

Mr. Weeks deserves much credit for his earnest endeavor to do something—so many seeming to have “lain down.” We may be able to better know how to do later on, as the campaign approaches. Never were there brighter prospects for re-alignments; never less interest shown, under the Jack o’ lantern prosperity in politics. The financial crisis is due this year, and it will surely culminate this year or early in the next. They have come every ten years since 1833. Many of us remember 1873, ’83, ’93, and 1903 is here. The prime cause is land speculation—fostering stock and bond and credit crazes.

These ten year visitations are as regular as birthdays—and the hard times last seven years. At the end of seven years normal conditions have returned, the people have accumulated some money, then lands begin to rise, and the skinning operations begin again. It takes about three years to go through this skinning process, then seven years for the hide to grow back again—completing the decade—and the beginning of the skinning again—and so on.

The country is now naked—from the most complete skinning known in our history. Hard times are already on, and the crash of the crisis is expected at any time. Wall Street is too shaky to withstand much longer. There has been more extravagance, more wars, more administrative cussedness in this government—and in others—than for many decades past.

Now the point I am after is, the consolation we may get out of a panic. *It is the time for a change of administration, and the revival of interest in reforms.*

Let Bro. Weeks, and all reformers, keep now everlastingly at it—for a closer organization of the democratic Democrats—for aggressive action at the first blast of our Roderick’s bugle horn.

We need, by no means, to be despondent over the outlook. Never did so big a thing as the Single Tax grow so fast. The recent news from the English Parliament—coming within 13 votes of carrying—why it alone is enough to recompense us all for all the hard licks and kicks we have received.

So far as my neighborhood is concerned I am not at all uneasy—when a show down is called for. And, I am sure that the growth of single tax sentiment is much more wide spread than some people know of.

J. L. CALDWELL.

Denver, Colo.

Editor *Single Tax Review* :

Single Taxers in Colorado seem very much unconcerned regarding future political organization and action along the lines suggested by Mr. Weeks. Copies of his article and requests for letters for publication have been mailed direct to eighteen of the prominent Single Taxers of Colorado,

with the result that replies have come from but two.

Personally, I am in full accord with the propositions so ably presented by Mr. Weeks in the January issue of the REVIEW. It submits the alternative of a future political freedom, for a past political slavery—of a contest in which the heart can go with the ballot—for one from which our principles continually plead for divorce.

As respects Single Taxers, what argument can be advanced to induce us to remain with the Democratic party, unless we write the platform? Of what avail would be its success otherwise, with its puny reforms and a Republican Congress.

As respects the “making” of Single Taxers can indirect education, hedged about with the confused issues of the present democracy, be equal, in any respect, to direct education, such as the contemplated action would insure?

Do we not rather annul what would otherwise be of permanent benefit, by casting our lot with a party that gains victories or suffers defeat upon indefinite issues? It was so in this State last fall, although Mr. Herman\* does us wrong to imply that “We left the track of simple and pure propaganda for the cesspool of place hunting politics.” We were not after office at any time during the movement and our only offense against principles was the support we gave the Democratic party, which, after fathering the amendment in the regular assembly, secretly and openly opposed it throughout the campaign.

It is not the object of this movement to obtain office. Our principles put into practice by Republican, Democratic or Socialist office holders would be entirely acceptable, but as long as we subordinate our principles in the service of any unprincipled party, we will have an empty sack to hold. It is only by education that we can force the issue of Land Value Taxation upon some dominant party and this is to be quickest accomplished when we demonstrate our strength and define our issue.

E. O. BAILEY.

Denver, Colo.

Editor *Single Tax Review* :

In replying to your question concerning an independent Single Tax political organization, I will say; that the plan suggested, namely, that an organization be formed to go to the national Democratic convention and ask for admission, would be unprecedented so far as I know, and I do not see how admission could possibly be obtained and if admission could not be had then the only effect the movement you speak of could possibly have would be that

NOTE.—See letter of Mr. J. R. Herman that follows.

of a new party. As to the advisability of a new party, that is an old thrashed over question, and one that single taxers have been divided on since the movement started, and I can see no reason why the old arguments pertaining to that subject are not as good now as they were twenty years ago, and I fully agree with Post on his theory of political parties as was fully outlined by him in an issue of the *Public* some months ago.

