

be worked out to bridge us over the period required to get authority to operate. I believe in municipal operation and want to bring it about as soon as possible; whether we buy or build I shall press a referendum that will enable us to operate, but while we are working for municipal operation, let us either buy and rehabilitate or else build, so that we may have something to operate when the time comes.

That is the situation in a nutshell, and the newspaper agents of the traction ring knew it when, with false headlines, deceptive editorials and fraudulent news dispatches, they undertook to make the public believe otherwise.

#### Death of Tom Bawden.

Tom Bawden, Detroit's optimistic fighter for the single tax, died of acute indigestion on the 13th, after suffering more than a year. He was in his time an engineer, a merchant, a Methodist exhorter, and finally a devoted agitator and popular expounder of the economic doctrines of Henry George. He confined his work pretty closely to Detroit, where he published the *Common Wealth*, and was well known as a speaker on the campus until public speaking there was forbidden, and then on street corners where speaking was not forbidden. That Mr. Bawden had a large share of public confidence in Detroit was evident from the vote he polled under the Australian system at the Democratic primaries last Fall. He was near the head of the list as a candidate for the legislature, but of course was defeated at the election along with the rest of his ticket. All the Detroit papers give liberal space and kindly comment to the reports of Mr. Bawden's death. The *Times* is exceptionally just. "For all that he did," says the *Times*, "with voice and pen toward the bringing in of this new era of justice and light; for all that he did in the hope of serving his brothers by emancipating them from the yoke of oppressive economic ills; for his courage and independence in fighting on the very frontiers of truth, if for nothing else, Tom Bawden deserves the kindly recollection of his fellow men. While the majority of men were too busy, too timid or too dull to deflect a

hair's breadth from the beaten path, he was striking out into new areas of truth and boldly proclaiming it." He was a man who always did unflinchingly what he believed to be right.

#### TOLSTOY AND GEORGE.

Of all living men, he whose words command most attention is Leo Tolstoy; of all publications, that which reaches the widest circle of readers is the *London Times*. That these two great forces should be combined to aid in spreading before the world the doctrine for which Henry George wrought and died—and in so few years after his death,—that this should come to pass, is more than George himself, with all his faith, hope and optimism, could have fairly dreamed of.

The extraordinary letter on the land question, entitled "A Great Iniquity," \* which Count Tolstoy published in the *Times* of August 1st, will, more than any event since Henry George's death, draw the attention of thinking men, the world over, to the supreme importance of the land question.

It is pretty generally known that Tolstoy, some years ago, wrote a brief letter expressing his approval of the theory of the Single Tax, and his reverence for the genius of Henry George. Again, in his "Resurrection" it will be remembered that he expressly introduces the teachings of George in showing their influence upon his hero's development. The present letter is an amplification of the question in relation to present conditions in his own country.

The great Russian expresses the belief that the Russian people are to lead in the solution of this problem. Whether or not this shall prove to be true, his letter will have an immense influence in emphasizing the importance of the problem and in stimulating the Single Tax movement everywhere. The publication will surely excite special interest in Great Britain at the present time, where the taxation of land values in cities and towns seems on the point of becoming a party issue, the Liberal leader having expressly declared himself in favor of such taxation. Although Tolstoy hopes Russia may

\* Reproduced in its entirety in this issue of *The Public*. See Miscellany.

lead a far more sweeping land reform, the fact that he declares in the emphatic way in which he does in the *Times* letter, that Henry George was right, that the land question is the fundamental question, and that, under existing governmental conditions, the single tax is the true method of settling it—such a declaration, coming from him, will have an influence far beyond the impression one may receive from the brief notices which the newspapers have ventured to give. How plainly true it is, that "of all indispensable alterations of the forms of social life," to quote Tolstoy's language, "there is in the life of the world one which is most ripe, one without which not a single step forward in improvement in the life of men can be accomplished," and that this alteration, "not the work of Russia alone but of the whole world," is the abolition of the world-wide iniquity of property in land.

There are two men in America, both admirers of Tolstoy, whose comments on this letter many of their own admirers would be most interested in reading. One of these is our foremost man of letters; the other our greatest political leader. As both are editors, perhaps the wish may soon be gratified. At any rate we may trust that each will speak his mind when and where to do so would be most fitting and effective.

J. H. DILLARD.

#### EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

AUSTRALIA (see p. 198).

Corowa, N. S. W., July 7th.—Federal politics has taken a sudden and unexpected turn. To make the position clear, I shall summarize the history of the present Parliament.

When the House was elected in December, 1903, it consisted of three nearly equal parties: Protectionist, led by Deakin, the prime minister; Labor, led by Watson; and Free Trade, led by Reid. Deakin publicly declared that such a situation was unworkable, comparing it to three elevens in a cricket field.

In April, 1904, the Deakin ministry was defeated, and Watson formed a Labor government. After a few months, by means of a coalition between the Free Traders under Reid and a majority of the Protectionists, under Deakin, the Watson ministry was defeated.

Reid then formed a coalition ministry of Free Traders and Protectionists in equal numbers. Deakin was