

COMMUNICATIONS.

KNEW EDWIN BURGESS.

Editor Single Tax Review:

I was a friend of Edwin Burgess from 1854 to 1869, although he was many years my senior. In 1859 and 1860 Mr. Burgess printed 11 articles upon the Single Tax question, and they are very interesting reading. These letters were published in pamphlet form in London, England, in 1871 or 1872, and a copy of this pamphlet is filed in the Gladstone Library in London. Mr. L. H. Berens is the man who ran the pamphlet down. Mr. Berens wrote Louis F. Post, of the Chicago *Public*, seeking information as to the authenticity of these letters, and Mr. Post corresponded with me in relation to the subject. The 11 articles were published in the Racine *Advocate* in 1859 and 1860, but the files of this paper were not complete. I have examined them and found 7 of the articles. I procured certified copies of these seven articles and forwarded them to Mr. Post. So this will establish the authenticity of the 11 articles in pamphlet form in the Gladstone Library. Mr. Post loaned the documents to Mr. Oliver Trowbridge, the author of *Bi-Socialism*, in April last, for his inspection, and I presume Mr. Trowbridge has returned them ere this.

H. RAYMOND.

Racine, Wisc.

THINKS SINGLE TAXERS OUGHT TO
DISCUSS THE MONEY QUESTION.

Editor Single Tax Review:

Those Single Taxers who are sticklers for regularity and oppose the discussion of railway extortion and money monopoly, would do well to consider the effect upon land reform if land values were made a basis for an issue of currency, or if real estate should be accepted as collateral to secure loans of money by the government direct to the people, as some propose.

When the Single Tax is established there must be legal money unless the tax shall be paid in commodities, and so long as men have financial disputes to be settled

in the courts so long must there be a legal tender for adjustment of them. At present gold coin is the only full legal tender. Greenbacks and silver coin are legal tender except, etc. Bank notes are legal tender for payment of some taxes and in one or two other instances.

A change in our currency laws is imminent. The emergency law recently passed by Congress was designed only as a temporary measure. A commission was appointed to devise a permanent plan.

The issuing of money is a function of the national government and cannot be delegated to corporations or individuals without great injustice to all other citizens. The right of any one to issue his credit—personal notes and checks—is not limited, and those who have much wealth have an advantage over those with less.

T. H. STEELE.

Seneca, So. Dakota.

A CONCISE DEFINITION.

Editor Single Tax Review:

The Single Tax is *the* way to do exact justice between all human beings.

F. D. WILLIS.

St. Paul, Minn.

DULUTH'S QUESTION CLUB.

Editor Single Tax Review:

We have a Question Club that is in a very flourishing condition. We invite speakers from outside the Single Tax ranks. I am surprised at the development in the art of public speaking among our members. Among those who have addressed our club is the ex-mayor of this city, Mr. B. Cullom. Any Single Taxer who may be journeying this way will receive a warm welcome.

SAMUEL NIXON.

Duluth, Minn.

LAND SPECULATION IN ARKANSAS.

Editor Single Tax Review:

Little Rock is to-day the most land speculation ridden city in the Union, and fortunes are being made in betting on the future rise in land values. The public

service corporations and the real estate speculators run the town.

I have helped to secure the passage of two municipal direct legislation measures by different legislatures, and each time Jeff Davis has killed them by not signing them within the twenty days required by the constitution.

We are to vote at the coming election on an amendment to the constitution providing for the issuance of bonds by counties and municipalities for public improvements, such as roads, sewers and sidewalks. Organized labor and the socialists are opposing the measure. One member of the Central Trades Council made a good Single Tax argument against it, without knowing it, in which he said that it was the workers who paid all the taxes and the property owners only handled the funds passing them on to the collector. If the amendment passed and the bonds were issued, the workingmen would have to foot the bill, the long time interest only making the burden more oppressive.

The Democrat nominee for governor, George W. Donahey, favors direct legislation, also a Tax commission to reform the tax system of the State. Single Taxers should send him some tax reform literature. His address is Conway, Ark.

Tax reform has recently been an issue in Texas, Governor Campbell standing for the taxation of property at one hundred percent of its value, which seems a very innocent thing, but is of great importance in equalizing the burdens of taxation. The man with \$100,000 worth of property has generally the advantage in evading his share of the burden over the man who owns his home worth \$1,000. The former saves the taxes on \$50,000, and the latter on only \$500 when the assessment is but fifty per cent of its true value.

ROBT. HERRICK.

Little Rock, Ark.

AGREES WITH MR. BAGOT.

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

I think you have done right in publishing the letter of Mr. Bagot about the situation in Great Britain. There is certainly some truth in it. Not that I would be-

little the work of our friends in the League for the T. L. V. But I am under the impression that we have very little to hope from the ordinary course of politics; that we need other means to promote our cause. The passive resistance which Mr. Bagot suggests would be excellent to bring our philosophy to the understanding of the common people. The man in the street will readily learn about the Single Tax when he reads that the Single Taxers are refusing to pay their taxes. It would not matter what comment would be made upon our behaviour. If all the leading dailies of New York were daily to denounce Single Tax as robbery, we would soon be in a much better position than we are today.

In Belgium are appearing two journals in French that have the nationalisation of land included in their programme. The one is *Societe Nouvelle*, an ably conducted literary monthly, published at Mons, Belgium, 11 Rue Chisaire, and the other is the *Revue du Socialisme Rationnel*, published at Bruxelles, Belgium, 52 rue des Eburons. This journal is the organ of the Colinsien school of economic science and a little tedious.

The other day I had a visit from Mr. Farnam, Professor at Yale University, and had a very interesting talk with him. If a Single Taxer should come over to Switzerland I will be glad to see him.

GUSTAVE BUSCHER.

Zurich, Switzerland.

FOR A NEW TERMINOLOGY.

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

In "Protection or Free Trade," Mr. George says that much confusion and misapprehension comes from the loose or inappropriate use of economic terms, while Mr. Thomas G. Sherman in his work entitled, "Natural Taxation," says that it was "most unfortunate that Mr. George in speaking of the appropriation of ground rent for purposes of revenue and thus liberating land to the equal unrestricted use of all, made use of the word 'confiscate,' which of course would imply that ground rent or site value was rightfully