But, I can see arguments on both sides, I can see that political activity may retard or strengthen propoganda work, and I can see that straight propoganda work can retard, at a given point, political work.

It may be said that our agitation in consequence of the political issue in this state, has furthered our cause from a propoganda point view. At the same time we can say that we have retarded the movement in consequence of our failure from a political point of view. We have set many to thinking, it is true, but at what cost? Not financial cost, but the most valuable of all, the moral sacrifice, for the moment our movement left the track of simple and pure propoganda to the cesspool of place hunting politics it degraded it to the dead level of the cheap political grafter from whom it must be wrested by almost a new generation. But, you exclaim, good Single Taxers must not go into politics for office merely, but whether they must or must not does not change the fact that Single Taxers are merely human, and generally poor, and know more about the power of the almighty dollar than most people and are as apt to be influenced by temptation as anybody, and it matters not what form it takes when it enters the arena of politics it lays itself liable to all the vice that power and influence is capable of. I think that our greatest danger is not that the movement will not get into politics soon enough, but that it will get there too soon. It seems to me that it ought not to get into politics until it gets there in spite of the efforts of reformers to keep it out, and then when it does come, it will come as an advance movement, and not as a reactionary movement.

What I would like to see in this country is a propoganda organization which carries on its work in the spirit that the Socialists carry on their work. To be sure, we are too individualistic to make any such united demonstration as they do, but this I heartily believe, that until there is an upheaval or deep awakening, something like the Anti-Corn Law agitation in England, we will not see even the entering wedge of the Single Tax. If any one who has witnessed the desperate opposition to even the remotest application of our theory in this State does not realize the sober task before us, then he must be dreaming indeed.

J. R. HERMAN.

Thebodeaux, La.

Editor *Single Tax Review* :

It seems to me that the policy pursued heretofore by Single Taxers has been one of indecision, as if we were not convinced of the truth of what we advocate. We are begging the endorsement of organizations indifferent, if not hostile to our principles; and our timidity is such that we dare not of ourselves, and without the assistance and guidance of our opponents, expose to the criticism of the public the light of truth which has been intrusted to us. What great reform has ever been accomplished by methods as timid as these? If the Abolitionists had adopted these tactics, negro slavery would still be flourishing; the American Revolution would have failed; the Union troops could never have restored the Union. On every page of history we can see that the prerequisites to success is a principle or a cause for which men will give their labor and if necessary their lives.

And if a great light has been entrusted to us, have we the right to cover it with a bushel? It is true that practically the works of Mr. George are the only means we have of propogating the Single Tax; and one of the great elements of strength of these works, is their fearless and uncompromising honesty. What have Single Taxers done to advance the cause? To how many have we shown the light? And if, through Mr. George, the light has been shown to us, it is our duty and we are morally bound to show it to as many as we can, and we need not fear, for it is of the nature of truth to gain by being investigated. The more intense the light and the more searching, the surer will be the triumph of truth over falsehood. Of all the methods known, that of a political campaign to carry out a political principle, is the one that will bring the issue home to the greatest number, and cause the widest discussion. And after all is said, why should we not have a candidate for Governor, and for President? Failure to elect our candidates can not discredit our party. If our claims are true, if our principles are correct, and if the remedy we propose is morally just, and does not violate, but enforces the Divine command, "Thou shalt not steal," we must come out of a political struggle immensely stronger than we went in whether we elect our candidates or not.

And if our claims are not true, if our principles are not correct, and if the remedy we propose does violate the command, "Thou shalt not steal," we have no right to withhold our position from the searchlight of a political campaign.

JULES LAFOREST.

Chicago, Ill.

Editor *Single Tax Review* :

I favor a straight out Single Tax fight. Nearly all Single Taxers are like women's