and the credit to which he may be entitled therefor can never balance the intense hostility which the "cat meat" and "shin-bone soup" theory of social salvation has excited among working men.

In conclusion I will announce for the benefit of your readers and subscribers in Massachusetts that petitions to the general court for the enactment of a general law in Massachusetts establishing the single tax are ready for circulation, and will be sent on application.

EDWIN M. WHITE,  
Secretary Single Tax League Massachusetts,  
27 Pemberton square.

## Would Like to Settle in New Jersey.

CINCINNATI, O.—I heartily approve of the idea set forth by Mr. Rockwell, editor Farmington *Herald*, in his communication in THE STANDARD of December 29, headed "A Regular Cyclone of a Letter." His method would undoubtedly aid the advance of the times we so anxiously look forward to, and I will gladly enlist if it is adopted. I am a furniture man, understanding the business in all its branches, and besides finding employment in one of the largest houses in this city, I make an appreciable addition to my income by furniture designing. But I must say that, being a married man, and depending upon my daily earnings for support, I cannot afford to take risks, so that such completed arrangements would have to be made that I would be assured of falling into no danger in making the change. I for one am ready for the change, and to anyone that will place capital against knowledge in this business I invite correspondence.

F. H. RINGEMANN.

## A New Proposal.

PROVIDENCE, R. I.—The last issue of THE STANDARD contained a communication from me favoring concentration on Massachusetts, because of the Australian system of voting. Some after thoughts have occurred to me. I am one of those who believe that the single tax can best be accomplished by purely political action rather than petitions. If we concentrated on Massachusetts in the fall election of '89 and found it did not pay we could move to Rhode Island in the spring election of '90, and if that was not a favorable place we could move to New Jersey, and if that did not pay it would be a simple matter to stay there and work. But this is providing if Rhode Island and New Jersey get the secret ballot system, as I think they will. I wish I had the pen that wrote "Progress and Poverty" to impress upon single tax men not to "invade" any state which has not this system of voting. But as I have only a poor pen I will sum it up in Punch's advice—don't.

A. E. TODD.

## FORTUNE SMILES ON THE MANHATTAN CLUB.

**They Have Branched Out and Gone Into New Quarters—The Regular Sunday Evening Lectures.**

The Manhattan single tax club have taken new rooms. They were compelled to this step by the increase in membership and the augmented interest taken in their Sunday night lectures. The new quarters are at No. 8 St. Mark's place, a few doors east of Third avenue, and consist of an entire parlor floor. They are without doubt the best quarters ever held by any single tax organization in this city. The two main rooms, measuring 17½ feet by 27 feet each, may, by pushing back the folding doors which separate them, be converted into one large apartment, affording ample accommodation for a very large parlor audience. Comfortable chairs, tables, book cases, pictures and nick nacks have been procured, so that the place wears a cheerful and homelike appearance. Fine tobacco is to be found on a table immediately upon entering.

As may be supposed the club is at heavy expense for these apartments, but the rapid growth of the membership has warranted the outlay and gives promise of even bigger things soon to come. The zeal which inspires the members of this association may be inferred from the fact that when it was discovered on Saturday afternoon that nobody could be hired that day to "clean up," twenty men got to work with scrubbing brushes and window clothes and made the soap suds fly until the floor became as white as a man of war's holy stoned deck, and the windows became as clear as prisms.

Last Sunday evening, on the occasion of the sixth lecture, Mr. J. R. Abarbanell delivered the address. His subject was "Governor Hill's message and the ballot reform bill." The speaker began by declaring that no proposed reform in the ballot system would suit him unless it fully embraced the Australian idea and also included a popular system of nomination. Mr. George was the only man who had ever been nominated in this city by the people. In criticism of the governor's recommendations for a reform of the ballot, Mr. Abarbanell made these points: The governor had recommended no reform in the mode of nominating candidates.

The governor favored the printing of ballots by the state, but not "exclusively." Under his recommendation the candidates could print tickets of their own. If that were permitted, the benefits hoped for under a reformed ballot system would be lost.

The governor feared that if the ballots were placed in charge of county clerks there would be danger that a city, a county, and perhaps a state might, through carelessness or design, be disfranchised.

In making his points, Mr. Abarbanell told some interesting stories of his own political experience. And in regard to the responsibility of the county clerk who would take charge of the ballots, he said that the governor had, unknowingly or wilfully, cast odium, at least so far as this county is concerned, on the democratic candidate elected at the late election.

The members of the club frequently expressed their approval by their applause; and at the close the gentleman received a unanimous vote of thanks.

Mr. Louis F. Post speaks before the club next Sunday evening; subject, "The Single Tax."

The initiation fee to the club is fifty cents and the weekly dues ten cents. The rooms are open every evening, and all friends are invited to pay the club a visit.

## HOW TO LIVE AMID SOCIAL INJUSTICE.

**Hugh O. Pentecost on the Duties of the Individual Under Present Conditions.**

From the address before the Unity congregation, Sunday, December 30, 1888.

We must submit to our unjust surroundings to a certain extent, as victims. But we should not voluntarily use unjust conditions for personal advantage.

I must illustrate that principle very briefly, but I trust to be able to make it clear.

With regard to the absurd popular prejudice against new ideas in religion or political economy, we must hold our opinions and speak them whenever and wherever we think we can do good by so doing, even though the consequences to us be very disagreeable, painful or even fatal. This requires great courage, especially when a man has no fixed income and a family depending upon him. But it must be done. A man or woman who has something to say or do which may make this world a better place to live in, and refrains from uttering himself through fear of popular clamor or violence, is unworthy of respect, and will have not even his own.

With respect to the industrial situation we are in many respects victims of the system.

Many goods are sold marvelously cheap because they are made by people who work for starvation wages. Nothing is gained by refusing to buy these goods. Indeed the very competition under unjust conditions which forced the laborer to work for starvation wages forces you to buy where you can buy cheapest. You must patronize the bargain counter, but you must not defend the industrial system which makes the bargain counter possible or necessary.

If you are an employer you are as much a victim of the present system as your em-

ployes, unless you are a monopolist. The same law which forces you to pay as low prices as possible for everything else you use forces you to pay low wages for labor. The most generous employer in this regard is controlled by the meanest and most grinding. There are only two things which a justice loving employer can do under this system: He can divide his profits at the end of the year with his employees, but in that case his employees should share his losses; and he can work for the establishment of a better social system. This last is indeed the only thing for him to do. Every conscientious employer must be troubled at times by his relations to his employees. He must see that some evils are unavoidable under present social conditions which might be remedied by a more just social organism.

We are, to take another illustration, obliged to ride on railroads, to send telegraphic messages, to use money, coal and artificial light, and in this manner support monopolies which we believe to be very unjust. We are practically obliged to use many articles which are made and controlled by trusts. But we need not become active participants in these conspiracies against the happiness and welfare of the people; we need not associate ourselves for gain with these companies of bad anarchists, or, rather, anarchists in the bad sense of the term, for they are organizations which are powerful enough to refuse to obey our laws, or to violate them, or to bribe our legislators to make laws to suit them. We are forced to support these social infamies to a certain extent, but we must do all we can to destroy them.

I need not multiply illustrations. I think the principle is sufficiently clear to constitute a safe guide in every emergency. We must submit, in many particulars, to our environment, but we must not voluntarily use an unjust state of things for personal benefit. If we do our moral influence is gone and moral influence is precisely what is needed when we are fighting essentially moral evils.

## They Don't Let Things Flag in Indianapolis.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Jan. 3.—Had a splendid meeting at our league last night. Quite a large number of strangers were present. Tom Hudson read a very able paper on "The balance of trade," after which a committee was instructed to draw up a preamble and resolutions for presentation to the coming legislature praying that body to provide for a reappraisal of realty within the corporate limits of this city, or to appoint a committee to investigate the remarkable disparity existing between the value of lands as returned for taxation and the value held at for sale. The tax question is coming to the front and we are preparing in this and similar ways to make the most of the opportunities offered.

The *Sentinel*, the state organ of the democracy, had a good account of the meeting on its first page, under a spread head next morning.

Gilbert Seibert will speak on "The relation of the single tax to the building trades," two weeks hence. Invitations will be extended to the building trade unions to be present.

Our people are all favorable to Judge Maguire's recommendations to "invade New Jersey," and will contribute to that end.

L. P. AUSTIN.

## Meeting for Ballot Reform in Jersey City.

JERSEY CITY, Jan. 7.—It is the desire of the Hudson county single tax league to hold a ballot reform meeting in Jersey City, and to make it a mighty demonstration. This can be done only by the active co-operation of every single tax man in Jersey City. A call sent to some of these gentlemen by the secretary of the league has been very tardily responded to. The work of advancing this measure, of discussing the provisions of the bill which is to be presented, and soliciting signatures to petitions calling for its passage, have devolved upon a few active workers, who have done all that it is possible for them to do unaided. The work that remains calls for some small contribution from those interested, and which is even more important—the promise to be present of a sufficient number to insure the success of the meeting. We have the addresses of nearly two hundred single tax men in Jersey City—there are doubtless many more—who have made no sign. Their immediate assurance of participation in our efforts will determine our final action.

JOSEPH DANA MILLER,

86 Ege avenue.

## Arousing Thought in Providence.

PROVIDENCE, R. I.—The next meeting of the Rhode Island single tax association will be held in this city on Friday evening, January 11, at room 22, Slade building, Eddy street. "The claim of land owners to compensation upon the adoption of the single tax" will be the subject for consideration.

Our last meeting was well attended and an animated and instructive discussion was aroused over the question of the ability of the landlord to recoup himself under the operation of the single tax by putting up the rent. Mr. G. F. Smith opened the discussion, and one member after another arose and spoke to the question. The discussion cut the cobwebs and dispelled the mists that had involved the subject in the minds of many.

We desire to invite and urge every STANDARD reader in Providence to attend our meetings and help spread the light.

WILLIAM BARKER,

President Rhode Island single tax association.

## SINGLE TAX MEN.

The following list contains the names and addresses of men active in the single tax cause in their respective localities, with whom those wishing to join in the movement may communicate:

Akron, O.—Jas. R. Angier, 108 Allen street.  
Albany, N. Y.—Robert Baker, 178 Madison avenue; J. C. Roett, 22 Third avenue, or James J. Mahoney, secretary Single Tax Cleveland and Thurman club, 23 Myrtle avenue.  
Alhambra, Mont. Ter.—W. E. Brokaw.  
Altoona, Pa.—Joseph Sharp, Jr., secretary Single tax club, 411 Tenth street; Albert C. Roazee, 921 First street.  
Amsterdam, N. Y.—Harvey Book.  
Anacostia, D. C.—Carroll W. Smith, office Anacostia tea company, Harrison and Monroe streets.  
Anaheim, Cal.—James H. Hasset.  
Antioch, Ohio.—A. D. Strout.  
Atlanta, Ga.—John C. Reed of Reed & Bishop, attorneys, 28 Wall street.  
Auburn, Me.—F. W. Beals, secretary Single tax club.  
Augusta, Ga.—L. A. Schmidt, 525 Lincoln street.  
Avon, N. Y.—Homer Saban.  
Baltimore, Md.—John W. Jones, sec. Single tax league of Maryland, 125 N. Bond street; John Salmon, Pres. Henry George club, 415 N. Eutaw street; Dr. Wm. N. Hill, 1435 E. Baltimore street.  
Bayside, Long Island, N. Y.—Antonio M. Molina.  
Braceville, Ill.—William Matthews, secretary Tariff reform club.  
Bradford, Pa.—J. C. De Forest, secretary Land and labor club, 26 Newell place.  
Binghamton, N. Y.—E. W. Dendon, 33 Malden lane.  
Boston, Mass.—Edwin M. White, 288 Main street; Charles Long, R. Roche, 29 Converse avenue; Madden, Hamilton Garland, chairman single tax league, Jamaica Plain.  
Brooklyn, N. Y.—J. Hickling, 41 Sidney place, president Single tax club.  
Burlington, Iowa.—James Love, bookseller, or Richard Spencer.  
Burlington, Vt.—Charles N. Menahan, cigar manufacturer.  
Cambridgeport, Mass.—Wm. Ford, 116 Norfolk street, secretary Single tax organization.  
Canisteo, N. Y.—H. W. Johnson, P. O. box 263.  
Canon City, Col.—Frank P. Bide, M. D.  
Cape May City, N. J.—Wm. L. Porter, box 57.  
Chamberlain, Dak.—James Brown.  
Charles City, Iowa.—Irving W. Smith, M. D., office opposite Union house.  
Chicago, Ill.—Frank Pearson, secretary Land and labor club No. 1, 45 La Salle street.  
Cincinnati, O.—Dr. David De Beck, 139 West Ninth street; J. C. News, and stationary store, 272 Vine street; headquarters Single tax club, 298 Vine street.  
Clanton, Ala.—O. M. Mastin, or Alex. G. Duke.  
Cleveland, O.—Frank L. Carter, 132 Chestnut street.  
Clinton, Ind.—J. O. Bishop, editor *Argus*.  
Cohoes, N. Y.—J. S. Crane.  
Columbia, S. C.—J. B. Brainerd, president Single tax club, 505 North High street; Sam. F. Caen, corresponding secretary, care Edward Hymanen, 343 1-2 South High street.  
Cornwall, Cal.—Jeff A. Bailey.  
Cranbury, Ill.—Camden county, N. J.—Chas. P. Johnston.  
Dexter, Conn.—Sam. A. Albin, 34 Smith street.  
Dayton, W. Va.—W. R. Kile, 31 E. Fifth street; J. G. Galloway, 263 Samuel street.  
Denver, Col.—Charles G. Buck, chairman State executive committee National tax reform association, new Trench block.  
Des Moines, Iowa.—L. J. Kasson, president Single tax club, 101 W. King street.  
Detroit, Mich.—J. K. Finchard, 45 Waterloo street; J. F. Duncan, 279 Third street, secretary Tax reform association; S. G. Howe, 634 14th av.  
Diamond Springs, Eldorado county, Cal.—J. V. Lanston.  
Dunkirk, N. Y.—Francis Lake.  
East Cambridge, Mass.—J. F. Harrington, St. John's Literary Institute.  
East Northport, Long Island, N. Y.—J. K. Rudyard.  
East Rindgo, N. H.—Edward Jewett.  
Elizabeth, N. J.—Benjamin Urner.  
Elmira, N. Y.—William Berkman, 712 East Market street.  
Elkhart, Ind.—W. S. Terry.  
Elkhart, Mass.—J. T. Terry.  
Farmington, Iowa.—F. W. Rockwell.  
Gardner, Ill.—T. S. Cumming.  
Glen Cove, Long Island, N. Y.—Herbert Doroner.  
Glens Falls, N. Y.—John H. Quinlan.  
Gloverville, N. Y.—Wm. C. Wood, M. D.  
Grand View-on-the-Hudson, N. Y.—Henry L. Hinton.  
Harrison, Tex.—J. McCollum.  
Hartington, Neb.—J. H. Feller.  
Haverhill, Mass.—Arthur F. Brock.  
Helena, Mont.—Judge J. M. Clements.  
Hornesville, N. Y.—George H. Van Hook.  
Hot Springs, Ark.—W. Albert Chapman.  
Houston, Tex.—H. F. Ring, corporation attorney.  
Hutchinson, Kas.—J. G. Malcolm, M. D.  
Hyon, N. Y.—George Smith, P. O. box 502.  
Indianapolis, Ind.—Herman Kuehn, 115 Talbot block; or J. C. Foster, member of single tax club.  
Ithaca, N. Y.—C. C. Platt, druggist, 75 East State street.  
Janvier, N. J.—S. B. Walsh.  
Jersey City, N. J.—Joseph Dama Miller, secretary Hudson county single tax league, 86 Ege avenue.  
Kansas City, Mo.—Chas. E. Reid, 2, 23 Woodland avenue.  
Kellsburg, W. Va.—M. McDonald.  
Kingston, N. Y.—Theodore M. Romeyn.  
Lansingburgh, N. Y.—James McMann, 21 Eighteenth st.  
Lonsdale, R. I.—Dr. L. F. Garvin.  
Lewiston, Me.—F. D. Lyford, 3 Cottage street.  
Lexington, Ky.—James Erwin.  
London, England.—William Saunders, 177 Palace Chambers, Westminster.  
Los Angeles, Cal.—W. H. Dodge, 39 North Alameda street; W. A. Cole, 149 South E. H.; or A. V. Vintette, P. O. St. tion F. Lowell, Mass.—Henry Robertson, 5 Metcalf block, Kildar street.  
Lynchburg, Va.—Thos. Williamson, cor Fifth and Church streets.  
Lynn, Mass.—Theodore P. Perkins, 14 South Common street.  
Madison, Dak.—E. H. Evenson.  
Mahanoy City, Pa.—J. N. Becker, president Free trade club; Robert Richardson, secretary.  
Mantec, Mich.—A. J. W. Walker, or W. R. Hall.  
Marlboro, Mass.—Geo. A. E. Reynolds.  
Marlborough, N. Y.—C. H. Baldwin.  
Mart, Tex.—J. L. Caldwell, chairman Ninth congressional district organizer.  
Marysville, Mont.—S. F. Bakston, Sr.  
Massillon, O.—Samuel T. Wright, 63 West Main street.  
Memphis, Tenn.—R. G. Brown, secretary Tariff reform club, 59 Madison street.  
Middletown, Conn.—John G. Hopkins, P. O. box 590.  
Middletown, N. Y.—Chas. H. Fuller, P. O. box 115.  
Milwaukee, Wis.—Peter M. Gill, 147 Fourth street.  
Minneapolis, Minn.—C. J. Budd, president Single tax league, 402 W. Franklin avenue; E. E. Ryder, secretary.  
Mobile, Ala.—E. Q. Norton, 23 South Royal street.  
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.—A. O. Fletcher, M. D.  
Mt. Vernon, N. Y.—Richard Walton.  
Murrayville, Ill.—William Cunn, president Democratic club.  
Nashville, Tenn.—P. H. Carroll, 235 N. High street, secretary American land league.  
Naponeset, Mass.—Q. A. Lottinor, member Henry George club, 43 Walnut street.  
Newark, N. J.—Rev. Hugh O. Pentecost, 56 Oriental street.  
Newburg, N. Y.—D. J. McKay, secretary Single tax club, 238 Broadway.  
Newport, Ky.—Joseph L. Schraier, secretary Single tax league, 217 Southgate street; Will C. James, 89 Taylor street.  
New Westminster, Brit. Col.—Alex. Hamilton, member Tax reform association.  
Norfolk, Va.—Edward K. Robertson, secretary Alpha club, Marine bank.  
North Springfield, Mo.—K. P. Alexander, 1826 North Fourth street.  
Oberlin, O.—Edw. H. Haskell.  
Olean, N. Y.—George Hall, pres. Single tax association Timothy Horan, sec., 55 Railroad street.  
Omaha, Neb.—John E. Embler, 822 Virginia avenue.  
Ordway, Dak.—R. H. Garland, member Tax reform association.  
Passaic, N. J.—J. J. Barnard, P. O. box 191.  
Paterson, N. J.—E. W. Nellis, chairman Passaic county single tax Cleveland campaign committee, 89 North Main street.  
Parkersburg, W. Va.—W. I. Boreman, member of Single tax league.  
Pawtucket, R. I.—Edward Barker, 23 Gooding street.  
Peoria, Ill.—J. W. Avery.  
Punahou, Pa.—Wm. J. Atkinson, 926 Chestnut street or A. H. Stephenson, 211 Chestnut street, secretary Henry George club.  
Pittsford, N. Y.—Charles H. Hood, P. O. box 13.  
Pittsburg, Pa.—Mark F. Roberts, 175 Carey alley.  
Portland, Ore.—S. B. Eggen, 48 Stark street; James P. Kohler, 131 Grand street, or R. H. Thompson.  
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.—William C. Albro.  
Providence, R. I.—Robert G. Love, 32 Sutton street; Dr. Wm. Barker, pres. Rhode Island single tax association.  
Pulaski, N. Y.—C. V. Harbottle.

