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THE STANDARD.

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THEY FEEL THE PINCH.

EDITORIAL.

Induction is the name by which electricians describe the quality that enables a primary current in one coil of wire to induce a powerful current in another coil, not only not in contact with the first, but carefully insulated from it. There seems to be a similar power of induction in ideas, and this power has of late been potential in spreading our doctrines among people far removed from the direct influence of the single tax movement. An illustration of this tendency is found in an article by William A. Phillips, entitled "The New English Invasion," in Belford's Magazine for February. Mr. Phillips sees in the purchase of American business enterprises by English syndicates, and especially in the purchase of American land by English individuals and corporations, a danger more serious than that which menaced us when the British armies under Howe and Clinton invaded Massachusetts. He describes the new movement as "a fresh invasion of aliens who seek to derive revenues in the shape of rents from the United States." In response to the argument that the introduction of foreign capital will hasten the development of American progress, and that its profits are the legitimate fruits of capital invested, Mr. Phillips says:

Many nations have wisely forbidden aliens from owning and controlling a foot of their soil. The ownership of land is of two kinds: that of the man who owns and lives in his house or who holds and cultivates his fields, and that of the absentee or landlord owner. Land tenure indissolubly connected with its occupancy and use is one thing, and land tenure existing merely as a source of dignity and power in addition to the revenue, is quite another. Where the absentee landlord is permitted to buy land, as the transaction is called, he merely pays a certain sum of money for the privilege of exacting perpetual revenue from those who are to use it. He also acquires with it an interest in the growth, population and labor of the country, which constantly add, as they are developed, to the nominal price of what he calls his property, and to the annual revenues to be derived from it.

Mr. Phillips tells the familiar story of the wrongs inflicted on Ireland by alien landlordism, and he cites the case of "Lord" Scully, who derives $100,000 a year from his Illinois estates, and is beginning to draw a handsome revenue from the great tracts of land he has since acquired in Kansas; for the use of which tenant farmers are beginning to compete, now that emigrants can no longer obtain free land. Mr. Phillips dwells upon the fact that Mr. Scully lives in London, but he has evidently a dim consciousness that this is a matter of slight consequence to those who pay him for the privilege of working, for he himself remarks: "It may be said it is a matter of no moment whether the man who exacts the revenue or rent from the cultivator lives in New York or in London," but, he continues, "as it is the purpose of this article to deal with alien landlords, it is not necessary to enter into the discussion of absentee landlordism among natives."

Of course this is true, so far as the immediate purpose of Mr. Phillips's article is concerned, but the remark just quoted shows that he vaguely sees that it will be necessary to go further when we come to consider the graver problem that lies beyond, and ask why it is that industrious farmers in Kansas must pay any man, either in London or New York, for the privilege of raising crops in that sparsely settled state. Mr. Phillips apparently considers the existing system of land tenure permanent, and he probably has no interest in or sympathy with the single tax movement. Nevertheless, he clearly sees the difference between landlordism and permanant occupancy for actual use, and such phrases as "when the absentee landlord is permitted to buy land, as the transaction is called," show that his doubts go to the very foundation of the existing system. He points out clearly the fundamental wrong of landlordism when he declares that the landlord as such—that is, the mere owner as distinguished from the user of land—"merely pays a certain sum of money for the privilege of exacting perpetual revenue from those who use it," and "also acquires with it an interest in the growth, population and labor of the country, which constantly add, as they are developed, to the nominal price of *what he thus calls his property*, and to the annual revenues to be derived from it." The italics are our own, but the phrase is suggestive, and if Mr. Phillips were engaged in the child's game of "Hot Buttered Blue-beans," we should say he was getting very "warm" indeed in his search for the cause of the evils he is attacking.

His description of "Lord" Scully's operations in Kansas shows the very genesis of landlordism. Mr. Scully some time ago invested some of the profits from his Illinois estates in large tracts of land in Kansas, for which he paid three or four dollars an acre. "So long as immigrants could get public land as a homestead," says Mr. Phillips, "they were not likely to accept Mr. Scully's leases. Now, however, the case is different, and these lands are being occupied and cultivated by a tenant-farming community," and are estimated to be worth from $15 to $50 an acre. All improvements, such as they are, are made at the expense of the tenant. In consideration of this the tenant pays the first year only the taxes on the land. Next year he pays usually two dollars an acre, and the rent increases annually until the end of the lease, when, without compensation to the tenants for improvements, the property is surrendered to the landlord. The leases run from five to seven years, and sometimes for a longer term, and during the last year of their continuance Mr. Scully usually receives a rent equal to the original purchase price. What service has he rendered to entitle him to this reward? He purchased the land and held it for a time when there was no demand for it. That, however, was necessary in order that the area of free land should be restricted and the tenant farmers be forced to hire his land. This certainly was not a public service. From that time on, the tenants did everything and Mr. Scully did nothing but rob them under the forms and with the sanction of law. It is robbery, as plain and undisguised as would be a demand on these farmers by a band of Apache Indians for an equal tribute under penalty of massacre, and the study of the subject naturally raises some strange doubts and questionings in the mind of a writer like Mr. Phillips.

From another western state, bordering on Kansas, comes a protest, warmed by righteous wrath and pointed with invective, which we reprint elsewhere. It is an editorial article from the St. Joseph Gazette, and it not only describes the tactics of the land grabber in that prosperous Missouri city, but it goes further and hints at the remedy, which is to be found in a radical revision of the existing taxing system, by which industry and thrift are fined, and operations like those of Mr. Scully are encouraged and promoted. The Gazette gives no evidence that it has ever considered or even heard of the single tax movement, but its description of the existing situation differs in no particular from that which might have been penned by the most enthusiastic of single taxers.

More notable still is the language of Judge Collins of Chicago, who last week overruled the objections of the multimillionaire, Mrs. Hettie Green, and others to the sale of a tract of land in that city to the Grant locomotive works. "The judge," says a newspaper dispatch, "characterized the objectors as dogs in the manger." When the current phrases of the single tax men begin to drop from the lips of judges on the bench the progress of propaganda by induction is most gratifying.

Let us, however, in the pleasure with which we view the results obtained by this process, not forget that the maintenance of the primary current is essential to the continuance of the induced current. The direct effort in behalf of the single tax should be pressed forward with renewed vigor because of the many proofs we are constantly receiving of the rapid spread of our ideas in quarters where their presence was not looked for.

The work is going steadily on, but there ought to be a new impulse to carry it forward more rapidly. The opportunities offered by recent events ought not to be neglected.

One work of great importance deserves, and ought to receive, a more vigorous and liberal support than has been given it. That is the work of the single tax enrolment committee. No one not familiar with the facts can appreciate the full importance of this work. The committee was formed at a time when the organized single tax movement was languishing and apparently falling to pieces. The petition was devised, not so much with a view to its effect on congress, as because of the opportunity it would offer for finding our friends and bringing them together. In this it has had a wonderful success and the result has been that hundreds of single tax clubs have sprung into existence and thousands of tracts have been circulated. The growing body of "workers" now numbering over two thousand, is well worth all the effort the committee has put forth, and those who really use the petition have found its presentation a most effective introduction to successful propaganda work.

Nearly the whole expense of this essentially national work has been borne by a few people in and around New York city. This was felt not to be fair to our local workers here, and the committee made an appeal last year for contributions from the country at large. The response has fallen a thousand dollars short of the necessary expenses of continuing the work in hand through the present year. This ought not to be. The members of the committee have given both time and money to the work, and they are still willing to continue to do so until they shall be relieved by the formation of

a representative committee, as the result of a general conference of those ready to help carry forward the work on the lines pursued for the past two years.

The committee is about sending out an appeal to workers to obtain pledges of small monthly payments to a sufficient extent to enable it not only to continue, but to enlarge its work. It has thus far been able to meet all reasonable demands made upon it for literature, but unless its funds are replenished it cannot continue to do so. It has never dared attempt fully to utilize its machinery for this work because of its lack of means. If it had double what it has asked for every cent would be fully utilized in the efficient management of additional work by Mr. George St. John Leavens, the secretary of the committee.

Let our friends celebrate their many recent causes for rejoicing by promptly assuring the committee of an assured monthly income, and let them think not how little will do, but how much they can afford. There is no danger that the committee will receive more than it can judiciously spend, as it has just been compelled, because of lack of means, to put aside a work urged on it by friends the importance of which was clearly recognized by every member of the committee.

Alfred Dolge's solution of the labor problem, set forth elsewhere, is really a form of profit sharing, though he prefers to call it by another name. Those who read of Mr. Dolge's scheme and note the tone in which he unfolds it to his employes will be amused at his denunciation of socialism. His paternal tone is exactly that of the most distinguished and despotic state socialist now living, William II., emperor of Germany. Mr. Dolge protests that what he proposes to give to his employes is not profits, but earnings, and then coolly says: "It shall, however, be entirely within the discretion of said house to decide how much of the net earnings of the business shall be set aside for this distribution account," which means that Mr. Dolge reserves the right to withhold a portion of what he believes to be the just earnings of his employes. This sufficiently exposes the worthlessness of his solution. Any general scheme for the amelioration of the workingman's condition, that depends upon the benevolence of employers, can have no general success. Were the single tax in operation Mr. Dolge and other employers would have no choice about paying employes their full earnings.

Mr. Franklin Woodruff, whose election as chairman of the Brooklyn republican convention was the cause of "Al" Daggett's revelation of republican methods in that city, has just failed in his business as an importer of salt, dried fish, etc. The failure makes public the fact that Mr. Woodruff's name is on a bond for $50,000 for the proper performance of Daggett's contract to supply postal cards to the government. There is some talk of declaring this contract forfeited, in which case Mr. Woodruff would lose part or the whole of the amount for which he stands bound. The worst thing about this is the revelation it makes of the relations that have existed between Woodruff and Daggett, despite the fact that Woodruff now insists that Daggett is such a notorious liar and corruptionist that his statements are utterly unworthy of belief. The happy family of high tariffites in Brooklyn seems to be decidedly mixed in its composition.

A bill is pending before the legislature which has for its professed object the annexation of Flatbush to Brooklyn. The eleventh section of this bill is decidedly interesting. It provides that for purposes of taxation the real estate of Flatbush "shall be assessed at the value of the land for agricultural purposes" until it is divided into building lots, or is sold or used as building lots. This bill should be entitled "an act to discourage building in, and to exclude population from, Flatbush." Here is land worth thousands of dollars an acre, which it is proposed practically to exempt from taxation so long as its owners will keep it out of use; but the moment the owner undertakes to make it habitable the assessor is to be let loose upon him, and meantime house owners are to bear the brunt of taxation. What do Flatbush house owners think of the plan of making them pay for the music to which the monopolizers dance?

The adherents of Hill rallied on Monday night and compelled the reconsideration of the resolutions of the Young men's democratic club in favor of ballot reform, and passed another set of resolutions sustaining Governor Hill's position. The friends of ballot reform in the club declare that the meeting was packed, and they gave notice of another motion to reconsider. The incident, however, shows that the Young men's democratic club has in it elements that care more for machine politics than they do for the will of the people or the maintenance of principle. We ought to have some real democratic societies in this town into which the enemies of democratic principles could not find their way.

The report of the Parnell commission is practically a vindication of Mr. Parnell from the charges against his personal character, accompanied by a denunciation of the semi-revolutionary tactics, to which the leaders of the Irish movement have unquestionably given countenance and support. The opinion of such conduct expressed by a tory commission naturally finds favor with tories, while the failure of a commission so constituted to find any evidence to justify the specific charges of the Times is accepted by the liberals as a vindication of their allies. In short, a proceeding that was intended to brand the Irish members of parliament as criminals has resulted in a simple denunciation of their political tactics by their partisan opponents. On the whole, the proceeding will doubtless assist the liberals in the coming campaign.

The Journal of the Knights of Labor in its last issue says that "the original idea of Henry George was 'land nationalization' and nothing else," while the single tax is a mere afterthought. If the editor of the Journal has ever read "Progress and Poverty," he has utterly failed to comprehend its primary purpose. Mr. George did devote a large portion of the book to the demonstration of the fact that the land belongs to the community; but he declared, with equal emphasis and distinctness, that the proper way to assert that claim is, not to undertake to have the community hold land in common, but to allow continuance of individual possession, the community taking to itself, through the process of a tax on land values, the rental value of the land. The presentation of this "remedy" was the very purpose of the book, and the plan then laid down has never been deviated from by Mr. George or any of his intelligent co-workers.

A dispatch to the Monday evening papers states that one hundred and fifty voters met in Wells's memorial hall yesterday and organized a state central committee of "the single tax party" to take practical action on the question, and that E. M. White of Charlestown was elected chairman, and L. H. Turner secretary. The dispatch at first glance seems to indicate that our Boston friends have resolved to engage in the third party folly, but there is evidently no justification for such a statement. The gathering referred to is doubtless that already mentioned in THE STANDARD for the formation of a state organization to press the consideration of the single tax on the legislature, and to take other practical measures for forcing its consideration by the people of Massachusetts. Instead of a step backward, as a third party movement would be, it is really a step forward by men who appreciate the wonderful results achieved by the policy that has brought single tax men into close fellowship with all who are striving to accomplish political reforms that tend toward the overthrow of the existing system of taxation.

GEORGE AND TRADES UNIONS.

A number of the workingmen interviewed by the San Francisco Examiner declared that, while accepting the single tax doctrine, they had little if any personal drawing toward Henry George because of his hostile attitude toward labor organizations. When and where did the San Francisco workingmen learn that Mr. George is hostile to labor organizations? So far is this from being the case that the very reverse is true. So long as men are compelled to compete one with another for the opportunity to earn a living, combinations of workmen are necessary and inevitable. Mr. George has never denied this, nor expressed hostility toward such organizations.

He has, however, never hesitated, upon proper occasion, to point out the futility of depending on mere trade organizations to bring about a final and complete solution of the labor problem. He has shown that the pressure from the great body of unskilled laborers, outside, must constantly tend to weaken even the unions of the skilled trades in their efforts to maintain wages through combination. He has insisted that, while fighting their own battle in their old way, as best they can, that it is the duty of the more intelligent workmen to consider the true cause of their oppression and to seek a remedy that shall solve the labor problem by enabling men, through access to natural opportunities, to employ themselves, so that they shall no longer be compelled to take such wages as are offered to them, or else lose the opportunity to earn a living at all.

The whole tendency of thought among the great body of intelligent workers is toward the acceptance of the idea that something beyond mere trade organization is necessary; but many of the so-called "labor leaders," who are accustomed to the old methods, bitterly resent any proposal to adopt a policy requiring study and hard thinking; one that might, perhaps, deprive them of the honors and emoluments of leadership. Such men resent Mr. George's candid criticism of trades unionism as a final solution of the labor problem, and, speaking by authority through organized agencies, they have been able to temporarily mislead many trades unionists into a total misunderstanding of Mr. George's attitude. Time and education will undo their work and remove misapprehension.

TAMMANY AND BALLOT REFORM.

We agree with Mr. Shriver that the Tammany leaders are making a serious blunder in arraying that organization against ballot reform, since it is never wise policy for politicians to fight the inevitable. It is, however, almost impossible to conceive of Tammany taking any other attitude. Its leaders are practically a co-operative body, organized to govern New York city for the sake of the profits to be made from the contract. Warned by experience, they understand that they must give our people fairly good government or be driven from business. The fact that in many respects the Tammany machine is the best—or at least, the most responsible—of the three seeking the contract for governing this city has caused Tammany to receive the support of thousands who feel that they are compelled to a mere choice of evils. One of the chief ends sought by ballot reform is the overthrow of the power by which voters are compelled to this choice of evils. Tammany fears the possible effect of such a change and hence has been unable to resist the temptation to oppose it at whatever cost.

Tammany doubtless does command a larger voluntary following than either of the rival machines, but its leaders know that that following was seriously weakened by the great popular uprising in the George campaign of 1886. So long as the people are compelled to a choice among the machines in a contest involving no ideas or principles, but turning on opinions as to the personal fitness of candidates and the probabilities of honest administration, Tammany's chances are at least as good as any. Give us, however, the power to make effective nominations by petition; give the people unbought access to the polls and freedom from intimidation, and there may come another such wholesale desertion from Tammany as menaced the existence of that organization in 1886, until the silly republicans and pretentious county democrats rushed to its aid under the pretense of saving society.

None of the machines really want ballot reform, and none of them are really doing anything to promote it. The movement in its favor is a popular uprising independent of ordinary political management. The republican machine is, however, bound over to keep the peace by the attitude assumed by the republicans in the legislature, and the county democracy, bankrupt in votes and reputation, catches at any new movement, having reputation and votes, as a cloak to cover its own naked deformity. Tammany thinks it is strong enough to defy growing public sentiment, but in the long run, Tammany will find that it has overrated its stength.

ACTORS AND THE SINGLE TAX.

Mr. James A. Herne has evidently stirred up a lively controversy in dramatic circles concerning the single tax. Mr. Herne is an actor whose range of vision extends beyond the back row of seats in a theater, and whose brain compels him to think of causes as well as effects. Having studied the single tax, and seen that it proposes to restore natural conditions that will eventually enable an industrious people, inhabiting a fertile country, to lift themselves bodily out of involuntary poverty, it has occurred to Mr. Herne that this condition of affairs would enable a vastly greater number of people to gratify the ordinary human desire for amusement, and tend in that way to bring prosperity to the theatre.

In response to Mr. Herne's recent address Henry Peterson contributes to the Dramatic Mirror a string of silly objections to the single tax, every one of which has been made again and again, completely answered and abandoned, not merely by those making it, but even by the political economists who at first attacked Mr. George's theories most vigorously. Mr. Peterson should, in the language of the green room, be regarded simply as a producer of chestnuts.

The most amusing feature, however, of this sudden introduction of grave thought into the dramatic profession is the leading editorial of the Mirror, which attempts to sustain Mr. Peterson and demolish the single tax theory in nearly two columns of leaded type. Mr. Herne

is himself abundantly able to deal with the hopeless ignorance and feeble reasoning of the Mirror writer, and THE STANDARD has not space for the primary lessons required for the enlightenment of our handsome and always attractive contemporary. If the Mirror's editors, however, are really disposed to give some little attention to political economy, we shall be happy to furnish them with a series of tracts that treat of the A B C of the science for beginners.

They are not to be condemned for their ignorance, but the spirit that animates the article entitled "The False Beacon," in which the writer, mounted on stilts of his own conceit, looks down contemptuously on the mere workingmen, is the most glaring evidence that has been given of the degeneracy of theatrical criticism. In the days when great actors presented the thoughts of great dramatists, they looked to the workingmen in the pit as the most capable critics. It is only since pink tights played to the "baldheads" in the front row obtained a leading place in the drama that dramatic critics conceived a contempt for the common people. The Mirror may not be able to understand the single tax, but it is so good a paper in its own line that it is a pity that it should give place to the ideas of a snob.

THE PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE.

Dr. De Beck of Cincinnati in an article printed elsewhere proposes the holding of a conference of single tax men at Niagara Falls in August. He makes this suggestion to the enrolment committee, following a similar suggestion by Mr. George. Before printing Dr. De Beck's article it was referred to the enrolment committee, which, after hesitating somewhat because of its lack of funds, consented to take the one step which must necessarily precede any discussion of the time and place for a conference; that is, the ascertainment of the extent of the desire for such a gathering. In order then that there may be as little delay and expense as possible clubs are requested without further notice to communicate their views on the subject to Mr. G. St. J. Leavens, secretary of the committee, at No. 36 Clinton place, each stating what, if any, prospect there would be that a delegation from it will be present. A conference slimly attended would do vastly more harm than good.

Dr. De Beck's arguments in favor of Niagara are strong; yet we are still of the opinion that the best place for such a gathering is New York. What is aimed at is a demonstration, rather than consultation. The only practical question that could come before such a body would be as to the best means for utilizing the coming congressional canvass for free trade propaganda. The chief objects sought beyond that would be mutual encouragement and the advance of the cause through the demonstration of our growing strength. The general attendance will be as important for these ends as the attendance of delegates, and a larger general attendance can be had in New York than elsewhere.

Furthermore, Mr. George will return home in August. There is certain to be some kind of demonstration of welcome, and that will assist in attracting delegates to the convention and in making the whole gathering a greater success. We, of course, shall be glad to print suggestions as to other places, but we shall unquestionably start the discussion with a strong bias in favor of New York, not from any consideration of petty local pride, but because it seems clear to us that here the greatest success is possible. In fact, we believe that if a conference is determined on long enough in advance, and its date of meeting fixed so as to coincide with the date of Mr. George's arrival, that we can have such a popular gathering as has rarely been seen in New York, and which will have a wonderful effect in infusing higher courage and more radical principles into the congressional campaign then about to open.

All depends, however, on the disposition of the clubs to send delegates. Let that be settled, and then take up the discussion as to time and place. Let a canvass first be made as to how many will attend if the conference is held in New York, how many if it is held in Chicago, how many if it is held in Niagara, and so on. Let us find out first of all whether we really want a conference badly enough to pay for making it a success. The mere traveling expenses of delegates will amount to a goodly sum, and this must be considered. If we can have a great gathering a conference will be a good thing. Otherwise it will be a bad thing.

AN OUTRAGEOUS BILL.

Senator Chandler's bill to regulate immigration into the United States provides that no alien shall be admitted who is an idiot, insane, a pauper, or liable to become a public charge, or who has been convicted of felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, or "who is a polygamist, anarchist or socialist, or who is afflicted with any loathsome or contagious disease." Persons proposing to migrate are required to make oath before a United States consul that they are not prohibited by any of these sections from migrating to the United States.

The mere presentation of such a bill to congress is a disgraceful confession of the change in American ideas and conditions that has come about since this government was formed. Here is a country in which a thousand millions of people, if they had access to natural opportunities, could support themselves in comfort and almost in luxury, and yet we are proposing to throw obstacles in the way of immigration, despite the fact that we are all ourselves the descendants of immigrants who came here before monopoly had seized the bounties of nature. So long as governments are bound to take care of paupers and the insane, a reasonable precaution against an influx of such dependent people can be justified on grounds of prudence; but such a law exists already, and the purpose and intent of further legislation is to throw new difficulties in the way of the migration of any kind of poor people to our country.

The section in relation to anarchists and socialists is as absolutely un-American as would be a ukase to that effect by the czar of all the Russias. What has the government of the United States to do with the opinions of men who come here? Whence does it derive authority to set up such a censorship? There is probably in the whole United States no paper more thoroughly hated by anarchists and socialists than THE STANDARD, and there is certainly none which opposes their programme and policy more logically and consistently. But we say unhesitatingly that neither anarchy nor socialism could be any worse than the abominable tyranny that would result from granting to the federal government the right to inquire into the opinions of men. There has never yet, in our history, been a time when the good sense of the mass of the American people could not be depended on to prevent them from adopting foolish ideas and dangerous expedients, and such legislation as this is an evidence of the cowardice and lack of faith in democratic institutions among the men who have been thrust into places of power by plutocracy to serve its interests and betray the people.

