

is a *one big idea* movement much after that of the abolition of slavery and prohibition of the liquor traffic, and for that reason can hardly function successfully as a political party, as the movements mentioned did not. A strong national organization for propaganda, however, is needed and it may be possible that your party in New York may prove the right thing.

Indianapolis, Ind.

JOHN F. WHITE.

#### BACK TO FIRST PRINCIPLES

##### EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

Chicago has been visited by a regular crime wave. Thirty-six murders and hold-ups in one month. For some months the *Chicago American* has been publishing editorials hammering away at the police and especially the pool-rooms in outlying districts, which seem to serve as recruiting stations for criminals. Why scratch only the surface and not ask what is the underlying cause of this frightful carnival of crime? Conditions may undoubtedly be temporarily improved by removing objectionable pool-rooms, strengthening the arm of police with change of personnel or policy, but at best, they will prove only palliatives. The disease is sure to break out anew. We ourselves are in a large measure to blame. A crime wave is the natural result of war. We preach a lesson of disregard for human life when we give the lad, kind to dumb animals, a piece of cold steel and teach him to thrust it into the heart of a fellow human being, an innocent lad like himself obeying his country's call. It brutalizes not alone the doer, but all who read, hear and glory in it.

If those in high station are permitted to stretch the Constitution do we not teach disrespect for law? If troops can be sent to Russia without a declaration of war, their liberty and life taken, we are sowing the very seed which produces transgression of law in others. The education of a child should begin twenty years before it is born. What sort of children will the next generation bring forth? What is needed is a revival of the gospel of Americanism. The Declaration of Independence may be termed the spirit of Americanism. It embodies a "working" philosophy that still challenges successful attack and is superior to all the phrases, makeshifts and economics of a later day. Milwaukee, Wis.

HERMAN REEL.

#### ON THE PASSING OF JAMES W. BUCKLIN

##### EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

The passing of James W. Bucklin, of Grand Junction, Colo., marks the passing of a period in the Single Tax movement which ended a few years prior to his death, but of which he was a central figure and one of its most sincere representatives.

Thirty years ago James W. Bucklin was a militant radical, one of the very few lawyers in the United States who had the temerity to openly espouse the Single Tax in all its fulness.

The western half of Colorado was undeveloped and far removed from the center of thought and activity in the United States. He was obliged to convert his own constituency. This was not hard, for land speculation had not started yet and the pioneer was a free man who had not felt the blighting influence of thousand dollar land. It was then that Bucklin started the first Single Tax party, and it was this that landed him in the General Assembly and subsequently gave him the prestige that made it possible to do the work he did.

But soon land values began to take a jump on the Western Slope, and men took less and less interest in the Single Tax and more and more interest in booming the country, for they discovered that they could raise a superior crop. A land boom ensued unequalled anywhere in the United States. Land went to five thousand dollars per acre and back again to nothing. Bucklin was conservative; he came back from New Zealand and told how local option was working and how discouraged the Single Taxers were. But he added, "the local option men have the thin edge of the wedge in and will drive it home in time." But Single Taxers felt helpless, as it would postpone the full Single Tax; in fact he stated Single Tax was discussed more in the United States than it was anywhere in Australasia. He thought, however that if we could get local option we could evolve the Single Tax and prevent what would otherwise be inevitable, a revolution in the United States.

And so he induced the most radical legislature Colorado ever had to submit a local option amendment. This amendment permitted counties to exempt or refuse to exempt improvements from taxation every four years. But no part of franchise values should be so exempted. This bill was about as far from a Single Tax bill as one could imagine; whether or not it would lead to Single Tax is anybody's guess. But it was fought by the interests as a Single Tax bill, because Single Taxers were back of it. It was this that frightened the landlords, not the bill. This was in 1892. Everyone now agrees that the present Oregon bill would have received just as many votes in Colorado at that time as the Bucklin bill. The campaign had the effect of awakening privilege. The lion was aroused. He saw clearly how all privilege could be wiped out while he was sleeping. The local option method prevailed in Colorado as long as Bucklin lived and the Fels Fund Commission backed it up. It finally culminated in the Pueblo fiasco, and thus ended the first chapter of Single Tax "practical politics" in the United States.

The REVIEW is right in saying that had Bucklin maintained his health and punch, he would be in the forefront of the new era in the Single Tax movement. But that is the past; let us profit by what has occurred, and in the light of the world's transformation be equal to the new task. While the Bucklin bill was radical in its day, the Single Tax bill of Oregon is the first full measure ever presented to voters anywhere on earth, yet it is tame legislation considered by many thousands of voters in Oregon, and if interest is to be aroused again in the Single Tax movement in Colorado it must come from the success of the Coast.

Portland, Ore.

J. R. HERMANN.

## NEWS, NOTES AND PERSONALS

A THOUGHTFUL article from Alexander Pernod on strikes appears in the *Daily Calumet* of Chicago.

THE Single Tax Conference at Fairhope announced for November 7th has been postponed to January 1st.

JAMES A. ROBINSON started on his organizing tour through the Western States on December 9th.

MR. HARRY H. WILLOCK, of Pittsburgh, has distributed within the last 60 days, 80,000 copies of his pamphlet, "Unused Democracy," all in answer to requests.

EX-PARK COMMISSIONER RAYMOND V. INGERSOLL has accepted the position of Secretary of the City Club. Mr. Ingersoll has always been friendly to the Single Tax movement.

WAYNE D. HEYDECKER, son of the late Edwin L. Heydecker, long an active Single Taxer and member of the New York Tax Department under Lawson Purdy, is one of the associate editors of that important magazine, *The American City*.

IN *The Mining and Scientific Press*, of San Francisco, R. B. Brinsmade has a contribution of much value on "Gold, Prices and War Debts," in which various aspects of this question are discussed with Brinsmade's customary clarity.

THE eldest son of the late James W. Bucklin, is a senior at Stamford University, and as a close companion of his distinguished father is intensely interested in the Single Tax movement. We shall doubtless hear from him later.

ADOLPH DAMASCHEK, long editor of *Bodenreform* the organ of the German land reformers, has announced his candidacy for President of the new German Republic. The *New York Times* with its usual accuracy when dealing with matters of this sort, speaks of him as "a national Socialist," which he is not.