Ravenswood, Ill.—W. H. Van Ornum.  
Reading, Pa.—Thas S. Prizer, 1013 Penn street; Charles Corbick, 251 Penn street.  
Richmond, Ind.—D. Quigley, 105 South Third street.  
Ridgeway, N. Y.—D. C. Sullivan.  
River Falls, Wis.—George H. Bates.  
Rochester, N. Y.—Charles A. V. 7 Morrill street.  
Roselle, N. J.—Read Gordon.  
Rutland, Vt.—T. H. Brown, 11 Cherry street.  
San Francisco, Cal.—Judge James G. Maguire, Superior court.  
San Luis Obispo, Cal.—Mrs. Frances M. Milne.  
Seattle, Wash. Ter.—F. P. Morrow.  
Seneca Falls, N. Y.—Wm. H. Adkinson, P. O. box 56.  
Sharon, Conn.—A. J. Eastwick, librarian Single tax club.  
Shenandoah, Pa.—Morris Marsh, president Single tax club; Thos. Potts, secretary.  
Southboro, Mass.—S. H. Howes.  
South Gaston, N. C.—W. L. M. Perkins.  
Sparrow Bush, Orange county, N. Y.—C. L. Dedrick, president Progressive association; John Sheehan, sec. retary.  
Spirit Lake, Iowa.—J. W. Schrimpf, secretary Tariff reform club.  
Springfield, Mo.—H. A. W. Juneman, 665 Nichols street.  
St. Louis, Mo.—Geo. S. Bonnell, president Single tax league, 157 Ludlow street; Sidney A. Rendell, sec. retary, 108 Olive street.  
Stockton, Cal.—D. A. Learned.  
Syracuse, N. Y.—Charles S. Hopkins, 9 Seymour street; H. R. Perry, 149 South Clinton street; or F. A. Paul, 4 Walton street; or James K. McGuire, secretary Single tax club, 59 Greene street.  
Toronto, Can.—W. A. Bonchess, president anti-poverty Tacoma, Wash. Ter.—F. C. Carter, 1308 K st. society, 218 Wellesley street.  
Trenton, N. J.—H. R. Matthews, 9 Howell street.  
Troy, N. Y.—B. B. Martin.  
Tuckahoe, N. Y.—Albert O. Young.  
Unionville, Conn.—John McAuliffe.  
Utica, N. Y.—Thos. Sweeney, 136 Elizabeth street, or Daniel M. Buckley, grocer, southwest corner First and Catharine.  
Vincennes, Ind.—Hon. Samuel W. Williams, rooms 2 and Opera block.  
Waco, Tex.—Frank Grady, lawyer, 163 south 4th street.  
Wakefield, R. I.—David Harrower.  
Washington, D. C.—Dr. William Geddes, 221 E street, N. W. secretary anti-poverty society.  
Weatherford, Tex.—William M. Buell.  
West New Brighton, Staten Island, N. Y.—A. B. Stoddard.  
Whitesboro, N. Y.—George Harnwell.  
Wilmington, Mass.—C. P. Dolin, cigar store; Thos. Douglass, president single tax league.  
Wilmington, Del.—Geo. W. Kreer, 717 West Ninth street.  
Woodstock, Ill.—A. W. Currins.  
Worcester, Mass.—E. K. Page, Lake View.  
Yonkers, N. Y.—Joseph Sutherland.  
Youngstown, O.—J. H. Radcliffe, Radcliffe house.  
Zanesville, Ohio.—W. H. Longhead, 27 Van Buren street.

## SOCIETY NOTES.

There was, of course, a great slaughtering of birds and winning of cups on New Year's day at Tuxedo, as there was also at Babylon and at all the country clubs. In distant Lenox there were also sounds of revelry by night, especially at Curtis's hotel, where Mr. and Mrs. Sloane's party were accommodated, and their own cottage being hermetically sealed against the inroads of winter storms. There was hardly as good sleighing or skating in Berkshire as is usual in those latitudes at this season, but coasting, dancing and good cheer filled up the gaps satisfactorily. Mrs. Beekman's party to Montreal came back in excellent spirits, in spite of the fact that their skates and sealskins never saw the light.—*New York Sun*.

Mrs. Theresa Steiner was last evening found dead in her bedroom at No. 334 East Eightieth street, says the *World* of Jan. 4, having taken a dose of cyanide of potash. She was thirty years of age and the wife of a teacher of languages. Mr. Steiner has been unable to secure pupils of late and his wife was compelled to do sewing and washing to support herself and husband. No cause could be assigned for the deed except extreme poverty and a desire to end her troubles.

Among New York's many young men who live on their papas' wealth are hundreds of youths whose greatest exertion is getting measured and buying clothes. They wear them perhaps three times and then give them away. These young men buy suits ranging in price all the way from \$50 to \$100 each, and, after parading in them three or four times, give them to their valets.—*New York World*.

August Rendell, a young man, of No. 142 West Twenty-eighth street, committed suicide on Jan. 3, by hanging himself to a bedpost. He was out of work and suffering from blood poisoning, the result of a wound in one of his hands.

Very expensive outfits for babies are now the thing to have. A nice one for a new born aristocrat can be had for about \$100 or \$500. At this price it will be of cambrie and soft silk.

Christian Jaeger, aged 42, a carpenter, residing at No. 24 Willow avenue, Hoboken, committed suicide on Monday. He had been sick for several months and unable to work. His wife and three children were unprovided for, and this preyed upon his mind. He took a heavily loaded shotgun, lay down upon the floor in his parlor, and, putting the gun's muzzle under his chin, pulled the trigger with his toe.

## Words of a Veteran.

D. W. Leavens of Pasadena, Cal., sixty-six years old and a veteran of the anti-slavery struggle, is engaged with his two sons in spreading the new faith. Pasadena, he writes, is a "God-blessed and boom cursed corner of our country," whose population, numbering about 10,000, "is largely made up of rich people who come to enjoy and monopolize its matchless climate and who claim to represent the wealth, culture, refinement and conservatism of the east." As a matter of course they are well nigh impervious to the truths we hold. However, Mr. Leavens has strong hope for the future. "The struggle," he says, "will develop strong men and women. The anti-slavery struggle did that and the world is better for it. Much of our highest happiness arises, I apprehend, from thinking new and bright thoughts and devising new schemes for effecting wrong, upholding right and elevating the race. The present conflict will help to do this. It will develop and diffuse the altruistic feeling of which there is now all too little. I especially advise young men to espouse this cause for their own sake, and suffer affliction with the people of God rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. It will make stalwart, full-grown men of them if it does nothing more and enable them to leave behind footprints that are worth the while."

## A SYLLABUS OF "PROGRESS AND POVERTY."

[NOTE.—I have often heard it said that "Progress and Poverty" ought to be condensed in order to enable those who have no time to master so large a book to lightly familiarize themselves with its reasonings; but this is impossible because "Progress and Poverty" is itself a remarkable condensation. This is probably one of the reasons why so many readers of the book fail to fully grasp the chain of its reasoning, and that after one reading and sometimes after several, there are apt to arise in their minds objections which seem new, but which are fully answered in the book itself. A still stronger reason for this arises from the very strength and clearness of the argument. To most readers who have made no previous study of political economy it is as if they passed through a forest under the lead of an experienced guide. The way seems at the time not only perfectly obvious, but the only possible way to take, and they fail to note the bearings and landmarks of the path they have traveled. But when memory of the details of the journey begins to fade and they try to travel over the path alone or to lead others over it, they come to difficulties they cannot remember to have encountered. "Progress and Poverty" is pre-eminently what one of its earliest critics said of it—not a book to be read, but a book to be studied.]

While a condensation of the work is impossible, it has seemed to me that an abstract of the leading principles of its constructive argument would be extremely useful to its readers who may desire to study it, and might induce others to become readers, if not students. Much of the book is necessarily taken up with the work of demolishing false theories that have blocked the way and usurped the true theory; this I have passed by, and eliminating argument and illustration, have endeavored by a brief syllabus to bring into relief the thread of the constructive inquiry. In doing so I have endeavored to preserve as much as possible the language of the author.

LOUIS F. POST.]

### INTRODUCTORY.—THE PROBLEM.

What is the cause of recurring industrial depressions in which capital wastes while labor stands idle, and there is widespread want with a seeming excess in productive forces? That there must be a common cause is shown from the existence of these conditions in all progressive countries, and that that cause is either material progress or something connected with material progress is shown by the fact that the phenomena which we speak of as industrial depressions are but intensifications of phenomena which accompany material progress. *What is the law which associates poverty with progress and increases want with advancing wealth?* It must be within the province of political economy to discover it. Political economy is a science which in the sequence of certain phenomena seeks to trace mutual relations and to identify cause and effect, just as the physical sciences seek to do in other sets of phenomena. Its processes consist simply in identification and separation, and its premises are axioms of every-day life which may be reduced to the metaphysical expression of the physical law that motion seeks the line of least resistance, viz., that *men seek to gratify their desires with the least exertion.*

### BOOK I.—WAGES AND CAPITAL.

CHAPTER I.—The cause which produces poverty in the midst of advancing wealth is the cause which exhibits itself in the tendency of wages to a minimum. In compact form, therefore, the inquiry is: *Why, in spite of increase in productive power, do wages tend to a minimum which will give but a bare living?*

CHAPTER II.—Let us first fix the meaning of our terms: *Wages* includes all returns for exertion, as distinguished from returns for the use of capital and returns for the use of land.—*Capital* includes things which are neither land nor labor, but which have resulted from the union of land and labor, and are devoted to the aid of further production. Nothing can be capital that is not wealth. But all wealth is not capital.—Only that part of wealth is capital which is devoted to the aid of production, i. e., wealth in course of transmutation or exchange. Only such things are *wealth* the production of which increases and the destruction of which decreases aggregate wealth. These things consist of natural products that have been secured, moved, combined, separated, or in other ways modified by human exertion so as to fit them for the satisfaction of human desires.—*Land* includes the whole material universe outside of man himself, for it is only by having access to land that man can come in contact with or use nature. It embraces all natural materials, forces and opportunities, and is the field or environment in which man finds himself, the storehouse from which his needs must be supplied, the raw material upon which, and the forces with which, alone his labor can act.

CHAPTER III.—Wages are produced by

the labor for which they are paid. When the laborer is his own employer this is plain enough. It is equally plain when, though working for another or with another's capital, he receives his wages in kind. Also when the wages, though estimated in kind, are paid in money. And it is no less true when the wages are fixed. The payment of wages always implies the previous rendering of labor, and the rendering of labor implies the production of wealth, which, if it is to be exchanged or used in production, is capital; therefore, the paying out of capital in wages presupposes a production of capital by the labor. It is never as an employer that any one needs capital; when he needs capital it is because he is not only an employer of labor but a merchant or speculator in or an accumulator of the products of labor.

CHAPTER IV.—Before a work which will not immediately result in wealth available for subsistence can be carried on it is not necessary that there exist such a stock of subsistence as will support the laborers during the process; it is only necessary that there be, somewhere within the circle of exchange, a contemporaneous production of sufficient subsistence for the laborers and a willingness to exchange this for the thing on which the labor is being bestowed. Consumption is supported by contemporaneous production and the demand for consumption determines the direction in which labor will be expended in production. Each laborer in aiding in the production of what other producers want is directing other labor to the production of the things he wants—in effect, producing them himself. If he makes jack knives and eats wheat, the wheat is as much the produce of his labor as if he had grown it for himself and left wheat growers to make their own jack knives.

CHAPTER V.—Capital increases the power of labor, (1) by enabling labor to apply itself in more effective ways; (2) by enabling labor to avail itself of the reproductive forces of nature; and (3) by permitting the division of labor. Capital does not apply the materials which labor works up into wealth; they are supplied by nature. It does not advance wages; they are produced by labor. It does not maintain laborers; they are maintained by their labor, exchanging what they produce for what they need. Capital, therefore, does not limit industry; the only limit to industry being the access to natural material.

### BOOK II.—POPULATION AND SUBSISTENCE.

Chapter I of this book is devoted to an explanation of the Malthusian theory that population naturally tends to increase faster than subsistence; Chapter II to an investigation of the facts on which that theory rests; Chapter III to a consideration of the analogies with which it is illustrated and defended; and Chapter IV to a presentation of the facts which disprove the theory. These chapters show not only that the tendency of wages to a minimum is not due to growth of population, but that growth of population actually increases productive power, and therefore ought to make wages higher.

### BOOK III.—THE LAWS OF DISTRIBUTION.

CHAPTER I.—The answer to our inquiry cannot be found in the laws of production, and must be sought in the laws of distribution. The factors of production are land, labor and capital, and the whole produce is primarily distributed into three corresponding parts. Three terms are therefore needed, each of which shall clearly express one of these parts to the exclusion of the others. *Rent* expresses the first, which goes to the owners of land; *Wages* the second, which constitutes the return to labor; and *Interest* the third, which is the return for the use of capital. The income of any individual may be made up from any one, two or all three of these sources, but in seeking the laws of distribution they must be kept separate.

CHAPTER II.—The term "rent" differs from the word as ordinarily used. It is narrower, because it does not include payments for the use of buildings, etc., and broader because it may exist where the same person is both owner and user of land. It is also expressed in a selling price, which is rent commuted or capitalized. Rent is the share in products of labor which exclusive right to the use of land gives to the owner. As to the law of rent, the accepted dictum of the current political economy has the self evident character of a geometric axiom. It is: The rent of land is determined by the excess of its produce over that which the same application can secure from the least productive land in use. This law applies to land used for other purposes than agriculture and to all natural agencies. It may be better understood in this form: *The ownership of a natural agent of production will give the power of appropriating so much of the wealth produced by the exertion of labor and capital upon it as exceeds the return which the same application of labor and capital could secure in the least product-*

*ive occupation in which they freely engage.* This is the same thing, for there is no occupation in which labor and capital can engage which does not require the use of land. The law of rent is the law of competition, and rests upon the fundamental principle that men seek to gratify their desires with the least exertion. *Its corollaries are the law of wages and interest.* No matter what production results from the application of labor and capital, these two factors will receive only such part as they could have produced on land free to them without the payment of rent; for

As Produce = Rent + Wages + Interest; therefore,

Produce — Rent = Wages + Interest.

Thus wages and interest depend upon what is left after rent is taken out, and no matter what be the increase in productive power, if the increase in rent keeps pace with it, neither wages nor interest can increase.

CHAPTER III.—"Interest" includes all returns for the use of capital, and not merely those that pass from borrower to lender; and it excludes compensation for risk which is only an equalization of return between different employments of capital.

Production falls into three modes, viz.: *Adapting*, or changing natural products, either in form or place, to fit them for the satisfaction of human desire; *growing*, or utilizing the vital forces of nature; *exchanging*, so as to add to the general sum of wealth the higher powers of those natural forces which vary with locality, or those human forces which vary with situation, occupation or character. In the first mode capital is not absolutely necessary: in the others it is.

In *adapting*, the benefit of capital is in the use; in *growing* and *exchanging*, the benefit is in the increase. Primarily benefits which arise from use go to labor, and benefits which arise from increase go to capital; but the division of labor and interchangeability of wealth necessitates an averaging of benefits, whereby capital engaged in growing or exchanging will obtain, not the whole increase, but the increase minus what is sufficient to give to the labor so engaged such reward as it could have secured if exerted in adapting; and labor exerted in adapting will get, not the whole return, but the return minus such part as is necessary to give to capital the increase it could have secured in growing or exchanging. Interest is not arbitrary, but natural.

CHAPTER IV.—The belief that interest is the robbery of industry is in large part due to a failure to discriminate between what is really capital and what is not, and between profits which are properly interest and profits which arise from other sources than the use of capital. Nothing can be capital, let it always be remembered, that is not wealth—that is to say, nothing can be capital that does not consist of actual, tangible things (not the spontaneous offerings of nature) which have in themselves, and not by proxy, the power of directly or indirectly ministering to human desire.

CHAPTER V.—Under conditions of freedom the maximum of interest (which is fixed by the average power of increase belonging to capital generally), will be the increase of the capital; and the minimum, the mere replacement of the capital.

If wages fall, interest must fall, else it becomes more profitable to turn labor into capital than to apply it directly; if interest falls, wages must fall, else the increment of capital is checked. Thus the principle that men seek to gratify their desires with the least exertion operates to establish and maintain an equilibrium between wages and interest.

Under the operation of the same principle, the general rate of interest will be determined by the return to capital upon the poorest land to which capital is freely applied—that is to say, upon the best land open to it without the payment of rent. *Thus the law of interest independently sought, meets and harmonizes with the law of rent.*

CHAPTER VI.—Wages vary with the differing powers of individuals and as between occupations; but there is a general relation between all wages, and in their degrees wages rise and fall in obedience to a common law. The principle that men seek to gratify their desires with the least exertion brings to an equality the reward for equal exertions under similar circumstances. In conditions of freedom the terms on which one man can hire others to work for him will be fixed by what the men could make if laboring for themselves. If wages are temporarily carried either above or below this line a tendency to carry them back at once arises. But wealth is the product of two factors, land and labor; and what a given amount of labor will yield will vary with the powers of the land to which it is applied. This being the case, the principle that men seek to gratify their desires with the least exertion will fix wages at the produce of such labor at the point of highest natural productiveness open to it, which, under existing conditions is the lowest point at which production con-

tinues. Thus the wages an employer must pay will be measured by the lowest point of natural productiveness to which production extends, and wages, as a proportion of the produce, will rise or fall as this point rises or falls. Hence, the proportion of wealth going to wages depends upon the margin of production or upon the produce which labor can obtain at the highest point of natural productiveness open to it without the payment of rent. *Thus the law of wages, independently sought, meets and harmonizes with the law of rent.*

Where land is free and labor is unassisted by capital, the whole produce will go to labor as wages.

Where land is free and labor is assisted by capital, wages will consist of the whole produce less that part necessary to induce the storing up of labor or capital.

Where land is subject to ownership and rent arises, wages will be fixed by what labor could secure from the highest natural opportunities open to it without the payment of rent.

Where natural opportunities are all monopolized, wages may be forced by competition among laborers to the minimum at which laborers will consent to reproduce.