Of all men living William E. Chandler is the last who would be warranted in attacking anarchists. He is conspicuous among those who have ever been ready to sacrifice order, law and justice to the accomplishment of mere party ends. His whole record is one of selfish greed and reckless disregard for orderly procedure, and we may safely conclude that it is this love of arbitrary power, rather than any regard for law or apprehensions of undue strain on democratic institutions, that has prompted him to introduce this most disgraceful and un-American bill.

A TAX REFORM PAPER.

The Chicago Daily News recently noted the significance of the declaration by the New York Times that the single tax on land values is the ideal tax, and expressed its own entire agreement with the position of its New York contemporary. Since that utterance the News has been the recipient of numerous letters from single tax men in Illinois and other states commending its course and urging it to remain steadfast in its advocacy of a just system of taxation.

In a recent leading editorial it assured these correspondents that they need have no fear that it will fail to insist on a radical reform in the present system of taxation. It denies that the recent presidential election proves that the people are satisfied with the present system of indirect taxation, and puts the responsibility for Mr. Cleveland's defeat where it belongs. The News says: "No people can be led in a great reform by men who have not the courage of their convictions," and that while it is true that Mr. Cleveland led his party back to the advocacy of true democratic doctrines, "it happened that the party machinery was in the hands of those who had little sympathy with the movement, which was to curtail their personal profits from a system supported by their political opponents."

The News touches an ugly fact in this last declaration. The men who claim to be democrats and profess that fear of their constituencies leads them to pose as defenders of some measure of "protection," are almost uniformly guilty of false pretence. No effort to turn a democratic constituency into a body of free traders has ever failed, and the men who insist that the attempt shall not be made invariably have personal and pecuniary interests of their own in the continuance of the tariff robbery. This was true of Barnum, and is to-day true of Gorman, Smith Weed and every other so-called democrat of that type.

Commenting on this, the News further says that events of the last year "have shown a new alignment of parties to be one of the things not to be delayed. Ballot reform, taxation reform and civil service reform are not dead issues, and those who stand in the way of the people's desires in this matter may learn their mistakes only in their political graves." The new alignment has already begun. The aggregation of voters now known as the democratic party is not composed of the same men to-day that it was composed of even one year ago, and the same is true of the republican party. The process is not yet complete, and prejudice and the force of habit yet hold many in nominal allegiance to organizations to which they do not properly belong. But the work cannot be stopped, and eventually all of the friends of the paternal government and protection will be found on one side, and the Jeffersonian democrats, who believe in the individual rights and the individual abilities of men, will be found on the other side.

Though the differences between these two parties will go down to the fundamental principles of government and the whole social structure, the immediate dividing line will be on the question of taxation, and it is a matter for congratulation that a paper of the circulation and ability of the Chicago Daily News has unequivocally taken so advanced a position on the right side of that question.

CHICAGO'S ECONOMIC CONFERENCES.

The admirable work already accomplished by the economic conferences in Chicago gives promise of a most wholesome public interest in that city in social questions. There was a time when the attitude of the great mass of prosperous people in Chicago seemed to be one of implacable hostility to all men who showed any sign of discontent with existing conditions, and this attitude provoked a corresponding sentiment of hatred among those who keenly felt the wrongs under which the producer has so long been crushed. In such an atmosphere, surcharged with hate, the violent outbreak that led up to the execution of the anarchists was not to be wondered at. The attitude of indifference and haughty pride, assumed by the ignorant and self-satisfied rich, is as dangerous an element in American affairs as the revolutionary tendency and ignorance of our institutions that leads a considerable class of foreigners in our midst to look to bloodshed, rather than to peaceful means, for the settlement of grievances and differences.

A remarkable change has certainly taken place in Chicago, and it seems to have dated from the organization of these economic conferences, nearly two years ago. There have been held under the auspices of the Economic society large meetings really representative of all classes, and particularly the wage workers; and they have been addressed by men widely differing in their ideas and methods, but united by a common purpose of seeking to discover the wrongs in existing social conditions with a view to remedying them.

The speaker at the very first of these meetings was Mr. George A. Schilling, who discussed the social problem from the standpoint of a philosophic anarchist. The next speaker was Mr. Lyman J. Gage, a banker, who, before practically the same audience that had listened to Mr. Schilling, defended the national banking system, and was treated throughout his address with the utmost courtesy and given occasional applause. Socialism was defended by Mr. T. J. Morgan at one meeting and opposed by Mr. Franklin J. MacVeagh at another. The views of the Knights of Labor and the trades-unionists were ably presented, and an audience of workmen listened respectfully to a radical presentation of the employers' side of the labor question by Mr. Franklin Head. Mr. John Z. White and others ably presented the single tax as the remedy for existing ills.

All this was during 1888 and 1889. The winter season for 1889 and 1890 began with an address by Lyman J. Gage, president of the Economic club, and the second lecture was delivered by Father Huntington, his subject being the Christian church and its attitude toward social reform. Edward Osgood Brown, another single tax man, discussed at the next meeting "The Abolition of Privilege." Free trade, protection and manual training were topics discussed by other speakers, and Mr. Robert Lindblom, a notable speculator of the Chicago board of trade, discussed the influence of speculation on prices in a speech, extracts from which were printed in the last issue of THE STANDARD. Speeches have since been made by General M. M. Trumbull and Mr. Darrow.

The great advantage of these conferences has been that they have brought together men of widely different views who have listened respectfully one to

another, and the result has unquestionably been to soften the asperities and lessen the bitterness that so often characterize differences of opinion on social and economic topics. The bankers, lawyers and business men who have eageraly embraced the opportunity to discuss such questions freely and fully with workingmen have set an example that should be followed generally, and they have been true peacemakers in Chicago, promoting good understanding, rational discussion and sanity of thought and action.

O'BRIEN VS. DAVITT.

There are a great many people in New York who will read without any surprise Rev. Harold Rylett's remarks on William O'Brien's hostility to Michael Davitt's work in establishing a workingmen's federation in Ireland. Mr. O'Brien came to this country in the fall of 1887 to beg money for the support of the home rule movement in Ireland. At that time the united labor party, with a single tax platform, was a factor in our politics. It offered Mr. O'Brien a reception, basing its desire to honor him on the fact that the workingmen of New York were fellow sufferers with the Irish people from the world-wide curse of landlordism. Mr. O'Brien refused to be present at the reception unless the allusions to the people's ownership of land were stricken from the address of welcome. The committee refused, and a mass meeting of workingmen was held, without Mr. O'Brien, at which there was much plain talk about the greed and selfishness that characterized appeals for American money to sustain an Irish movement, whose leaders shut their eyes to the great wrong that the Irish people are suffering in common with the poor of all lands.

Mr. O'Brien, after turning his back on the working people of New York, flung himself unreservedly into the hands of those politicians who work the Irish cause for all that it is worth, and he went back to Ireland with plenty of cash, after having struck a powerful and telling blow at the sympathy and good will with which the working people of this city had so long regarded their fellow victims of landlordism across the sea. For the sake of one fat purse he diminished for all time the golden stream that America has poured into the coffers of the home rulers.

Mr. O'Brien is again compelled to face in Ireland the dilemma that he faced in New York. Again he shows that he is the politician ready to sacrifice principle to success, and that he is not to be trusted as a faithful defender of the Irish masses. Michael Davitt has before now allowed himself to be silenced by such men as Mr. O'Brien. We hope he will do so no more, but go ahead unflinchingly on the lines he has just laid down. The Irish question is the land question, and the land question is the great question of the common people throughout the world.

BLOOD TAXES.

The Philadelphia Evening Telegraph, a republican paper, protests against the proposals to reimpose the duty on quinine as an effort to re-enact a "repealed blood tax." The story of the quinine tax, as told by the Telegraph, is instructive. Quinine was placed on the free list in 1879. The price of the drug just before the repeal of the tax was $3.50 per ounce; now it is 49 cents per ounce. In the days of taxed quinine there were only four or five important quinine factories in the United States, and the finished product was imported only in very small quantities. Occasionally, when domestic quinine went up to $6.50 per ounce, the foreign article came in; but the importation was followed by an instant reduction in the price of the domestic product sometimes to $2 per ounce.

When the movement to repeal the duty developed strength in 1879 the five domestic manufacturers of quinine whimpered that without the aid of the tariff they must retire from business. One Jones was especially earnest in his protest against the proposed repeal of the tax. Not one of them did retire, however, and the quinine makers are paying now as high wages as they paid before 1879. They are still prosperous, and at least one of the proprietors is several times a millionaire.

This is not enough, however, and these pampered gentlemen still lust after the flesh pots of protection. At a recent meeting of the drug exchange a resolution was passed favoring the reimposition of the quinine duty. On this occasion one Jones, whether or not identical with him of 1879 does not appear, declared that there was as good reason for the tax on quinine as for any other tariff tax, and that for his part if he were not allowed his part of the plunder he would turn free trader. Of course Jones did not put it in this brutal way, but this was what he meant, and Jones is right. As the quinine tax was an indefensible robbery of the people, so is the wool tax, the iron tax and the rest.

The Republican Evening Telegraph warns the quinine manufacturers that they can no more expect to get their blood tax reimposed than they can hope to obtain cinchona bark from the moon. It shows, too, that had the grippe come when quinine was still taxed, the little pills that were so necessary to the cure of that disease would have cost at least fifty cents a dozen instead of twelve and a half cents a dozen, the price at which they were often sold during the epidemic. When will the Evening Telegraph learn that the wool tariff, for example, is also a "blood tax," so levied as to place sanitary clothing beyond the reach of millions, and that a dozen other tariff taxes not only retard our growth in material prosperity, but assail the health and shorten the lives of our countrymen?

TAMMANY'S FOLLY.

Having said my word through a recent issue of THE STANDARD in defense of Tammany, its latest performances on the ballot reform issue impels me to at least a partial recantation. That the "new Tammany" has given us the best city government that we have enjoyed for a long time, I think few fair minded men will dispute—unless they are writers for anti-Tammany newspapers; and that this is the outcome of keen political sagacity, which recognizes the importance of holding the public confidence so laboriously recovered after the rascality of Tweed and the blundering of Kelly, is equally beyond question. But here is a great popular movement in favor of a pure ballot, which emanated from the classes on which Tammany especially relies for support, and was advocated both within and without the labor party by many who never went the full length of the single tax programme; which to the meanest intellect is destined to succeed and can only be staved off even for a comparatively brief period; and yet for the sake of backing up an intriguing politician, who is jealous of Tammany's strength and never misses an opportunity to give it a back-handed blow, this great organization, legitimately representing over 100,000 voters, deliberately chooses to play tail to Hill's kite and block temporarily the reform that it cannot ultimately prevent.

Nor has it the excuse of fighting for self-preservation. The great mass of Tammany's followers do not have to be bought or bullied into voting its ticket. Its enemies or treacherous allies have profited most by recent carnivals of bribery. Hewitt in 1886, and Fellows in 1887, were supported by Tammany, it is true, but Tammany certainly gained little from their success. The corruption in 1888 all went to help the republican presidential ticket, while Tammany's overwhelming victories in that and the succeeding year were won in as fair a fight as it is possible to have under existing electoral methods. Ballot reform will hold such an organization to strict accountability, but that should surely have no terrors for Tammany's present leaders, holding power, as they do, solely because at the moment they command popular confidence, a confidence that they are certain to forfeit when they fly in the face of a popular demand such as confronts them on this ballot question. That the reform is not wanted by the local republican machine is abundantly evident to any one who has had to do with the petition in its behalf. Individual republicans, like Mr. Teall at central headquarters, or Mr. Work, in the Seventh assembly district, have borne their share loyally; but it is the single tax men and the genuine Cleveland democrats who have done most of the work. No one is deceived by the advocacy of the rotten remains of the county democracy, or imagines that it means anything more than a desire on the part of the pirates who run this machine to tickle their few respectable backers and borrow something of Grover Cleveland's popularity. The unaccountable thing is that Tammany's shrewd leaders do not act upon this knowledge, as open to them as to any one else.

Politics in New York city must inevitably be somewhat of a business. Its details are too burdensome for men to devote themselves to its pursuit except for substantial reward; and nothing would be more unfortunate—if it were possible—than for our municipal government to fall into the hands of the never-ending grumblers who boast that they are not professionals, and prove it most effectively by neglecting such little practical work as they occasionally have a chance to do. The real thing to be desired is that the machine in power should be as honest as can be got; that it should represent a majority of the voters and therefore be responsible; that it should possess such political sagacity as will keep it on correct lines; that, in short, it should be such a business concern as the people can safely trust to attend to their political business. The county democracy never answered these requirements, and now that it is dead it had much better remain dead; but Tammany for a while gave us good promise, not only in its public administration, but perhaps even more by purifying its own ranks by excision of some of its useless members. That it should now go backward so wofully, and even against its own interests, cannot but be a disappointment to many who had become ready to support it as the only local representative of that national party which is making toward free trade, but who must now withhold their allegiance for a worthier object.

E. J. SHRIVER.

A CASE OF DECENT POVERTY.

An official blue book has at last been published that throws a light on the real misery of humanity. It is the blue book issued by the English government relative to labor questions. Its value lies in nothing that the government has to say, but in the humble account book of an English cabinetmaker. It is the record of a toiler's forty years of hard work and the awful wall of fate that he tried to pass but that lay always across his path.

In reading this little book, with the gains and expenses of each year accurately noted, one can see the record of a life, can be present almost at the joys, the sorrows and trials of the whole family. The naturalistic school could produce nothing more vivid, real and true.

The book begins the accounting in 1850. The young cabinetmaker earns in the year £38, 16s., 8d., about 15s. a week. That he is simply a bachelor boarder is shown by the note in the book, "board and lodging." His board nearly ate up all his earnings.

His condition improves a trifle. In 1853 he makes £51 in forty-two weeks, for there were several weeks when the factory was closed. The situation weighs upon him. "Four hands for two mouths," he may have thought in 1854, for about this time he marries. The book doesn't say so exactly, but the words "board and lodging" give place to "rent and cost of housekeeping." The gains of this year amounted to £64.

Next year a baby is born. Ah, father, now look out! Your expenses are going to appall even your stout heart.

Yes, here they are on the next page. We turn over and find: "Doctors and nurses, £6." The birth brings trouble, and at the end of the year for the first time in his short career he finds himself in debt. If it were only for the last time. Seventeen pounds he owes, of which £1 is to the baker, £3 to the pawnbroker and £5 on a loan.

The child sickens and dies in 1856. The laconic record in the expense book tells the sad story: "Doctor's fees, £2; interment of our dear Rose, £4, 10s.

And the laborer owes £16. Two years after the birth of the first infant a second was born, and in 1858 the wife was again in good enough health to work, which she no doubt did, for the little book in the receipts mentions the "wages of Fanny." This is the first time her name so figures, but it will appear many times again.

The household is continually in debt, but for £10 only.

In 1860, after ten years of work, the debts are reduced to £7, and the salary of the father of the family brings in £78. He pathetically enumerates the rewards of the ten years which rise to the splendid total of £660 sterling!

In 1864 the household counts five persons, the father, the mother and three children. The father here has paid his debts, and has actually bought a Geneva watch. More singular still, he makes several excursions to the country with his little family. But so far he has found no chance to make the least saving.

His expenses increasing steadily, he is forced to do what so many English workingmen do. He takes a larger house and sublets a part. The expense book tells us all that in stating that his total income that year was £137—£85 from the salary and £52 from the rent of rooms. But the expenses continue to be heavy. His rent is £45 instead of his old £11, and besides he has a dozen pounds of taxes to pay.

The children go to school. The mother, no longer bothered by the cares of maternity, occupies herself more with the needs of the "roomers," or tenants, and makes more money. The book receipts show this. Here they are for 1866: From rent of rooms, £55; salary, £85; earnings of the mother, £8.

That goes a little better, but the more the house makes the more it expends, and nowhere in the book does one see any record of the least investment, for the future, save the assessments paid into the benefit societies.

In 1870, the end of the second decade, our cabinetmaker again falls to counting. What a dreary record it all is! How did he ever have the courage to put it down in black and white? Since 1861 he has received in wages £852, which gives him an average of £1, 12s., 9½d. a week of fifty-three hours of work. This same year, 1870, the eldest daughter, Kate, begins to work. The father gives up his big house rent, and weary of the battle, removes to cheaper quarters. He loses by this considerable revenue, it is true, but his sons have grown and they now go out to work too, and their earnings are added to those of father, mother and sister.

In 1871 the father, mother, Kate and the two brothers, Tom and Fred, make £110. But the old, old story is only to be repeated. If on one side the burdens decrease, they increase on the other. The father has an aged mother whom he has to assist, and there is an unfortunate Uncle Jim to whom a little something must be given. All this results in the debts reappearing in 1872, and the record closes with "£5 in debt."

The next year, it is true, there is a surplus of that amount, but that does not

last long, and in 1874 the deficit has become £32. The oldest daughter probably married about this time, for her earnings disappear from the expense book. But the father and three sons now, Tom, Fred and Henry, make £172 altogether, to which are added £44 which have mysteriously appeared from some renting out. In spite of these receipts the year closes with a deficit of £29, and the family has difficulty in paying the rent, which in fact is paid only in part.

Beginning with 1876 the sons no longer give the father all their salaries, but take board with him and pay in proportion to their earnings. There is now ever and always a deficit. The grandmother becomes a complete charge on the cabinetmaker and the grandfather receives some money.

In 1880, after having worked thirty years and earned £2,422, our cabinetmaker has £25 of debts, and has not succeeded in laying by the least reserve fund. And the years run away without improving the situation. In 1884 the family grows again, for Kate has returned with her two children as a boarder, and Tom's wife also comes in. This makes eight persons in the family. The two grandmothers are dead, and their funeral expenses figure mournfully in the little budget of 1882. But though the children earn more, the wages of the father gradually decrease, until in 1886 they are not more than £56. At the end of thirty-seven years this workman, honest and laborious, after having brought up his family, finds himself in a situation worse than at the beginning, for he has more burdens and earns proportionally less. He pays his rent in installments, and has always something behind which is never paid.

Can any one read that story and not see that there is a base wrong hidden somewhere? Yes; there are plenty who cannot see the truth it bears so plainly in its laconic record. In all the press opinions on this wonderful book, nothing more clearly shows the blindness of intelligent men to facts than the expression of a distinguished French editor.

"With his household resources," he wrote," it is likely that a French housekeeper would have made a number of economics. One of the causes of the misery and difficulties in which English workmen struggle, is the incompetence of the English woman as a housekeeper. These budgets which trace forty years of an English workman's life do not modify this opinion." W. E. HICKS.

A NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

Several weeks ago the Washington club issued a circular soliciting an expression of opinion as to the advisability of holding a representative national (or even international) conference of active advocates of the new political economy. To this Mr. George replied favorably, and suggested the late summer or early fall of this year as the most appropriate time. No one place has as yet been prominently mentioned.

I wish now to make a suggestion to the enrolment committee as regards time and place, which seems to me peculiarly good, and yet so little likely to occur to any one else that I hasten to unload.

The time should be somewhere about the 15th, 20th or 25th of August, and the place Niagara Falls.

About this time of year remarkably cheap excursions run from all the middle and western states to the Falls. This is the time when even the poorest of us feel like taking a vacation; and if the combination of a conference, a cheap summer trip and that glorious and most magnificent wonder of nature which every American desires to see before he dies, cannot bring together a great throng, why nothing can.

The round trip excursion ticket from Cincinnati has always been $5, and from other points something like corresponding rates.

If you hold a conference in New York, Cincinnati would probably strain a point and send at least one delegate. I know of twenty who would go from here to Niagara. I feel sure that with Louisville and Covington, and a few picked up from further south, we could start from here a special car, loaded and decorated. There is one crowd of us who would take a tent with us and camp out for a few days.

Held at any other point Cleveland might send two or three of her pretty well-to-do members; but held at Niagara, only six hours' ride and $2 or $3 round trip, and I know she would send forty or fifty—probably her own car load.

So through Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Lots of our friends from these points could manage to make a cheap summer excursion to Niagara. How many could we expect from Toledo and Detroit to come to New York? But the run across to Niagara from these points via the Canadian line would be a mere nothing, and we could expect a crowd.

Any friends from the extreme west or south could come here as well as to New York, in most cases considerably cheaper.

How many delegates from Toronto, that stronghold of the single tax, could we expect to come to New York, or Washington, or any American city. Lucky if we got any; we probably wouldn't. But with Niagara just across the lake, and the round trip one dollar or so, and if we didn't have fifty or sixty I would be surprised; and if we had a hundred or more I wouldn't be surprised. The ride up the St. Lawrence is one of the most picturesque in America, and we could safely rely on some friends from Montreal and other lower points in Canada.

Western Pennsylvania and western New York would of course turn out, with the conference right at their doors.

An excursion starting from Boston, passing through Massachusetts, picking up Troy and Albany and running across central New York, would probably bring more friends than even New York city would obtain from New England and New York state.

New York city herself would probably not have more than a hundred active men around a conference hall as local committees, etc. With a $3 or $4 round trip, she and Brooklyn could unquestionably send a special car load to Niagara.

Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington would not be so conveniently situated as regards Niagara, but a car started by the Washington club, and picking up the Baltimore, Wilmington, Philadelphia, Harrisburg and other Pennsylvania men along the route, would certainly pull into Buffalo loaded down.

Buffalo herself would probably turn out as many men for a two days' run down to Niagara as New York would turn out to a conference in a stuffy hall in sweltering August or September.

Niagara would be an added attraction to entice some of our European friends. If they came via the Allan line, the St. Lawrence river and the lake, they could enjoy one of the grandest water trips in the world, and return home via New New city and any Atlantic line. This round trip could be made cheaply.

Mr. George will no doubt be returning home via Europe just prior to this time, and might pick up a party of our transatlantic friends.

The Buffalo club is active and most splendidly organized; they are near enough to Niagara to act as local managers, etc., in the preliminary work of arranging for the conference.

I hope the enrolment committee will give this time and place most careful consideration. I am firmly convinced that five times, yes, ten times, the attendance can be anticipated at Niagara at this time of year, as compared to any other place! DAVID DEBECK, M. D.

Cincinnati, Ohio.

DEATH OF M. ALBERT TOUBEAU.

A letter from M. Charles M. Garnier of Paris conveys the painfully sad news of the death of M. Albert Toubeau, who died at his home in Paris, February 3.