CHAPTER VII.—Thus the laws of distribution are corollaries of each other. The fundamental law that men seek to gratify their desires with the least exertion becomes, when viewed in its relation to land, the law of rent; in relation to capital, the law of interest; in relation to labor, the law of wages. And the harmony and correlation of these laws are perfect. *Rent depends on the margin of production, rising as it falls and falling as it rises. Wages depend on the margin of production, falling as it falls and rising as it rises. Interest (its ratio with wages being fixed by the net power of increase which attaches to capital) depends on the margin of production, falling as it falls and rising as it rises.*

CHAPTER VIII.—The failure of wages as a proportion of the product of labor, to increase with increasing productive power, is due to the increase of rent. Three things unite to production—land, labor and capital. Three parties divide the produce—the landowner, the laborer and the capitalist. If with the increase of production wages are no more and interest no more, it is a necessary inference that rent swallows the whole gain. And the facts agree with this inference.

### BOOK IV.—EFFECT OF MATERIAL PROGRESS UPON THE DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH.

CHAPTER I.—But what causes rent to advance as material progress goes on? The changes which constitute or contribute to material progress are three: (1) increase of population; (2) improvements in the arts of production and exchange; (3) improvements in knowledge, education, government, police, manners and morals, so far as they increase the prices of producing wealth. To ascertain the effect of these changes on the distribution of wealth, consider the first apart from the second and third, and the second and third (which are in effect the same) apart from the first.

CHAPTER II.—Increase of population increases rent and consequently diminishes the proportion of the produce which goes to capital and labor, in two ways: (1) By lowering the margin of cultivation; and (2) by bringing out in land special capabilities otherwise latent, and by attracting special capabilities to particular lands.

CHAPTER III.—The primary effect of improvements in the arts is to increase the power of labor in the production of wealth; which, the demand for wealth being unsatisfied, will be utilized in procuring more wealth. But, as land is necessary for the production of wealth, the secondary effect is to extend the margin of production to lands of less natural productiveness, or, on the same lands, to a point of lower natural productiveness.

CHAPTER IV.—The confident expectation of future enhancement of land values which arises from the steady increase of rent in all progressive communities, leads to the holding of land out of use or out of its best use for a higher price, and produces the effects of a combination among land holders whereby the margin is forced farther than required by the necessities of production. This is the force evolved by material progress which tends constantly to increase rent in greater ratio than progress increases production, and thus constantly tends, as material progress goes on and productive power increases, to reduce wages, not merely as a proportion, but absolutely.

### BOOK V.—THE PROBLEM SOLVED.

CHAPTER I.—The main cause of periodical industrial depressions is the manner in which the speculative advance in land values cuts down the earnings of labor and capital and checks production. In a progressive community land constantly increases in value; this induces speculation in which future increase is anticipated; and when land values are carried beyond the point at which they leave to labor and capital their accu-

toed returns, production begins to stop, or, what in a progressive community is the same thing, fails to increase proportionately, owing to the failure of new increments of labor and capital to find employment at the accustomed rates. The stoppage at some points shows itself at other points in a cessation of demand, which checks production there, and thus the paralysis communicates itself through all the interlacings of industry and commerce, resulting in phenomena that seem to show overproduction or over consumption, according to the standpoint from which they are viewed. The depression continues until (1) the speculative advance in land values is lost; or (2) the efficiency of labor increases sufficiently to make the normal rent line overtake the speculative rent line; (3) labor and capital become reconciled to smaller returns; or (4) all three of these causes co-operate to produce a new equilibrium, at which a new system of activity ensues, followed by an advance of rent, further speculation in land, another check upon production, and the same round over again.

**CHAPTER II.**—The reason why, in spite of the increase of productive power, wages constantly tend to a minimum which will give but a bare living is that *with increase in productive power, rent tends to even greater increase, thus producing a constant tendency to the forcing down of wages.*

The direct tendency of advancing civilization is to increase the power of human labor to satisfy human desires, to extirpate poverty, and to banish want and the fear of want; but labor cannot reap the benefits because they are intercepted. Land being necessary to labor and being reduced to private ownership, every increase in the productive power of labor but increases rent—the price labor must pay for the opportunity to utilize its powers. And, begotten of the continuous advance of rents, arises a speculative tendency which discounts the effect of future improvements by a still further advance of rents and tends to drive wages to the point at which the laborer can just live.

#### BOOK VI.—THE REMEDY.

**CHAPTER I.**—The remedies more or less relied on may be divided into six classes:

(1) *Greater economy in government.*—This would reduce taxation and be equivalent to an increase in the power of net production, the advantage of which would go ultimately to the owners of land.

(2) *Diffusion of education and improved habits of industry and thrift.* These also, if general, would simply increase the power of net production.—The fallacy of this remedy is similar to that which would be involved in the assertion that every one of a number of competitors might win a race. That one might be true, but that all might be impossible. Industry, skill, frugality and intelligence can avail the individual only in so far as they are superior to the general level.

(3) *Combinations of workmen.*—These can advance wages; but not to any extent or with any permanence unless the combination includes all laborers. Such a combination is practically impossible; and the raising of wages in particular occupations is a task the difficulty of which progressively increases, for the higher they are raised above their normal line with other wages the stronger are the tendencies to bring them back.

(4) *Co-operation.*—Co-operation is of two kinds, co-operation in supply and co-operation in production. Co-operation in supply only reduces the cost of exchanges, while co-operation in production is but the substitution of proportionate for fixed wages. At the best the effect of either would be but to increase the power of net production, and add to rent.

(5) *Governmental direction and interference.*—Whatever savors of regulation and restriction is in itself bad, and should not be resorted to if there is any other mode of accomplishing the same end.

(6) *A more general distribution of land.*—The general tendency to production on a large scale shows that measures which merely permit or facilitate greater subdivision of land would be inoperative, and that those which would compel it would have a tendency to check production. But there is the further and fatal objection that it would not reduce rent, and therefore could not increase wages. It might make the comfortable classes larger, but would not improve the condition of those in the lowest.

**CHAPTER II.**—There is but one way to remove an evil, and that is to remove its cause. Poverty deepens as wealth increases, and wages are forced down while productive power grows, because land, which is the source of all wealth and the field of all labor, is monopolized. The remedy, then, for the unjust distribution of wealth, and for all the evils which flow from it, is to *make land common property.*

#### BOOK VII.—JUSTICE OF THE REMEDY.

**CHAPTER I.**—The rightful basis of property is, primarily, the right of a man to himself, to the use of his own powers and the fruits of his own exertions. What he produces is his own against all the world, to use, to exchange, or to give. Hence,

there is in the owner of things produced by human exertion a clear title from the original producer. Not only is there no other natural right from which any other title can be derived, but the recognition of any other title is inconsistent with and destructive of this. *When non-producers can claim as rent a portion of the wealth created by producers, the right of the producers to the fruits of their labor is to that extent denied.*

**CHAPTER II.**—If chattel slavery be unjust, then is private property in land unjust. The ownership of land will always give the ownership of men to a degree measured by the necessity (real or artificial) for the use of land. This is but a statement in different form of the law of rent.

**CHAPTER III.**—It is not right that there should be any concern about compensating the proprietors of land. Private ownership of land is not merely a robbery in the past; it is a robbery in the present, for rent is not drawn from the produce of the past, but is a toll levied on labor constantly and continuously.

**CHAPTER IV.**—The common right to land has everywhere been primarily recognized, and private ownership has nowhere grown up save as the result of usurpation.

**CHAPTER V.**—The American people have failed to see the essential injustice of private property in land because they have not felt its full effects. Our superiority of condition over that of the old world has sprung from unfenced land—our public domain. But the republic has entered upon a new era, an era in which the monopoly of the land will tell with accelerating effect. The public domain is receding. Property in land is concentrating. The proportion of our people who have no legal right to the land on which they live is becoming steadily larger. We did not establish the republic when we declared the unalienable rights of man, nor abolish slavery when we ratified the Fourteenth amendment; and unless we come back to first principles and acknowledge the equal right of all to land, our free institutions will be in vain, our common schools will be in vain, our discoveries and inventions will but add to the force that presses the masses down.

#### BOOK VIII.—APPLICATION OF THE REMEDY.

**CHAPTER I.**—What is necessary for the use of land is not its private ownership, but the security of improvements. If we give improvers that security, we may safely abolish private ownership of land. Treating land as private property stands in the way of its proper use. Were it treated as public property it would be used and improved as soon as there was need for its use or improvement; but being treated as private property, the individual owner is permitted to prevent others from using or improving what he cannot or will not use or improve himself. If the best use of land be the test, then private property in land is condemned, as it is condemned by every other consideration.

**CHAPTER II.**—A question of method remains. Justice would be satisfied and all economic requirements met by abolishing private titles, declaring all land public property, and letting it out to the highest bidder under such conditions as would sacredly guard the private right to improvements. But this would involve a needless shock, and a needless extension of governmental machinery. We may best assert the common right to land, by taking rent for public uses. We already take some rent in taxation; we have only to make a few simple changes in our modes of taxation to take it all. What I therefore propose is to appropriate rent by taxation, and as the taxation of rent or land values must necessarily be increased just as we abolish other taxes, we may put the proposition into practical form by proposing to *abolish all taxation save that upon land values.*

**CHAPTER III.**—The best tax must—(1) bear as lightly as possible upon production, so as least to check the increase of the general fund from which taxes must be paid and the community maintained; (2) be easily and cheaply collected, and fall as directly as may be upon the ultimate payers, so as to take from the people as little as possible in addition to what it yields the government; (3) be certain, so as to give the least opportunity for tyranny or corruption on the part of officials and the least temptation to law breaking and evasion on the part of the tax payers; and (4) bear equally, so as to give no citizen an advantage or put any at a disadvantage as compared with others. To these conditions the tax upon land values conforms, and it is the only important mode of taxation that does.

**CHAPTER IV.**—The grounds for concluding that the tax on land values is the best tax have been admitted expressly or tacitly by all economists of standing since the determination of the nature and law of rent, including Ricardo, McCulloch, John Stuart Mill and Fawcett; and the French economists of the last century, headed by Quesnay and Turgot proposed it.

#### BOOK IX.—EFFECTS OF THE REMEDY.

**CHAPTER I.**—It would lift the whole enormous weight of taxation from productive industry. It would open new opportunities, for no one would care to hold land unless to use it, and land now withheld from use would everywhere, not merely on the frontiers, but in what are now called well settled districts, be thrown open to improvement. This would apply not alone to agricultural land but all land. The bonus that wherever labor is most productive must now be paid before labor can be exerted would disappear. In the labor market competition would no longer be one-sided, for into the labor market would have entered the greatest of all competitors for the employment of labor, a competitor whose demand cannot be satisfied until want is satisfied—the demand of labor itself.

**CHAPTER II.**—To relieve labor and capital from all taxation and to throw the burden upon rent would be, as far as it went, to counteract the tendency to inequality; and if it went so far as to take in taxation the whole of rent, the cause of inequality would be wholly destroyed. The wealth produced in every community would then be divided into two portions. One part, representing the result of individual effort in production, would be distributed in wages and interest between individual producers, according to the part each had taken in the work of production. The other part, representing the increased power with which the community as a whole aids the individual, would go to the community as a whole, to be distributed in public benefits to all its members. Thus, increase of rent, the very cause which now tends to produce inequality as material progress goes on, would then tend to produce greater and greater equality.

**CHAPTER III.**—All classes whose interests as land owners do not largely exceed their interests as laborers or capitalists, or both, would directly gain. Take the homestead owner or the farmer: The selling value of his land would diminish—theoretically, it would entirely disappear; but his land serve his purpose as well as ever. And as the value of other land would disappear in the same ratio, he would retain the same security of having land that he has now, while if he wanted more land he would be a gainer even in the matter of land. In other things he would be much the gainer. Though he would have more taxes to pay on his land, his house and improvements, all his personal property, all that he eats, drinks and wears, would be exempt, while his earnings would be largely increased.

**CHAPTER IV.**—Greater simplicity would be possible in government. In the administration of justice there would be a saving of strain. Public debts would disappear and standing armies would not be needed. And the simplicity of government would make possible, without danger, the assumption of functions now pressing for recognition, such as the operation of telegraphs and railroads. Government would gradually change its character from repression to co-operation, and by natural stages all that is best in the dream of socialism be realized.

#### BOOK X.—THE LAW OF HUMAN PROGRESS.

If the conclusion that land should be common property is correct, it will fall under a higher generalization. Let it be tested by recommencing the inquiry from a higher standpoint. *What is the law of human progress?* The prevailing belief is that the progress of civilization is the result of forces which slowly change the character and improve and elevate the powers of man; that the difference between civilized man and the savage is of a long race education which has become permanently fixed in mental organization; and that this improvement tends to go on increasingly to a higher and higher civilization. This theory may explain the difference between the savage and the civilized man; but it does not account for the civilizations that have progressed so far and then stopped, nor for the civilizations that have gone back. Every civilization has had its period of vigorous growth, of arrest and stagnation, its decline and fall. The earth is the tomb of dead empires no less than of dead men. Shall we, therefore, say there is a national or race life, as there is an individual life? Such analogies are superficial. While its members are constantly reproduced, in all the fresh vigor of childhood, a community cannot grow old as does a man by the decay of his powers. Yet in this analogy lurks the recognition of an obvious truth—the truth that the obstacles which finally bring progress to a halt are raised by the course of progress; that what has destroyed all previous civilizations has been the conditions produced by the growth of civilization itself. Any valid theory of human progress must account for this.

**CHAPTER II.**—The differences between the people of communities in different places and at different times, which we call differences of civilization, are not differences which inhere in the individuals, but differences which inhere in the society. Social environment is the ma-

trix in which mind unfolds, and from which it takes its stamp. In this way skill is transmitted and knowledge stored up; and human progress goes on as the advances made by one generation are secured as the common stock of the next, and made the starting point for new advances.

**CHAPTER III.**—The incentives to progress are the desires inherent in human nature which, short of infinity, can never be satisfied. *Mind is the instrument by which man advances*, and by which each advance is secured and made the vantage ground for new advances. Men tend to advance in proportion to the mental power expended in progression. *But the mental power which can be devoted to progress is only what is left after what is required for non-progressive purposes.* These non-progressive purposes are maintenance and conflict. *Maintenance* means not only the support of existence, but the keeping up of the social condition and the holding of advances already gained. *Conflict* means not merely warfare and preparation for warfare, but all expenditure of mental power in seeking the gratification of desire at the expense of others, and in resistance to such aggression. As mental power is only set free for higher uses than maintenance, by association in communities, which permits division of labor, *association is the first essential of progress.* And, as the wasteful expenditure of mental power in conflict becomes greater or less as the moral law which accords to each an equality of rights is ignored or recognized, *equality is the second essential of progress.* Thus, *association in equality is the law of human progress.* Minds tend to progress as they come closer together, but just as inequality of condition or power is developed, this tendency to progression is lessened, checked and finally reversed.

**CHAPTER IV.**—A civilization like ours must either advance or go back; it cannot stand still. What has destroyed every previous civilization has been the tendency to the unequal distribution of wealth and power. This same tendency, operating with increasing force, is observable in our civilization to-day, showing itself in every progressive community, and with greater intensity the more progressive the community. Wages and interest tend constantly to fall, rent to rise; the rich to become very much richer, the poor to become more helpless and and hopeless; the middle class to be swept away.

**CHAPTER V.**—The evils arising from the unjust and unequal distribution of wealth are not incidents of progress, but tendencies which must bring progress to a halt. They will not cure themselves, but must, unless the cause is removed, sweep us back into barbarism. But they are not imposed by natural laws; they spring solely from social maladjustments which ignore natural laws. And in removing their cause by making land common property in the way proposed, we shall be giving an enormous impetus to progress. We cannot go on prating of the inalienable rights of man and then denying the inalienable right to the bounty of the Creator. Even now in old bottles the new wine begins to ferment and elemental forces gather for the strife! But if, while there is yet time, we turn to *Justice* and obey her, if we trust *Liberty* and follow her, the dangers that threaten will disappear and the forces that menace will turn to agencies of elevation.

#### CONCLUSION.—THE PROBLEM OF INDIVIDUAL LIFE.

Behind the problems of social life lies the problem of individual life. The yearning for a further life is natural and deep; but to the great majority of men on whom mere creeds have lost their hold, it seems a vain and childish hope. The ideas that thus destroy the hope of future life have their source in those doctrines of political and social science which teach that there is a tendency to the production of more human beings than can be provided for; that vice and misery are the result of natural laws, and the means by which advance goes on; and that human progress is by a slow race development. We have met these doctrines, and in seeing their fallacy we destroy the nightmare which is banishing from the modern world the belief in a future life. All difficulties are not removed, for turn which way we may, we come to what we cannot comprehend; but difficulties are removed which seem conclusive and insuperable. And thus hope springs up—the hope that is the heart of all religions. The poets have sung it, the seers have told it, and in its deepest pulses the heart of man throbs responsive to its truth.

#### Activity in Syracuse.

The Syracuse single tax club has commenced operations again. It held its first meeting last week. There was a large gathering and lots of enthusiasm. Eight or ten short speeches were made during the evening. The meeting was adjourned until Wednesday of this week. J. M. Boland is president of this club and J. K. McGuire, secretary.

# THE STANDARD.

HENRY GEORGE, Editor and Proprietor.

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A New York letter to one of the Philadelphia papers says that when one of the younger members of the Astor family was married her uncle gave her a pair of wedding slippers of white satin seeded with pearls, inclosed in a satin box, on the inside of which were lady slippers and on the outside china asters. The appropriateness of the inside emblem no one would question, but when it is remembered that the family name descends from Ashdoor and not from aster, the emblem on the outside loses its significance.

The Sixth avenue railroad company objects to dealing with a committee of street car employes, pretending that it is willing to treat directly with its own servants. This is a mere pretense, as every one knows who is acquainted with the history of the relations of street car companies with their men. Formerly drivers and conductors having grievances to lay before their employers appointed committees from their own numbers to represent them. As a usual result the committeemen were blacklisted and the grievances ignored. It was this conduct of the employers that led to the general organization and to the resort to committees of men hired to do committee work and thus made independent of the blacklist.

Goldwin Smith states the only valid objection to woman suffrage yet offered, and that is valid only from the point of view of the tory. He says women would not be conservative but radical.

Senator Vest made a laugh when he remarked in senatorial debate that "God himself forbade protective tariffs when he declared from the top of Mount Sinai, 'Thou shalt not steal.'" But there was nothing to laugh at. The spirit of the command includes theft by governments as well as theft by individuals.

It is understood that the Ford congressional committee will report recommending that immigrants be required to obtain certificates from consular officers abroad; that the present tax of fifty cents a head be increased, and that objectionable immigrants be returned. This is a case of a very big mountain and a very little mouse.

The London correspondents tell of a Colonel John T. North, a Yorkshire boy, who went to South America twenty years ago "and saw an opportunity." As a result of seeing that opportunity Colonel North is now worth from forty to sixty millions of dollars. Evidently he did something more than "see" the opportunity. Nor is it all likely that he used it, for no one has ever yet seen an opportunity out of which he could get sixty million dollars by using it. What the colonel did, no doubt, was to get hold

of the opportunity and allow the South Americans to use it on shares.

A little paper of Southboro', Mass., called the *Chronotype*, makes a covert attack upon the single tax men of that locality which it concludes by saying that some persons in almost every community "run the risk of growing insanity by believing that natural laws can be changed by human legislation." This is one of the enigmatical propositions that are sometimes emitted with a flourish when there is nothing else to say. The fact is that though natural laws cannot be changed by human legislation, their operation has been and still is obstructed by human legislation. Natural laws give labor products to labor alone; but human legislation has managed to give labor products very largely to idleness. This is bad legislation, but it is the kind of legislation that the *Chronotype* and its kind defends.

What can be the matter with the Boston *Globe*? A newspaper that usually knows what it talks about, it on Christmas day devoted a large part of a column to prove that sometimes it can talk of things about which it knows little or nothing. Is it possible that the explanation is in the fact that in Boston Christmas day editorials are written on Christmas eve? It boldly expresses the opinion that outside the partisans of Henry George it is doubtful if there are 100 thinking men in the country who see how we can advance beyond our present methods for the distribution of land "without curtailing individual freedom and loading government with cares and responsibilities." If this were true it would prove that all thinking men less 100 are partisans of Henry George, a conclusion that might be flattering to us, but one which we are not yet prepared to accept. It is well for the *Globe's* reputation for thinking that it did not undertake to show how the single tax on land values would curtail individual freedom or load government with cares and responsibilities. If the federal government levied a direct tax upon the states according to population there would certainly be no increase of care or responsibility. On the contrary, custom houses and internal revenue officers would disappear and the federal taxing machinery could be sheltered under one roof, and not a very large one, in the city of Washington. And if the states raised this tax as well as taxes for their own use respectively by an impost on land values, their taxing machinery also would be very much reduced and simplified. How such a system would curtail individual freedom is past finding out. It would, instead, very much enlarge individual freedom. Now, when the individual embarks in a business enterprise, he must consider how much he will be taxed for doing it; that is one restraint which the single tax would wholly remove. He must also consider how much of his capital will be sunk in land values or how much of his income will be taken for land values; and that is a restraint which the single tax would partly remove by reducing land values from the speculative to the normal level. But perhaps the *Globe* may want to know what such a system of taxation has to do with advancing beyond present methods for the distribution of land. It has this to do with it, that when land values are taxed the price of land falls. Land worth a thousand dollars a year would, if untaxed, sell for, say twenty thousand dollars; but if taxed five hundred dollars it would sell for ten thousand, or if taxed ninety per cent of its full annual value it would sell for only two thousand. Would not that result in a better distribution of land?

When Mr. Warner, as reported in THE STANDARD of last week, spoke of the men who want to do nothing and require a great deal of land to do it on, he compressed a volume of philosophy into a single sentence.

The proposition to petition congress for a bounty on wheat for the benefit of farmers is not a sarcasm on the protectionists;

it is a sincere proposition from a simple-minded protectionist. And now protectionists who are not simple minded are entitled to the floor to explain away its absurdity. This is a question of the highest privilege, and no frivolous point of order will be allowed to interrupt.

The *Tribune* gives an account of the discovery of an extensive coal deposit in Dakota, and remarks that if the field "prove to be of any size the people of the northwest will have little more for which to ask." The *Tribune* is just a little confused. It probably means that the men who own the coal fields will have "little more for which to ask"—except, of course, a higher duty on coal. As for "the people of the northwest" they will be in a different case altogether.

John Henniker Heaton, a member of parliament, is expected soon to visit this country for the purpose of advocating ocean penny postage. There is something sublime in Mr. Heaton's boldness. The Cobden club's lavish shipments of gold to make free traders here is lamblike timidity in comparison. Cheap postage is a free trade agency, and here comes an emissary directly from the British parliament to preach free trade in this insidious form to a people who have just declared with all the emphasis of 100,000 minority against free trade in every form. But we free traders welcome Mr. Heaton all the same. Penny ocean postage we believe not merely a great convenience, but a most powerful agency in making the two nations one people.

"All the black man asks is an equal chance in the race of life," said the Rev. William B. Derrick at the anniversary celebration of the emancipation proclamation. He might have added that that is all the white man asks, too. The trouble about that equal chance is, that neither the white man nor the black man gets it.

This is the playful manner in which the *Press* illustrates the stimulating effect of the protective system upon industry:

Anybody who is familiar with a cold bath can understand this principle of shock and agreeable reaction. The sudden application of cold water, like the immediate increase of price due to a duty, is not pleasant in itself; but it is a cause, not an effect, and it produces a very pleasing and wholesome effect, stimulating the circulation of the blood and invigorating the whole system.

All right. The tariff is a cold bath. The *Press* says so, and we are willing to accept the simile. It is a cold bath—a mighty cold one. But the *Press* will please remember that the "pleasing and wholesome effect" which it so belauds is manifested only after the bather comes out of the bath. *Sat verbum sapienti*, which means that the man who stays in the cold bath too long is pretty apt to get the rheumatism.

## A DISINGENUOUS ANSWER.

A recent number of the *Christian Union* contained an inquiry from a correspondent as to "the best book or pamphlet published in reply to Henry George's land theory;" to which the *Christian Union* makes the following reply:

Any number of replies to Mr. George have been written, but none which is especially satisfactory to his opponents. That of the duke of Argyll is the most famous.

The time may come when all the means of production will be owned by the community. At the present time land is the only form of private property whose ownership is in this country widely distributed. It is not, therefore, at all likely that the people will adopt a measure which would practically confiscate this form of property, while permanently exempting from taxation the railroads, the mines, the manufactories, and other forms of wealth largely monopolized by the rich. The advocates of Mr. George's theory seem to forget that in this country the taxes paid by farmers, year after year, have been practically equal to the "unearned increment" in the value of their land. When the community has confiscated the increment once it has no right to confiscate it again.

This answer is so thoroughly disingenuous that we confess to a feeling of surprise at finding it in the columns of a self-respecting paper.

The *Christian Union* must be thoroughly aware that land, in place of being

"the only form of private property whose ownership is, in this country, widely distributed," is really a form of property whose ownership is less widely distributed than that of almost any other. Clothes, food, furniture, fuel, tools and books are all vastly more "widely distributed" than land.

The *Christian Union* must know that the confiscation of land is no part of the doctrine of the single tax. What the single tax will "confiscate" will be that value which attaches to land by reason of density of population—a value which is created altogether by the community and belongs in justice to the community and to nobody else.

The *Christian Union* must know that the single tax on land values would effectually reach mineral lands, whose value is altogether due to location with reference to population—since a coal mine in an unpopulated, inaccessible desert would have no value whatever—and that it contemplates the management of railroads and kindred monopolies by the community in the interest of the community.

Finally the *Christian Union* must be well aware that the single tax system would materially lighten the taxation of farmers, now the most heavily tax burdened class in the community. In a country as sparsely settled as the United States, it is only here and there that farming lands have any value of location whatever. Their present nominal value is in all cases largely speculative, and in most cases entirely so.

The *Christian Union* has a perfect right to dissent from the doctrine of the single tax. But it has no right to misrepresent it. Least of all has it a right to do so to one who, like its correspondent, has applied to it for information, relying on its integrity and good faith.

## RELIGION AND THE TENEMENT HOUSES.

In the early part of December a number of protestant clergymen and laymen assembled in a "Christian conference" in Chickering hall to consider what had best be done to remedy the godless condition of New York city. For that New York is in a godless condition, and rapidly becoming more godless—at least from a protestant point of view—is sadly evident from the statistics. In 1840, there was one protestant church to every 2,000 people; in 1880, one to every 3,000; and in 1887, one to every 4,000, or to speak with statistical accuracy, one to every 4,464. This is a terrible showing, whose significance is startlingly emphasized by the fact that there is in the city an average of one saloon to every 150 inhabitants.

The conference assembled December 3, and sat for three days. It went into its subject thoroughly, and, it is to be presumed, exhausted it. And now the record of its deliberations is before us, in the shape of a paper bound volume of 196 pages, published by the Baker & Taylor company, at the moderate price of fifty cents. It is worth studying, because it tells authoritatively what the men set apart to guard New York's spiritual welfare have to say concerning the lamentable failure of their efforts.

The proceedings were opened by Mr. William E. Dodge, with a brief statement of the objects of the conference. The simple teachings of the gospel, Mr. Dodge stated, "are a solvent for all troubles. We believe that if we, as Christians, fully alive to our duty, can heartily work together and bring these good news to those who are careless and indifferent and neglectful in this city, that a great advance may be made in purity and cleanliness and wholesomeness in our community." All this being so—and nobody present disputed it—it might have been supposed that the conference would adjourn right there and rush over to the east side in a body to tell the godless dwellers in tenement houses all about the doings and sayings of Christ, including the remarks on the rich man's chance of getting to heaven, and the denunciation of the savings bank. Unfortunately, however, Mr. Dodge felt constrained to explain that

what he said was only true after a fashion. The truths of the gospel, of course, are the same as they always were. But "conditions change, and our methods must change more or less with them." The gospel as Christ preached it was well enough for the ancient world; but in this nineteenth century of grace the simple teachings of the man who had not where to lay his head must be supplemented by the "methods" of Mr. Dodge and other pietists, or they will come utterly to naught. Herein may we see exemplified the wonderful providence of God. If "conditions" had been different in the year 30, the world might still be ignorant of Christianity. For a "conference" would have been necessary to arrange the "methods" of work; and Jesus and his friends were in no position either to command the use of the Jerusalem Chickering hall for three successive days, or to secure the attendance and advice of the rich men and fashionable preachers of that period. Clearly Mr. William E. Dodge was sent into the world just when he would be most useful.

Well, after Mr. Dodge had made his opening speech, the conference settled down to business. As defining the task before them, one of the earliest speakers gave the following figures from a census taken six months since by the board of health:

|                                                             |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Total number of tenements . . . . .                         | 32,390    |
| Increase in six months . . . . .                            | 856       |
| Total number of tenants . . . . .                           | 1,079,728 |
| Increase in six months . . . . .                            | 63,303    |
| Total number of families in tenements . . . . .             | 237,972   |
| Tenements below 14th street . . . . .                       | 13,220    |
| Tenements above 14th street . . . . .                       | 19,190    |
| Families in tenements below 14th st . . . . .               | 102,387   |
| Families in tenements above 14th st . . . . .               | 135,585   |
| Tenement children under 5 years below 14th street . . . . . | 63,370    |
| Tenement children under 5 years above 14th street . . . . . | 79,149    |
| Total under 5 years . . . . .                               | 142,519   |
| Tenants over 5 years below 14th st . . . . .                | 403,027   |
| Tenants over 5 years above 14th st . . . . .                | 534,182   |
| Total over 5 years . . . . .                                | 937,209   |

It was a peculiarly noticeable feature of the conference that the only problem before them seemed to be how to get the gospel to these 1,079,728 human beings enumerated by the board of health. Apparently they had no anxiety about the rich people of New York. It was the wicked, thoughtless, godless poor that worried them. A comfortable confidence seemed to pervade the clergy and laity present that nineteenth century Christianity was just the sort of religion that rich men might be trusted to take to kindly. In fact one of the speakers, the Rev. Charles H. Parkhurst, D. D., in a spirit of reverential thankfulness, traced the direct connection between gold and godliness, and assured his audience "that a bank account is one of the fruits of the spirit." It would be by no means an unfair statement, as evidenced by the published record, to say that the conference had for its object to discover some way to induce the poor men of New York to accept the rich men's religion. There was, in fact, a marked difference in many respects, between the Chickering hall conference and that other conference held at Jerusalem on a certain day of Pentecost, when one Peter declared the gospel according to the "conditions" and "methods" of that day, and three thousand converts "sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need."

So the conference conferred and the members told each other all sorts of things about the sinful poor, most of which were perfectly well known before. One speaker told about the "German element," another told about the "Bohemian element," a third described the "Italian element," a fourth the "colored element" and so on. It was noticeable that while the speakers who discussed the general situation—firing into the woods, so to speak—accused the foreign population of responsibility for vice and crime, anarchism, saloons, political bosses, electoral corruption, and goodness knows what other villainies, the men who spoke of particular foreign "elements"—of Bohem-

ians, Italians, and the rest—conferred in giving the foreigners a remarkably high character, each speaker being confident that the particular "element" he represented needed only a few more churches, or a few more missionaries, or a little special effort of some kind or other, to spring at once into the very van and forefront of the movement toward Christianity.

Then, when the various "elements" had been sufficiently discussed, the city missionaries took their innings. The Rev. Richard Hartley told what the Baptist missions were doing; Archdeacon Alexander Mackay-Smith described the operations of the Episcopal missions; the Hon. Everett P. Wheeler gave his views of the necessity of lay co-operation in Christian work; the Rev. M. D. C. Crawford described the Methodist missions; the Rev. John Hall, D. D., talked about the work of the Presbyterians; the Hon. Chauncey M. Depew sent his regrets; and so on, and so on. One of the most practical suggestions was made by the Rev. Richard Hartley, who pointed out that there was no use sending ordinary low priced missionaries to work among the "elements," and that a two thousand dollar evangelist was really cheaper in the long run than the ordinary kind at five, six, seven and eight hundred dollars. Herein again we see how "conditions" are changed, and how different things are now from the time when the Master, wanting an apostle, just told the nearest fisherman to drop his nets and follow him. Fancy Matthew asking for a rise of salary, or Paul declining to start upon his travels unless assured of extra pay.

And so the experiences were interchanged, and the summing up was made by several divines in speeches which elicited considerable applause. It was agreed, in a somewhat indefinite manner, that the situation, though not altogether creditable to the churches, was full of hope. There were the "elements" to be converted; there was the gospel to be carried to the "elements;" there were the churches, with plenty of money, to carry the gospel to the "elements" to be converted. The only question was, How to do it? It was all right that far; but at that question the conference stuck. It was too much for them. So they appointed a committee of twenty-five clergymen and laymen, representing all the Protestant sects in the city, with power to add to their number, "for the careful study and execution of such plans as may seem to them wise, for more efficient co-operation in aggressive Christian work, both on the part of the churches and of existing mission organizations." And fitting material having thus been furnished for the writing of the second chapter of the Acts of the Modern Apostles, the divine blessing was invoked by Bishop Andrews, and the conference dispersed, leaving the various sinful "elements" in the tenement houses to be saved or damned in the discretion of the committee.

And all this talk, this comparing of notes, this piling up of statistics, this urgent declamation, this appointment of a committee—what is it all but the crackling of thorns under a pot?—a lot of sound and fury, signifying nothing? How often have the clergy and laity of New York come together in just this same way, and resolved that now they really were going to work in earnest to attack Satan in his stronghold, and finish up the job of christianizing New York once for all? How many societies have been organized to spread the gospel among the poor? How many individuals have flung themselves into the work? And still religion loses ground steadily, continuously, and the poor are farther and farther away from the Christ of the churches.

One Protestant church to every 4,464 people. One saloon to every 150. Do the saloonkeepers hold conferences and study statistics and hire high priced missionaries to go round among the tenement houses and distribute tracts and preach the gospel of alcohol? Not a bit of it. They offer to the people what the people

want, and verily they have their reward. Why can't our churches learn a lesson from our saloons? Is the gospel of Christ necessarily so nauseous and repellent to the common people that they must be argued and bulldozed into listening to it? Is rum really thirty times more attractive than religion?

Consider how the Founder of Christianity did his work. He never called a conference of the apostles to compare notes, and study statistics, and devise means for inducing the people to come and listen to him. He just went out into the highways and byways, and preached and did. And wherever he went, the poor people—the men and women who to-day would be living in tenement houses and patronizing saloons—flocked around him eagerly. The rich men stayed away from him, or came privily by night; but the poor forsook their vocations and thronged to listen. For he preached to them a gospel they rejoiced to hear, a gospel of this life as well as of the life to come; a gospel of the equal brotherhood of man and the equal fatherhood of God; a gospel of earthly justice as well as heavenly love; he approved himself their friend and brother. Let our modern Christian preachers imitate his example, and their difficulty will be, not to attract the poor—the poor will flock around them fast enough—but to induce the rich to listen to them. If they want the poor for their congregations, let them preach the poor man's gospel. Only let them not hope to make fat salaries by doing it.

What is it that they want, these 237,972 families, living in 32,390 tenement houses? What is it that they want now, at once, with an eager longing that makes them willing to endure almost any sacrifice for the sake of getting it? They want more wages. They want a larger share of the product of their labor. They want room to live in; they want air to breathe; they want the privilege of letting their children live, instead of having them stilled to death by thousands; they want their share of man's rich heritage from God; they want an equal chance with Mr. William E. Dodge and the other members of the Christian conference. They know they ought to have these things. They know they are robbed in that they do not get them. Will Mr. William E. Dodge, and the Rev. R. S. MacArthur, and Archdeacon Mackay-Smith, and Bishop Edward G. Andrews, D. D., and the other members of the Christian conference go over to avenue A, and preach from the cart tail the gospel of higher wages, telling their hearers that they ought to have them, and how to get them? Will they proclaim that the God they serve is a God of justice, to whom robbery, whether individual or social, is absolutely hateful? Will they endure stripes, and imprisonment, and scorn, and poverty, and count it all gain, so that God's equal love and equal care for all His children may be justified? If they will, they will have small cause to complain of want of hearers. They will start a revival of religion such as the world has never seen. But if all they have to tell the people of Avenue A is that a God so malignantly cruel as to doom his creatures to poverty in this life is yet to be trusted to make them superlatively happy in the life to come—if that is the message they have to carry to the tenement houses, they will need something more than Christian conferences, and high priced missionaries, and committees on methods to bring the people of New York to Christianity. They will need as many miracles as there are men, women and children. And even then the saloons will get the best of them.

Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? . . . Therefore take no thought, saying, what shall we eat, or what shall we drink, or wherewithal shall we be clothed? . . . for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. . . .

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? . . .

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not, for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand; and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell; and great was the fall of it.

And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as having authority; and not as the scribes.

Do the preachers who took part in the Christian conference believe these words of Christ's? Do they accept them literally, without mental reservation or evasion? If they do not, then, on Christ's own assurance, they are false prophets which come in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. If they do, why don't they warn their congregations that to serve God and Mammon, to take thought for the morrow, is to make damnation sure? And if social conditions are such that to obey Christ's precepts literally is absurdly impossible, why don't they insist that social conditions must be wrong, and vow to know no rest till they have set them right?