M. Toubeau was in excellent health on the 2d, but on the day after was taken suddenly sick and passed away. M. Toubeau was the head of the single tax movement that had sprung up in France after the visit of Henry George. He was about fifty years of age, a former member of the Paris municipal council and the author of "L'Impot Metrique." At the Paris land congress last June he acted as secretary, and was indefatigable in making Mr. George personally known to the thinkers of Paris. He was one of nature's noblemen. The Brooklyn single tax club has adopted resolutions of regret.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

THE FLOODGATES OF EXPENDITURE LIFTED — MR M'MILLIN'S TERSE EXPLANATION OF THE NEW METHODS OF PASSING BILLS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE AND THE TARIFF BILL—SIGNS OF THE RADICAL TENDENCY OF DEMOCRATS IN CONGRESS—"FREE TRADE" HEARD FREQUENTLY IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION—THE PASSAGE OF THE CENSUS BILL—THE DEMOCRATIC CLUBS AND CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS—GOVERNOR BLACK ON BALLOT REFORM AND A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IN PENNSYLVANIA.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 17.—"The flood gates are lifted and you mark my prediction—the treasury will be gutted before the ides of November," said Benton McMillin, member of the house of representatives from Tennessee, yesterday, in speaking to me of the methods of legislation under the new house rules. It will be remembered that Mr. Carlisle said, in his statement published in THE STANDARD last week, that under the proposed rules there would be no way to prevent the majority of the house from taking up for consideration any measure it chooses, at any time it chooses, without reference to the order on the calendar; that the majority could do this by simply having a committee which reported a bill move to have it taken up for consideration by going into a committee of the whole. Mr. McMillin now gives a further explanation of the great changes in the methods of procedure and points out their effects. Mr. McMillin says:

"The barriers which have been kept up by the congresses heretofore by wise rules to prevent hasty and inconsiderate legislation have been broken down. Excessive appropriations will inevitably follow. The changes which have brought about this result are briefly these: Heretofore bills had to be introduced into the open house, and any member might require their reading when introduced. The house itself had control of their reference, and could determine what committees they should go to. Now, under the new rules they simply have to be handed to the clerk, cannot be read, and no notice of their introduction is given to the country until the next day, when some antiquarian, with nothing to do and a vast amount of courage, may delve through the record and pick out the jobs. The speaker refers bills without consulting the house, and his reference can be changed only by unanimous consent. The house itself knows nothing of the bills, and has no power over them until they are reported back by the committees to which they had been referred. Then, even if a bill appropriates a hundred millions, being considered in the committee of the whole, it may be passed by fifty-one members—for a majority of a quorum is required, and a quorum now is only one hundred instead of one hundred and sixty-five, as formerly. Extraordinary powers are given these members by allowing them to limit debate without going back into the house. Then, when the bill comes to the house, it there is no quorum voting on it, the speaker, by the presence of a few members and a vigorous use of pencil and paper, can count a quorum and announce the bill passed, for you know the new rules authorize the speaker to count a bill passed whether a majority voted for it or not. The effect of all this is not only to railroad a bill through, not only to let a minority of the house pass it, but to pass it with only one reading in the house of representatives. The wind has been sown: the whirlwind will be reaped. Ancient rules and rulings have amounted to nothing; the opinions of all statesmen who ever talked on the subject have amounted to nothing in this wild and reckless clamor for an increase of the power of the speaker, and for a decrease of the power of the individual member, when the ultimate object was to get into the treasury."

It may be worth while in passing to observe one point raised in the conflict in the house, and about which there seems to be a great deal of misunderstanding; that is, what the minority has been trying to effect. This is brought out in Mr. McMillin's speech toward the close of the debate on the rules. The passage reads as follows:

"Sir—This is not simply a question of rules, but an effort to sustain the constitution itself, that constitution from which we cannot depart without ruin. Gentlemen on the other side of this chamber have said this is an effort to enable the minority to rule and to prevent the majority from ruling. I deny it. It is an effort to prevent the majority from ruling with a mere minority. It is an effort to prevent the majority elected and sent here to do business from sending part of their numbers fishing, part hunting and part off to attend to their own affairs and then doing work with a minority. It is an effort to prevent the speaker, with the use of pen, a pencil and paper, from counting a quorum, which they have not in their seats to do business, and to prevent them from proceeding with a less number than the constitution requires. This is the effort that was made by the speaker last week without rules, and is attempted to be embodied in the rules now."

The ways and means committee is hard at work on the new tariff bill. I am informed by one of the members that the democrats are interfering little with the plans of majority, preferring to reserve their fire until the bill is reported to the house. The majority has taken the senate bill of two years ago as the basis of its operations. Some few things will be marked quite low on the schedules, and to these reductions it is expected the republicans will point as an evidence of their good faith toward "tariff reform," which Joseph Medill, speaking for the republicans of the northwest, asserted in an interview here this week to be one of the missions of that party. I am assured, however, that these reductions will be more than counterbalanced by increased duties on other things, so that, taken as a whole, the bill will embody a higher tariff than we now have. All sorts of rumors float from the committee room relative to the strife of greedy interests—making it impossible to say with anything like precision what the details of the bill will be, or when the bill will be ready for presentation.

When the bill does come into the house a spirited debate may be expected. It will call forth much more radical utterances in respect to the taxation question than when, two years ago, the democrats, with but a scant majority, were compelled to defend, in an apologetic way, the provisions of the Mills bill. Mr. Mills himself shows his freedom from restraint by recent utterances. Among other things he says: "Wealth, therefore, and wages are increased by the removal of all impediments between producers and consumers; and the converse of the proposition is equally true, that wealth and wages are decreased by every impediment interposed between the producer and the consumer." Mr. Mills furthermore quotes a very strong passage from a decision of the supreme court of the United States, to the effect that "to lay with one hand the power of the government on the property of the citizen, and with the other to bestow it upon favored individuals to aid private enterprises and build up private fortunes, is none the less a robbery because it is done under the form of law and is called taxation." Plainly the tariff discussion is broadening out to a consideration of the fundamental principles of taxation, and men who are free traders in heart—and I have met many of them at the capitol—are no longer afraid, in private conversation at least, to say so. "Tariff reform" is less and less heard, while "free trade in raw materials" is pressing to the front. And even this phrase is beginning to lose its restricted meaning with the tendency to concede that pretty much everything is a "raw material." There are evidences that the activity of our single tax men all over the country is having its effect. "I do not know much about the single tax," says a congressman from the northwest, "but certain it is that I am not disposed to fall out with those people who are working to rid the country of indirect taxation. I am a firm believer in the theory of free trade, and I recognize nothing valid in the arguments in opposition to it, except that duties on imports are so easily collected as to render tariff taxes desirable. I am unalterably opposed to a 'protective' system of tariff taxation." The keynote was struck by another congressman, who said: "The democratic party must come to advocate free trade; not because it is expedient, but because it is right!"

Mr. Cleveland's example of boldly speaking out has done much to give democrats in congress the courage of their convictions. Speaker Reed's breaking away from precedent and seizing all-powerful means of effecting legislation has also made a deep impression. It has awakened some of these democratic congressmen, as nothing else could, to a keen sense of that "menace of plutocracy" which before had come to them only as vague and distant murmurings. It has drawn the lines sharper between the party of privilege and the party which, as Roger

Q. Mills says, is naturally the enemy of privilege. "The arbitrary rulings of the speaker and the subsequent fight over the proposal to deprive the minority of many of its accustomed rights and to cut short debate, embodied in the new rules of the house, will shake up some of the statesmen on our side," said an experienced and cool-headed member of the minority to me the other day. "It will make them drop interests, which it cannot be denied have hitherto to some extent influenced them, or it will drive them over with those interests into the other camp. The struggle will no doubt be a sharp one, but they'll come through all right, and be all the more ready because of their tussle to join with us in the great fight that is coming on."

From evidence like this it is clear that what is left of the old-time Randall Gorman-Dana influence is fast wasting away. As for Governor Hill, he never had any real influence that I can discover, and all hope of getting encouragement for his presidential aspirations from the more prominent congressmen has been crushed by the revelation that his bad record on ballot reform has raised him up bitter foes among such loyal and prominent democrats as are found in the ballot reform league and the New York reform club.

I met a gentleman this week who came to be a free trader through a singular experience. Some few years ago he was engaged with some Boston capitalists in opening coal lands in Nova Scotia with the view to bringing cheap coal to New England. Just when everything was ready the United States put a duty on imported coal and the project had to be given up. This gentleman, however, found consolation in the reflection that a tariff was a good thing any way, because it raised the workingman's wages, and that coal workers in the United States must be all the more prosperous for that duty which had worked him and his company harm. Not long after that he was made superintendent of a large rail mill at Brady Bend, Pa., employing a thousand men, and drawing its supply of coal and iron ore from its own mines, which were attached. Things ran along very smoothly until the superintendent heard that the men were going to strike for higher wages. He quietly called to him an old German, who was a sort of overseer in the place, and asked him if he thought workmen could be brought over from Germany to work in the mills The overseer said he thought they could, and he went over there and soon came back with a number of workmen who were quietly set to work. When the time for striking came the superintendent announced that any man who wished to leave could go to the office and receive his pay, and that his place would be filled by a workman from Germany. Three or four of the hottest spirits went out, but the others, seeing that if they left they would not be able to get back again, gave up the effort and returned to work. The superintendent then saw a great light on the labor question. He saw that the tariff had nothing to do with increasing wages; that it simply put the price of products up, and that it did not prevent foreign workmen from being brought over to compete with if not to displace American workmen. He confessed to himself that this thing called "protection" was a great sham and a humbug.

The first business transacted under the new house rules was the passage of the senate bill providing that the eleventh census should show the number of people who own homes and farms, and the extent of home and farm mortgages. The debate was short, and the bill was passed by the overwhelming vote of 183 in favor to 25 opposed. During the discussion Mr. Cannon of Illinois said that he did not believe that this legislation was wise. Mr. Tillman of South Carolina said that the gentleman from Illinois might have half a dozen farmers in his district who were opposed to the bill, but that there were half a dozen thousand farmers elsewhere demanding it.

The executive committee of the National association of democratic clubs met here at the Ebbitt house during the week, in conjunction with a sub committee of the democratic congressional committee, to arrange preliminary matters for a strong tariff fight in next fall's congressional elections. Robert Grier Monroe of New York, chairman of the committee, says that the prospect for the election of an anti-protective democratic congress is very encouraging.

Ex-Lieutenant-Governor Chauncey F. Black came down from Pennsylvania to attend this meeting, being a member of the committee. I called his attention to Governor Beaver's interview relative to ballot reform in Pennsylvania, in THE STANDARD of February 5, in which the governor had taken the ground that the Australian ballot could not be given to the people of that state without a change of the constitution. Governor Black said:

"I think the governor is right. The numbering of ballots required by our constitution is wholly incompatible with the Australian or any other system of secret voting. Some expedients have been suggested to get around the provision, but none of them seem to me to be worth a straw. One of them is that the election officers may be directed by law to turn the margin of the ballot over and seal it so as to conceal the number; that is to say, that we can comply with the constitution by putting the numbers on the ballots and then defeat it by obliterating them. But ballot reform has become so strong in Pennsylvania that newspapers and politicians will not incur the hazzard of square opposition. If defeated at all it must be defeated by stratagems and delays. This the machine republicans, who do not want this reform or any other, understand perfectly, and they will assume to favor the Australian ballot, while resorting to every conceivable device to defeat it. The Scranton Truth, an influential independent newspaper, has taken the ground that a constitutional convention is the straight road and the only one to ballot reform, and the proposition has already attracted a great deal of attention. Such a convention would afford an opportunity to correct many other evils besides those of corrupt elections, and the practical disfranchisement of thousands of workingmen by intimidation. The republican boss machine will naturally oppose a convention, because it would destroy the power of the machine on all sides, break up their methods of carrying elections, and besides this, furnish the people an opportunity to revise the articles on railroads, canals and telegraphs, so as to make them effectual, and also to equalize taxation. The greater grievances of the workingmen, which have been contemptuously regarded by Mr. Quay's legislature, would no doubt also find a proper remedy in such a convention, and it is therefore that labor, organized and unorganized, and the farmers, in the grange and out, will unite with the ballot reformers in favor of the proposition. In that case it would form the main issue in the approaching election, and would not only be carried, but would carry the party whose platform and candidates were so pronounced upon it as to command the confidence of the people."

HENRY GEORGE, JR.

OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

MR. O'BRIEN'S OPPOSITION TO THE ANTI LAND LORD MOVEMENT NOT IN ACCORD WITH MR. PARNELL—MICHAEL DAVITT'S CAMPAIGN—THE ULSTER FARMERS—THE LAND PURCHASE HUMBUG.

MANCHESTER, January 31.—As I anticipated would be the case, Mr. Davitt's action in establishing the Irish democratic labor federation has subjected him to criticism of the usual sort from men whose incapacity to see that there is a social problem is almost proverbial. Mr. William O'Brien seized the first opportunity to denounce the new association. Proceeding the other day to a meetber, viz.: that not to the parliamentary party, who always cursed such action, was the education of the English democracy due, but to Michael Davitt and his friends. Michael Davitt and Henry George, above all other men, revealed to the English masses the real character of the Irish struggle—for only they were listened to. No member of the Irish parliamentary party was listened to by an English audience until long after Henry George and Michael Davitt had traversed England, telling the tale of Irish woe and compelling at length English members of parliament to give heed to the growth of sympathy among English working men toward the cruelly oppressed toilers of Ireland.

And this new move of Mr. Davitt's is on right lines. He places the laborers of the country and the artisans of the towns of Ireland in line with the toilers of England against the common enemy of both, viz, landlordism, and for this Mr. O'Brien screams out about "weakening and dividing." Why does he not give us instead some good reason for his pettish cry. Is the land question of Ireland essentially different from the land question of England? Certainly not. Yet the liberal party of England has by formal resolution declared that no settlement of the land question can be satisfactory which does not provide for a just and equitable taxation of land values and ground rents. Mr. Davitt simply accepts this, and asks that the same principle should be made applicable to Ireland. Mr. O'Brien, who lives in an atmosphere of feverish excitement, knows absolutely nothing of economics, and accordingly cannot see how a union of forces in England and Ireland to overthrow landlordism can be other than weakening and dividing.

Happily Mr. Parnell does not share Mr. O'Brien's view, or want of view. Last year, when I was in London with the nail and chainmakers, I had a long chat with Mr. Parnell in the smoke room of the house of commons, and I then told him that he must not suppose that because he did not hear much of me in connection with the Irish movement I was in any way less earnest and sympathetic. I told him that I had come to the conclusion that the Irish question would never be settled on its own merits, but only by the pressure of English social questions and that accordingly I was engaged in an endeavor to ripen English social questions, with a view to showing the workingmen in England how desirable it was that the Irish question should be settled and got out of the way in order that English questions might be dealt with. Mr. Parnell quite approved of the policy, and expressed his approval warmly. Indeed, he went so far as to say that, with regard to the chain and nail makers of the black country, he had heard they were in a most deplorable condition, and that he hoped I would not allow the Irish question to stand in the way of any effort on their behalf, and "moreover," said Mr. Parnell, "you may confidently rely that we shall remember the help we got from the workingmen of England, and shall be ready to help them in every way we can in return."

The unification of the labor movement, therefore, instead of being regarded as an embarrassment as it is by Mr. O'Brien, is regarded by Mr. Parnell with favor. The fact is that these fawning sycophants, who can never open their lips without indulging in extravagant laudation of Mr. Parnell, really know next to nothing of the Irish leader's mind. They are quite unable to appreciate anything in the nature of a high policy, and accordingly Mr. Parnell proceeds upon his way without as a rule consulting them at all. And thus it is that as a matter of fact it is among these fawning sycophants that the speculations take place as to who is to succeed Mr. Parnell in view of his possible retirement.

An election is pending in the Partick division of Glasgow. The liberal candidate is Sir Charles Tennant. I do not know that that gentleman is in any way remarkable for his views on the land question, but his candidature has been acquiesced in by the labor party because the official liberals have agreed to support labor candidates for several Scottish constituencies at the general election provided that the constituencies themselves accept the candidates. It is quite certain that the labor candidates will be single tax men anyway.

We have had another letter from the duke of Argyll. The duke is a very interesting man. He is a man of some cleverness, but he is also a very little man with a very big opinion of himself, and feels himself at liberty to lecture everybody all round. This time he lectures the world at large and the London council in particular upon the principle of "betterment." The council have in contemplation certain improvements in the great London artery—the Strand—and it is proposed that the cost of these improvements shall in part, at least, be borne by those whose property will be enhanced in value by them. This apparently simple and just proposal rouses the duke's indignant ire, and forthwith he indites a letter to the Times. In the opinion of the duke the principle is bad in every way—bad in the abstract and bad in its applications. The principle asserts, says the duke, "that all enhancements of value which can be directly traced to the operations of society may be justly taken from the producer of commodities so affected, and may be appropriated by the community." Now, his grace adds, "if this be the new 'principle,' it rests entirely on the fallacy which assumes that the value in exchange of any commodity ever is, or ever can be, caused by the producer of it. * * * It is always 'the market' which determines value; and 'the market' is society. If society has a right to take whatever is due to its own appreciation of commodities, it may quite as justly take the whole of that appreciation as any part of it." Then the duke maintains that there is no distinction between land values and other values. "This law (that the market determines value) rules all values," says his grace, and is most conspicuous in the changes of value affecting manual labor. "Wages rise and fall according to movements of society which the workman does nothing to cause and cannot even understand. The genius, the enterprise and the resources of other men—the wants, desires and aspirations of a world-wide market—these are the agencies that determine the value of labor just as they determine the value of all other things. The idea that communities may seize on all enhancements of values which are not the direct result of individual merit is essentially chaotic. It would dissolve society. It would arrest all enterprise. It would at once deprive of all life and elasticity that most powerful of all the springs of industry—the speculative instinct."

Is not that a fine phrase, "the speculative instinct;" and is it not nobly described as "the most powerful of all the springs of industry."

Sir Thomas Farrer replies to the duke, beginning by giving his grace a savage dig by simply reminding him that the chairman of the London county council once spoke of him as "that portentous political pedagogue." Sir Thomas does not waste time in discussing with the Duke his thories of value, but comes promptly to the case before him:

It is not a case where one individual desires what another possesses, and is ready therefore to give him a high price for it. It is a case where society interferes to supply a common want or to make a general improvement, and where, in order to do so, it has to levy a compulsory tax. Upon whom ought such a tax to be levied? Surely upon those whom the improvement benefits; and, so far as our rough methods allow, it ought to be borne by them in proportion to the benefit they receive from the improvement. Is not this the essence of local as distinguished from imperial taxation? Is it not the leading feature of all drainage and sewerage schemes—in short, of all local improvement schemes? This is really the whole meaning of the principle of betterment.

The answer is short, sharp, and to the point, and happily another writer in the Times, in a special article dealing historically with the mode of compensation of owners, etc., comes to the conclusion that "no one can doubt that the time has come for a change."

The Ulster farmers are crying out for a compulsory scheme of land purchase—that is, that the landlords should be compelled to sell—and that the state should aid in such a way as to enable the farmers to get the land by annual payments less than the present rents extending over a number of years. It is rather a cool demand, and the editor of the Manchester Guardian seems half disposed to think so. Commenting upon the demand, he says: "We do not say that the scheme is free from objection. In particular we see no reason why, if the state is to find the money or a great part of it for buying out the landlords, it should not retain at least a portion of their rights. All mineral rights in particular should undoubtedly belong to it, and we see no reason why it should not retain in perpetuity a charge which would virtually be a land tax amounting to say one-fourth of the present rents. If the tenants became owners subject to such a rent as that they would do very well, and the Irish state would be provided with three or four millions of much-needed revenue." It is not a long step the editor of the Manchester Guardian is called upon to take to make him an advocate of the retention by the state of all the landlord's rights. That it is necessary to watch this business of land purchase very closely may be gathered from what has already taken place under the Ashbourne act. Among those who have benefited most ing to which he had not been invited, he first loaded Mr. Parnell with fulsome adulation, and then the honorable member went on to affirm that Mr. Parnell and his party were quite as anxious as anybody else that every man who labored in the land should get the fullest day's wages that he could obtain for a fair day's work, thus insinuating that there was "somebody else and his party" who took a different view. And the insinuation takes complete shape later on, when, after referring to the land, he declared that he "would earnestly impress upon his fellow countrymen that what they had got to do first of all was to win the battle of home rule against coercion. (Cheers.) It would take all the undivided strength and energies and patriotism of the people of Ireland to do that. They were winning, but it was not by folding their arms and talking of programmes for the future."

We are to hold our opinions, but at the same time we are to hold our tongues. I wonder whether when the land league was started Mr. O'Brien held the same course and warned the land leaguers to do nothing that could possibly have the effect of weakening or dividing the forces that were then at work in the direction of home rule. It is quite certain that the honorable gentleman was not a member of the land league until long after its establishment. He joined it like some other of the parliamentary party, when it had made itself such a power that it was an open question as to whether or not the law of the league was the law of the land. Mr. O'Brien was a welcome addition to our ranks. I remember well when the message was brought into the office in Dublin and was communicated to Tom Brennan, how pleased everybody was. Mr. O'Brien should remember these things. He should remember that

it was due to the genius and foresight and determination of Michael Davitt that the revolt against the landlord garrison was of such a formidable character as to render effective parliamentary exploitation at all possible. And another thing he should remember by the act are the marquis of Bath, who has obtained £290,000; the duke of Abercorn, £267,000; the duke of Leinster, £244,000; the Salters' company, £230,000; the marquis of Waterford, £124,000; the Fishmongers' company, £117,000; the Skinners' company, £103,000; Sir T. Barrett Leonard, £106,000; A. S. Hussey, £53,000; G. Lane Fox, £67,000; Sir V. Brook, £83,000; W. Bagwell Purifoy, £14,000; Lord Kilmain, £48,000; the trustees of E. B. Hartop, £45,000; Baron Castletown, £49,000; Henry M'Neil, £37,000; Standish H. Harrison, £34,000; the Hon. C. Godolphin Trench, £36,000; the earl of Normanton, £34,000, and Thos. Osborne, £35,000. All of these gentlemen are supporters of the present government, and some of them are responsible for the passing of the act.

Mr. Morley, whose radicalism on land questions is not very pronounced, has declared at Liverpool that any scheme of land purchase must have regard to the claims of others than those who are owners and occupiers. My own interpretation of all this discussion is that "land purchase," that is to say, the buying out of the Irish landlords, will practically destroy the present government. I am still of opinion that we shall have an election in the autumn.

Mr. Davitt began his brief English campaign against buying out Irish landlords last Tuesday evening in St. James' hall, London. He met with a magnificent reception. It will be seen how the campaign is regarded by friends and foes if I quote a few remarks from Reynolds's newspaper, which may be said to represent the views of the masses on this matter; and then a few words from the Times, which represents the views of the classes. Referring to the figures I have already quoted as having been paid to the Irish landlords, Reynolds says:

All this money was drawn from the pockets of the British workingmen, and it is now the intention of the government to draw as much more with the same selfish object. It is, as we have said, a double robbery they have in contemplation—that of the tenants of Ireland and the workingmen of Great Britain. Will the democracy permit this tremendous fraud to be perpetrated? It is not likely.

The Times, on the other hand, remarks, that Mr. Davitt is against land purchase because "he is avowedly and emphatically hostile to private property in land altogether," and declares that "the success of the land purchase policy is its unpardonable offence in the eyes of not only the apostles of land nationalization, but of Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Parnell and their respective followings." It is probably true that the tenants who have purchased have been punctual in their payments, and so forth. But for the landlords and tories to boast of this is our case. We contend, and have contended all along, that peasant proprietory is a tory landlord buttress. That it should succeed is necessarily an offence in the eyes of those who labor for the overthrow of landlordism.

HAROLD RYLETT.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

Warren, Ill.—(1) By what rule or test may we discover true site value in farmed lands? (2) How much site value have the abandoned farms in New England on which no man can live and pay taxes? (3) How much site value have farms which sell for less than it would cost to duplicate the improvements? (4) Is there site value in a western farm where all the earnings of the family go to the payment of interest upon the mortgage save enough to keep them alive? (5) Is there site value in an unmortgaged farm from which with average industry not enough income could be got to pay average wages? CHAS. BOONE.