What is it that hinders men from living as Christ ordered them to live—like a band of brothers, acting each toward others as he would others should act toward him, seeking to lay up no useless treasures upon earth, but rejoicing with a constant joy and thankfulness in the bounteous provision a loving Father has made for his children during their sojourn on this earth, and looking forward with serene confidence to a still more blissful life in the world to come? Nothing but the fact that a few men and women are allowed to claim the earth as their private property, and to forbid their fellow men and women from using any share of God's provision for the race except on such terms as the anxiety to live upon the earth enables them to prescribe. Why do the 1,079,728 human beings, whom the conference is so anxious about, live in tenement houses? Why do the little children among them die in the summer time like rotten sheep? Why are they compelled to spend their lives in monotonous toil, alternated with seasons of enforced poverty breeding idleness? Did God miscalculate the size of the earth, and make it too small to support all His children? Or did He make men of two classes, a small class to enjoy all nature's stores, and a large class to accept with thankfulness what the privileged few should choose to give them? Would an earthly father who should treat his children in such fashion merit anything but contempt and reprobation? Would any member of the Christian conference behave so to his children? These are questions that Mr. William E. Dodge and the regretful Chauncey M. Depew and the other deliberators of Chickering hall must be prepared to answer categorically if they want to do anything toward the evangelization of New York's poor. For in some shape or another these questions will be asked and answers will be insisted on.

Men do not gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles. The people of New York—the 1,079,728 tenants of the tenement houses—may not yet have learned how to cure the cruel injustice that robs them of the earnings of their labor, and herds them into pens like cattle. But they are not absolute fools for all that. They know grapes and figs when they see them, and they are not to be fooled with thorns and thistles.

What Would Mr. Porter Call It?—The Reward of Industry?

New York Press.  
The immense fortune accumulated by the Astor family shows what can be done by the judicious purchase and holding of real estate when the buyer can afford to wait for his income in the shape of what Mr. Henry George would call the "unearned increment."

## MEN AND THINGS.

The chamber of commerce of New York have given to the press a synopsis of their forthcoming annual report on the commerce of this port. From this we learn that the total value of imports into this city during the past year was \$510,268,432, while those to all other ports in the country amounted only to \$273,926,668. Of sugar and molasses New York imported \$39,422,391; of coffee, \$51,078,178; of tea, \$9,320,320; of woolen manufactures, \$36,442,539; of silk goods, \$29,867,623; of cotton goods, \$22,629,060; of manufactures of flax, \$16,766,060; of hides and skins, \$16,416,537; of tin, \$15,537,214; of india rubber and gutta percha, \$14,742,162; of leaf tobacco, \$8,923,692; of precious stones, \$9,387,241; of raw silk, \$6,999,517; of wool, \$6,122,967; of hemp and jute, \$7,156,883; of wines, \$5,721,936. What proportion of this vast sum of wealth was confiscated by the federal government through the medium of its custom houses we are not informed, but assuming it to have been the usual average of 47 per cent, then as a penalty for importing \$510,268,432 worth of wealth, New York paid into the public treasury \$239,826,163.64.

Of course, the importing merchants of New York didn't pay this penalty money out of their own pockets. They got it all back from the people who finally consumed the imported goods; not only got it back, but got a thumping profit on it as well. Reckoning importers' profits, jobbers' profits, and retailers' profits, it is scarcely likely that consumers escaped with less than fifty per cent premium on the duties paid. That would make the total penalty paid by the consumers of the country \$359,739,244.56, or about \$6 a head for 60,000,000 of people. Now Edward Atkinson says the whole yearly income of the people of the United States averages only \$200 per head of population.

Of course, in a choking, sputtering sort of way, New York makes money on the fines she pays into the custom house; and some of New York's strongest protectionists are to be found among her large importers. But think what New York might be if she could shake off the shackles that fetter her trade. Think what a giant stream of wealth would flow inward and outward through her gates if only the gates were opened to their full width. Think how she might set the whole country to work producing wealth which the other nations of the earth are eager to obtain in exchange for their own productions. How the shuttles would fly, and the hammers clang, and the plows brighten in the furrows, if only New York's gates were opened, and the men who want to buy the products of the United States allowed to come and purchase.

Last week I had the pleasure of meeting Herman Kuehn, formerly of Galveston, Texas, whose letters have made his name familiar to the readers of THE STANDARD. Mr. Kuehn removed, about a year ago, from Texas to Indiana, where he is doing as enthusiastic work for the single tax cause as in his old home. We had a long talk about the progress making in Texas, of which he spoke in very hopeful terms. Like all Texas single tax men whom I have met, he was full of admiration for H. F. Ring of Houston, of whose earnestness and steady self-sacrificing work he could hardly say enough.

Mr. Kuehn spoke regretfully of the extravagant fashion in which Texas has frittered away her once magnificent public domain. Immense tracts are held by investors—the ultimate profits are so certain that it will hardly do to call them speculators—who have put their money into land as into a sort of savings bank, where all they have to do is to leave it untouched for a few years to get it back twenty, thirty, and in some cases a hundred or a thousand fold. Many of these land owners are aliens, and quite a number Europeans, who have not the slightest thought of coming to this country, except perhaps as tourists. It is interesting, when one thinks of it, to note how the British or continental landlord keeps his grip upon his tenantry, forcing them to work for his benefit in Texas or Dakota, as surely as—and often much more efficiently than—in Europe. And it is doubly interesting to observe him forcing free born American citizens to do the same thing.

The most striking example of the pro-

digality with which Texas has been giving away the heritage of her people was the cession of 3,050,000 acres to the Farwell syndicate, in return for the building of the state capitol. The land, which at the time it was handed over was valued at fifty cents an acre, is now worth fully \$9,000,000, and before the close of the century will be worth \$20,000,000 or more. By the year 2000 Texas will have an old building needing extensive repairs, and the syndicate will be drawing from the citizens of Texas an income well nigh large enough to build a new state house every year, without doing a hand's turn of work in return. That is, unless the people of Texas conclude by that time to take for their own use the value that their own labor creates. In that case, of course, things will be different, and the Farwell syndicate will have to work for a living.

Mr. Kuehn mentioned an interesting circumstance in connection with this Farwell job. After the bargain was concluded the syndicate sent Abner J. Taylor down from Chicago to represent them in Texas, and look after the erection of the building. Naturally Mr. Taylor was disposed toward economy, and finding that the Texan granite cutters were earning what he considered unreasonably high wages, he imported a lot of Scotch granite cutters under contract, and supplementing them with a gang of convicts hired from the state authorities, managed to effect a very satisfactory saving. Then Mr. Abner J. Taylor went back to Chicago and ran for congress on the protectionist platform. And he was elected, too.

Major Powell, director of the geological survey, has rendered a report to the secretary of the interior showing the progress made in the survey of the arid lands provided for last fall, and suggesting methods of irrigation by means of mountain reservoirs. Here is a passage in it that is worth noting:

In some of the states of the arid region are already statutes providing for the occupation and utilization of reservoir sites. Perhaps the streams, not being navigable, are under the control of the states, but the adjacent lands belong to the general government. If these assumptions are correct there is divided jurisdiction. It is suggested that in these circumstances it may be wise to cede the lands reserved for reservoir sites to the several states and territories under restrictions that will secure their utilization for the purpose designed and prevent their becoming the property of individuals or corporations where they might assume the form of a monopoly.

Professor Powell ought to have written some more, and explained to Mr. Vilas wherein the difference would consist between allowing the reservoirs necessary for the irrigation of the arid lands to become private property, and allowing the arid lands themselves, after they shall have been redeemed by irrigation, to become private property. It seems to me that I could live off the labor of my fellow man just as comfortably if I were allowed to tax him for the privilege of using land irrigated from government owned reservoirs as if I let him own the land and simply taxed him for the water.

Here is what Governor Ames of Massachusetts says in his message about female suffrage:

Once more I earnestly recommend, as an act of simple justice, the enactment of a law securing municipal suffrage to women. Recent political events have confirmed the opinion which I have long held, that if women have sufficient reason to vote they will do so and become an important factor in the settlement of great questions. If we can trust uneducated men to vote, we can with greater safety and far more propriety grant the same power to women, who, as a rule, are as well educated and quite as intelligent as men.

Massachusetts is moving forward.

Since when the memory of man runneth not to the contrary, it has been the custom of the British government to burn all confiscated tobacco. But they are going to turn over a new leaf now. Hereafter when any tobacco is seized and condemned, it will be given to the Mission to Deep sea fishermen, to be sold, at the minimum price which will cover expenses, to the crews of the North sea smacks, on the fishing grounds only.

This sort of thing may seem all right enough to a protectionist moralist, but I must confess it is a puzzle to me. Smith, who is, let us suppose, a British sailor, brings home from America a few pounds of tobacco, which he smuggles ashore, with intent to sell the same to Brown,

Jones and Robinson. The government catches Smith in the act, claps him into prison and takes away his tobacco. So far the matter is understandable enough. But now the government hands the tobacco over to a missionary society, who carry it out to sea a hundred miles or so, and there give it to Brown, Jones and Robinson, practically for nothing at all. Smith has been put in prison and despoiled of his property, for trying to do the very thing—viz: to supply Brown, Jones and Robinson with tobacco free of duty—that the missionary society is encouraged to do. If Smith is a criminal, why aren't the missionaries criminals, too? The canons of custom house morality are past finding out.

The cotton bagging trust expired by limitation on New Year's day. Now that the cotton crop is all baled and a great portion of it sent to market, the planters and shippers can get their bagging at competitive prices. One of the St. Louis managers of the trust is reported as saying modestly: "We made money out of the combination, but we didn't make so much."

At last it is announced that a process has been discovered by which the hitherto intractable fiber of the ramie plant can be prepared for spinning at a moderate cost. A physician of Charleston is named as the fortunate inventor, and it is said that the process is about to be brought into use on a large scale.

Of course this new invention, if it prove bona fide, will necessitate an immediate increase—say of 100 per cent—in the duties on flax and cotton manufactures. Because ramie fiber can be woven into cloth, and of course the new industry must be developed by adequate protection. So we shall all pay extra prices for our handkerchiefs and shirt bosoms and calicoes and ginghams, and the statisticians of the *Press and Tribune* will collect a lot of figures showing how we are giving employment to 1,425 men in Charleston, S. C., and inviting us to contemplate our prosperity. Really it is hard to avoid wishing that that Charleston doctor had stuck to his pills and microbes, and let ramie fiber alone.

The total output of the gold, silver, lead, and copper mines of Montana for the past year is estimated at between \$35,000,000 and \$40,000,000. This does not mean that the capital and laboremployed in mining in Montana divided anything like that amount between them. The men who "own" the mines had to be settled with first, and capital and labor got what was left.

Chief Justice Taylor of the province of Manitoba has been dealing a frightful blow at the rights of property. He has decided that all sales of land for taxes for years past are illegal and void, because interest was charged on arrears at a higher rate than the six per cent allowed by the Dominion law. Thousands of titles resting on tax sales are said to be upset by this decision, and doubtless multitudes of poor women and other defenseless Manitobans will lose their little all. This illustrates the superiority of the present system of land tenure over the single tax system, under which a land holder would have an indisputable right of perpetual occupation so long as he chose to pay the annual land value tax.

On April 22 last the English steamer *Moto* collided off the Isle of Wight with the sailing ship *Smyrna*, sinking her instantly. The captain, carpenter and thirteen of the crew of the *Smyrna* were drowned, and the first mate was seriously injured. In the Secondary's court at the London Guildhall, the owners of the *Moto* were condemned to pay to the widow and children of the *Smyrna's* captain £1,875; to the widow of the carpenter £325, and to the chief mate £165. The families of the thirteen drowned seamen, apparently, had brought no action.

A steady succession of judgments of this kind will do much to put an end to the wanton waste of human life at sea. It is scarcely too much to say that nine-tenths of the lives lost on shipboard might be saved by the exercise of proper care, or, which is much the same thing, by the spending of sufficient money. Seafaring ought to be the most wholesome and healthful of occupations. It would be so, if ship owners were compelled to have the same regard as employers in shore occupations for the lives of those in their employ. But it will never be so while ship owners find it cheaper to spend a life

than a dollar. The verdict in the *Smyrna* cases is a step, albeit a short one, in the right direction.

A queer application was made before a London magistrate, at the Thames police court, by a certain Lewis Lyons, described as a "tailor's machinist"—probably meaning a sewing machine operator. Lyons stated that he had been out of work for three weeks, and could find nothing to do. "Now," said he, "I am an English workman, with the right to live by honest labor. The government is responsible for the preservation of the rights of the community, and is therefore bound to protect me in my right to work. What I want to know is, shall I be committing any offense against the law if I go to a government tailoring establishment and refuse to leave until they give me work?"

The worthy magistrate confessed himself puzzled by this appeal, and somewhat weakly suggested that Mr. Lyons should write to the Home secretary. Mr. Lyons replying that the Home secretary would probably decline correspondence, the magistrate fell back on the workhouse. "Why don't you go to the union? All poor people who have no work go there." And that was all that poor Lewis Lyons could get out of him. So he withdrew, and, it is to be presumed, went to the workhouse accordingly. It's the British workman's Guarantee and Indemnity company, is the British workhouse. And it has this superiority over the kindred New York institution, that a poor man doesn't need political influence to get into it.

How is this for a Sunday school lesson? Don't skip it; it is worth reading, every word of it:

Text: "The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine."—Lev. 25:23.

The First Point.—Division of land.—Verse 5.

Suggestions.—1. The land question being one of the chief questions of the hour, the principle upon which the land of Canaan was allotted to the Israelites becomes a highly interesting and timely study. We shall have no other so good opportunity, in this series of lessons, to consider its main features.

(2) "When the promised land was reached and secured, there was allotted to every family a tract of land—a sort of universal homestead act. Recognizing the fact that man's ultimate dependence is upon the soil, the purpose is to keep the whole body of the people as near it as possible, and to prevent dispossession from it. They are not forbidden to sell it . . . but on the other hand, these Jewish estates could not be permanently alienated. Once in fifty years, all land that had been sold reverted to the family to which it had been allotted. 'And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof; it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.'—(Leviticus 25:10.)" "Its design and effect are evident. It was a bar to the monopoly of land. 'The land shall not be sold in perpetuity; for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me.'—(Gen. 23:23.) . . . One might add field to field for a series of years, but after a time the process ceased and the lands went back to their original owners. The purpose was to make land greed unprofitable, to keep the resources of society evenly distributed, to prevent the rich from becoming too rich and the poor hopelessly poor, to undo misfortune, to give those who had erred through sloth or improvidence an opportunity to improve the lessons of poverty, to prevent children from reaping the faults of their parents; one generation might squander its portion, but the next was not forced to inherit the consequences." "Thus, once in fifty years, society was rehabilitated. It was a perpetual lesson in hope and encouragement. It took off accumulated burdens. It put limits about the envy of man to man. It was a constant assertion of equality. It fostered patriotism, a virtue which thrives best on the soil. It kept alive in every man a sense of ownership in his country. . . . Such are some of the main features of this unique law."—[Munger, Land Tenure.]

Teaching Points.— . . . Land monopoly is a sin against God and man. The food which alone enables man to live is the product of the bounty of God expressed in the productiveness of the soil, plus the activity of man, which is also the bounty of God. Land being the necessity of life, is the right of every man who will work, and neither the willing worker now living, nor the unborn generations who are to follow him should be cut off from their share of the soil by which alone they can exist.

I find the above in the *Universalist Teacher*, published weekly by Thos. R. Nichols, 7 Monroe street, Lynn, Mass., and edited by the Rev. J. M. Pullman, D.D. The subscription price is \$1.00 a year.

I am told that the *Teacher* holds the place in the Universalist church, of the

"International Sunday school lesson" in other denominations. That is to say, the lessons it provides are taught and the suggestions it makes are followed week by week in the great majority of Universalist Sunday schools. The extract I give is from the issue of November 11. The gentleman who sends it informs me that Dr. Pullman will continue to act as editor during the coming year. It seems to me that single tax men who have a dollar to spare might use it to worse purpose than by subscribing to the *Universalist Teacher*. And those who cannot afford to subscribe can at least write Dr. Pullman an appreciative letter.

Speaking of letter writing, I think that we single tax men ought, all of us, to do a great deal more of it than we do. It is one thing we can all afford to do, and it is one of the most useful things we can do. Whenever a public man makes an utterance bearing on the single tax, we ought, every one of us, to write to him, approving, controverting, or urging him to consider the question more closely. When a newspaper touches on the subject, its editor should be inundated with communications. Most of us, accustomed to receive but few letters, and those from persons whom we know, have no conception of the influence on a man or newspaper of a mass of unsolicited correspondence, all bearing upon one subject and all pointing in the same direction. It is by his letters more perhaps than by anything else, that an editor judges the drift of public sentiment. A single letter he may pass by without heeding. But a thousand letters are an army with banners. For behind every man who writes he sees a dozen men who don't write, but think the same way. I don't think it is too much to say that a steady hail of letters from all parts of the country would compel any paper, in any one of our large cities, if not to advocate the single tax, at all events to discuss its merits. And active discussion is, for us, far better than passive advocacy.

Here, now, is something we can all do. How many of us will do it?

T. L. M'CREADY.

#### A Single Tax Man a Century Ago.

Thomas Spence, who is termed by some of the English land nationalizationists the father of land tenure reform, was born in 1750 in Newcastle-on-Tyne. He was first a net-maker, then a clerk, then a schoolmaster. What made him first reflect on the land question was this. The corporation of Newcastle had inclosed a considerable portion of the town moor, or common, which they let in small farms. The freeman of the borough claimed to have the rents parted among them as dividends. They were laughed to scorn by the civic officials, but on an appeal to the law courts their claim was enforced. This gave him his idea of having each parish or commune resume possession of its own soil by simply meeting and declaring themselves the owner. His idea was to give the local council all the powers of a landlord, only the rents were to be applied to public uses—essentially the single tax idea.

#### The Welsh Tithe War.

Reynolds's Weekly, London.

The tithe war has broken out in Llanmon parish. Early in the morning guns were fired to apprise the people of the visit of the auctioneer and his bailiffs, who are locally and contemptuously designated "church angels." At the first farm a haystack was sold for £9 6s., and when the distraining party came into the road a cart was placed in front of the procession. In it was the effigy of an intoxicated clergyman, having on his breast the words, in Welsh, "This is what we do with the tithes." In front of the clergyman stood a table, with a bottle of wine and a tobacco pipe. On the way to the next farm another effigy was met, representing a surpliced clergyman attired in a pair of shooting boots, which peeped out under his canonicals; he bestride a white horse, and carried a gin bottle beneath his left arm. At the next farm Captain Roberts, the tenant, refused to pay £16 odd, and a move was made for the stack yard amid a terrible uproar from horns, tin pans and musical instruments. The crowd hooted down the auctioneer when he attempted to read the conditions in English, and insisted upon a Welsh translation, which he with difficulty rendered. The stack was bought in for the tenant; and then the large crowd sang with great fervor the Welsh national song, "O Land of My Fathers." At Hendre the tenant at Penbry's mills paid £11 due out of £13 odd, and a large stack of hay being sold for the trifling balance seemed to excite the crowd, for when the miller turned on the water which flows down the yard in an aqueduct they pushed Mr. Carter, the auctioneer, right under the water, and he was rescued in a drenched condition. The last place visited was Tynwydd. On leaving the yard clouds of earth were flung at Mr. Carter and he was roughly used. A move was made to the vicarage, where the Rev. Mr. Jones was vigorously hooted. At Pwellieli a public meeting was held, and the effigies were burned amid great excitement.

## CURRENT THOUGHT.

### The Story of Holland.

"The laws of the Frisians declare that the race shall be free, as long as the wind blows out of the clouds and the world stands." How the men of the Netherlands asserted this charter of their freedom; how they fought to establish it; how they triumphed in its acknowledgment; and how they lost their once commanding place in the commonwealth of nations, is the story which Prof. Thorold Rogers tells us in the latest issue of the "Story of the Nations" series. (1) A work by Prof. Rogers could scarcely fail to be interesting; and though the "Story of Holland" is written in wofully slipshod fashion, with evident haste and carelessness, it yet contains a quantity of information for which the reader might seek in vain elsewhere. As the work of a famous student of history, the book is a disappointment; had it been the product of an ordinary compiler it might have merited considerable praise.

It was in the chartered towns, which were really congeries of trading guilds or trades unions, that the liberties of Holland struck their earliest roots. And these liberties, though at times defended with the sword, were really bought with the purse. The overlords, whose sovereign rights none thought of disputing, found the stated taxation of chartered industry more profitable than indiscriminate theft. The chartered towns of Holland were, in their inception, nothing more than money making machines for the benefit of the nobles. The secret of the progress of the municipalities lay in the fact that both nobles and citizens had miscalculated the wonderful productive power of settled industry. The towns waxed wealthy faster than the nobles could plunder them. And as they grew in wealth they developed the spirit of independence. The privileges that they had at first accepted as boons, they learned to claim as rights; and when at last the rulers of the country sought to reassert their despotism, the cities were in condition to resist the claim, and after a desperate struggle threw off the yoke altogether. It was the commerce of Holland that secured her liberties. The pride of wealth stimulated, if it did not absolutely beget, the pride of freedom. The burghers fought well, because they had something to fight for. Had they been a poverty stricken race, the legions of Alva would have made short work of them.

It was after the close of the crusades that the trade of Holland began to develop. The crusaders vanished, but the knowledge of the east that they had brought to Europe remained. The spices and silks and other products of the orient found their way through Palestine and Egypt to Venice, and Rome, and Genoa, thence across the Alps to the Rhine, and down that stream to the cities of the Netherlands, which became distributing reservoirs for England and the north of Europe. Trade begets trade, and the wool and flax of Britain gave employment to Dutch looms. The northern coast of Europe became dotted with the wealthy cities of the Hanseatic league; and with these the towns of the low countries drove a profitable and increasing trade. As wealth increased, the towns bought fresh privileges from their counts and dukes. From buying privileges they advanced to asserting them. They claimed the right to meet the nobles in assemblies in which public affairs were discussed. Out of successful commerce, parliamentary institutions rose.

But it was the fisheries of Holland that were the chief stronghold of her wealth. Men ate salt fish in those days to an extent of which we moderns have no conception; and the fisheries of the North sea were a mine of wealth to the Dutchmen of the middle ages. Professor Rogers points out how these fisheries were the nursery of the Dutch navy, and furnished the men who struck the weightiest blows against the power of the king of Spain. He might also have pointed out that they developed not only brave and skilful navigators, but also a race of men imbued with the love of freedom and an unconquerable sense of independence. For the sea was free. The poorest might seek its treasures as freely as the richest and the mightiest. Upon its bosom, what a man's industry produced, the man was free to keep, without tax paid to any lord for the mere privilege of working. It is difficult to conceive, in

these days when the industries of the land overshadow all others, what must have been the effect upon a hardy, industrious people of the possession of the right to apply their labor, without let or hindrance, to a practically inexhaustible natural opportunity, from which exchangeable wealth could be produced without limit. Professor Rogers leaves us entirely in the dark upon this point; but it seems impossible that the freedom of the fisheries should not have had a powerful effect upon wages in every branch of Dutch industry, securing to every worker, if not the full measure of his product, at least a far closer approximation thereto than modern laborers receive. It would be difficult, on any other hypothesis, to explain the furious spirit of independence which pervaded all classes of Dutch society during the fearful grapple with the Spanish tyrant.

Of the great struggle for independence under the leadership of William the Silent and Prince Maurice, Professor Rogers tells the story in sufficiently interesting manner, though less graphically than Motley. The most interesting point that he elucidates is the persistency with which, through the darkest hours of trial and disaster, the Dutch pursued their trade. While Philip's generals were carrying fire and sword through the provinces, besieging cities, massacring, burning at the stake, offering rewards for the assassination of the rebel leader, the Dutch merchants were carrying on an almost uninterrupted commerce with Spain and the Spanish possessions, as well as with other parts of the world. Fighting as men never fought before, against odds such as never another people stood up against, they yet missed no opportunity of wealth production, but wielded the sword and the shuttle or the fishing net with equal dexterity and zeal. In defense of their liberties they reckoned no sacrifice too great. They cut their dikes and overwhelmed fertile fields and prosperous towns; they laid down their lives with cheerful readiness when occasion called. And with equal readiness and vigor they wrought in the pursuit of wealth whenever the occasion presented itself. While yet the Spaniard was hammering at them, they engaged in Arctic exploration, established the bank of Amsterdam, and laid the foundations of their East Indian empire. They founded universities; they trained great scholars; they developed the arts; they brought agriculture to a pitch of perfection theretofore unknown. Out of the contest which left Spain nerveless and inert, a perfect jelly fish among the nations, the Dutch came full of life and vigor, the foremost commercial nation of Europe, with an energy of development whose momentum endured for a century or more. Professor Rogers would have made a vastly more interesting book had he taken time and thought to trace with accuracy the springs and causes of this wondrous exuberance of national life. In the history of the Dutch republic lies concealed a lesson which has yet to be learned, and in whose learning will be much profit.

Into the causes of the decadence of Holland, Professor Rogers enters with more satisfactory fulness. The fatal weakness of the republic was the weakness of the tie which bound the states together. Every municipality was a separate independent state, with an absolute veto power upon the wishes and conclusions of its fellows. Only in the presence of imminent and overwhelming common danger, and under the leadership of men commanding universal confidence, could such a league be manageable. With the passage of the great national crisis the national spirit weakened, and local jealousies and animosities asserted themselves. To trace the effects of this disintegration, to tell how the once proud republic degenerated into a feeble monarchy, would be beyond the purpose of this article. Professor Rogers tells the story with sufficient fulness and doubtless with sufficient accuracy. It is by no means the least interesting portion of the book.

Altogether the "Story of Holland" is a work good enough to make one wish it had been better. It suggests so much that might have been told, that what it does tell has a disappointing flavor. We leave it with that sort of dissatisfaction that a hungry man feels when served with a meal so scanty as to stimulate rather than satisfy his appetite. And we must confess to a wish that the publishers had

refrained from disfiguring the volume by scattering through it a lot of engravings—apparently selected from some pre-existing stock, and having, save in a few instances, no discoverable reference to the text.

### The Book of Erin.

Into a compact volume of little more than 300 pages, J. Morrison Davidson, author of "Eminent Radicals," "The New Book of Kings," etc., and a brother, by the bye, of Professor Thomas Davidson of this city, has compressed the story of Ireland's tribulations, struggles, betrayals and reviving hopes, from the days of St. Patrick down to the present time. (1)

The work aims at concise and exhaustive statement, and its purpose is carried out with a thoroughness and fidelity worthy of the highest praise. The student of the Irish question who desires to equip himself with a thorough knowledge of those facts of Irish history which in any way bear upon the present situation, will find precisely what he needs in Mr. Davidson's book. The various incidents are stated in brief headed sections; and though throughout the entire work the author's love of freedom, and scorn and hatred of oppression shine conspicuously, there is comparatively little attempt at comment, or the enforcement by argument of special views and principles. For the accuracy of the narrative Mr. Davidson vouches by a lengthy list of authorities in an appendix. The chief defect of the book is the absence of a sufficiently comprehensive index to facilitate its use as a work of reference.

### Women's Wages.

Under this title Catharine G. Waugh, a lawyer of Rockford, Ill., discusses in a pamphlet of some fifty pages the reasons for the smallness of women's wages as compared with those of men, and suggests several remedies, among which the ballot holds a foremost place.

Miss Waugh is a graduate of Beloit college, a master of arts, a bachelor of laws, and a member of the Illinois bar—in short, a woman who, in her own person has shown a determination to surmount the barriers which ordinarily confine her sex. She brings to the consideration of her subject a hearty hatred of oppression and injustice, and a true sympathy with their victims. Of the contents of her book we shall speak more fully in a future issue of THE STANDARD. It may suffice for the present to say that they evidence a most praiseworthy desire to solve a problem whose importance cannot be over estimated.

Kergan, Paul, Trench & Co., of London, will bring out next month "The Land and the Community," by Rev. Samuel W. Thackeray. This work, written by Mr. Thackeray during his recent sojourn in New York, supports the single tax on land values, and will be especially valuable from the prominence given to the religious side of the question. Mr. Thackeray is a minister of the Established Church.

"Railway Management" is the title of the January contribution to Scribner's series of railroad articles. The writer is E. P. Alexander. His description of the way in which the complex systems are kept out of tangle, of how roads are repaired and time tables made, of the precautions taken to prevent wrecks and how they are cleared, and all the great variety of things that must be done by rule to insure safe and speedy transportation, are well worth the knowing; but when he discusses competition, consolidation and the like he shows how much better he might have done had he not set out with the conviction that railroading needs to be a private business. He claims—and it is no doubt true—that consolidation has proved advantageous to the public as well as stockholders; and he exhibits by many instances the difficulties and expense that independent systems impose, notably the tardiness with which improvements in rolling stock are adopted, because the rolling stock of one road is necessarily used on so many others. The obvious conclusion is that progress in railroading demands consolidation. But Mr. Alexander's idea of consolidation is in the ownership of large and rich corporations, whereas the tendency, and a good tendency it is, is toward consolidation by means of public ownership.

(1) The Book of Erin, or, Ireland's Story Told to the New Democracy. By J. Morrison Davidson (of the Middle Temple), Barrister at Law. London: William Reeves, 185 Fleet street, E. C.

## SILK CULTURE.

D. Thew Wright in Belford's Magazine.

"There are so many persons thirsting for information," I says to Mrs. Wrigglesniff, "let's tell them all about it." It was always my way to stir in something useful with what was agreeable; and here was an opportunity, while pursuing an avocation that was at once pleasant and lucrative, to bring forward at the same time, an illustration of those great economic and philosophic principles, that lie at the foundation of all government and are the ground work of the social fabric. The tariff, although an intricate subject, I felt was one that could be elucidated by simple exemplification in practical life; and so I opened up to her one day, by remarking upon the great importance of fostering our "infant industries." That most efficient mother was nursing the baby at the time. The baby was four weeks old, weighed sixteen pounds, and could partake of more nourishment at nature's fountain, than any two ordinary pair of twins.

"Infant industry! here's one now," observed Mrs. W., gazing with maternal fondness upon the lusty native American in her lap, who was tugging away with a zeal quite amazing.

You should first understand, however, that Mrs. W. is a superior woman "as has got intellect into her," as her uncle John Fetherly Brown was wont to say. Her father's second cousin was a half brother to Noah Webster, and she has, therefore, inherited some of the qualities of that distinguished philosopher. I proposed the subject to her one day, in a genial sort of a way, and she said, "W." says she, "You're a fool! Silk indeed!" She always calls me "W." as the whole of it makes it too long, and being a practical woman, she is aware that life is short. I could not help admiring the promptness with which Mrs. W. arrived at her conclusions; and as she is a most excellent judge of human nature, I changed the subject, not wishing to exasperate her.

The way it came about was this. I had read all about it in the papers and books and things, and was thinking over it one day and all of a sudden I spoke up, and says I:

"Mrs. W., let's have worms."

She looked at me just that way for a minute, I thought there was going to be a funeral. So I said, says I, "We can get the eggs from Washington for nothing; then we can have the stands in the attic, and there's the osage orange hedge, that does nothing in the world but keep the boys from stealing apples, and we have no apples to steal; the children can feed them, so that the total cost will be nothing. We can sell the cocoons at \$1.50 a pound; and suppose we raise five hundred pounds only the first season; three's \$750, which is absolutely clear profit, the whole of it. We can then buy a carriage, and we will give a ball, and 'ye shall walk in silk attire.'"

Mrs. W. turned up her nose. In using that expression, I do not mean that she actually inverted that feature of her countenance, but the expression of her face indicated the idea which usually finds utterance in the word "Rats." At this point I took occasion to explain to Mrs. W. the relations of this most beautiful and fascinating industry to the principles of political economy. My amiable lady had frequently said it was all "bosh;" that to try to raise silk in this country was mere gammon. I explained to her that her position, as a philosophical proposition, would be true, were it not for the fostering care of a paternal government, which had inaugurated the American system of protection. That this great principle of protection was the source of our national wealth, that the tariff on silk was sixty per cent, and—"Tariff!" inquired Mrs. W., "what is tariff?"

"Tariff, my dear," said I, "I am surprised, I had supposed that such an intellect as yours would have familiarized itself with the great economic questions of the day." But I did not wish to be too severe with her; as I remembered that the sphere of woman did not bring her into contact with these rugged issues that are the theme of philosophers and statesmen; so I explained briefly, but still kindly:

"My dear, a tariff is a tax paid by the importer."

To this she made the very singular reply: "But how is taxing a people going to make them rich and be the source of national wealth? I know when tax day comes around, you are always grumbling

and saying that it keeps your nose flat on the grindstone to raise money enough to pay your taxes." I told her she still failed to see the point, as she was referring to mere state taxes, while I, upon a higher plane, was viewing the comprehensive bearings of national institutions.

"W." she said, "you don't know any more about it than Horace Greeley did." Such a reference to the great apostle of American protection, I confess, shocked me; but I suppressed my feelings in consideration of her sex.

I have said that Mrs. W. is a woman of intellect; but she has no enthusiasm. With me it is different. I am all enthusiasm and no—I was about to say no intellect; but I mean no such intellect as has Mrs. W.

So she says: "That's the way you're always doing, W.; going into something you don't know anything about, throwing away your money; and that's about all you're fit for."

"But, my love!" I exclaimed, "there's no chance to lose money in silk worms. You get them for nothing, feed them for nothing; and how is it possible to lose money on them, with the tariff at sixty per cent ad valorem?"

"W." she interrupted, "when you talk Latin to me, please explain yourself."

Some people have thought that there was an asperity in Mrs. W.'s nature, that occasionally found expression in words, but it is not so. She is of most amiable disposition, and I never knew her to—if I may coin a word—to asperse. I, therefore said that in the tariff law, duties were levied upon the value of articles, as stated in the importer's invoice.

"But," said she, "won't the importers value too low?"

"Oh, my dear," I said, "that would be dishonest, and importers are never dishonest; indeed, it is upon the virtue and integrity of the people that the welfare of our institutions depends." As I was about to expand upon this theme, my wife checked me with the remark that we would take the American eagle and the rest of it, at another time, but just now we would hear about the silk worms. I told her I had made all necessary arrangements, and would that day write to the "department" at Washington, and secure the necessary supply of eggs to commence a flourishing business. I did so and in due time I received from the capital of the nation a nice little wooden box, and inside of that another little tin box, and inside of that were the eggs. They were about as big as pins' heads, and it looked as though there were millions, but I don't suppose there were that many.

I exhibited them with pride to the partner of my bosom, exclaiming, "Such is the fostering care of a paternal government, it raises these eggs at vast expense, and bestows them liberally upon those who ask." I then explained to Mrs. W. how it was that our glorious republic nursed those infant industries that were so delicate they could not stand alone; supporting them with great assiduity, inasmuch as they could not support themselves. I showed her how employment was thus furnished to thousands of persons, who would otherwise be idle or engaged in some other occupation that was able to take care of itself; of course, therefore, making wages lower. I contrasted the condition of the American laborer with that of the European serf, trodden under the iron heel of despotism, at ten cents a day, and satisfied her that the laboring man in the United States was the best paid, and therefore the happiest and most contented being on earth, owing to the fact of a protective tariff, ever since 1789.

"W." exclaimed that angelic creature, "why is it, then, that workmen are always striking and marching around town with brass bands? First shoemakers, then carpenters and railroad men, and stone masons, and iron molders, and hod carriers—all wanting higher wages? Where does the happiness and content come in? I heard you say, yourself, the other day, that the disorganized system of labor was such in this country, that it was degenerating into socialism and anarchy and was ruining every branch of business."

I hated to do it, but I crushed her with the reply: "Ah! my dear, that is begging the question."

But that sweet creature, unruffled as a summer sea, preserved an equanimity that astounded me, as she said: "Why is it, W., that whenever a woman corners a man in argument he simply ends the discussion by telling her she is 'begging

the question?" Seeing that she did not exactly catch the drift of my logic, I adroitly turned the subject to silk worms again, and how we should proceed in our enterprise.

"Now," said I to Mrs. W., "I will procure the necessary lumber, at usual market rates, and make a stand on which to lay the frames."

She observed: "You know, W., you never made anything in your life and can't do it. Go up to the carpenter and he will do what you want for fifty cents, and you can't buy the lumber for that."

"Mrs. W.," I replied, "I scorn your words. I propose that this undertaking shall be absolutely inexpensive, except, perhaps, the outlay for the raw material."

"Very well," she observed, "try it." My! what a head that woman has. I took a book that had a picture of the stand I wanted, and took the dimensions carefully down; went to the lumber yard, selected the pieces, and they cost only \$1.25; went home, measured, planned and figured, and found that I had ordered the upright cut the length of the cross pieces, and vice versa, so that the whole was useless. My disposition, however, is to take cheerful views of things, and I explained to Mrs. W. that I could still use the stuff for pickets on the front fence, some of which were missing. Mrs. W. quietly observed: "How are you going to use four-foot pickets on a six-foot fence?"

When I purchased the second lot I was very careful to proceed deliberately. I am a good deal of a carpenter, if things would only come out square when finished; but they never will. When I saw a board, somehow the saw runs off to one side, and when I try to nail it to the other board the two won't fit; and by the time I get around to the fourth side, one end of the concern is up in the air, and I have to sit on it to keep it down. I have often gazed with admiration on a real carpenter, to see him run his saw along, straight as a string and true as a die, and then put the pieces all together and have them fit, nice as a cotton hat. This is true genius.

Sensible of the danger and liability to mistake in putting the pieces together, I told Mrs. W., who was superintending the operation, that we would not use nails, but screws, so that in case of error—and all human judgment is fallible—we could take the screws out and take the pieces apart, which could not be done with nails. Mrs. W. conceded the suggestion to be a valuable one. So we went to work, she kindly lending her assistance. I measured all the pieces, got them the exact length, and for the greater certainty, stood them up on the floor to see if they would all fit. They certainly seemed to do so, as far as mortal vision could determine. As all this required a great deal of deliberation, a great deal of measuring, a great deal of sawing, some chiselling, etc., the hour of sunset was approaching when I had put in the last screw, and triumphantly called Mrs. W. from her afternoon nap to witness the success of my mechanical endeavors. I stood the blamed thing up on its four legs, and three of 'em were on the floor, and the fourth wasn't. It was impossible for me to discover the defect in my workmanship. I could make any three of the legs stand on the floor, but the fourth could not be prevailed upon for any consideration. The cross pieces, which should have been horizontal, and which, to that end, had been measured with mathematical precision, slanted up on one side and slanted down on the other. I was in despair, until Mrs. W. brought her intellect to bear upon my difficulties; when it appeared that three of the uprights were four feet six inches high, and the fourth was four feet seven inches. How it happened no one could explain.