(1) By the same rule or test that we discover the site value of any other kind of land. What would the land sell for unimproved?

(2) If the effect of holding for speculation were eliminated they would probably have none.

(3) Whatever they would sell for if the improvements were destroyed.

(4) Probably not. But land value is not measured by what the user can afford to pay for the land; it is measured by the excess it will yield to his labor over what valueless land would yield to the same labor.

(5) If it is really farming land, no. But if it has a useful mine under its surface, or is well located for building purposes, it might have.

In any given case, whether of city land, mining land, or farming land, you can estimate the value by imagining the destruction of all improvements and then considering what, in that condition, the land would sell for. Whatever it would, would be the basis of taxation in the beginning of the single tax. But since the single tax would force a great deal of land into the market, there would be a decline in land values. Hence, it may be fairly assumed that after two or three years of single tax, the average working farmer would be taxed less than in the beginning, and it is certain that in the beginning he would be taxed less than he is taxed now.

* * *

Even the much despised Chinaman can see the justice of the single tax when something happens to draw his attention to it. Last week one of them took a bundle of family washing home. When he told the lady of the house what the washing cost she expressed her surprise in these words, "Why, John, that's too much!" "No, no too much," answered the Chinaman. "But I tell you it is," said the lady; "if your customers all pay you such prices as that, you must be getting rich." "No, no get lich; me welly poo', me wo'k allee time, no money; lanlol catchee all. I fus ope' wash house I pay fo'ty lolla; lanlol come in, he say, 'Ah, John, you heap washee?' I say, 'Yeshee.' Lanlol he say, 'You make money, you pay mo' lent.' I say, 'I no likee pay mo' lent.' Lanlol he say, 'Well, you no pay mo' lent you moof.' I say, 'I no likee moof.' Lanlol he say, 'All light; you pay me sefenty-fi' lolla.' Him no good, but me mus' pay, tuna ma!" The lady could not resist saying to the Chinaman at this point—not dreaming that he had ever heard of George—"John, from the way you talk, you ought to be a Henry George man;" but to her astonishment the Chinaman answered, "Henly Geo'ge, him welly goot man. Chinaman heap sabbe him."

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Here is a straw, taken from a letter sent from Louisville, Ky.: "Five car loads of No. 2 mixed corn was sold last week for 32 cents, which, after freight and charges were paid, netted the farmer in Nebraska but 6 cents a bushel. In Indiana and Illinois farmers are burning corn as fuel. I may be mistaken in my prediction, but I believe these prices indicate hard times. If the farmer cannot realize more than 6 cents a bushel for corn, it stands to reason that he will not have much money to spend."

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A British syndicate is now reported to be seeking to control the principal starch factories of the United States.

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The National cordage company of New York is trying to purchase the Canadian cordage works of Montreal, and a dispatch conjectures that the design of the New York concern is to control the cordage output of both countries.

* * *

Mount Vernon, Mo.—Suppose a widow should be left with a farm and no money. If she were taxed to the full rental value she would land in the poor house. Suppose another widow has sufficient money to live well. Now, both the money and the land have been acquired by the labor of the husband, and one widow has as much right to the result of her husband's labor as the other, and to deprive her of it would be grossly unjust. J. N. SHELTON.

We agree that it would be unjust, and therefore we oppose the system under which it is done, and advocate the single tax.

Under present systems of taxation the widow with the money is practically exempt except so far as she buys things for her own consumption. But the other widow must pay taxes not only on what she consumes, but also on the value of her improvements and of her land.

Under the single tax neither of these widows would be taxed except on the value of the valuable land they owned. The widow with the farm would have no tax to pay unless the land of her farm was valuable. No matter how valuable her farm might be, she would be untaxed if the land was not valuable. Now, notoriously the land value of farms is a small proportion of the whole value, and if taxes were confined to land values farmers would pay much lower taxes than now.

There is as clear a moral difference between the right to land and the right to money as there is between the right to a slave and the right to a plow. But it is not necessary to consider that difference with reference to your question, since the farmer's widow would pay lower taxes under the single tax than she is now required to pay..

* * *

The Boston Globe the other day printed an article on "the charity soup question," and in the course of it showed that it took a thousand dollars in money to distribute four hundred dollars' worth of soup. Evidently the distributors of the charitable soup do not intend to be left in the "soup."

* * *

In THE STANDARD of January 29 appeared an item credited to the Chicago Herald, over which we put the heading "All in the Mire." It seems that the Chicago Herald took it, without credit, from the New York Remedy of November 30, 1889—from an article written to that paper by Daniel Cavanagh, secretary of the West side single tax club. THE STANDARD makes it a point, always, to give proper credit, but in this case it was misled.

* * *

The Real Estate Record and Guide has obtained the views of various persons on the eight hour question. John J. Roberts, a builder, insists that the eight hour day must reduce the aggregate amount of work done by men now employed. He thinks forty per cent of outside workers are idle in winter. He realizes that the builders in struggles with workingmen fight the battles of the "owners." Other builders took much the same vein, but most of them seemed content to face the eight hour day if a year's notice of its institution were given. Half a dozen mechanics at Clarendon hall talked with the paper's reporter. They were all for shorter hours. Some wished time for reading, others for sleep, others for general recreation. One man testified that he had worked steadily for five years and was just able to support his family in moderate comfort. When he fell ill, once, however, all his savings went. The secretary of a labor organization thought that work on the new court house should not be given to outside contractors, because New York workingmen could not compete with those of places where wages are lower and hours longer. One capitalist declared eight hours a day long enough for any man to work. He would expect to pay more for building with an eight hour day, but he thought the loss would in the end fall on the rent payer.

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Harrisburg, Pa.—In the Popular Science Monthly for May, 1888, David A. Wells says that the value of land over a large area of the earth's surface has declined. What is the explanation of this fact, if it be a fact, and if a fact does it accord with the doctrine of Henry George that while all sorts of products steady fall in value the value of land steadily rises? EDWIN W. JACKSON.

It does not accord with the doctrine to which you refer, and it is not a fact.

Mr. Wells's reference is to real estate, not to land as distinguished from improvements, and it is mainly to agricultural real estate. Some of the data upon which he bases his conclusion are instances of the abandonment of particular land because the peculiar product of such land has been superseded in the market by something else; and curiously enough his conclusion is founded in part upon the poverty of land cultivators.

It is doubtless true that some land, irrespective of improvements, has fallen in value. This may be the case with eastern farming land, in consequence of the transfer of agriculture to the west, and the failure as yet of any profitable industry to take its place. It was the case with Oil City, when its population fell off. It would be the case with coal mines if a cheap or superior substitute for coal were discovered. But let it be observed that though land values may fall in some places they rise in others. If New England farming land has fallen in value, western farming land has risen. If Oil City lots are cheaper, the lots of other cities are dearer. Taking the civilized world as a whole, and no one has yet asserted, nor will any one pretend to assert that the aggregate of land values, agricultural, mining and city, is not greater than at any previous period.

It must not be forgotten either, that when a farm is said to be worth less now than formerly, the depreciation may be in the improvement value and not in the land value. Nor should you be misled, as Mr. Wells has been, by the notion that the value of particular land may be ascertained by deducting the cost or even the value of its improvements from the selling price of the real estate. It is often said that New England farms will not sell for the value of the improvements; but if this be so it does not prove that the land has no value. It only proves that the value of the improvements is out of proportion to the value of the land. It would be possible to construct a building on the most valuable lot in New York city which would be so nearly useless in that location as to make the land worth nothing if the cost of the building were deducted from the selling price of the whole. The Equitable building, if it stood in a mining village of Pennsylvania, would not sell for enough, land included, to pay the cost of the structure; yet it cannot be inferred that land in mining villages has no value.

* * *

The people of New Brunswick, N. J., lately had a demonstration of how taxing improvements works. Claus Spreckles, the great sugar refiner, after having put up a refinery in Philadelphia costing in the neighborhood of $4,000,000, decided to build another, and he intended to erect it at New Brunswick, but the high rate of taxation proved an obstacle. So Bound Brook gets the refinery, in the building of which over a million dollars will be spent in various forms of labor, and in which, after it is built, 500 workmen will be employed.

* * *

The New York Herald has been interviewing the printers of New York city on the eight hour question. It finds they are in favor of it; in fact, nearly all the trade has been working on the eight hour plan for over two years. This will be a surprise to those "representative" workingmen who have been talking eight hours while their constituency has been working from ten to fourteen.

* * *

The Evening News of last Saturday says that a number of capitalists have concluded to enter the printing business at Sing Sing by fitting up an office in the state prison, and then doing all of the work of a general printing office—composition, electrotyping and presswork. Their contract is made, running three years, and it is supposed that at the beginning there will be about ninety convicts available for this purpose. The state will charge five cents a thousand for corrected matter, and sixty cents a day for stonemen and pressmen. The company will have a large establishment and will need enough work to keep going. Therefore New York, Philadelphia, Albany and Boston will be ransacked for orders. From the price above stated, as given to the state, this company will be able to cover cost at about thirty-five cents a thousand ems, and make plates at two-thirds of a cent per square inch. There can be, a representative of the house said, "no strikes, no chapels, no drunks." The wheel goes round and round.

* * *

Louis Lesaulnier of Red Bud, Ill., writes that he has adopted a new plan of getting his customers and friends to thinking. He tells them that Henry George has found a way, the adoption of which will render all taxation, of whatever kind, unnecessary; and, to make it more effective, he offers a reward of $100 to any one who can show him a better and, at present, more practicable way. Here is a chance for some opponent of the single tax idea to make a "century."

* * *

Minneapolis, Minn.—Who is the author of the excellent platform under the heading "Single Tax News" in THE STANDARD? Is that platform published in tract form? I should like to distribute a thousand or so if I could get them in cheap form. Please answer in THE STANDARD, and oblige, truly yours, W. A. CARPENTER.

Henry George is the author of the platform inquired about. We will issue it in tract form if we receive orders for 5,000 copies at $1.50 a thousand—that is, 4,000 in addition to the 1,000 ordered by Mr. Carpenter.

* * *

Staten island is not a very fruitful field as yet for the single tax workers, but there are signs that the seed is germinating, and with persevering effort a crop of single taxers will finally be raised which will vie with any. At a late meeting on the island, the audience, as is usual on Staten island, sat cold and unresponsive while the practical part of the great problem was set out by one and the beauty of the moral side portrayed by the other of the two earnest exhorters who have lately made the island a point of attack. Finally the time came for questioning, and both speakers hoped, "as a favor to them," in the usual persuasive single tax way, to get some one in the audience to knock a chip off. In vain; not a man budged. A well known judge, a republican and protectionist, sat in that audience while the speakers reviled protection, proclaimed free trade and in every fashion trailed their coats on the ground to get just one Staten islander to tread thereon. Oh, they had gone down thirsting for gore, and simply yearned for a fight! In vain. The moments passed in silence and the chairman thought of adjournment, when suddenly arose a young man in the midst of the audience. The speakers glanced at each other. "He means business," said one. "My friends," said the man, "you all know me here, where I have worked hard for twenty years. I want to say that I *know* the single tax is just and right. It all came to me lately when the assessor raised the assessment on my house which I had had newly painted. Now I have worked hard and saved some little money, and as long as I left it in bank it drew me four per cent, and I had no care or anxiety about it. The bank took it and cared for it and paid me four per cent, while I did nothing. But now that I employ a painter and use my money in making my home better, I am fined because of it. But this is not all. I find that I own a lot and a quarter in this village and for that pay much more in taxes than certain neighbors proportionally, who own acres and whose land is benefitted by the village improvements, but who pay little or nothing, as their land is assessed so low."

GEORGE IN CALIFORNIA.

FAREWELL—FEB. 8, 1890.

Farewell! farewell! the good ship speeds
  Upon her shining, billowy way.
Farewell! farewell! the land recedes,
  Where fond and loyal hearts must stay.
Oh! richly freighted, forth she goes,
  With treasure from the golden shore!
And every wind that o'er her blows,
  Like eager herald flies before.

Where Honolulu's tropic isle
  Earth's ghastliest anguish hides from view,
That message—like an angel's smile—
  Would whisper of God's purpose true.
And where the sister islands lift
  Volcanic summits to the sky,
With tidings of the heavenly gift
  Still doth the tireless herald fly.

Then, onward—o'er the trackless foam
  Of ocean's mightiest domain;
Australia beckons 'till he come,
  Outstretching hands of welcome fain.
Oh, herald wind! blow fresh and free,
  Round headland bold and peopled slope,
And say: He sails the southern sea—
  Apostle of a world-wide hope!

Oh, herald wind! since shone the light
  On captive Judah's hills of old,
And strains celestial, thro' the night,
  Earth's coming joy and peace foretold;
Thou hast not borne such message glad,
  As on *this* wondrous day is thine:
Deliverance to the prisoner sad,
  And light to those who grope and pine!

Oh, purpose of the ages vast!
  That, blinded, we were slow to see.
Oh, bitter thrall that ends at last!
  Oh, glorious era yet to be!
Emerging from the shadow dim,
  Our dazzled eyes behold the ray;
Our souls would own our debt to *him*—
  God's prophet! *who hath shown the way.*

FRANCES M. MILNE.

San Luis Obispo.

A GREAT WEEK.

SPLENDID MEETING IN SAN FRANCISCO AND OAKLAND—THE BANQUET—ADDRESSING THE MINISTERS—GREETINGS FROM OLD FRIENDS—SAILING AWAY UNDER THE AMERICAN FLAG FOLLOWED BY CHEERS.

In the last issue of THE STANDARD we printed a dispatch from Judge Maguire, giving a brief account of the ovation to Henry George in San Francisco. The San Francisco papers have since come to hand, and they are filled with accounts of his reception and the meetings he addressed. All of them devote much space to him, but the republican papers display an amusing petty malevolence. The Evening Bulletin, for instance, in a sketch of his life, simply remarks of the momentus campaign of 1886, that Mr. George "was an unsuccessful candidate for the mayoralty of New York." The story of Mr. George's progress, as told by the California papers, is as follows:

At several stations along the line between Los Angeles and San Francisco there were gatherings of enthusiastic single tax men who received Mr. George with cheers, and pressed forward to shake hands with him. At Martinez the San Francisco single tax delegation, consisting of Judge Maguire, Joseph Leggett, W. P. Plunkett, Charles C. Terrill, Walter Gallagher, Dr. E. R. Taylor and James H. Barry, met the incoming train and pressed forward to shake hands with Mr. and Mrs. George. Several newspaper reporters accompanied the delegation, and they were eager to interview the author of "Progress and Poverty." The correspondent of the Examiner said: "A gentleman fifty years of age and no taller than the first Napoleon, looked out of the window of the west bound Pullman yesterday afternoon at Lathrop. * * * It was Henry George, California's political economist, who has caught the world's ear and interested its intellect." The correspondent rode with Mr. George from Lathrop to Martinez. In the course of the ride, Mr. George, looking out the window, said:

This is God's country sure enough. And yet California is foolish enough to shout for a protective tariff. Why, all her interests are with free trade. The tariff puts the republics to the south of you further away commercially than they are from England. You ought to have an immense commerce with Mexico, Central and South America and Australasia, but you choose to warn their goods away from you with a shotgun. California should be a great manufacturing state, but you think it good for you to pay a duty of seventy-five cents a ton on the coal you get from British Columbia. You are distinguished victims of the superstition that it is well to make dear the things you need most.

Mr. George arrived in San Francisco on Tuesday, February 4, and drove straight to the Lick House, where he and Mrs. George were greeted by many old friends and new admirers. On that evening Mr. George addressed a meeting at Metropolitan hall. The Morning Call, a hostile paper, says, in its report of the meeting, "Henry George, the single tax advocate, has good reason to be proud of his reception in this city on the occasion of his first address on the principles that he advocates. Metropolitan hall did not have sufficient chairs to accomodate all who wanted to hear the orator. Long before 8 o'clock people were turned away." Shortly before 8 o'clock, Mr. George accompanied by his former partner, William H. Hinton, and Hon. James G. Maguire, Joseph Leggett and Walter Gallagher, came upon the platform. The appearance of the party was greeted by storms of applause. Before the lecture, James H. Barry gave an admirable recitation of an original poem of welcome, written for the occasion by Mrs. Frances Milne, who had come up from San Luis Obispo, a distance of 150 miles, accompanied by her mother, a woman over eighty years of age, who is equally an enthusiast in behalf of the new movement. The poem, which is printed in the San Francisco Star, was as follows:

OWN HIM THINE.

She waits beside the Golden Gate,
  Her Prophet's coming from afar:
Why hast *thou* welcome, loth and late,
  Who watched the rising of his star?
Thine eyes were held: 'twas not for thee,
  Dazzled by fevered dreams of gold;
But—passed that wild delirium—see
  The heavenly vision yet unfold!

Oh, beautiful upon thy hills,
  Their feet who publish tidings glad!
Methinks, from slope to slope there thrills
  The primal joy that Eden had.
And once again earth hears the word
  Our heritage and charge proclaim;
To dress and keep thy garden, Lord,
  In conscious manhood, free from shame.

O sapphire skies, whose boundless arch
  Bids still aspire the spirit's view!
Beneath thy splendor yet shall march
  The ransomed people seers knew.
O vine-clad hill and rushing stream!
  O valley laughing to the sun!
Thou wilt fulfill the poet's dream,
  In that new era—just begun.

No more shall Greed's despoiling hand
  The luster of thy beauty mar;
No more a sordid tyrant stand,
  Earth's bounty from her sons to bar;
But generous Nature wealth bestow,
  And toil in interchange be blest;
For peace shall like a river flow,
  When Man hath brotherhood confessed.

A welcome! For our Prophet comes!
  Denied, rejected by us long;
Let voices from ten thousand homes
  Uplift the glad thanksgiving song!
He comes! to bid new manhood speak;
  To helpless childhood, joy restore;
To dry the tear on woman's cheek,
  And tell the hopeless—hope once more.

Oh, city by the Golden Gate!
  The time appointed comes to thee;
And unborn ages on thee wait,
  To join the march of destiny.
Wilt thou not hear—on this, thy day—
  The herald of a truth divine?
Oh, haste! repent thee of delay!
  Thy Prophet cometh—*own him thine!*

Judge Maguire next called the meeting to order, telling how he became converted to the doctrine of the single tax, saying that after this he saw things in a new light. Hope came from the suggestion, and he became a soldier in the ranks of the single tax movement. He said: "These same thoughts have now girdled the world, and Henry George wields an influence greater than any man of his age. It is not necessary to introduce him to a San Francisco audience; he is the first economist of the Nineteenth century." The report of the Examiner says: "For fully five minutes after stepping to the front of the stage Mr. George looked upon a scene of wild applause."

[The San Francisco Star prints Mr. George's speech in full, and we shall reprint it in THE STANDARD next week.—ED.]

Mr. George was constantly interrupted by applause. As the first lecture was a paid one, and many persons who had tried to obtain twenty-five-cent seats in the galleries had been turned away because of overcrowding, Mr. George announced that he would deliver a free lecture in the same place on the following Friday evening. After the lecture was over Mr. C. A. Wetmore gave a supper to Mr. George and a number his old friends.

On Wednesday evening, February 5, a banquet under the auspices of the single tax society, was given to Mr. George at the Delmonico. One hundred and fifteen guests sat down at the table and Judge Maguire presided. The speeches were witty and clever, that of ex Judge Robt. Farrell being notably so. His reminiscences of old times with Mr. George in San Francisco were received with shouts of laughter by everybody, including the guest of the evening.

When Mr. George was finally introduced he was received with the wildest cheering and applause, and the papers say he was visibly affected by the heartiness of the greeting from old friends.

On Thursday afternoon Mr. George was given a reception at the Lyceum hall of the Y. M. C. A. There were present a large number of clergymen and others from San Francisco and Oakland.

Mr. George spoke for nearly two hours of the single tax, and in the course of his speech said:

At the bottom of the subject of taxation lies a religious question and sentiment. If the universe be God's work, its laws are His laws, and when we find the laws made by man working terrible hardships we know that we have gone astray, and we must get back to His will.

We all know that in our communities there is much undeserved poverty; hard, biting, degrading poverty. There is more than physical suffering. Look, too, at the great amount of vice and crime running through it, born of want and the fear of want.

We hold that the conditions of to-day are not the conditions God intends; that He is no niggard, and that there is enough for all—except the sluggard.

On Friday evening Metropolitan temple was crowded by a great audience. The Examiner, in its report of the meeting, said:

There was not a vacant seat in Metropolitan temple last night when Henry George appeared on the platform. Hundreds unable to find seats stood in the aisles and along the walls.

Woolen-shirted workingmen sat side by side with elegantly dressed women—the audience was thoroughly republican and cosmopolitan, and all the different elements that went to make up the crowd were equally enthusiastic, and the frequent applause shook the building.

The Examiner of Sunday morning, February 9, printed a picture of Mr. George, and devoted fourteen columns to an interview with him, and to interviews with well-known workingmen on the subject of the single tax. Mr. George's talk was largely devoted to criticising the stupid folly that makes California support the protective policy, but he also answered numerous questions put by the reporter concerning the single tax. The interviews with workers were curious.

Some of those interviewed declared that they had really never given any attention to the single tax doctrine until Mr. George's arrival in San Francisco a few days before. A majority declared themselves believers in the single tax, and a very considerable number of others said that, while not entirely familiar with it, or convinced that it would accomplish all that Mr. George expects, they were favorably impressed with the idea. Two or three of the officers of the labor unions, while expressing approval of the single tax doctrine, declared that organized labor was disposed to hold itself aloof from Mr. George personally, because they did not regard him as in sympathy with their methods. W. A. Bushnell, president of the Council of federated trades, said he saw nothing to quarrel with in the single tax idea, and that he did not attach much importance to the statement that Mr. George had expressed himself in disapproval of trades unions. Mr. Bushnell said that he understood that Mr. George regarded the unions as kindergartens, and "the crudest form of protective organization." He added: "Perhaps he isn't far wrong in this, but dyed-in-the-wool trades union men like myself are very much inclined to the belief that it will be just such 'primitive organizations' as ours which may finally make his theory something more than a theory."

The only men interviewed who declared themselves unequivocally against Mr. George were a blacksmith, who boasted that he had become an employer; a woodcarver, who makes his principal income by writing for the papers; and a cigarmaker, who, like the other two, was a violent protectionist. The blacksmith seemed disposed to boast that he had not read Mr. George's works, though he unhesitatingly expressed his opposition to the principles advocated in them.

Editorially, the newspapers, as a rule, treated Mr. George with courtesy. The Chronicle, however, showed that it was absolutely unfamiliar with his ideas, and actually misrepresented them editorially in the same paper in which it printed a very fair report of his lecture.

The Evening Post published a fac simile of Mr. George's autograph, and underneath it the legend, "Founder of the Evening Post, author of 'Progress and Poverty' and the noted political economist and reformer." It says:

Henry George unquestionably stands at the head of all living political economists, and by his admirers is accounted the greatest thinker on economical problems since the day of Adam Smith.