"Now, W.," says Mrs. W., "send for the carpenter." I did so. He came—a rough, totally uncultured man. He could barely write his name, and his clothes were principally suspenders. But that uneducated man just took these pieces of wood, and knocked them here and knocked them there, and by aid of some disreputable shingle nails, in twenty minutes had as neat looking a stand made as ever you saw come out of a cabinet maker's shop. I was abashed, and paid him twenty-five cents. Mrs. W. said nothing, but smiled.

We had some frames, about two feet square, covered with brown paper. These we placed on the stand, and spread out the eggs. I was a little uneasy about what kind of a hen to get to hatch them, as I could find nothing in the books on the subject; but Mrs. W. called me my

usual pet name, and said that the first warm day was all the hen needed. Wonderful woman that! Just as she predicted! In a few days the brown paper was covered with little dark specks in a state of agitation. Mrs. W. spoke of them contemptuously as "nasty black worms."

They grew at a prodigious rate. I explained to the children that all they had to do was to go down to the osage-orange hedge, cut off the twigs and branches, and feed them to the worms; that in a few weeks the product would be ready for market, and if the Mills bill didn't interfere with protection to American industry, the profits would be large, and should be equally divided between themselves and their mother. The children were highly elated and were soon discussing what should be the color of the carriage horses. One wanted black, the other blue; and the excitement ran so high that parental intervention became necessary and some spanking ensued. The next morning our early dreams were disturbed by fearful outcries from the direction of the front fence. The smallest of the children had tumbled head first into the osage orange hedge, and could not get out. Anyone who knows the infernal, brutal intensity with which the thorns of the osage orange sting, can understand the predicament of that child. We extracted her in a fearfully lacerated condition.

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J. W. BRENTLINGER, Secretary.

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All Single tax men of the Northside, Chicago, who would join in an association (not a political party) for the propagation of the Single tax, and also the discussion of all vital political questions, national, state and municipal, especially of the late, between now and spring elections, are requested to send their addresses to WILLARD J. SMITH, 175 North Clark St., Chicago.

She was punctured all over. Having read in a book entitled "Three Thousand Valuable Receipts for Twenty-five Cents," that ammonia was good for stings, I applied ammonia liberally to that bleeding child, until she became absolutely frantic. Her screams attracted Mrs. W. to the scene, and she exclaimed:

"Have you no more sense than to put ammonia on raw flesh like that?" I pointed to the "Three Thousand Valuable Receipts, for Twenty-five Cents," which she immediately picked up and threw out of the window. The child ultimately recovered, but from that day abhorred silk culture in all its branches. Still the industry went on. The children were so stung by the thorns that the work devolved on me, and it was a task most fearful. There is a poison in the thorn of the osage orange that not only makes the pain exquisite, but swells one up as though he had been stung all over by bees, or had chronic dropsy. My hands and arms were pulled up, and my face looked as though I had been in a prize fight. As I observed to Mrs. W., however, these were minor difficulties, and we could put up with them in consideration of the large profits which would ensue. One day one of the servants—they are always going around and turning things up side down—left one of the frames on the floor, and all the worms, to the number of several hundred, scattered themselves profusely about the house, and without any reference to the comfort or convenience of the family. If you opened the flour barrel, there was a silk worm. They pervaded the sugar and crawled into the cream. You found them in bed and the mash was awful. How many were trodden into the parlor carpet can never be known. This, too, was but an episode; and as the worms grew in size and began to spin their cocoons, the process was quite interesting and even Mrs. W. overcame her repugnance to the crawling little wretches.

I was startled one day, as I was feeding my silk worms, who were consuming the osage orange leaves at the rate of a bushel a day, making two bushels of litter, to hear Mrs. W. abruptly ask:

"W., what is a consumer?" The unexpectedness of the interrogation found me at fault for a moment; but reflecting a little while and looking at the silk worms, I concluded the best way to put it was: "A consumer, my dear, is—well, a consumer in this country is one who consumes." Thinking that no exception could be taken to such a definition I was triumphant.

"W.," said that pertinacious person, "you don't hang together well, if any. You said the other day that this tariff thing was for the benefit of the producer, etc."

"My dear," I replied, "I seize the occasion. 'My foot is on my native heath, and my name is McGregor.' When our industries were in their infancy, it was found impossible to compete with foreign productions. Labor was so cheap abroad that they could undersell us in our own markets. We had laid the foundation of a broad, comprehensive manufacturing interest; we had taken men from agricultural and other pursuits, where they earned a livelihood, and put them in new and strange employments, about which they knew nothing, where they expected to earn more than a livelihood. But this could not be done on account of prices. So government imposed high duties, and the producer sold his articles for a higher price. In this way he was benefited and enabled to make money. The tariff added just so much to the price of the article sold, and the producer was happy."

"But who paid this extra price?" queried Mrs. W.

"Well," I replied, "it is a principle of political economy, I believe, that all taxes are paid ultimately by the consumer, so that in a case of this kind—"

"The consumer is the American people," interrupted Mrs. W.

"My dear," I cried, "once more I am compelled to observe, you are begging the question."

"Mendicant again," was her arch reply, and a cry from the nursery ended the discussion.

In about six weeks we had the cocoons. Of course, during that time the house was littered with dirt, dried leaves, and all sorts of unclean things; and if you ran about the premises in the dark, barefooted, you were sure to step on an osage orange twig; and I am satisfied, from the amount of squalling done, that if the season had lasted six months most of the children would have been exterminated.

I corresponded with some concern in one of the eastern cities, stating that I had a large amount of fine cocoons, and wanting to know what they would pay. I observed to Mrs. W. that I was confident of receiving a reply to the effect that I should ship the cocoons, draw at sight for five hundred dollars, leaving the balance to be paid as per account sales.

The reply was, to send on half a pound as a sample, and they would see if they could take them. When we came to weigh out half a pound, both Mrs. W. and I were appalled. It took about two bushels—nearly, if not quite, half the entire crop. However, they were sent, and Mrs. W. snickered as she did up the package.

In the course of several weeks I received a specimen, say about a skein, of the most beautiful silk I had ever beheld, with an order to forward the balance of the cocoons per Adams Express, which I did at the expense of one dollar. Waited several months for acknowledgment of receipt, wrote various letters, the postage on which was two cents each. As considerable time elapsed while we were "waiting for the returns," and as I was determined that Mrs. W. should understand this great subject of the tariff, as I knew she could if she gave her mind to it, I proceeded to eviscerate the whole matter. Said I, "When a tariff is laid upon a manufactured article it enables the manufacturer in this country to pay his workmen higher wages."

"And does he always do it?" said Mrs. W.

"Always," I replied. "Statistics show that when the tariff on iron was increased twenty per cent the manufacturers of iron immediately raised the wages of all their employees twenty per cent."

"I see," said that clear headed woman, "what excellent persons these iron men are. They do not hire their men for as little as they can, but pay them more than they want."

"Exactly so," I replied; "the general rule I admit to be that a man pays as little as he can for labor; but under the protective system, the tariff increases the price of the manufactured article, so that the manufacturer is enabled to sell his goods for that higher price, and the workman thus gets the benefit of it."

In argument seemed to have great weight with her, as it gave her new light on things, for she said it was contrary to experience; but I explained to her that unless some flaw could be found in the syllogism, the conclusion was irresistible, all experience to the contrary notwithstanding. I then showed her how entirely disinterested the manufacturers were; that all their efforts were solely for the benefit of the workmen; that personally the tariff made no difference to them; that they never besought Congress to lay high tariffs; that no one ever knew of the iron men, or the sugar men, or the copper men, besieging the legislators at Washington to impose duties upon articles they made; that it was the workmen who always did it.

I do not know exactly how long it was that we waited to receive our fortune from those cocoons, but one day a postal card came to hand from the parties to whom I had sent my wealth, stating that they had received so many cocoons they could not tell which mine were. Inasmuch as mine were the only ones that had ever been shipped from the town wherein I reside, it occurred to me that this remark might be considered in the nature of a joke. Then there followed another "luminous correspondence. I appealed to Adams Express Company, who said they would send out a "tracer;" I did not like to betray my ignorance by showing that I did not know what a tracer was, but, frankly, I should not have known one had I met it on the street. But with the infinite knowledge of affairs that Mrs. W. has, that remarkable woman signified to me that a tracer was something that goes up and down and to and fro upon the face of the earth, like a roaring lion, seeking something, and not generally finding it. It is an immense consolation, however, to railroad men and others; for it appears that after a "tracer" has been "sent out," nothing more can, by any possibility, be done by anybody. Whether or not the tracer had anything to do with the final result I never knew. But about six months after I had transmitted my cocoons to that large silk manufacturing house that paid such large wages to American workmen for the purpose of fostering American industry, I received a note sending a balance sheet and inclosing a check for eighty-eight cents.

When I received this portentous paper, I observed to Mrs. W.: "My dear, how much do you suppose we got for our cocoons?" "About seventy-five cents," was the reply. The mind that woman has for detail is simply wonderful.

The check I have framed and hung up in the parlor, but when I balanced the books I still found the profit large, thus:

| W. IN ACCOUNT WITH SILK WORMS.              |          |
|---------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1887.                                       | Dr.      |
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| Jan. 1, Cash paid carpenter . . . . .       | 25       |
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| Nov., Cash paid express . . . . .           | 1.00     |
| Feb., Cash paid postage . . . . .           | 20       |
| Profit . . . . .                            | 496.93   |
|                                             | \$500.88 |
| 1888.                                       | Cr.      |
| Feb., By account sales . . . . .            | \$0.88   |
| Feb., By amount experience gained . . . . . | 500.00   |
|                                             | \$500.88 |

#### The Poet of the Future.

James Whitcomb Riley in "The Century." O the poet of the future! He will come to us as comes  
The beauty of the bugle's voice above the roar of drums—  
The beauty of the bugle's voice above the roar and din  
Of battle drums that pulse the time the victor marches in.  
His hands will hold no harp, in sooth; his lifted brow will bear  
No coronet of laurel—nay, nor symbol anywhere,  
Save that his palms are brothers to the toiler's at the plow,  
His face to heaven, and the dew of duty on his brow.

He will sing across the orchard, and the woman at the well  
Will stay the dripping bucket with a smile ineffable;  
And the children in the orchard will gaze wistfully the way  
The happy song comes to them, with the fragrance of the hay.  
The barn will neigh in answer, and the pasture lands behind  
Will chime with bells, and send responsive lowings down the wind;  
And all the echoes of the wood will jubilantly call  
In sweetest mimicry of that one sweetest voice of all.

O the poet of the future! He will come as man to man,  
With the honest arm of labor, and the honest face of tan,  
The honest heart of lowliness, the honest soul of love  
For human kind and nature kind about him and above.  
His hands will hold no harp, in sooth, his lifted brow will bear  
No coronet of laurel—nay, nor symbol anywhere,  
Save that his palms are brothers to the toiler's at the plow,  
His face to heaven, and the dew of duty on his brow.

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## STRAWS WHICH SHOW THE WIND.

There is no mistaking the fact that his (Henry George's) land tax ideas are making great headway.—[Paterson Daily Guardian.]

It is possible, and even probable, that the coming state of Dakota will exempt personal property from taxation. This will be a victory for the tax reform agitation.—[Cedar Rapids, Iowa, New Era.]

It is, perhaps a good makeshift way to assess per foot front treating all alike but we judge by the present tempest over the new assessments that the people of Pittsburg will eventually learn that a tax based upon the rental value of land is the only equitable method of taxation.—[Pittsburg Commoner and Glass Worker.]

There is something decidedly promising in the cheerful bearing of the single tax people throughout the country, who since the recent defeat have girded up their loins anew for the irrepressible conflict with monopoly. There is positively no faltering along the line. News from nearly every state where the doctrines of Henry George have been at all actively promulgated shows a rapid spread of the truth among thinking men.—[Port Angeles, Wash. Ter. Commonwealth.]

We would gladly exterminate the landlord, not by the use of dynamite, but by taking from him his occupation. When the people begin to do their own thinking they will inaugurate a game of "freeze out" which will push the landlord quietly into some useful occupation while they as quietly take possession of the earth and the fulness thereof, in the name of the Great Jehovah.—[Washington, D. C., Craftsman.]

Man must live upon the land. When the few own it without returning to the people, who are the natural owners of it, the annual value of using it, the few are vested by reason of the needs of the landless with a despotic power over them.—[Pearsall, Texas, Sun.]

Did you ever stop to think of the absurdity of our present tax system? A man buys a piece of land. As long as he will neither use it nor let anybody else use it he pays but little tax. But let him go to work and open up a farm, and along comes the assessor and says to him: "How much land have you plowed? How much fence have you built? How much grain have you raised? How much is your house worth? How much did your barn cost? How many cattle and horses have you?" And for every stroke of work the man has done the assessor fines him.—[Tillford, Dak., Times.]

The possession of land, especially of valuable locations, is the most common and least justifiable form of wealth. Land is not a product of labor and no man can show a title deed from its creator. Without access to land or its fruits none can live, and its possession gives power to enslave the landless. With free land and no monopolies of money, transportation or patents, want, crime and suffering would enormously decrease.—[Council Grove, Kan., Anti-Monopolist.]

Open up the natural opportunities which God provided for all, and there would be no necessity for "boards of charity." If all enjoyed their inalienable right to a portion of God's earth, people would neither have to starve or surrender their self respect by appealing to a "board of charity."—[Tillford, Dakota, Times.]

## Rhode Island Has a Petition, Too.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Dec. 24.—The single tax association of Rhode Island has had a petition to the legislature printed, and is now circulating it for signatures. The petition reads as follows:

At the last meeting of the association, held on December 21, the list of officers was completed by the election of Mr. E. C. Lewis as corresponding secretary; C. B. Prior, G. A. Dillenberger, P. H. Flanagan, Chas. J. Reagan and D. L. Barker as members of the executive committee.

The next meeting will be public, and will be held on Friday evening, January 4, at 8 p. m., at No. 129 Westminster street, room 15. An able speaker will address the meeting.

GEORGE D. LIDDELL,  
Secretary.

## A Decaying Town.

SAUGERTIES, N. Y.—The Ulster Iron Works of this place closed its doors June 28, 1884, after an existence of over half a century. This mill, which employed about two hundred and seventy men and boys, had the reputation of making the best iron in the United States. Its stoppage was felt to be a severe loss to the town.

But a paper box factory and an envelope factory have been put in operation within the past year, and a large addition to the paper mills and a card factory are nearing completion. Of course these things have given the town quite a "boom." Land values have advanced about twenty-five per cent, rents are being raised and tenement houses are coming more and more into fashion. But in spite of the fact that an additional New York steamboat is to be put on in the spring, the place has for the most part an air of decay and dilapidation and squalor that might well grieve the heart of Rip Van Winkle himself. Nature has done much for it, but man very little. There are gas works but the village is scarcely half lighted and many of the street lamps burn oil. There is bluestone in abundance, but the curbs and sidewalks are a sight to behold and in many of the side streets are conspicuous by their absence. There is plenty of lime rock but such things as macadamized roads are unknown and so in wet weather

the name of everything and everybody is—mud.

The total vote is not far from 2,000. It is said that 500 of these are purchaseable, but half that number is probably nearer the mark. At the last election I am informed that the prices for votes ranged from \$2 to \$10. The democrats ran the price up to \$7, but the republicans having the biggest "boodle," paid as high as \$10.

I have secured a number of signatures to the petition to congress. There is no single tax club here or organization of any kind devoted to our principles, but it is my intention to try and start one at the earliest opportunity. During the last campaign I covered this place pretty well with STANDARDS and free trade tracts, which I think offset in a measure the protection influence.

BRADFORD DUBOIS.

## The Good Cause in Ulster.

Rev. J. Bruce Wallace, one of the leading clergymen of Belfast delivered a magnificent address in favor of the single tax before the Young Ireland society of Belfast recently. A large number of clergymen both Catholic and Protestant had seats on the stage, and the hall was filled. He declared that to take economic rent for public purposes was "immeasurably superior to any scheme of peasant proprietorship, and the only possible final solution of the land question, because the only one that practically recognized the equal right of all to the land, and thus satisfied the demand of equity; as land was the basis of human life, so the recognition of the co-heirship of all the land was the basis of a just social order"—and thus concluded:

Let young Ireland determine she will not follow in the paths marked by the wreck of human lives; she will build no temple to Mammon and Moloch, the gods of a corrupt civilization. (Cheers.) Let her follow the star of the east and tread the pathway of peace and brotherhood. Let her build from the foundation with the common ownership of the great treasure house of nature, in accordance with equality; let her raise a new organization of labor in the interests of the workers—their health, their wealth, their development, their elevation, their fullest well being. Let her determine in the name of the All Father, Whose is the earth and fulness thereof, in the name of Him who was manifested to destroy the work of the devil; in the name of the spirit sent to convince the world of its sin and to inspire ideals of righteousness, that at length justice shall be done in this island—that every child shall enjoy its birthright, that the entire resources of science and art shall subserve the interests, not of property, not of a class, but of all the people, that all shall have equal opportunities of becoming the strongest, noblest, and happiest creatures that it is possible for them to become. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. William Gibson, Mr. J. Murphy, Mr. Henry Ancketill, formerly of THE STANDARD, and others made short speeches, and the meeting adjourned amid great enthusiasm.

## Three Leading Democratic Papers Take Issue with Governor Hill.

It cannot be too strongly impressed upon the public mind that no election law can be adopted which will put a stop to the traffic in votes and other evils that have grown up under our present system, which does not provide for the printing and distribution of the tickets by the state. It might be putting it a little too strongly to say that no law which does not so provide would be worth the paper it was written on; but it would be entirely within bounds to say that no such law would be worth the time and trouble involved in securing its passage.—[Indianapolis Sentinel.]

The law must take the voting paper into its own hands exclusively. The law must initiate it, print it, hold it, guard it, protect it against the touch of any person not its own authorized agent, and deliver it to the voter as he approaches to vote, out of the reach of all other persons.—[Chicago Globe.]

To permit political committees or candidates to supply ballots would defeat two of the main objects of the proposed law. One object of supplying ballots at the public expense is to do away with the abuse of assessments for this purpose, thus removing a pretext for corruption funds and enabling poor men to run for office. Another object is to stop the buying of votes by making it impossible for the briber to know that the voter casts the ballot previously given to him.—[New York World.]

## The New Democracy.

The Richmond *Whig*, a journal which undertook to advocate both "protection" and "democracy," has succumbed. It would be quite as feasible to ride to Montreal and Mobile at the same time on the same railway train.—[Philadelphia Record.]

Let the tariff be reduced, and then reduced, and again, and once more reduced, till it is entirely vanquished and forever.—[Portsmouth, Ohio, Leader.]

The question in regard to a high tariff is not so much whether every New England mill operative has a piano in his tenement, or every western farmer a mortgage on his farm, as might be inferred from the debates in the senate, but whether unnecessary burdens are not laid upon the people to support a false and injurious system of industry and political economy.—[Providence Journal.]

So long as the Randalls, Hills, McAdams and other friends of a protective tariff are allowed to posture as democrats, the real believers in democracy will be hampered in their every movement. There is no room in the party that sustained Cleveland and his policy, for men who believe in the doctrine of protection.—[Chicago Leader.]

## Count Leon Tolstoi.

Over the seas, and over steppes cold,  
We hail you, soldier of the new found truth,  
In which this worn out world renews its youth,  
As the child's heart revives in one grown old.  
Gird, then, thy sword, great Russ, that we may hear  
Afar the clarion cries of that brave voice,  
That they in whom hope sleepeth may rejoice,  
And all the heavy hearted be of cheer.

Again the standard of a great hope shines  
Radiant and white against the darkened sky.  
What though the idle minded pass it by,  
Still doth our army move, in compact lines.  
What though the banner from the hand be hurled,  
Still other hands reach for it—though the note  
Be stifled in some dying singer's throat,  
Its music is the music of the world!

And when the world is leagued for common good,  
And all the chains that bind man's soul for aye  
Are broken in the dawn of Freedom's day,  
And Justice, throned, pronounceth all things good—  
Let it be known that when the clarion rose,  
Calling to war o'er land and ocean swell,  
Count Tolstoi heard the cry, responding well,  
There under Russian skies, mid Russian snows.  
JOSEPH DANA MILLER.  
Jersey City, January 6.

## A Tremendous Discovery.

HUTCHINSON, Kan.—The most talented writer in opposition to the single tax movement in this city has made a wonderful discovery. In an article to the *Daily News* he says:

George makes the stupendous blunder of supposing that land values are a spontaneous production caused by increase of population. If population were evenly distributed the appreciation in land values would be imperceptible. It is only concentration at certain points that gives value to land at these points. The business law that gives wealth to those who give most to the community prevails here as elsewhere.

When I saw that George had made a stupendous blunder I steadied myself and got ready for the shock. I felt surprised that I had not been sharp enough to have discovered it myself. "If population were evenly distributed the appreciation in land values would be imperceptible." What a discovery! If people could be prevented from concentrating at special points land would have no value!

Now, why do people concentrate at special points? Simply because it is easier to make a living at some points than at others. Place the discoverer of George's stupendous blunder in the midst of the Great Sahara and he would find it much more difficult to make a living than in this city. This is why he is concentrating here and not there.

If our critic should by concentrating himself at some point on the Great Sahara, or Wrangle island, should cause the land at either of those places to rise in value, I see no reason why he should not be allowed to appropriate those values all to himself; but if he should want anybody to help him to concentrate why should the person helping not get his share of the rise? If it takes two concentrating to make the land rise in value the two should divide the rise between them, and if it takes two millions to do it the two millions should divide the rise between them. There is no reason why any one, or any one class, should get values caused by the whole people. The values produced by the whole people concentrating at a point should be taken for the equal benefit of all the people concentrating there. Thus the stupendous blunder turns up again in spite of the critic.

J. G. MALCOLM.

## Italian Immigration Into Brazil.

In spite of the willingness of the former slaves to perform plantation work in the provinces of Sao Paulo and Bahia, both these provinces have taken immediate steps through their legislatures, to procure immigrants from Europe by the hundreds of thousands, and since August last Italian laborers are pouring into Brazil. They get free passage for themselves and families per steamer direct; upon arrival agricultural implements are given them free and a week's provisions; besides in money \$12 to \$30 each single colonist, and families \$30 to \$60, of our money. These advances they have to refund gradually out of their earnings. These inducements, in pamphlet shape, have been translated into Italian and other languages; emigrant agents are actively at work throughout southern Europe, in Portugal, Spain, and especially in Italy, and the result is a swelling current of immigration into Brazil, such as never has been seen.

## The Tax is About One-Two Thousandth of One per Cent a Year.

Paris American *Register*.  
How real estate in Berlin has risen within the last 150 years may best be gleaned from the recent sale of the Hotel du Nord. Commisior Schmidt bought the property, on which two small villas were then standing, in 1753. He offered to King Frederick the Great, when this monarch, after the demolition of the Berlin fortifications, did everything he could for building up the town, to erect two fine large

houses in the place of the two small villas, if he be granted free timber, free lime, and exemption from taxes for all time to come, except a nominal annual tax of 4 thalers and 15 groschen (\$3.25 United States currency). This offer was "graciously accepted" by a cabinet order dated Feb. 28, 1753, for the petitioner, his heirs, and all the future proprietors of the houses. In 1817 the banker Samuel Bucher Behrend only paid the old tax of 4½ thalers for his one house. In 1843 it was altered into a hotel by Herr J. E. Roth, who bought the house for 100,000 thalers, and resold it in 1860 for 145,000 thalers. The new owner, Seydertz, sold the house in 1864 for the sum of 210,000 thalers, and a few weeks ago it became the property of the Discount society for 1,16,000 thalers.

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## NEW IDEAS, METHODS AND INVENTIONS.

## Two Submarine Bonts.

Recent experiments with a submarine boat, Le Gymnote, made at Toulon, have been very successful. The boat moves horizontally as well as vertically, and is easily kept at any depth that is desired. It can be run at a speed of from nine to ten knots. The light is good and respiration easy. Its crew is ordinarily three, but during the experiments five persons were on board. The *Revue Scientifique* says that the new boat, an invention of Mr. Krebs, is a complete success, and will become of the greatest importance in marine warfare.

The *Bulletin International de l'Electricite* states that the French government has contracted for the building of a submarine boat, which, unlike the Gymnote, recently tested at Havre, is to be used for defensive rather than an offensive purpose, its object being the destruction of submarine mines, and thus preparing the way for the main vessels of a fleet. It is to be cigar shaped and is to be made of steel plates one inch thick. Its total length will be 14.93 feet and its diameter 5 feet 4 inches. Its crew will consist of two men who will be provided with air by stores of compressed oxygen, permitting a stay of several hours beneath the surface. The boat will be propelled by a screw driven by an Edison motor, the current to which is to be supplied by a Schanschieff primary battery.

## Electric Lanterns.

A small electric hand lamp has been invented in England. The purpose for which it was intended was to use it in searching for the wounded after battle, but it will of course be the best light in many other cases where at present an oil lantern is used.

## Iron Cross Ties for Railroads.

Iron cross ties have proved a failure on the Pennsylvania railroad, where they have been tried for several months, and while oak ties are being substituted wherever the iron ones were laid. The wooden tie yields sufficiently to the motion of the train to make the riding easy and comfortable, while the iron tie fails to give on the roadbed of broken stone and makes the riding hard and unpleasant to the passengers as well as wearing on the locomotive and rolling stock. More frequent repairs to the roadbed were found necessary with the iron ties too. In England and France, where iron is much cheaper than here and wood much dearer, ties of the latter are used in preference.

## An Electrical Locomotive.

The *Electrical Review* says that an electrical locomotive is building at the New York locomotive works in Rome, N. Y. The engine is to be operated solely by electricity, and is designed to run on all roads where steam is now used. It will weigh fifteen tons, and when turned out of the shop will be an exact counterpart of an ordinary locomotive, though considerably smaller and lighter. An electrician from New York will take charge of it, and place in it the electrical apparatus to be used as a motive power. The inventor is W. H. Darling of Brooklyn.

## Half Cent Coins Wanted.

The fifth annual convention of newsdealers and booksellers drew up an appeal to congress asking that half cent coins be issued. They say an American cent represents more or less five times the value of small European coin, of English farthings, of French centimes, of German pfennigs of Dutch halve centen, and as the difference in value between an American cent and small Asiatic coin is still larger, it is natural that American citizens, compared with citizens of other countries, are at a disadvantage to regulate with justice the prices for goods delivered and labor performed; and millions of buyers in the United States are constantly cheated out of half cent values, as for 2½ cent articles they are charged 3 cents, and for all transactions in so-called shillings people are charged 13 cents for 12½ cents value received.

## A New Process Steel.

The Solid steel company of Canton, O., have erected a new building for working the Mitis process, which they expect to use for producing light castings. The peculiar feature of the Mitis process is that Swedish or Norway bar or wrought scrap, melted in a crucible, becomes very fluid at a comparatively low temperature by the addition of a small percentage of aluminum. The fuel used is crude petroleum. Castings made by this process are said to need no annealing, but possess the ductile character of the bar from which they are made, and may be welded or forged with equal facility.

## How He Worked the Press.

Toronto Grip.

"See here," said the lecturer to his talented agent, "I've never yet had a fair show from the press. They give me little measly reports of a stick or two. I've advertised freely and talked the editors, and stood beers to the reporters, but I've never had a decent report yet."

"Leave that to me," said the shrewd agent, "I'll fix all that. You shall have a column in each of the dailies to-morrow without it costing a cent."

When the time for the lecture approached, the agent called the chairman aside and whispered him a few words. After the chairman had briefly introduced the lecturer in a neat and appropriate speech, he said: "I am asked on behalf of the lecturer to specially request the representatives of the press not to publish a report of the lecture, as he intends it to appear in book form. I hope that any journalists who may be present will respect the lecturer's wishes."

As soon as the lecturer began speaking,

three reporters, who had not previously had the remotest intention of taking notes, pulled out their note book and began scribbling away for dear life. An independent press isn't to be muzzled by any pernickety crank of a lecturer—not to any extent!

"Didn't I tell you so," said the agent, triumphantly, next morning. "The best send-off you ever had. It's a little early yet, but I don't mind if I do."

## PERSONAL.

The voice of Louis Prang is not the only one that is raised for free trade and the single tax in the columns of the *American Lithographer*. H. A. Littmann of Boston and Alexander Helmle of St. Louis, both working lithographers, come forward in the same paper to ably support Mr. Prang's position. Mr. Helmle thus concludes: "Why not try freedom instead of restriction? Long enough have we tried this thing, 'protection' see into what pitfalls it has led, is leading, us. Free trade means something far more than the mere abolition of custom houses. The abolition of custom houses is only a small step to free trade. Free trade means the abolition of all taxes on the products of labor, and last, but most important of all, the abolition of land monopoly. The single tax on land values will do the whole business."

Dr. M. R. Levenson's lecture at Cooper union on the "Science of Legislation" takes place next Saturday evening, January 12. Those who desire to hear him should bear in mind that by the rules of the trustees the doors are closed at 8 o'clock sharp. Admission to the lecture is free.

Rev. C. E. Escreet, M. A., vicar of St. Andrew's, Stockwell, a probable candidate for the London school board, advocates the abolition of all fees for tuition in elementary schools; he says the additional expense can be met by taxing ground rents and land values.

Rev. Donald MacCallum, one of the crofter leaders who was cast in prison by Balfour during his secretaryship in Scotland, said in a recent interview that the assertion that the Scotch highlands were for the most part only fit for deer, was false. He said the highland sheep will live where deer will starve and highland cattle have, in the past and may again thrive on land now used for deer alone. The question was whether the people or the deer and grouse shall possess the heritage of the clansmen.

Hugh O. Pentecost last Sunday delivered his first anniversary address before the Unity congregation. The report shows that Mr. Pentecost's efforts have been attended by the most gratifying success. The regular combined attendance at New York, Newark and Brooklyn each Sunday numbers 2,000 persons, which is probably larger than that of any regular church congregation in this country. A balance in the treasury in each of the cities shows a sound financial condition.

## How Switzerland is Governed.

Reynolds's Weekly.

It has about one twelfth the population of our "two little islands," and its tiny territory is surrounded on all sides by powerful states, chiefly despotic. The inhabitants speak, some German, some French, some Italian. In religion they are divided into Roman Catholics and Protestants, the latter being chiefly Calvinistic Presbyterians. Yet this strangely composite population admittedly possesses the oldest, the freest, and the most enlightened form of government in the world—a government to which the people are so devoted that in its defense four hundred thousand citizen soldiers can be relied on to take the field on the shortest notice.

And what is the Swiss form of government? The *Federal*. Little Switzerland contains not merely four, but twenty-two separate "cantons" or commonwealths, each governed by its own laws, legislature, and executive. The supreme authority of the nation is vested in a parliament of two chambers, the state council and the national council. The former consists of forty-four members, two from each canton. The latter is chosen directly, one deputy for every 20,000 souls. The two together constitute the federal assembly. From the federal assembly emanate the federal council, or executive of seven, and the federal tribunal, or supreme judicature of eleven. The harmony of all the parts of this wonderful machine of government is complete; and whenever a constitutional amendment is proposed, it has to be put to the vote of the entire electorate—yes or no.

## What the Iron Duke Thought of His Een.

In Lord Stanhope's notes of conversations with the duke of Wellington, the duke expresses himself thus in reference to the British soldier of his day: "Our men are the very scum of the earth. People talk of their enlisting from their fine military feeling; all stuff; no such thing. Some of our men enlist from having bastard children; some for minor offenses; many more for drink; but you can hardly conceive such a set brought together. I have never known officers raised from the ranks to turn out well. They cannot stand drink. Their low origin comes out in that respect, and therefore you never can perfectly trust them. One result of this was that our men broke into shocking excesses when once they were let loose."

Speaking of the physique of his men the duke said it was "a mistake to suppose that our troops were the largest of any in Europe. The Germans were as tall or taller, and so were Napoleon's French. Our men are not particularly tall, but full in the chest, and I always made them stand as square and take up as much room as they could. In marching, our soldiers carry each about four stone (fifty-six pounds). But marching is not our men's forte. We in England convey them so much by steamboats and canal boats, and never let them walk."

## PEN, PASTE AND SCISSORS.

Among the richest men in Boston is Montgomery Sears, who has largely added to a fortune of \$9,000,000, inherited a few years ago from his father, Joshua Sears. The elder Sears came to Boston without a penny, strived and strained until he was able to start a small grocery business, invested his savings in land, and kept on investing his money in it. The land increased tremendously in value, so that one fine day Sears awoke to find himself very rich. The son adopted his father's methods, so that his possessions are beginning to be compared with those of the great Astor landlords. He belongs to all the swell clubs, keeps a steam yacht, and is an amateur in violins, of which he has a valuable collection.

According to the Castle garden report there were 51,649 immigrants last year from the kingdom of Norway and Sweden; something more than 7,000 more than the number from Ireland. The great mass of the Swedes and Norwegians, as soon as they are landed here, strike out for the west, a large proportion of them going as far as Dakota, which, within recent years, has become a favorite region of settlement for them. It is their desire to procure land for cultivation, and they like to settle closely together, but they quickly become Americanized. Wisconsin, Kansas and Minnesota used to be their chosen states, but the price of farms there is now too high for them.

Cases of terrible destitution and suffering among the Norwegian settlers of Western Walsh county, Dakota, were brought to public notice a few days ago. Seventy families, averaging five or six children to a family, were found on the verge of starvation. Their clothes were in tatters and many were without fire. One woman was found in an old shanty, through the cracks of which the raw winter winds whistled in gusts, with nothing on her body but a thin calico dress—not a sign of shoe for her feet. These settlers came to the locality a few years ago with small capital, expecting to draw their subsistence from their crops. But for one reason or another crop after crop failed, in whole or in part, until the farmers were reduced to utter helplessness.

At a conference of members of parliament held at London in December at the call of the Fruit growers' league, one of the M. P.'s, Mr. T. Potter expressed the opinion that land had been too long regarded as the playground of the rich, and that the claims of the people to gain a livelihood should be considered before talking of emigration. The land question, the kernel of every industrial problem, is recognized now wherever men consider industrial problems in any of their phases.

Alexander McGowan, who is engaged in the Wellington (New Zealand) harbor improvement works, went down in his diving dress for the purpose of setting some large blocks under the water in which piles had been previously driven. As McGowan was in the act of placing one of the blocks he was seized by an immense octopus. The monster fastened on to the piles at the same time. McGowan at first made an attempt to get clear, but the more he fought with the octopus the more he found that it was useless, as its grip became stronger. He then wisely desisted, and in a few moments had the satisfaction of knowing that the octopus had released its grasp of the piles. This was no sooner done than McGowan gave the signal to be hauled up. His signals were quickly responded to, and up went the diver with the creature on his back. Its legs measured nine feet long.

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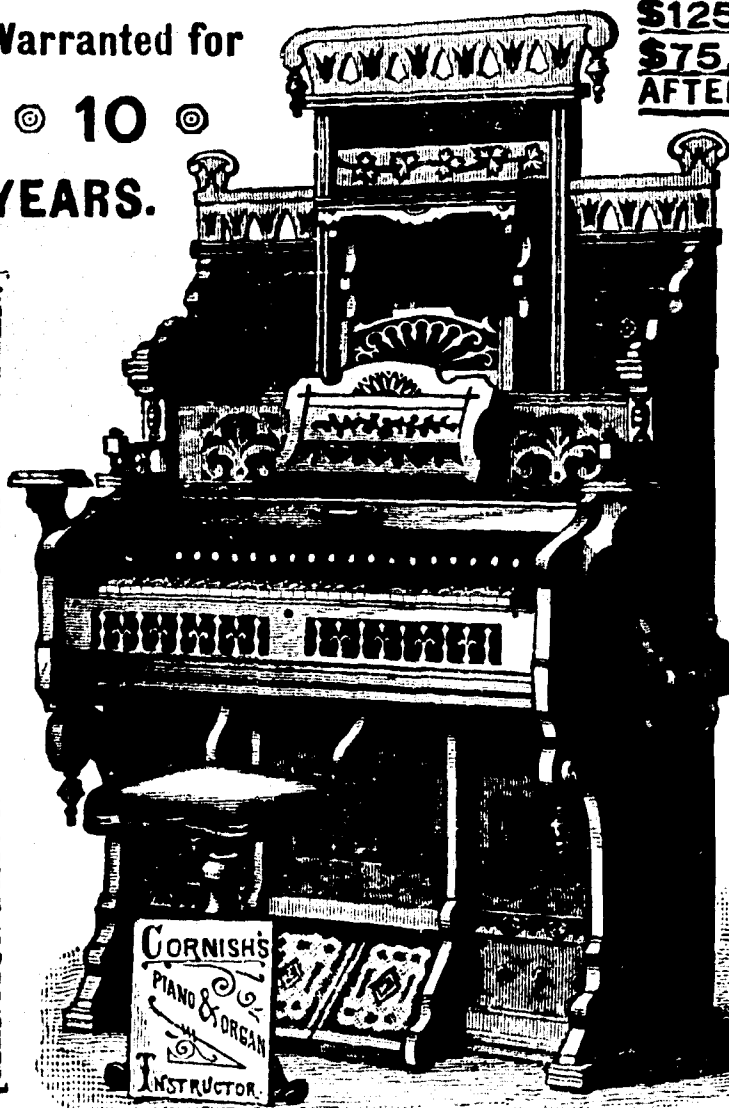
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