The Examiner reported all of Mr. George's addresses quite fully, and editorially spoke of him as follows:

San Francisco and Henry George meet again after a separation of ten years. Both have grown considerably more important in the interval. San Francisco has become a great city and Mr. George has become a great man. The fame of both is abroad in the world.

When Mr. George left us he was a prophet to a few, a crank to many, and simply a vivid, interesting writer to more. Since then he has developed into a skillful man of affairs, a practical politician in the best sense, a leader with a vast following of devoted disciples. He counts his adherents in every quarter of the globe. Michael Davitt in Ireland, Thomas G. Shearman in New York, T. V. Powderly in Pennsylvania, Sir George Grey in New Zealand, Sir Henry Parkes in New South Wales, all march with him or after him. He has a right to say, as he said at the farewell banquet in New York the other night, that he is a citizen of the world. One year he is helping the Liberals in England, the next he is working with the ballot reformers in America, and the next he is campaigning with the free traders in Australia.

Mr. George is best known through his single tax theory, but he has shown the clear sanity that distinguishes the practical worker from the crank in the way in which he has identified himself with other reforms and so won the friendship and the cordial attention of men who would have been repelled by the single tax alone. Purely as a single taxer it is hardly likely that he could have secured the warm commendation of George William Curtis, President Low of Columbia college, the president of Brown university, and other eminent men who sent him their best wishes for a prosperous journey. But Mr. George has been the first, the most persistent and the most powerful advocate of the introduction of the Australian ballot into the United States, and in this fight he has had at his back the mugwump respectability that might have been horrified at his economic views.

Even those who differ from Mr. George can read his articles without losing their tempers, because he never loses his. He never dances a war dance on an opponent. And the tone of his arguments is so high that nobody feels degraded, as in the case of some popular agitators, by handling them.

Whatever else Mr. George may have been, he has always been honest, fearless and courteous. That is why such men as Bishop Huntington, Heber Newton, Lyman Abbot, Roger Q. Mills, J. G. Carlisle and the two Breckinridges joined in wishing him good luck. It is why San Francisco has always been glad to claim him as one of her sons. It is why Georgeism, born of the same conditions, has never degenerated into Kearneyism. Mr. George, in becoming an agitator, has never ceased to be a gentleman. San Franciscans recognize and appreciate that merit.

W. J. Sellers, writing from San Francisco under date of February 10, is jubilant over the success of Mr. George's visit. He says that even the weather, which had previously been inclement, was enlisted in behalf of the single tax. The meetings at Metropolitan temple were enthusiastic and crowded, and the banquet, which was also attended by many of Mr. George's old friends who were not single tax men, was a splendid success. The meeting on February 7 was very largely attended by workingmen, who cheered and applauded Mr George's denunciation of the humbug of protection. The meeting at Oakland on Thursday evening, February 6, was a large one, but many of the audience in that protection city evidently were not in sympathy with the speaker at the start; they listened, however, with the closest attention, and frequently applauded with enthusiasm. The tract, "Only a Dream," by Abner Thomas, was made the text of Mr. George's opening remarks. Mr. Sellers says: "When Mr. George sailed for Australia on Saturday afternoon, the 8th inst., a large delegation of his friends went to the steamer to see him off, cheering him heartily as the vessel left the dock. By the way, Mr. George has the good fortune to cross the Pacific on that great rarity in these days, an American steamer."

Mr. E. Hodkins of Oakland writes that the meeting in that city on Thursday evening, the 6th, completely filled Hamilton hall, one of the largest halls in the city. "The single tax club issued special invitations to the clergy to be present and many of them attended. There were also present many lawyers, business men and doctors who listened attentively. The Oakland and San Francisco papers printed full reports of the meeting."

THE SOCIAL PROBLEM.

GENERAL WALKER ON NATIONALISM.

General Francis A. Walker, statistician, talks of "Mr. Bellamy and the new nationalist party," in the February Atlantic Monthly, from the old time individualist's point of view. General Walker ascribes the widespread interest in Mr. Bellamy's book and the growth of Henry George's ideas, to the optimism born of the world's remarkable material progress. General Walker thinks that things had been going well with mankind when Mr. George had the audacity to propose a remedy for poverty and that sanguine human nature at once grasped at the hope held out. He thinks that like conditions made possible the welcome given to Mr. Bellamy's dream.

In General Walker's view the sanguine people who welcome nationalism had a right to complain that Mr. Bellamy was not born earlier—his remedy seems so simple. General Walker believes that the great majority of country people would come to live in town did they not know that they would starve, and he conjectures that nothing would keep them out of Mr. Bellamy's delightful cities save the reduction of agricultural working hours to about one and a half per day. But the world is scarcely fed with the long agricultural working hours of the present time, and of course a reduction of hours would be fatal.

Mr. Bellamy's apportionment of pay, not according to product, but according to exertion, the weak man making great exertion to produce what the strong man produces with slight effort, General Walker thinks, would tend to discourage individual energy.

According to General Walker's notion, Mr. Bellamy's 5,000,000 of unemployed voters having no occupation but politics, would become the most pestiferous of political intriguers. He suggests that a ruling class equally removed from popular clamor and prejudice might be found in the penitentiaries.

General Walker vigorously dissnets from the idea that under nationalism greed and other forms of selfishness would disappear. "From the origin of mankind to the present time the main spur to exertion has been want."

Mr. Bellamy's book, like "Mr. George's great work," shows, in General Walker's opinion, the perverting effect of a single false notion. In Mr. Bellamy's case it is the love of militarism, but General Walker assures us that while men may surrender liberty to discipline in stress of war, they will not make this surrender in the midst of permanent peace. There have been races that lived without care, but they were not civilized. "Except for care and struggle and pains, men would never have risen above the intellectual and physical stature of Polynesian savages." * * *

"But it was no Bellamy who said that in the sweat of their brows should men eat bread; that with agony should they be born into the world; and that in labor always, in disappointment and defeat often, with anxious thought, and with foreboding that ceases only at the grave, should they live their lives through, dying weary of the struggle, yet rejoicing in the hope of a better future and more generous terms for those who are to come after."

General Walker insists that Mr. Bellamy's plan involves the grossest violation of common honesty in the proposed distribution of products. The tribes among whom such a system exists are embruted savages, and they too, by the way, govern themselves through superannuated elders.

The nationalist party is not to be taken seriously, in General Walker's opinion, because it represents only a few persons, and those not drawn from the masses. He finds its declaration of principles chiefly theoretic, and ridicules its utterrance on the subject of trusts. He boldly takes issue with the adjective "brutal," as applied to competition, and says that we are suffering not from too much but from too little of that healthful excitement. "When I sell my service or my product at the highest attainable price, what does this mean but that I have found the very person, of all the world, who has the greatest need of it, who can make the most out of it, to whom it will bring the largest satisfaction of wants and desires?"

LAND TENURE IN ENGLAND.

With a heavy British pleasantry, designed to be popular, Augustus Jessop talks in the February Nineteenth Century of "The Land and Its Owners in Past Times." He shows how, from the time of the Conqueror, English land has been held subject to the sovereign's over-lordship; how in early days no man could absolutely sell land; how the mesne tenant held of the tenant-in-chief, and the sub-tenant of the mesne tenant; how each lessor and lessee had reciprocal rights and duties, and how the rights and duties of a tenant-in chief, a mesne tenant or a sub tenant at his death went to his heir or heirs failing body to him of whom the tenant held Mr. Jessop shows, too, how the sub-tenants always resisted the absorption of any holding into the holding of the lord of the manor, how all had rights in woodland and common pasture, and in short, how English society recognized that only the state could acquire absolute title in lands.

Mr. Jessop shows, too, how this idea still survives in certain rights of the crown and the people; how a man may not treat land altogether as if it were his coat or his hat; how he must not build above ground in utter disregard of his neighbor's rights, or delve below ground without regard to the mineral rights of former holders, or of the state. Mr. Jessop protests that land nationalization, as now advocated, has not attractions for him, but adds that, as a matter of fact, the land of England was and is nationalized, and that at a time when there was no king to assert the over lordship of the crown, the existing government, as representing the people of England, exercised such overlordship and asserted its right to dispossess occupants of the soil. On the whole, Mr. Jessop's evidence is valuable to the single tax as that of an honest enemy.

MR. DOLGE'S PLAN.

Alfred Dolge, felt shoe manufacturer of Dolgeville, Herkimer county, N. Y., sends to THE STANDARD, through the editor of the Dolgeville Herald, a report of a speech made by Mr. Dolge at the recent twenty-first reunion of his employes. The editor assures THE STANDARD that Mr. Dolge was once a workman himself and that he has after years of study developed a plan for just distribution of earnings, commonly called profit sharing, which he believes to be a solution of the labor problem.

By Mr. Dolge's plan, what he calls "earnings" are distributed under three classes—pensions, life insurance and endowment. The share of the factory's net earnings to be set aside yearly for these purposes is to be calculated upon the results of the records as kept by the proprietor, to be known for the purposes of distribution as "the manufacturing record of the work done by the employes and the general producing capacity of the business caused by the exertion of the employes." But Mr. Dolge thoughtfully adds that it shall be entirely within the proprietor's discretion to decide how much of the net earnings of the business shall be set aside for this distribution account.

All this is not entirely clear, but it apparently means that Mr. Dolge will determine from some sort of record based on observation just what share of net earnings each workman is entitled to, and then shall, if he chooses, put it down to his credit. Against this distribution account are to be set the amounts paid under the insurance law and the amount necessary to maintain the pension fund. Should the net earnings in any year be insufficient to cover these items, nothing will be set down to the credit of the distribution account, and the deficit will be set against the distribution account of the next year.

Under the pension system every male employe over twenty-one years of age and under fifty years, after ten years' continuous service, is entitled to a pension in case of partial or total inability to work, caused by accident, sickness or old age, at the rate of fifty per cent of the wages earned after 10 years' service, 60 per cent of the wages earned after 13 years' service, 70 per cent of the wages earned after 16 years' service, 80 per cent of the wages earned after 19 years' service, 90 per cent of the wages earned after 22 years' service, 100 per cent of the wages earned after 25 years' service.

Disability caused by accident while on duty or sickness then contracted will entitle an employe to fifty per cent of his wages at any time previous to ten years' service. But no pension shall exceed $1,000 per year.

Five years' service beyond twenty-one years of age entitles the employe to a $1,000 life insurance policy; ten years to another and fifteen years to a third. Proportionate policies are allowed to employes entering at various ages, and those entering after forty-one years of age and all those rejected by the insurance company shall have $35 a year deposited to their credit until principal and interest reach $1,000.

Each male employe over twenty-one years of age and five years employed shall be entitled to a yearly credit according to his record, and provided it shows that he has earned more than has been paid him in wages, at the age of sixty, shall receive the whole sum with interest at six per cent upon each year's balance. The employe may borrow from this endowment upon giving proper security.

Mr. Dolge expresses the belief that his plan is the only one likely to ameliorate the workingman's condition, because it alone is "not projected from any idea of benevolence, but is based upon self-interest." He insists that it is not profit sharing, because workingmen make not profits but earnings. He says, too, it is very different from both socialism and communism. He believes that working people will never be satisfied with a system of paternal government, and turns aside to declare that co-operation is impracticable. Mr. Dolge affirms his expectation that his employes will be dissatisfied with their records at the end of the year, but bluntly says that no fault finding will turn him from his course. His address closes with figures as to pensions and insurance premiums thus far paid by the house.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

CRITICISING EDITORIALS IN THE JOURNAL OF THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

To the Editor of The Standard—SIR: The last meeting of our club was devoted almost wholly to the discussion of some editorials which appeared in a recent issue of the Journal of the Knights of Labor, concerning the single tax, competition, etc. The articles in question were evidently from the pen of Mr. A. W. Wright, editor of the Journal; accordingly he was handled without gloves for his manifest antipathy to the single tax and the individualism involved in it, and his desire rather to teach state socialism, notwithstanding that the members of the Knights of Labor, and the public generally, had been led to believe that the order did adopt the single tax and all that it involves. In the opinion of the club the fourth section of the Knights of Labor declaration of principles, as last amended, is good enough single taxism for the present—a great advance on the order's former land policy—and, if taught to the members of the organization, it would be productive of great good; but that it cannot be of very much value as a principle if the editor of the Journal repeatedly and systematically informs the uninitiated that it is not the single tax doctrine, and makes no attempt to explain what it is. Merely stating that it means "more than the single tax" is not a sufficient explanation to satisfy our club. J. A. CRAIG.

Paterson, N. J.

POVERTY IN THE COAL REGION.

To the Editor of The Standard—SIR: Last Monday, February 3, a special train left this city for Scranton, containing the mayor, the members of the common council and a number of invited guests, among whom was the writer. The object of the excursion was the inspection of Scranton's system of electric railways, the new rapid transit company here having applied for permission to use electricity as a motor. Our party numbered ninety-four, and all kinds of politicians were represented, except prohibitionists. Single tax object lessons met the sight all the way to Scranton, the farm houses without paint, barns tumbling down and fences flat, showing the effects of indirect taxation and that swindle called a protective tariff. The contrast between these farms and the homes of the mechanic in the small villages was almost as marked as that between the last and the residences of the well-to-do, who do business in the cities. We arrived in Scranton after dark, and after a hearty supper at the Wyoming, I spent the evening in visiting the great steel rail mills and interviewing the citizens on the railway question. The city has now about 104,000 inhabitants, the central portion consisting of a few squares of well built stores and some buildings that any city might be proud of. The city hall is a beautiful building, built of granite blocks, a material quite extensively used. A number of buildings attracted my attention by their elegant design. This is the bright side of the picture—the other side is, oh, how black. I have never seen such a picture of abject poverty as that on which I gazed the next morning, when daylight came.

I had started in the first car before daybreak, and stood on one of the highest points in the town when it became light. Before me lay a deep valley surrounded by high hills, higher than the Orange mountains, with the Lackawanna river winding through it, and filled with shanties, some better, some worse, but mostly worse. The gloomy picture was made to look still blacker by the contrast with the center of the town and the comparatively few residences of wealthy people scattered along the sides of the hills. In returning to town I told a gentleman in the car that the poverty astonished me. The answer was that I saw nothing to what I would see further out among the miners at the mouths of the mines. "These men can barely live when on full time. Now they only exist, as they are having from seven to fifteen days' work a month." I then asked him, could these men, if they had free access to the land around here, make two dollars a day, working for themselves. The answer was prompt. "Yes, more, and do it easy." The poverty was explained as I knew it would be. I was glad to get away; the misery I saw even in that limited time was oppressive, still I was glad that I had seen Scranton. It made me think better of Newark, strengthened my faith in the single tax (if that was possible) and made me feel more determined than ever to work as well as I can for the abolishing of the poverty I saw.

THEODORE J. WERNER.

Newark, N. J., Feb. 8.

COMPLIMENTING A "FUTURE STATESMAN."

To the Editor of The Standard—SIR: January, 1890, will be, I fancy, a sort of mile stone in the single tax movement. The clear, manly letter from Francis Lynde Stetson, read at the dinner to Mr. George, is of infinite credit to the future statesman who wrote it, and cannot fail to prove a powerful stimulant to influential democrats everywhere. Democrats have only to open their eyes to see the port for which our stanch old Jeffersonian ship is headed. C. F. PERRY.

Quincy, Ill.

A CUSTOMS SEARCHER IN HYSTERICS.

To the Editor of the Standard—SIR: The strictures against the inquisitorial searching of trunks, in a recent editorial article in THE STANDARD, reminds me of an amusing incident that occurred at Ogdensburg, N. Y., on the Canadian frontier some years ago. It was the custom of the women of all conditions to buy their drygoods in the town of Prescott, Canada, just opposite, and smuggle them over the river. The government finally deemed it necessary to have women searchers to examine the clothing of females suspected of carrying the goods in hoop-skirts or bustles. At one time a very handsome and demure young lady had been noticed making daily trips to and fro, and it was finally decided to invite her into the ladies' room and have the female official search her. The male custom house officials winked at one another, as they closed the door, as if to say, "Guess we have made a haul this time." He was right. Shortly after screams were heard issuing from the private room, and the female searcher ran out in hysterics. The demure young lady was a young man. JOHN R. ROCHE,

Boston, Mass., February 8, 1890

HE LIKES THE STANDARD.

To the Editor of The Standard—SIR: I have received a copy of THE STANDARD for January 8, and find its pages permeated with the sentiment of genuine Christianity. I like it; and to that extent its labors I believe will be successful and its work permanent. There is no question as to the frozen and self-satisfied state of the clergy in general. The world need not look to this for the origin of any natural or spiritual reform. The theory of THE STANDARD I question. Its ultimate purpose is the noblest.

GEORGE HENRY DOLE.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Jan. 25, 1890.

A DENVER GREETING.

The Glenarm reading club, under whose auspices Henry George delivered his lectures in Denver, is now in its sixth year, and has a membership of 750, nearly all of whom are already more or less conversant with the single tax doctrine. Its president is Rev. Myron W. Reed, pastor of the First Congregational church, and J. D. Dillenback, publisher of the Colorado School Journal, is its vice-president. Mr. Dillenback wrote the following verses, and had them published in the Denver papers on the day of Mr. George's first lecture in that city:

TO HENRY GEORGE.

We welcome you to-night,
O prophet of the right,
With all our hearts;
For in your voice we hear,
The ringing note and clear
That truth imparts.

To you, who, bold and strong,
Smite hard the hoary wrong
Of wealth unearned,
As to no other man
In all the wide earth's span,
Men's hopes are turned.

J. D. DILLENBACK.

IN A NUTSHELL.

Dubuque, Iowa, Industrial West.

The protective tariff has but two objects—produce cheap labor and dear products except farm products.

THE FREE TRADE FIGHT.

A DISGUSTED REPUBLICAN.

JOHN GIBB, AN OLD TIME REPUBLICAN, CANNOT STAND PROTECTIONISM.

Until a day or so ago John Gibb, the eminent merchant, was a member of the legislative committee of the Kings county republican committee. Mr. Gibb is the head of the great wholesale dry goods house of Mills & Gibb in New York, and of the big retail house which goes by the name of "Frederick Loeser & Co." in Brooklyn. He is one of the most active of the republican business men of Brooklyn, and is to be credited with a very large share in the recent reforms of Mayor Chapin's administration. The Tribune is never tired of praising Mr. Gibb and his patriotic stand for reform and the republican party. Now Mr. Gibb has resigned from the committee, and the Brooklyn Citizen, interviewing him to find out what the matter is, discovers that it is the tariff. New York business men will remember Mr. Gibb's enthusiasm for Harrison last year, and how his wholesale house was closed on the day of the republican parade in order that none of his employes need have any excuse for staying away. He is a typical, old-fashioned republican business man, and here he is retiring from work for his party on account of the tariff. "The republican party," he says, "is wrong on the great question of the day—tariff reform. I agree with Grover Cleveland that we must have free raw materials. * * * It is a barbarous and iniquitous tariff and a blot on civilization. Just as the American people demanded of Lincoln the emancipation proclamation, they will shortly go to the polls and demand tariff reform. * * * An ad valorem tariff does not protect and a specific tariff discriminates against the masses. What is the use of charging 40 per cent ad valorem when you can only collect 30 per cent? What protection have honest merchants against those who evade the law? When an importer goes to Europe and buys goods, the foreign manufacturer asks him, 'How shall I invoice this for the custom house?' 'At valuation,' the honest merchant replies. Consternation and astonishment of the manufacturer! He is so used to undervaluation. As a matter of fact the sentiment of the whole of Europe is against our protective tariff, and foreign manufacturers willingly enter into collusion with our importers to evade the duty. * * *

"How does a specific tariff work? Mrs. Astor, who buys the very finst qualities of pure silk, will pay less duty than the poor woman whose silk is mixed with chemicals. The finer grades of woolens weigh less than the coarser. The specific tariff per pound will discriminate against the servant girl. They talk of putting a specific tariff on gloves. Some gloves cost $4.50 a dozen, and some $24. Here we have another instance of discrimination against the masses. I am sorry that some people have gone in for free trade. We are not ripe for that yet. The free trade cry has retarded tariff reform. But there is an educational process going on which will give us the needed remedy in a few years."

All which is pretty good for an old-line, stiff-neck, straight-backed republican like John Gibb, eh? Some of those sentences sound like bullets. Let's keep some of them to use in the first volley in '92. "The specific tariff per pound will discriminate against the servant girl." "An ad valorem tariff does not protect, and a specific tariff discriminates against the masses." "The protective tariff had been in force since 1790, and like other antiquated things, is sadly in need of revision."

And now let me tell you a secret. I know where John Gibb got his idea about the gloves. It was from his kid glove manager, Larom, one of the shrewest kid glove men in the country. Not long ago, in their pleasant tariff juggling, the republicans proposed to counterbalance some reduction or other with a rise in the kid glove duty; and promptly Larom, and Peyser of H. M. Peyser & Co., and Paul of the Foster hook gloves, and other well-known kid glove men, arose in arms, and warned the republicans to keep off. "Kid gloves are made but little in this country," said Larom and his friends, in effect, in their letter on the subject. "You may build up an American industry; but it will be at the expense of the poor. At present kid gloves are so cheap that a poor girl can afford to wear very decent looking gloves for almost nothing. Our experience tells us that the factory girls of the cities and towns almost invariably wear kid gloves; it is one of the few pleasures which they extract from their hard life. If the price of gloves goes up, they will be the only sufferers, for the rich can easily afford what little difference it will make to them. This is not protection to the poor; the American kid glove industry doesn't need any protection, and we protest."

The effect of this was to make congress go a little easy, but the kid gloves of the factory girls are not yet safe; for the republicans have got to make up in some quarter for whatever they cut down, and the factory girls have no "delegations" to send to congress to argue for their interests in committee rooms. But you can depend on it that if they do raise the duty on gloves, the entire kid glove trade, democrats and republicans alike, will stand shoulder to shoulder for resistance. Even the domestic manufacturers, who confine themselves mainly to buckskin gloves, etc., don't want a tariff on on kid gloves.

All which teaches us that the wicked stand in slippery places; and that (with Emerson's compliments to John Gibb) only fools and dead men never change their opinions.

CHARLES W. THOMPSON.

Brooklyn, Feb. 16.

UP IN LIVINGSTON.

PRESIDENT WHEELER AND LINDLEY VINTON OF THE REFORM CLUB DEBATE WITH MAHLON CHANCE.

The Reform club's tariff reform campaign in Livingston county, New York, last week took the form of joint discussions. Everett P. Wheeler, president of the club, and Mahlon Chance, secretary of the American protective tariff league, took part in a discussion at Geneseo on the night of the 10th inst. Mr. Wheeler brought the question home to his hearers by declaring his belief that they would not submit to a county tax of forty-seven cents on the dollar, though they unconsciously submitted to just such a tariff tax on many necessary articles. A high tariff makes goods dear and wages low; free raw materials make goods cheap and wages high. Mr. Wheeler figured up the beneficial results that would accrue to Livingstone county from the freeing of raw materials. Mr. Wheeler set forth briefly the economic heresy of protection, and assailed the historic accuracy of the common assertion that protection has furthered the prosperity of this country.

Mr. Chance replied with an assault upon free traders and a denunciation of the southern confederacy. The British manufacturer also came in for a share of Mr. Chance's vituperations. Mr. Chance's argument was of the sort familiar to those who have wrestled with the protectionists.

Mr. Wheeler's moderation of tone carried the audience with him, and his spirited reply to Mr. Chance's identification of free traders of to-day with the confederates of twenty-five years ago, brought from Mr. Chance an explanation that sounded much like an apology. Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Chance met again the next night at Dansville.

Lindley Vinton of the Reform club met Mr. Chance in debate at Mt. Morris and Avon on Wednesday and Thursday nights last. Mr. Chance repeated his speech of the other two nights. At Mt. Morris Mr. Vinton treated the iron question in admirable fashion. Mr. Vinton is a manufacturer himself, with a practical knowledge of the business extending from bench to counting house. He said among other things:

In 1750 we were exporting iron to England. As in 1750 America passed England because her fuel gave out and America had an abundance, so again from the same cause the scepter is again about to pass. In 1880 coke was $3.50 per ton in Durham; to-day it is $6. In the United States it is $1.75. England has so largely exhausted her coal fit for making furnace coke that it costs her $6 a ton to make coke, and it takes 1 1-6 tons of coke to make a ton of pig iron! England's territory is small and no new coal can be discovered. Last year she imported 4,000,000 tons of iron ore. Our stores of iron and coal are inexhaustible. With free trade should England attempt to supply ten per cent of our demand it would raise the price of bar iron twenty per cent, far beyond our present prices. The prices to-day are:

	Pittsburg.	Birmingham.
Refined iron	$1 95	$1 95
Soft steel	2 34	2 50
Tool steel	6½	6¾
	New York.	Glasgow.
Best pig	20 00	21 00

The only use that can be made of the iron tariff will be to increase the prices and the profits of the protected manufacturer should there be a considerable increase in the demand.

An amusing incident of the Mount Morris meeting occurred when Mr. Chance asserted that protection had enabled coal miners to earn from $2 00 to $4.84 per day. The audience, which had heard the sad truth about coal miners' wages from W. B. Estell, organizer of the Reform club canvass in several counties, rose *en masse* at Mr. Chance's assertion and greeted him with groans and laughter. An appeal by Mr. Vinton for fair play to his opponent alone sufficed to silence the demonstration.

At Avon Mr. Vinton took up and answered seriatim the chief points in Mr. Chance's address.

Mr. Chance in his opening made the following points:

First—That from 1816 to 1824, from 1832 to 1842, and from 1846 to 1861, we had free trade in the United States; that iron was the basis on which we established the prosperity of the country and that these periods of free trade had kept the manufacture of iron down so that in 1846 we only manufactured 700,000 tons. To-day we manufacture 7,000,000.

To this Mr. Vinton replied that the lowest duty on iron up to 1848 was $10 a ton; that it had never since 1816 been lower at any period than to-day—$6 a ton; that on Mr. Chance's statement the developement of the iron industry had been the greatest on the lowest tariff he had ever known on iron.

Second—Ireland was ruined by free trade. Reply: Ireland was ruined by England forbidding the export of Irish product, and, therefore, she was injured by protection.

Third—The prosperity from 1846 to 1860 was admitted, but was accounted for on various grounds, partly by the thousand millions of gold from California. Reply: The amount of gold and silver produced in the United States from 1870 to 1880, covering the panic period, was greater than from 1850 to 1860.

Fourth—Times were so hard in 1858 under free trade that hundreds of people in New York sought the public soup houses. In reply: Times were so hard under protection from 1873 to 1879 that the soup houses of the city could not feed the starving, and for the first time in this country that tramps went from farm house to farm house and millions of working men were in want.

Fifth—The government was so impoverished in 1860 that 12 per cent was paid for money. Reply: The debt of the United States was only about one hundred million, but every one recognized that we were on the eve of a rebellion. The government debt to-day is one thousand millions, but we borrow money at 2½ per cent. because every one believes in the stability of our government.

Sixth—The balance of trade has been for years against England in free trade; that indicates that she has been growing poorer. Reply: When a country has a balance of trade againt her under normal conditions, it indicates that she is importing more merchandise than she exports, and if this continues for any length of time it must be that she has foreign investments, or has shipping on the seas, and this balance of trade represents goods shipped to the country to pay interest on her foreign investments, or in return for her shipping. The countries which export more than they import, and have a permanent balance of trade in their favor are Turkey, Spain and Egypt; the countries which have a balance of trade against them are England, France and Germany.

Seventh—The anthracite coal miners in Allegany districts are paid from $2 to $4 80 per day. Reply: This is simply an assertion, but if true, I reply anthracite coal is on the free list. The bituminous coal miners are not paid over $1 per day, and in the Braidwood district and the Brazil district in Indiana, we have seen for many months miners starving to death because they refused to accept a reduction in their wages which would not permit them to live. The mine owners say the men shall yield or starve.

Eighth—Trusts are not an aid to protection and they are not helped by protection. Reply: The trusts listed on the stock exchange are the Standard oil trust, the Cotton seed oil trust, the sugar trust, the lead trust (including white lead), and the cattle feeders and distillers (or whisky) trust. The produce manufactured by every one of these trusts is protected by a heavy tariff duty.

Ninth—The Reform club of New York, which sent the speaker here to defend free trade is made up of dudes and importers. Reply: Less than two per cent of the members of the Reform club are importers and there are more mannfacturers than importers in the club.

Tenth—Who demand free raw material? Reply: Mr. Ames, the republican governor of Massachusetts, a large manufacturer, states that the manufacturers of Massachusetts are doomed unless they get free raw material; in this he is joined by hundreds of manufacturers of iron and woolens throughout the United States.

The campaign of the Reform club in this state is developing with great rapidity. It will soon be going on in half a dozen counties. The Cleveland democracy of Erie county, an organization of some years standing, has become interested, and on February 22 meetings to organize or reorganize branches of this society and place them in line with the tariff reform movement will be held in every village of the county.

GOOD THINGS OUT OF NAZARETH.

A meeting of tariff reformers, irrespective of party, was held in Philadelphia last week to further the election of William M. Ayers, nominated for congress in the late W. D. Kelley's district. William M. Singerly of the Record presided, and there were addresses by Mr. Singerly, John B. Thayer, Mr. Ayers and Dwight M. Lowry. Mr. Lowry said he came of a republican household where the name of Lincoln was as dear as that of Washington. "We were republicans because we thought republicanism meant freedom and not indiscriminate taxation. So when the time came for me to cast my first ballot in 1884 I voted for Grover Cleveland and never regretted it. I voted for him in 1888, and if I am alive in 1892, and the democratic convention will do the will of the Lord, I will vote for him again. Philadelphia is a manufacturing city, and it is manifestly necessary to the manufacturers that they get raw material."

CAPTAIN CODMAN ON FREE SHIPS.

Captain John Codman of this city told the merchant marine committee of the house of representatives that the essential thing for revival of our shipping is freedom to purchase ships abroad. He laid down these necessary conditions: First, the free admission of all ships of over 3,000 tons wherever built to American registry; second, the admission of materials for ship building of all classes, duty free; third, the same subsidy for ships of American construction as that paid by Great Britain to her lines from Liverpool to New York, and from Southampton to Rio Janeiro, Buenos Ayres and the west coast of South America, for any line that will make the voyages in the same time, and a pro rata subsidy for fast ships engaged in shorter voyages where mail services are required; fourth, the same contracts that are made by the British admiralty with the owners of any steamships who will build them in such a way that they shall meet the requirements of the navy.

Captain Codman explained that he was opposed to all subsidies, especially such as Mr. Thurber is urging, but if congress is bent on subsidies such a subsidy as was here indicated.

A protectionist at the recent meeting at Indianapolis of the Western association of canned goods packers, declared that he was in favor of free tinned plates for the same reason that he was in favor of a duty on some other things, presumably because he believed it for the best interest of his own business. He expressed the opinion that it was sheet iron manufacturers who were urging that the duty of tin plate be increased. They were doing so because tin plate was now being used where sheet iron had formerly answered the purpose. He said it was not true that there was an infant tin industry in America which needed protection. So far as he was informed there was not a tin plate factory in the United States, and the entire amount used had, therefore, to be imported from England. The association adopted resolutions against the proposed increase of duty. Free traders need not fear protectionists of this sort, for their attitude is a double argument against the whole selfish system.

Iron manufacturers of Massachusetts petition congress to place iron ore, coal and coke on the free list and reimpose upon pig iron, scrap iron and scrap steel the duty that prevailed immediately before the war, to wit, twenty-four per cent ad valorem. Many dealers in wool and manufacturers of woolens in Massachusetts petition congress to place raw wool on the free list.

It came out in a recent lawsuit that the net earnings for 1889 of the highly protected Pittsburg plate glass company were thirty-five per cent on a capital of $2,750,000. The official report announced that the plate glass industry was in an exceedingly flourishing condition, the mills at Creighton, Tarentum and Ford City being pushed to their utmost capacity, and the orders already received indicated that the company's business for 1890 would greatly exceed even last year's gigantic total. The par value of the stock is $100. Its market value is $200, and even on that figure the dividend is unusually large. This lusty infant is protected by a duty of considerably over 100 per cent.

State Treasurer Fitzgerald says, in speaking of his recent western trip: "I was surprised at the steady growth of Mr. Cleveland's popularity in the west and northwest. He is gaining strength all the while."

T. E. Lane writes to the Flushing Journal in answer to a protectionist who has been discussing the labor problem. Mr. Lane preaches free trade and the single tax, and closes with this apt quotation from Abraham Lincoln:

"Whereas, God Almighty has given every man one mouth to be fed, and one pair of hands adapted to furnish food for that mouth; if anything can be proved to be the will of heaven, it is proved by this fact, that that mouth is to be fed by those hands without being interfered with by any other man, who has also his mouth to feed and his hands to labor with. I hold, if the Almighty had ever made a set of men that should do all the eating and none of the work, he would have made them with mouths only and no hands; and if he had ever made another class, that he had intended should do all the work and none of the eating, he would have made them without mouths and with all hands."

A correspondent in Philadelphia writes that he met, a few days ago, a Welsh miner who had been working for five years in the Pennsylvania anthracite region. The miner was on his way back to Wales, and looked forward with eagerness to his return home. He said he had enough of protected Pennsylvania, where men were paid only from seventy-five cents to a dollar a day, and found it hard enough to get work even at that figure. Besides, while mines here were shutting down for an indefinite period, in his country things were brightening up. The miner said that the Welsh miners in this country would return home in droves, but they had been so well protected that they had not the money to pay their way back.

Mr. Undermeyer of Dakota asks for a duty on tin ore to protect the Harvey Peak tin mining company of Dakota, and Senator Moody of South Dakota supports the demand with figures intended to show that the tin ore of Dakota is superior to that of Cornwall. It was these tin deposits of Dakota that Congressman Amos Cummings recently described at length in the Sun. English capital is largely engaged in developing the Dakotan

tin. Of course whatever protection may be afforded these mines will enrich these foreigners who control valuable natural opportunitie, and, of course, the protection of tin would be made an excuse to press the demand for protection to American tinned plates.

Sixty gentlemen from various parts of Connecticut have just formed a state democratic club whose business it will be to free the democracy of that state from thralldom to the ideas of the late Mr. Barnum, and place it in line with tariff reform. The members of the new club are for Cleveland, and one of them said to an Evening Post correspondent, "Connecticut democrats like Hill about as much as they do Satan."

BURDENS OF THE FRENCH TAXPAYER.

W. E. Hicks in North American Review.

The position of the French government in regard to taxation is like Paddy's toward heads; when you see any property, tax it. The burden that falls on the agriculturist is enough to discourage cultivation. The more he works and produces, the more extensively is he the victem of the tax collector. With a direct tax on houses, windows, doors, etc., and on all beverages, sugar, tobacco, etc., he is simply going round and round in the same circle of making and paying. This idea struck a French peasant recently, when, worn out by the repeated visits of tax collectors, he cried: "My God! it seems that I was created for only two things—to make all I can and to pay to the government a l l can." So cities grow and the country is deserted. Absenteeism prevails here as much as and more than in England. The emigration from the country toward the cities and the industrial centers grow from year to year; the great estates are causing the void in the country. Lands are rented no longer except with the greatest trouble; field workers and capital alike shun land, while the industrial workmen wage between themselves a desperate rivalry which lowers salaries to a figure even below what is strictly necessary to repair the laborer's strength and rear his family.

HOW LAND VALUES GROW.

New York World.

When the new Union trust company building, in Broadway, just below Wall street, is completed in April, it will represent a total expenditure of $2 200,000. It is built on four lots, extending through to New street. The southernmost lots were purchased from the Parrish estate for $775,000. The same property was offered to Jay Gould a few years ago for $410 000, and the Parrish people, who finally purchased it for $450,000, made $325,000 when the property was resold. The northernmost lots were purchased from the United States express company for $450,000, and Mr. Platt told a friend of his not long ago that the property had cost the company $125,000. It will be seen that the land on which the new building is placed has cost $1,225,000. The building itself will cost another million. When it is completed the Union trust company will move from its poky little office in the Arcade building, at Rector street and Broadway, and will occupy the choice of offices in the new structure. It is understood that all the offices on the Broadway side of the building have already been leased. The total rentals in the building are figured at $220,000, or ten per cent gross on the investment. That is to say, $2,200,000 represents the principal and interest invested up to the time of opening the building and establishing it as a source of revenue.

A LOT OF THEM DO AFFORD IT.

Milford, Del., News and Advertiser.

No renter or farmer who tills his own soil, can afford to have stamped upon every piece of machinery he uses forty-seven per cent tariff.

IS NOT BUILT THAT WAY.

Boston Globe.

You can drive movable property out of the state by taxing it, but you can't drive land out. You can drive capital into hiding by taxing it, but land is not built that way.

WHICH?

Martha's Vineyard Herald.

When a manufacturer paints the windows of his mill so the girl operatives can't see out and flirt, the question arises; for which has he the most regard, the morals of the girls or the increase of his profits?

IT WOULD SEEM AS IF THE LAND SPECULATOR HAS TAKEN THE DEVIL'S PLACE.

Alfred J. Hough in Jamestown, N. Y., Journal.

Men don't believe in a devil now, as their fathers used to do;
They've forced the door of the broadest creed to let his majesty through.
There isn't a print of his cloven foot or a fiery dart from his bow
To be found in earth or air to-day, for the world has voted it so.

But who is mixing the fatal draught that palsies heart and brain,
And loads the bier of each passing year with ten hundred thousand slain?
Who blights the bloom of the land to-day with the fiery breath of hell?
If the devil isn't and never was, will somebody rise and tell?

Who dogs the steps of the toiling saint, and digs the pits for his feet?
Who sows the tares on the field of time, wherever God sows his wheat?
The devil is voted not to be, and of course the thing is true;
But who is doing the kind of work that the devil alone should do?

BALLOT REFORM.

THE ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF BALLOT REFORM.

First—*All ballots shall be official and shall be printed and distributed at public expense.*

Second—*The names of all candidates for the same office shall be printed on the same ballot.*

Third—*All ballots shall be delivered to the voter within the polling place on election day by sworn public officials.*

Fourth—*Only official ballots so delivered shall be voted. The voter shall be guaranteed absolute privacy in preparing his ballot, and the secrecy of the ballot made compulsory.*

Fifth—*Voters shall have the right to nominate candidates by properly certified petitions.*

THE STRUGGLE IN NEW YORK.

HOW THE ENROLMENT GOES ON—UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS OF THE DEMOCRATS TO AMEND THE SAXTON BILL.

The general committee of the New York ballot reform league met at the reform club on Friday night last and resolved to continue the work of enrolment until the Saxton bill has got well along in its progress through the house. This may give three weeks more for circulating the petition. Signatures are still rapidly coming in. On Tuesday morning the enrolment had reached 37,302, an increase of more than 10,000 in a week. This is 2,000 more than the number of signatures appended to the petition asking Mr. George to run for mayor, and that, up to this time, was the most numerously signed petition ever prepared in this city.

MR. CLEVELAND HEARD FROM.

HE POINTS OUT THE VALUE OF THE OFFICAL BALLOT, AND SAYS A WORD ABOUT THE TARIFF.

The Baltimore Sun publishes an interview with Mr. Cleveland, in the course of which he spoke strongly for ballot reform, tariff reform and civil service reform. He said among other things: "I have never debated in my mind whether the removal of trickery from the voter would injure or benefit the democratic party. Ballot reform is right, and that is why I think it should be adopted." He said that Governor Abbett of New Jersey and Governor Campbell of Ohio were two of the most astute politicians in the country, and no one could be more pronounced in favor of the principle, than each of them. The new system was the cause of democratic defeat in Boston. As to the argument that the uneducated voter would be embarrassed, and in many instances deprived of his privilege, Mr. Cleveland could not see that there was anything in it. Nothing could be easier than the adoption of some sign or device, apparent to the most ignorant, indicating the political complexion of the candidates to be voted for. He thought the best plan would be to have lists of all candidates printed on one ticket, the signs to be adopted starting at the top of each list, and indicating to which party the candidates belonged. The voter could then by one mark indicate his intention to vote for all the candidates of his party.

The vital principle of ballot reform he regarded as lodged in the official ballot. To permit an unofficial ballot would leave the door as wide open as ever to bribery and corruption. An official ballot only would sweep away to a very great extent, if not entirely, all excuse for campaign funds, for if the state paid all the expenses of the elections there would be little plea to levy assessments upon candidates and contributions from interested outsiders.

On the subject of tariff reform Mr. Cleveland was as enthusiastic as in 1888. He would not discuss 1892, but he talked of the tariff and the farmers. He thought the best way to reach the farmers and convince them of their own true interests was the establishment of tariff reform clubs among them and to disseminate literature applicable to their circumstances. It had been too much the custom in the party to send into the rural districts tariff documents consisting of facts and arguments of interest only for city people. The proper way to have them understand and appreciate the question was to give them veritable object lessons, facts and figures which came home to them. This, he believed, was already being done.

COUNTY DEMOCRATS IN LINE.

The new county committee of the county democracy at its recent first meeting declared for the five cardinal principles of the Saxton bill. There was a small minority in favor of striking out this declaration of principles.

Governor Larrabee of Iowa urges in his message to the legislature the adoption of the Australian system and the enfranchisement of women for the purposes of municipal elections.

The New York senate discussed the Saxton bill on Thursday last. Mr. Chase moved to amend by permitting unofficial ballots in case of the registration of a candidate. Mr. Saxton opposed this amendment, and it was defeated by a party vote, the republicans voting in the negative. Mr. Chase moved further to amend by providing that illiterate voters should not be limited to election officers in seeking assistance in marking their ballots. Mr. Saxton said that in Montana this provision had worked improperly, and that it would lead to intimidation and bribery. The amendment was lost—yeas 7, nays 13, again a party vote.

Mr. Chase then offered as an amendment to the bill his general registry bill. Mr. Saxton said that a democratic legislature in 1870 had repealed the general registry law. In 1872 Governor Hill, when a member of the assembly, had opposed registry on the ground that it was unnecessary.

Mr. Cantor said corruption had increased since 1872. The republicans again rejected the amendment.

Mr. Linson then moved to substitute his bill for the Saxton bill. He would not assert the absolute unconstitutionality of the latter, but the governor had assumed such an attitude toward the measure, and the olive branch should be held out by the reformers. At the end of Mr. Linson's speech the bill was laid over. It came up the next day, but in the absence of several senators, was, on Mr. Saxton's motion, further laid over until Thursday of this week.

The democrats of the West Virginia lower house passed the Australian ballot bill in spite of republican filibustering, but in the senate the republicans on the bill's second reading referred it to a committee, and this it is believed will make it impossible to pass the bill this session.

A bill containing the essential features of the Australian system has been reported to the Virginia house of delegates by the committee on elections, but it is not likely to pass. The report was made chiefly for the purpose of obtaining an "order to print."

The Young men's democratic club of Wilmington, Del., which includes most of the influential young democrats of the city, listened recently to an address by Thomas R. Graham of Philadelphia, in favor of the Australian system. Mr. Graham drew the ballot reform bill defeated by the republicans of the last session of the Delaware legislature. There is a gaining sentiment in favor of the reform among Delaware democrats.

SOCIETY NOTES.

Just how the fashionable woman who appears night after night, clad in a tulle dress, kid gloves and slippers and a pearl necklace, manages to escapes pneumonia, must ever remain a problem to vex and bother the doctor and philosopher. These lovely creatures are certainly endowed with great endurance, whatever may be said of their sense. Perhaps, as Carlyle said: "Vanity is warmer than down, and pride rivals the robe of ermine." But to get at facts, the question was put to a pretty little creature, who never read a line of the sage. "I don't feel cold at all," she said, "in evening dress. Just before dressing, I bathe my neck, arms and shoulders in glycerine and rose water, and after drying with a coarse towel, I have my maid rub me down with alcohol. I don't need this at all, but I do it to please papa. I think, however, it is a good idea, for my flesh never gets goosey, and this is my second season, and I haven't had a cold yet. Then I always wear a very warm wrap in the carriage, and when I get home I take a warm bath and go to bed."—[New York Journal.

The Cincinati Commercial Gazette tells a story of misery and wretchedness, of despair and desolation, which the pessimist notes as a proof of his theories of the folly of existence. A few years ago William Grant married Annie Bluhm, and in due course two rosy children came to fill their house with sunshine. About a year ago Grant, who was a house painter, lost his position. He tried, in vain, to find work, and in order to ward off, for a time at least, impending poverty, he moved into two small rooms on the top floor of one of the great tenements that disfigures the face of Cincinnati. Then he was promised work if he could get to Philadelphia; and by selling a few articles he managed to get money enough to start him on his journey. That was eight months ago. Since he left, his wife, who never was strong, grew weaker and weaker, and food and money have grown scarce with each week. The work that had been promised him in Philadelphia soon gave out, and his letters home, filled with despair, struck despair to the hearts he left behind. Finally pressure from home determined him to leave Philadelphia, and he wrote to his wife that he would be with her by the Saturday of February 1. There was joy in the squalid little home over the early return of the husband and father, who had been absent from them the better part of a year, and his round-eyed children spread the glad intelligence all through the tenement. Saturday night came, but not the father. Finally, sick at heart, the poor mother put the children to bed, and the three sobbed themselves to sleep. Suddenly Mrs. Grant awoke screaming. The other occupants of the same floor rushed into her apartments, where she told them she had seen her husband killed by a railroad train. All day Sunday she roamed from floor to floor of the tenement, weeping and wringing her hands, and saying, "He's dead; I know he's dead." And she would not be comforted. The premonition of disaster was not false. On Sunday evening she received a brief telegram, dated Johnstown, Pa., saying:

Your husband, William Grant, has been killed. What shall we do with the body?

Then, indeed, did the pall of despair settle upon that house of mourning, and sorrow reigned supreme. In the evening the daughter, nerved by necessity to acts beyond her strength, went down to the Grand central station, to find out what to do. The little girl lay asleep in the bed. Her golden hair lay all about her sweet little face. Her long, dark lashes were yet wet with tears. Just before she slept she had said: "I want to go to sleep with papa, in the coffin." The young widow, whose married life of six years is ended, returned without having done anything. Those to whom she talked must have thought her mad. She could not speak coherently. The roses have fled from her cheeks, and were wan and hollowed. Her eyes were dim with much weeping, her form bent and wasted from much suffering. Through the prominence given this story by the Commercial Gazette, some good people called and gave the bereaved family enough to pay a large arrear in the rent and to ward off any danger of immediate want. Only one caller found fault, and that was a representative of charity. He decided that, because the apartments were clean and free from filth and vermin, and tenanted by people who were not utter strangers to soap, therefore Mrs. Grant and her children were not without means. Late in the afternoon Mr. Evans of the Johnson company called. He had just received a telegram from headquarters stating that William Grant had been killed on the short line of railroad, owned by the Johnson company and operated between Johnstown and Mixham; that his body had been shipped to Cincinnati by the Adams express, and that he was authorized to pay all funeral expenses. The relief from that expense was very grateful to the widow, who thankfully accepted the offer. Mrs. Grant seems to be completely stunned by sorrow and sickness. Her eyes are dull, and her expression is that of a person dazed by a heavy blow. She answers rather incoherently, and her mind wanders. The present is so full of misery that she has not yet realized the future that is before her and her orphan children.

Cream strawberries are the newest and sweetest things in the candy market. The luscious red berry is first dipped in cold water and then plunged into a cream bath of rose, lemon, vanilla, orange or pistache flavor, the stem and little green leaf remaining. When dry the fruit bon bon is put into a little cap or bonnet of fluted paper and offered for sale at the modest rate of $2 per pound. Another innovation of sweetness is the chocolate candle, a beautiful brown stick, three inches long, with a tuft of hard silk to represent the wick. Set in a papier mache candlestick of white, pink or blue the confection is at once a table ornament, a favor and a delicious morsel of dessert. Heralding the Easter novelties there are chickens, eggs, pipes and ten-pins of sweet chocolate that sell at a dime each, and dainty little garden-baskets of willow and grass filled with chocolate pastilles, frilled with lace paper and the cover tied down with a ribbon or whisp of straw. Judging from the display of sweetmeats and the various designs that are coming into the Broadway, Madison and Fifth avenue shops, chocolate is the choice of fashion.—[Exchange.

PERSONAL.

Judge C. F. Perry of Quincy, Ill., says: Louis F. Post deserves the hearty thanks of every man in the movement for his clear and complete answer to Mr. Horace White's article in the Popular Science Monthly. It is admirable.

C. A. Potwin, one of the well known single tax men of Ohio, has removed from Zanesville, and will make Aurora, Mo., his future home.

William F. Morrill writes to the Cambridge, Mass., Tribune that he was very much interested in an address on tax reform recently delivered in Cambridge by Hon. L. M. Hannum. Mr. Morrill tells the editor that the advantages Mr. Hannum seeks for Cambridge can be secured by the adoption of the single tax.

J. T. Altemus has been active in presenting petitions from labor organizations and ballot reformers to the New Jersey legislature. Mr. Altemus has worked intelligently and vigorously for ballot reform in New Jersey

J. Herbert Foster, late editor of the New Haven Light, has taken a position on the Southington Phœnix.

E. O. Roscoe of Brooklyn is using up his spare moments in trying to straighten out H. K. Thurber's tangled ideas on the tariff. The Brooklyn Eagle of February 10 has an able letter from Mr. Roscoe on the subject. He also wrote an exhaustive reply to ex Secretary Hugh McCulloch's recent article in the New York Times, showing that there is no logical stopping place for tariff reformers short of the single tax, an acknowledgement of its receipt by Mr. McCulloch being received February 6

Previous to its dissolution the West side single tax association presented to W. J. Browne a handsomely framed picture of Henry George in recognition of his services toward the club and the single tax.

SINGLE TAX NEWS.

SINGLE TAX PLATFORM.

The single tax contemplates the abolition of all taxes upon labor or the products of labor—that is to say, the abolition of all taxes save one tax levied on the value of land, irrespective of improvements.

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

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

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

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

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

The single tax, therefore, would—

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

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

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

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

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

The ethical principles on which the single tax is based are:

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

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

LIFE IN THE TENEMENTS.

SOME FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT RENT AND THE CONDITION OF THE EAST SIDE POOR.

In that dreary square mile of New York lying southeast of Fourteenth street and First avenue, where, it has been estimated, 260,000 people dwell, every great tenement house is an object lesson in the necessity for the single tax. Here are the homes of the decent poor of almost every degree. The district as a whole is not criminal or even notoriously vicious. Person and property are as safe in Avenue A as in Broadway, and virtuous women may walk the streets of the former thoroughfare after nightfall with a much greater certainty of escaping insult than in any fashionable street. The tenement house dwellers of the east side vary in condition all the way from absolute penury to comparative prosperity; but whether a family be living from hand to mouth upon chance earnings eked out with charity, or upon a steady moderate income that leaves some margin for saving, all the members feel the pinch of land monopoly. A young man interested in one of the many charitable schemes that vainly struggle to save these people from the worst results of poverty, missed a lad for some nights from the reading room where he and two score others were accustomed to gather, and inquired his whereabouts. No one answered, and the question "Where does he live?" was asked. The answer came from a friend of the missing lad, "I don't know where he lives; but I know where he stands," and then followed the explanation that the east side youth usually prefers the comparative comfort of a street corner to the stuffy horrors of his tenement house home. His friends do not know in which human pigeon-hole he lives; but they are pretty sure to know the corner where he stands.

This fact throws an instructive light upon life in the east side tenements. Scarce any thrift or ingenuity can make attractive these dwellings of the poor. If one or two families are cleanly and comparatively prosperous they may be divided only by a hall, a stairway or a thin partition from the filth and misery of the abjectly poor. A considerable per centage of the dwellers in this region live almost habitually in part upon charity. With thousands it is a matter of course that in sickness they send for a charity physician. With other thousands direct charity in the form of food or clothing is a matter of periodical necessity. Some are hereditary paupers, while others accept charity only when in desperate need. Sickness, death or loss of work speedily brings a family to want. Of course the poverty of many is intensified by drunkenness, improvidence and bad management of various sorts.

Here are a few facts about tenenement house families of the poorer, but probably not of the poorest, and certainly not of the criminal class. They are merely sample cases, taken at random.

In Allen street, near one of the elevated railway stations, stands a row of tenement houses five stories high. The elevated railway runs within a few feet of the front windows. On the third floor of this tenement dwells a young man with his wife and two children. When he can he works as carver in a restaurant. For some cause, which the wife did not name, he has been six months idle. The wife, by working night and day at her little home, can earn about $5 per week making artificial flowers. She took up a red rose of cloth and said that she received forty cents for making 144 such flowers. The children were both sick with measles, and one of them had been an invalid most of its life. She was glad there were no more of them, though if food were forthcoming she would be well content to have a large family about her. In better days she had lived in Harlem. Afterward she had paid $11 a month for three comfortable rooms in a downtown tenement; but this was too much and the family had removed to Allen street. Some landlords were hard and some were easy. The hardest of all were the agents; they were pitiless. Evictions were common. It was usual for evicted families to give the agent as much trouble as possible, and when the few days of legal delay had expired, sullenly to await the actual process of being set upon the sidewalk, because this cost the landlord $7. Once in her own experience when she was unable to pay the rent, the landlady came in person and offered to give her two weeks' rent free if she would move without resistance at the end of that time. She gladly accepted the terms, but by good fortune was able to pay her rent when the time came round. For the two rooms then occupied by the family the rent was $8 a month. For each set of apartments above her the rent was a dollar less; for each below a dollar more. There were four families on a floor. The whole rent of the tenement figured up thus: First floor, $40 per month; second, $36; third, $32; fourth, $28; fifth, $24; total, $160 per month or $1,920 per year. The larger room measured scarcely 12x12, and the smaller, which was dark, must have been three or four feet less each way. The building was erected with the utmost economy of space. The only conveniences were a stationary iron basin and water spigot in each hall, and common outbuildings in the small rear yard. The halls and stairways were narrow, dark and noisome. The mother was not unneat in dress and her face was honest and cheerful. She even smiled when she said that the day before she had been without a penny. The bare floor was clean and the walls were hung with cheap prints of the kind known as "process" pictures. The air was stiflingly hot because of the cooking stove.

A widow, with a family of four pretty children and her mother, lives on the third floor of a rear tenement, or "yard house," as it is called by these people. She has three rooms, for which she pays $15 a month, the landlord having reduced it from $17 at the death of the husband. In the rear tenements the top floors often bring more than the lower ones. In this instance the rent of the fourth floor was the same as that of the third, while the second and first were each a little less. The whole house probably yields $120 a month. The whole appearance of the family was that of persons accustomed to reasonable comforts. The children were neatly dressed and soft spoken. The mother had the remnants of early beauty. The children were going to school. The eldest girl had recently been subject to sudden spells of dizziness. The doctor found the cause to be malaria. Many of these tenements are built over ground saturated by subterranean water courses, as are indeed hundreds of fashionable houses in this city. The mother explained that the little one cried at sight of the doctor because she had once undergone a surgical operation for relief of injuries received from a fall. That was in the days when the family employed a "pay doctor."

In another "yard house" a young painter out of work and with a sick wife, dwelt on the top floor and paid $7 per month for two small bare rooms. Apparently there were but two families on a floor here. The only light came from the front of the house, which rose not more than twenty-five feet from the rear of the front tenement. The neighbors had been feeding the family for a week, although most of them were nearly as poor as the painter himself.

A cheerful consumptive on the top floor of a rear tenement occupied, in company with her sister and an idle husband, two rooms, one light and one dark, at a rental of $8 per month. The sister, a coarse, good natured looking young woman, was making cigars by hand. The room smelled strongly of the green tobacco. A sickly child of two years, the prophecy of its mother's disease written in its weazened face, sat on a stool near the stove. A well-grown lad of ten came in with some meat done up in brown paper, and in his hand a piece of cake, which he gave to the child. The whole place was eloquent of poverty, and the women and children had the look of those to whom such conditions are a matter of course.

This story could be repeated with variations until every column of THE STANDARD was filled, and then would remain to be told the tale of that deeper, viler poverty which burrows amid unspeakable filth in unknown corners of the city, yet always must yield its tribute to the landlord. The poorest of the poor seem beyond the reach of every human being save the rent gatherer. The model tenements in various parts of the city have provided comparatively cheap sanitary quarters for some of the poor; but the neediest never find these havens. The model tenements are occupied for the most part by prosperous mechanics. The thriftiest of the poor, those who work when they can, deny themselves most pleasures and avoid excess, may hope to lift themselves out of the worst state, but unless their thrift is mere greed of gain and has not for one object a more comfortable and human mode of life, they must pay toll to the landlord. When a poor family begins to get ahead in the world it seeks pleasanter lodgings than the ordinary east side tenement affords, and of course pleasanter lodgings mean higher rent. Such a family moves further up town to increase the pressure of population in districts a little less crowded and of course to help the upward tendency of rents in the new quarters. Meanwhile the deserted downtown apartment is promptly filled, and rent there goes on as before.

Probably not more than a fifth of the rent in the tenement-house district should be estimated on buildings. The ordinary tenement house is built in the cheapest fashion. It would not pay to build them better, because the bare land yields so large a rent that the poor can afford to pay only for a standing place upon it, and the simplest sort of a roof over their heads. The single tax applied in its fullness would set free the vacant area of New York, cover them with dwellings and gradually relieve the pressure upon the tenement-house district. All other attempts at alleviation in the end merely enable the landholder to exact higher rents.

THE PETITION.

SINGLE TAX ENROLMENT COMMITTEE,
36 CLINTON PLACE,
NEW YORK, Feb. 18, 1890.

Our friends will see by the enrolment report below that the petition now exceeds 75,000 names. How soon will they double it? Are there not 3,000 readers of THE STANDARD who will undertake to obtain, between now and May 1, twenty-five signatures each? Remember that each signer immediately receives some literature bearing on the single tax, and that from time to time, as our finances permit, we send out documents over the whole list. Congress may, after all, refuse to appoint the committee of inquiry, but when it is remembered that every signature means a "talk" on the subject of the single tax, it will be readily seen that the petition is the most valuable means of propaganda that could be devised.

Subscriptions toward expenses of this committee's work stand as reported last week, viz., $2,742.70.

Cash contributions for the week ending February 18 are as follows:

Joseph H. Sage, Wellsburg, W. Va.	$2 00
Mrs. Louise Gartlgruber, Madstein, Austria	2 00
Jno. W. Ettell, St. Michael, Austria	2 87
W. L. Crosman, Roxbury, Mass.	1 00
G. W. Greene, Louisville, Ky.	1 04
"Single Tax," State of Washington	10 00
	$18 91
Cash contributions previously acknowledged in THE STANDARD	488 03
Total	$506 94

The enrolment now stands as follows:

Reported last week	74,605
Received during the week ending Feb. 18	520
Total	75,125

G. ST. J. LEAVENS, Sec.

RECENT SALES AND ASSESSMENTS.

IMPROVED.

No. 104 West Seventy-sixth street, four story stone dwelling. Sold for $27,500; assessed at $16,000, or 58 per cent of its value.

No. 233 East Eighty-first street, four story stone front tenement. Sold for $19,000; assessed at $10,500, or 55¼ per cent of its value.

No. 80 West Ninetieth street, five story brick flat. Sold for $26,000; assessed at $12,000, or 46 per cent of its value.

No. 72 West 100th street, five story brick tenement. Sold for $22,000; assessed at $12,000, or 54½ per cent of its value.

No. 243 East 109th street, two story frame dwelling. Sold for $6,000; assessed at $2,800, or 46⅔ per cent of its value.

No. 118 East 121st street, three story brick dwelling. Sold for $8,750; assessed at $4,700, or 53 per cent of its value.

No. 350 West 123d street, three story frame dwelling. Sold for $15 500; assessed at $8 000, or 51⅓ per cent of its value.

No. 155 East 124th street, four story stone flat. Sold for $16,500; assessed at $7,500, or 45½ per cent of its value.

The average assessment on the above eight parcels of land is 51¼ per cent of value.

UNIMPROVED.

North side Ninetieth street, 300 feet east of Second avenue, 100x100 8. Sold for $24,000; assessed at $9,200, or 38⅓ per cent of its value.

South side Ninety-ninth street, 100 feet east of Tenth avenue, 100x100 8. Sold for $45 000; assessed at $28,000, or 62¼ per cent of its value.

South side 104th street, 100 feet west of Avenue A, 100x100. Sold for $10,200; assessed at $4 000, or 38⅓ per cent of its value.

South side 105th street, 50 feet west of Manhattan avenue, 50x100 11. Sold for $20,000; assessed at $8,000, or 40 per cent of its value.

North side 124th street, 310 feet east of Sixth avenue, 25x100 11. Sold for $13,000; assessed at $5,000, or 38⅓ per cent of its value.

South side Fifty-seventh street, 550 feet west of Fifth avenue, 50x100.5. Sold for $100 000; assessed at $45,000, or 45 per cent of its value.

South side 128th street, 190 feet east of Fifth avenue, 20x99 11. Sold for $8,000; assessed at $3,500, or 43⅔ per cent of its value.

North side 133d street, 100 feet west of Tenth avenue, 125x99.11. Sold for $16,000; assessed at $7,500, or 46⅞ per cent of its value.

The average assessment on the above eight parcels of land is 41⅔ per cent of value.

THE ROLL OF STATES.

NEW YORK CITY.

A QUIET WEEK—REV. S. W. THACKERAY WILL SPEAK TO-MORROW EVENING.

To-morrow evening Rev. S. W. Thackeray will address the Manhattan single tax club

on "Who are the owners of the land?"

There will be an informal dinner on Saturday evening (Washington's birthday). A charge of thirty-five cents will be made to cover expenses. The list closes to-morrow evening.

Some of the members of the club will go to Yonkers to-morrow evening to talk to the Jefferson club.

Progressive whist was the entertainment for last Thursday, twelve players participating. Mr. Steers won the first prize with seventy per cent; Mr. George Simon won the booby prize with twenty-nine per cent.

Letters are beginning to come in in answer to the letters sent to the clergy asking them to read Mr. George's Glasgow speech.

Thomas F. Foy, Annexed District.—The North New York single tax club took steps toward permanent organization on Thursday night last, February 13, when the first meeting was held. About fourteen advocates of the single tax have thus far declared their intention of enroling in this club. Meetings will be held every Tuesday evening at 2 840 Third avenue. Friends of the cause and citizens in general of the Annexed district are invited to attend. The following are the officers: James R. Small, chairman; Edward Boppanann, financial secretary; John E. Harder, treasurer, and myself, secretary.

BROOKLYN.

W. E. HICKS BEFORE THE BROOKLYN CLUB—AN OPPORTUNITY GIVEN FOR IMPARTING INFORMATION.

An opportunity is now presented to the club to do some very effective work. A bill has been introduced into the legislature to annex the town of Flatbush to the city of Brooklyn as the Twenty-seventh ward.

The eleventh section which the club will oppose provides for the taxation of land nominally used as farm land as farm land, no matter what its intrinsic value for building may be. As the club will thoroughly discuss the subject, and decide what action it will take in the matter at its next meeting, February 19, a large attendance is desired.

Mr. G. W. Thompson spoke before the Eastern district club Tuesday, February 18, on "Our Protective Tariff."

W. E. Hicks, one of the American delegates to the Paris conference, was the speaker Sunday evening, taking as his theme, "How a single tax man lost his patriotism." His address, which was devoted mainly to a recital of the many interesting events and scenes witnessed during his recent trip abroad, abounded with vivid illustration and keen analysis. His description of Hawarden castle, the residence of W. E. Gladstone, with its 11,000 acres of land, a large portion of which is to-day in the same uncultivated state as in the days of the Plantagenets, came as a revelation to most present. While thousands of his fellow men were compelled to work for a mere subsistence because they were shut out from access to the land, the Gladstone family were holding thousands of acres from use in a wild state, in order to afford a rearing ground for rabbits. Mr. Hicks declared that in the short ride from Liverpool to London, about 200 miles, he saw sufficient land held out of use by large landed proprietors to support the whole population of Ireland. He showed that the same conditions which exist in England were fast obtaining in this country, and that an aristocracy was growing up based upon the ownership of land.

The sad news of the death of M. Albert Toubeau, in Paris, was announced, and resolutions expressing the sorrow of the club were unanimously adopted, the secretary being instructed to forward a copy to the family of the deceased gentleman.

The entertainment committee have prepared a programme for the club for the evening of February 26.

John C. Fletcher, Brooklyn.—I find that soliciting signatures to the petition gives opportunities for imparting information as to the single tax possible in no other way. I rejoice that the ministry are taking hold of the work of spreading the light. In a letter I received from London, England, the writer, speaking in reference to the growth of the land question and the great impetus given to the movement by Henry George's visit last year, says:

I fancy we are getting nicely in the wake of Henry George, for the taxing of ground rents and compensation for improvements is one of the main planks of the liberal platform, and I am of the opinion it will be a certain fact in the near future. It seems scarcely credible that America has hardly accepted the Prophet; but we have accepted him and his teachings, and mean to act up to them. One grand feature in connection with Mr. George is his moral worth—that none can say ought against his character as a man; but he stands to-day an exemplification of the words of our Leicester poet, when he sings, "Oh, my brothers; what a glory to the world is one good man."

NEW YORK STATE.

THE OTHER SEX MANIFESTING INTEREST IN THE SINGLE TAX.

H. D. Gawn, Rochester.—Our union could not find seating capacity for all who attended our meeting last Sunday evening, which was the most interesting held since its organization. If the interest keeps up as it has in the past few weeks we will have to rent larger quarters. A delegation of ladies from the Women's political club of this city, that numbers among its members some of the most influential women of this city, and presided over by Mrs. Colonel Greenleaf, was present. They stated that their club was about to take an interest in the single tax, and desired to gain all the information they could on the subject. Mr. William Manning of Boston in a very pleasing manner explained to them what is meant by the single tax. A. Adams read a paper on "Creeds and Their Effect on Society." Mrs. Brettell read extracts from papers bearing on the labor question written by her twenty-five years ago. They were most interesting, as they apply to the questions of to-day as well as then. Professor Hamlin Garland and Mr. James A. Herne are expected to speak in this city under the auspices of our union some time within the next two weeks. Due notice will be given.

Wm. Young, Yonkers.—A good audience gathered in Temperance hall at our last meeting to hear Lindley Vinton lecture on the "Single tax method of raising the revenue." The Rev. Dr. James T. Bixby presided, and in introducing the speaker, said he had come to receive information on the single tax question and to hear it discussed. Mr. Vinton, who had only about an hour at his disposal, requested the audience to rise and ask questions if his remarks were not clear to them. This turned the discourse into the free trade channel, and an interesting discussion ensued. After Mr. Vinton had taken his departure Mr. Woodruff, in a clear and simple way, explained the justice of the single tax, and the benefits that would be derived from its application. We have another meeting to morrow evening.

MASSACHUSETTS.

A LONELY SINGLE TAX MAN—A TRAMP SIGNS THE PETITION.

W. J. Webber, Sharon.—I am as yet, so far as I know, the only single tax man in this town. The inhabitants are filled with holy horror at the thought of a land tax, yet I think free trade principles are making some headway. The place is dead; it has not one prosperous industry. It is, however, in natural features the prettiest village out of Boston, and might become a residence town for city business men were it not for the policy, strictly adhered to by the town fathers, of taxing every new comer upon the highest valuation of his property, and $10 on a thousand at that.

J. N. Kyder, Wakefield.—I sent a petition signed by a tramp to the enrolment committee the other day. He was on his way from Lawrence, Mass., to Providence, R. I. He seemed to be willing to do any kind of work, but failed. I gave him an old pair of shoes and asked him to sign.

W. L. Crosman, Roxbury, Boston.—Our single tax club held a public meeting in Forester's hall last Wednesday evening. John R. Roche and Rev. Samuel Brazier were the speakers. The meeting was announced by notices in four of the Boston dailies, by posters and by the distribution of 1,000 of the inclosed cards—a few by mail and others being left under doors of residences. By means of the cards we have perhaps given 5,000 people an inkling of the principles we advocate. The number of strange faces at our meetings constantly increase, thereby showing that the light is spreading.

PENNSYLVANIA.

A PROPOSITION TO BORROW MONEY FOR IMPROVEMENTS BRINGS OUT THE SINGLE TAX.

S. T., South Bethlehem.—Our borough has spent $100,000 in public improvements, borrowing the money; and now there is a proposition up to borrow $15 000 more, for further improvements. The $100,000 borough debt is a heavy burden to the property owners, who fear the effect of a further increase. The Rev. John F. Scott, pastor of the Presbyterian church here, evinces great interest in the matter. He has written a letter to the South Bethlehem Star, in which he asks the assessors why more money does not come into the borough treasury. He says the improvements are necessary, but that the money to pay for them should be assessed according to the actual value of the property. Mr. Scott tells the assessors that certain building lots, which at present are put to no use, are assessed at a nominal rate, while their owners hold them as high as fifty dollars a foot. A Mr. George Henry also has a letter in the Star, which goes more into details. He calls the attention of the assessors to certain lots, valued by their owners at forty and fifty dollars a foot, which are rated by the assessors at about one-twentieth of their value. If the assessments were fairly made, say these two gentlemen, money in abundance could easily be raised for all public improvements. The discussion of taxation has become very general here since the proposition to increase our debt by $15,000, and if I properly gauge public opinion, if the present assessors do not change their methods of assessment, new men will be chosen at the next election.

S. T., Pittsburg.—The Commoner and Glassworker prints in its last number a letter on the labor problem issued by the Zanesville, Ohio, typographical union. It will be remembered that at the last session of the International typographical union in Denver a resolution was adopted that a committee be appointed to receive correspondence from members of the craft "as to the causes of labor's degradation," and the remedy therefor. The first response was from St. Paul, Minn., and it was printed in the Typographical Journal. The one from the Zanesville union is the second. The latter, while treating the subject differently, arrives at the same conclusion: "The single tax will do it."

P. D. Tangney, Bradford.—Mr. George's visit here has given the single tax a boom, and we will be heard from before long.

INDIANA.

SEEKING THE LIGHT IN DARK PLACES—THE MOVEMENT IN EVANSVILLE.

G. N. Galloway, Monticello.—There are only a few of us single taxers here, and it is through them we learn of what is going on in the outside world. Our local paper is edited by our county superintendent of schools, yet it is twenty years behind the times. However, there are a few of the teachers under him who are up to the times, or our educational system would be indeed in a bad way. They are beginning to instruct their pupils in regard to production and distribution of wealth, so that the children may one of these days be able to teach political economy, notwithstanding the opposition of the superintendent.

S. T., Evansville.—The single tax club of this city is rapidly increasing in numbers and is composed of the best business and professional men in town. As an example twelve of the leading physicians of the city are members.

ILLINOIS.

A FACT THAT SET MINERS TO THINKING—A CLERGYMAN INTERESTED—NEWS FROM CHICAGO.

William Coulson, Spring Valley.—The fact that one man had it in his power to prevent us from working for thirty weeks last year, and that that same power enabled him to compel us to return to work at a reduction of ten per cent, has opened the minds of our people here. I have sent to the enrolment committee for petitions, and I am satisfied that nearly every miner here will sign them.

C. F. Perry, Quincy.—Rev. Robert V. Atkisson, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, addressed our meeting February 7, on "Christian socialism," after which there was an informal discussion, involving the single tax, in which the reverend gentleman was much interested and asked several questions. Lyman McCarl will, at our next meeting, address us on "Ballot reform."

Warren Worth Bailey, Chicago.—The report of our committee on local taxation was submitted last Friday night by Mr. J. T. Ripley, whose services in this matter have been characterized by intelligence and remarkable care. The facts brought out were sensational in character, illustrating in a most striking way the debauchery that prevails in our methods of taxation, and they are certain to arrest public notice and compel attention to our appeals for reform. We have decided to call a conference of the single tax men of Cook county to meet in this city, under the auspices of the Chicago single tax club, early in June. While it will be a county conference, the friends throughout the state will be welcomed, the design being to get together, for mutual encouragement, all who have "seen the cat." Tom L. Johnson of Cleveland, Wm. Lloyd Garrison of Boston, H. Martin Williams of Missouri, Thomas L. Binnie of Iowa, Judge Perry of Quincy and other prominent gentlemen will be invited to be present, and we hope that a boom may be given to the good cause which is daily attracting fresh recruits and developing ardent advocates.

Robert Cumming, Du Quoin.—The single tax was presented here yesterday for the first time at a meeting held under the auspices of the Knights of Labor. The subject, "God's gifts to all His children and the law of man's birthright," brought four clergymen and many churchgoing people. I spoke for over an hour (my first attempt at making a regular address), and Revs. A. J. Fishback, W. P. Throgmorton and Marion Teegue and Hon. John J. Higgans followed. S. I. Davis, lecturer for the state grange, stoutly opposed the single tax, which he said was designed to rob the farmers. My reply seemed to have the desired effect, and I left the idea to take care of itself. The opposition that the single tax always meets with on its first presentation is manifest here.

MINNESOTA.

A MINISTER TALKS SINGLE TAX—FARMERS LISTENING.

C. J. Buell, Minneapolis.—Our meeting of February 12 was a tremendous success. Rev. S. W. Sample, minister of All Souls' Universalist church, addressed the league on "The moral aspects of the single tax movement," and by the remarkable clearness of his ideas, the wonderful force and eloquence of his delivery, the sincerity, pathos and candor that marked every utterance, he placed himself among the very few ablest defenders of our principles.

Our next meeting will be opened with an address on "The high price of coal in the northwest," by John Goodnow, president of the Minneapolis coal exchange.

W. A. Carpenter, Minneapolis.—Last December I visited Dakota county in this state and addressed two audiences on the single tax question. So much interest was shown at these meetings that last week I visited the same section again, being accompanied this time by President C. J. Buell of our single tax league.

The audience that greeted us was composed largely of farmers, and listened with evident interest to the forcible address of Mr. Buell. The speaker's earnestness, his logical analysis of the causes of present social disorders and his evident freedom from prejudice seemed to have great weight with his hearers. After the address an opportunity for the signing of the congressional petition was given and all the blanks we had with us were quickly used. After distributing a large quantity of single tax literature, we took our departure, feeling that much good had been accomplished.

The editor of the Dakota County Tribune, who, in an able editorial, had called the attention of the people to Mr. Buell's address, said to me next day, "I tell you this single tax movement is in the air. One can hardly pick up a paper nowadays without seeing in it something relating to the single tax." Later in the day I met a prominent citizen of Farmington who is a reader of THE STANDARD and, perhaps it is needless to add, is a single tax man. The interest which this gentleman and others of the well-to-do classes are taking in this movement is very encouraging.

SOUTH DAKOTA.

THE FARMERS BECOMING INTERESTED—"THE EMPTY LARDER" MAKES MEN PONDER.

W. E. Brokaw, Bristol.—Wednesday, the 5th, I drove out to a farm about six miles east of Bristol, and in the evening went with the farmer and his wife to their schoolhouse to visit the literary society. I had been invited to go the previous week. The question discussed was,

Resolved, That the farmer is of more importance than the mechanic.

After several had spoken the chairman called on me. I claimed that there was an industrial interdependence between the two, but that the question of relative importance must be determined from a political standpoint. I pointed out how the mechanic had compelled the recognition of his importance, and that whenever the farmer waked up to a realization of his power and set about the study of economics he could soon prove that he was more important than the mechanic—at the ballot box. On the 12th I took part in a discussion on the tariff.

A South Dakota editor has written me that he would hereafter give the single tax "a great big chance" in his paper, and "may join the ranks myself." This week he published an explanation of the doctrine that I wrote for him. Another editor has written urging me to send him some free trade articles.

W. L. Johnson, Aberdeen.—I find that men are more willing to think now that their elbows are out and their larders empty. They are signing the petition willingly today where a year ago they would have laughed at the idea.

VERMONT.

H. L. Buzzell, St. Johnsbury.—The single tax some how or other seems to flavor everything I write. It even creeps into my college essays, and whenever social questions are mentioned in my hearing the single tax creeps into my speech. Of late I have attempted a little missionary work, and it has helped me wonderfully. It showed me where I was weak and impelled me to devote more time to the study of the single tax. Henry George's article in the Arena has straightened me out on the rum question. I cannot look at anything now save through single tax spectacles.

NEW JERSEY.

J. A. Craig, Paterson.—Frank Visser is translating some select articles upon the single tax for the further edification of his people after they shall have digested the single tax platform.

The Rev. S. B. Meeser, at the solicitation of our club, will preach on ballot reform in the course of a week or so.

DELAWARE.

David McWilliams, Rockford, Wilmington.—I am surprised that ministers of the gospel do not more generally adopt the single tax doctrine. I think it is as much the duty of ministers to tell a man how to improve his condition in this life as to tell him of the future.

OHIO.

James B. Vining, Cleveland.—Our club has quite a large number of members, a great many of whom fail to give aid to club work, and we are thus crippled and kept from doing the good we might if there was heart-

ier support. We are taking steps to help along ballot reform. Mr. L. A. Russell, prominent lawyer and well known single tax man, and Hon. M. A. Foran, ex-member of congress from this district, and who was prominent in the last congress as being one of the democrats to vote against the Mills bill, will speak on "Taxation" under the auspices of Central single tax club, at Memorial hall, Superior street, on Friday evening, February 21. Mr. L. E. Siemon tells me that the prospect for the single tax letter writing corps is very flattering; all who can should join. His address is 7 Greenwood street.

MISSOURI.

J. W. Steele, St. Louis.—I have heard that several of our prominent ministers are beginning to take an interest in the subject, one having stated that he believed in our doctrines.

Father Huntington will lecture under the auspices of our league on the 26th. We expect to make it free, and in the largest hall in the city.

WISCONSIN.

George H. Bates, River Falls.—We have started a club with a membership of fifty, and we believe that before the year is out we will capture two-thirds of the voters of this city. Our meetings are held every Wednesday evening, and every body is invited to attend.

IOWA.

W. M. Martin, Solon.—I have done some work here and aroused some interest, but not enough to boast of. Republicans and democrats are standing face to face in this state with very little thought of true principles. The subject of the single tax has never been discussed here, and I have succeeded in arousing some interest in the subject. I feel it to be my duty to do what I can for the cause; for since reading the sermon delivered in Glasgow by Henry George, "Thy kingdom come," I can not be a follower of Jesus and not be a firm believer in the restoration of the land to its normal condition by the single tax.

GEORGIA.

G. Mahan, Savannah.—While there is no single tax organization here, there is not much trouble in explaining the doctrine. The people, both black and white, are beginning to think for themselves. Everything looks bright.

LOUISIANA.

John S. Watters, New Orleans.—The editor of the Sunday States has set apart a column of his paper for the discussion of the single tax, which our single tax club has volunteered to edit. The column appeared for the first time on February 9, and is devoted to an exposition of our aims and objects. The editor of the States is an anti-protectionist of strong convictions, who is rapidly approaching our line.

TEXAS.

W. J. Morrison, San Antonio.—We are slowly and all the more surely gaining strength here, and have our headquarters open every day in the week. We have under advisement a petition to the mayor and city council asking for an increase of assessments on vacant lots and corresponding exemption of improvements; also to have a seperate valuation on land and improvements. None of us are public speakers, but we can do a power of talking when we get a fellow cornered with the national petition.

COLORADO.

A. B. Clark, Silver Plume.—The hair-brained young fellow who edits our local paper thinks the "George theory is all rot." I intend to labor with him and see if he will allow me space to explain the "rot" a little. In getting signatures to the petition one finds out the different opinions men have on the subject of taxation. I have met with many rebuffs, but on the whole I feel encouraged to continue my work. I see a prospect of forming a single tax club in the near future.

WYOMING.

S. T., Cheyenne.—The land boom has struck this town, and property is on the rise. It is being worked for all it is worth. Wait till the boom rolls by, and then we'll see what we shall see.

CALIFORNIA.

George M. Craig, Los Angeles.—Mr. George has come and gone. He has done a world of good by calling the attention and thought of the people to the single tax in a manner they will not forget. I have sent the enrolment committee 100 petitions, signed by men who have changed their minds on matters since Mr. George's visit.

E. Hodkins, Oakland.—Since Mr. George's lecture the single tax is the leading topic of discussion.

FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

CANADA.

LOUIS F. POST SPEAKS AT TORONTO—AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PREMIER OF ONTARIO.

S. T., Toronto, Ont.—Thomas G. Shearman of New York was to have spoken here on the 14th, but owing to his illness Louis F. Post took his place. There was every assurance of a large meeting, until, simultaneously with the opening of the doors, a fire broke out in the University buildings. In a few minutes the sky was reddened with the flames, and by the time the lecture was over the old University, with its invaluable library and costly scientific apparatus, was in ashes. Nothing remained but bare and blackened walls. Nevertheless, though all the city was out to watch the fire, and the theaters were almost empty, three hundred people attended the lecture.

Thanks to the push of Councilman A. E. McDonald, the legislative committee of the city council has recommended a petition to parliament for the exemption from taxation of houses used for homes to the extent of $600, and also of personal property. The single tax is a familiar subject in Toronto, and has many influential advocates. One of its active supporters is Captain Cartwright, ex-minister of finance for the Dominion.

J. L. Dawkins, Toronto, Ont.—Alderman Hallam has written an open letter in the Globe to the Hon. Oliver Mowatt, premier of Ontario, on the assessment question, in which he publicly advocates the adoption of the single tax. The letter has created somewhat of a sensation, coming, as it does, from a man of great influence in this community. The alderman has been an interested listener to our speakers for a long time, though his conversion is but recent.

ENGLAND.

S. T., Sheffield.—At a meeting held here January 23, Earl Compton, M. P., advocated taxation of ground rents and values, and resolutions in favor of a direct assessment upon owners of ground rents and values were passed.

WALES.

London Democrat.—The land restoration movement is making rapid progress in South Wales, especially in Monmouthshire and Glamorganshire, where a vigorous agitation has been conducted during the past few months. Meetings have been held at all the more important centers in these two counties, and the testimony of the speakers is that while the so-called "better classes" are inclined to cold-shoulder the new gospel and its adherents, "the common people," as of old, everywhere "hear them gladly."

THEY FEEL THE PINCH.

AN EDITOR RAILS AGAINST OUTRAGEOUS LAWS UNDER WHICH THE REAL ESTATE SHARK THRIVES.

The St. Joseph, Mo., Gazette makes no claim to being in favor of the single tax. Perhaps its editor, if questioned, would say that he differs with Mr. George on economic matters. But the following leading editorial article, from the Gazette of Sunday, February 6, indicates that the editor is dissatisfied with conditions that enable speculators in land to receive immunity from the burdens of taxation, while those who improve and add to the value of a locality are compelled to pay more than their share.

The real estate shark is the most ravenous of human fish. His capacity of appetite has no limit. He can digest anything, from the tax title of a fractional lot to the output of a trust deed on an entire country. He does not improve, he spends nothing that can benefit his community, he does not build; he only invests. He secures a foothold and keeps it until his more liberal neighbors have made it valuable by improving around him. Then he sells for an increased price and pockets the wages of a swine.

There is another kind, the sort that secures good corner lots, the choicest selections in the city, and covers them over with shanties in which a digger Indian would be ashamed to herd fleas, rat pits that can be leased for enough to keep up the taxes until his neighbors have made the property valuable. He is numerous in St. Joseph. In an early day he planted his foot on Edmond, Felix, Francis and other business thoroughfares, and where he stepped there sprang up slab huts, native lumber cabins, half-baked brick shanties, architectural abortions whose only merit was they were small and mean. All around them enterprising, public spirited men erected stores and dwellings befitting a modern and progressive city, high enough to shade his hovels in the summer and to keep the wind from blowing them away in the winter. They preserve the hang dog saloon from destruction, the Dago stand, with its four dollars' worth of damaged fruit, and the musty crap shop to which he has rented his squalid structures. Finally the march of improvement has made his lots valuable. Other men have paid for the music and kept step with the procession; he has sneaked along in the rear, with the boys, the coon, the gamin of all degrees, sponged all the fun and pocketed the profits.

He does not always build even the one-story shanty. He prefers to lease the ground for enough to pay the taxes to another one-story builder, a good long lease, a lease that will continue until the four-story men have got in their work and given his lot a value to which he has not contributed anything but inertia.

He is an earnest advocate of the theory of taxation that oppresses the man who puts up a four-story block and all but neglects the lot shark who builds nothing, or if he does, builds a den instead of a house. He is at work on every principal street of St. Joseph. His laborers are gophering ditches for foundations wherever a respectable block casts a shadow. Ragpickers and skin game peddlers haunt his office for ground leases. The bill poster is his best friend When he is not able to effect a lease nature comes to his aid and adorns his lots with "jimson" weed. He owns dog fennel pastures adjoining churches and burdock meadow between business houses. They grow night and day, and his profits keep pace with them, but without his help.

The unjust system of taxation prevailing in both city and county aids the lot shark. There could be nothing more inequitable. Standing in the door of the Gazette office one can see twenty lots covered with shanties which are taxed less than the same number covered by brick blocks that cost thousands of dollars. A premium is paid for not improving and a penalty attached for building. The merchant, whose property is all in sight, whose invoices can be demanded, is called to make a spectacle of himself before the board of equalization. He is taxed on everything visible, notwithstanding the fact that he buys more or less of his goods on credit, and frequently does not own more than two-thirds of the stock for which he is assessed. The manufacturer is in the same category. Every dollar gained by these classes in one year's trade is added to the assessment for the following year. The vacant lot, which the lot shark will not sell for a fair price and will not build upon, is assessed for the same to-day that it was years ago, while its value has doubled.

The board of trade, which has recently manifested a disposition to aid in doing something for the city—although its first effort was not particularly successful—can find in this abuse of taxation a fee worty of its steel. The system is vicious and inequitable. It oppresses the enterprising, useful citizen for the benefit of the unenterprising, unimproving, uncreating citizen. It is an incubus on legitimate business, an obstacle to the city's growth.

A TARIFF ON GODS.

New York Star.

Frederick Remington, the artist, tells a good story on himself. He is a great collector of bric-a-brac, and used to strongly favor a high protective tariff. While making a journey through Mexico for one of the big magazines, he was overjoyed to pick up half a dozen Zuni gods, which a native in the interior sold to him for about seventy-five cents each. Mr. Remington packed them away, and pictured in his mind how pretty they would look with the other curiosities he has at his rooms. At Laredo, on his way home, a customs officer examined his baggage.

"What are these?" asked the official, picking up the images and eyeing Mr. Remington suspiciously.

"Zuni gods," answered the artist.

The officer looked at his schedule, did some figuring, and then announced that the owner of the Zuni gods would have to pay something like $5 duty on each.

"Is there any Zuni god industry in the United States that needs to be protected?" asked Mr. Remington scornfully.

"I don't know whether there is or not," replied the officer, "but you'll pay that duty or we'll keep your gods."

Mr. Remington paid the duty, but he hasn't made any protection arguments since.

"BUT NO MARKET."

Boston Globe.

The Philadelphia and Reading railroad officials complain that they have plenty of coal but no market. Their 8,000 employes complain that they have plenty of muscle, but no market. Here, again, "capital and labor are in the same boat."

Consumption Cured.

An old physician, retired from practice, having had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma and all throat and lung affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all nervous complaints, after having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, has felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellows. Actuated by this motive and a desire to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who desire it this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail by addressing with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. Noyes, 820 Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.

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Sufferers are not generally aware that these diseases are contagious, or that they are due to the presence of living parasites in the lining membrane of the nose and eustachian tubes. Microscopic research, however, has proved this to be a fact, and the result of this discovery is that a simple remedy has been formulated whereby catarrh, catarrhal deafness and hay fever are permanently cured in from one to three simple applications made at home by the patient once in two weeks.

N. B.—This treatment is not a snuff or an ointment; both have been discarded by reputable physicians as injurious. A pamphlet explaining this new treatment is sent free on receipt of stamp to pay postage, by A. H. Dixon & Son, 337 and 339 West King street, Toronto, Canada.—[Christian Advocate.

Sufferers from Catarrhal troubles should carefully read the above.—[Adv.

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SINGLE TAX ORGANIZATIONS.

(Secretaries of clubs are requested to send any corrections in the list below, and all newly formed organizations are asked to report promptly, either to the Enrollment committee or The Standard.)

ARKANSAS.

LITTLE ROCK.—Little Rock single tax club. Every alternate Thursday evening, 717 Main st. Pres., Sol F. Clark; sec., O. D. Hemming, 1910 Main st.

CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO.—California single tax society. Every Sunday evening, St. George's hall, 909½ Market st. Library and reading room open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., 841 Market st. Pres., H. L. Pleace; sec., G. A. Hubbell. Address of all officers, 841 Market st.

SACRAMENTO.—Single tax club of Sacramento. Every Friday evening, Dr. Reed's office, 6th and K sts. Pres., Dr. Thos. B. Reed; sec., C. W. Farnsworth, 1406 4th st.

OAKLAND.—Single tax club No. 1 meets every Friday evening at St. Andrews hall, 1056½ Broadway. Pres., A. J. Gregg; sec., E. Hadkins.

LOS ANGELES.—Los Angeles single tax club. Pres., A. J. Gray; sec., Clarence A. Gray, rooms 24-25 Bryson-Bonebrake block.

SAN DIEGO.—San Diego single tax county committee. Every Monday evening, 139 10th st. Chairman, Geo. B. Whaley, box 1088.

BLACK DIAMOND.—Contra Costa county single tax committee. Jeff. A. Bailey, sec.

COLORADO.

DENVER.—Denver single tax association. Every Thursday evening, 1448 Lawrence st. Pres,, G. H. Phelps; sec., F. H. Monroe, 2951 Marion st.

PUEBLO.—Commonwealth single tax club. First and Fourth Thursdays at office of D. B. V. Reeve, Union av. Pres., D. B. V. Reeve; sec., J. W. Brentlinger, Pueblo Smelting and Refining Co.

GRAND JUNCTION.—Mesa county single tax and ballot reform club. Pres., James W. Bucklin; sec., Geo. Smith.

CANYON CITY.—Single tax committee; sec., Dr. Frank P. Blake.

HAWKXHURST.—Plateau Valley single tax club. Pres., John W. Hawkxhurst; sec., E. H. Parkenson.

CONNECTICUT.

NEW HAVEN.—Tax reform club. Every Friday evening, room 11, 102 Orange st. Pres., Willard D. Warren; sec., Alfred Smith, 105 Day st.

MERIDEN.—Meriden single tax club. 3 p. m. every Sunday, Circle hall. Pres., Wm. Hawthorne; sec., Wm. Williss, P. O. box 1342.

DAKOTA.

STATE.—South Dakota single tax association. Pres., Judge Levi McGee of Rapid City; sec., W. E. Brokaw, box 146, Bristol.

RAPID CITY.—Black Hills single tax league. Last Saturday in each month, Library hall. Pres., Judge Levi McGee; sec., Francis H. Clark.

MADISON.—Lake county single tax club. Chairman, Prof. E. H. Evanson.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

WASHINGTON. — Washington single tax league; always open; regular meeting Friday evening, 609 F street, N. W. Pres., Paul T. Bowen; sec., Wm. Geddes, M. D., 1719 G st., N. W.

FLORIDA.

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TAMPA.—Thomas G. Shearman single tax league. First Monday in each month, business meeting; Sundays, public speaking. Pres., C. E. Ainsworth; sec., John H. McCormick.

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HYDE PARK.—Single tax club. Sec., F. S. Childs, 40 Charles st.

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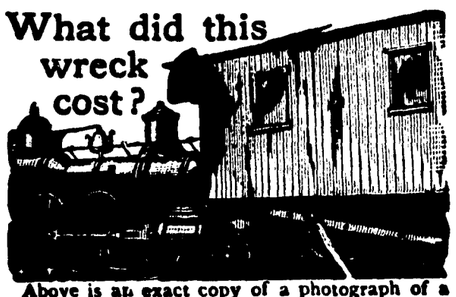

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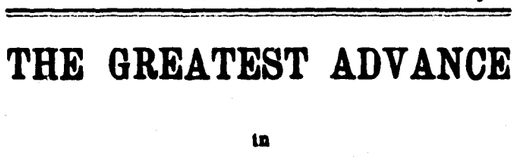

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