

"I define the single tax as the annual rental value of Land, (natural opportunity) irrespective of improvement or labor spent upon it, paid to the state by him who possesses or has the use of it to the exclusion of others.

"It is an economic proposition, but fraught with tremendous benefits to mankind. Why should not all Catholic priests, bishops, professors and teachers in Catholic colleges, seminaries, and schools all over the country, all over the world, study single tax and understand it? They would teach it and be sure then to hasten the day of its adoption."



THE MOVEMENT IN COLORADO.

BY E. O. BAILEY.

(Expressly for the Review.)

Readers of the *Review* are doubtless watching the progress of the campaign now going on in Colorado, to secure the adoption of the Australasian Tax Amendment.


With many outside of our State, upon both hemispheres, wherever the curse of monopoly has caused a sprouting of reform, the results of the heroic efforts of Senator Bucklin and his followers have become an anxious concern. They realize, in a more or less distinct way, what we feel as a living fact—that here is a great possibility—the accomplishment of which marks the turning point in the universal contest against privilege, the first great practical effort to establish an equitable system of taxation upon the Northern Continent.

States and nations, municipalities and kingdoms have, for decades past, had the question of taxation uppermost on their list of unfinished business. Governments have gone bankrupt, empires have been melted in the furnace heat of the people's wrath, and even republics have fallen beneath the natural forces which a perusion of true principles has produced. At home, hardly a State in the Union but which lies smothered beneath a load of debts. Tax commissions, examinations, recommendations and additional legislation have not, as yet, produced any genuine reforms. Time and time again has the injustice of the present system been exposed, and yet the people suffer patiently on, accepting as a birthright the burden it imposes, and often resisting the hand that would free them.

Indirect taxation turns public funds into private purses, breeds a horde of huge parasites who feed upon franchises and subsidies—and perverts the true course of government into a legalized system whereby the few may despoil the many. But here in Colorado is the beginning of a reform that in course of time may prove to be the universal panacea.

The history of the Amendment has been previously published in the *Review*. During the special session called by Governor Orman to revise the revenue law, strenuous efforts were made by a combination of Denver real estate men and Colorado bankers to secure its repeal. It was this attempt that brought the measure into such prominence. Petitions from every county in the States flooded the legislative halls, demanding that the Amendment be left to the decision of the people. Influential citizens and men whose political future were at stake addressed strong personal letters to the wavering members. Despite the preponderance of opinion in favor of the Bill, so strong was the influence brought to bear, and so all persuasive the means employed to secure its repeal, that it was saved in the lower house by a majority of only two votes.

As a result of this attempt to strangle direct legislation, numerous Bucklin Clubs and Australasian Tax Leagues sprang into existence. In Denver a permanent League was organized under the direction of E. N. Burdick, J. R. Her-



man and Peter Gorman, with Rev. S. W. Sample as chairman of the press bureau. They have been doing aggressive and effective work throughout the campaign, providing the various friendly newspapers with educational articles upon the Amendment, combatting the misrepresentations upon which the opposition solely rely, arranging for speakers and addresses over the State, and the distribution of literature. To quote from the *Chicago Public* of Sept. 27th : "Activity in connection with the constitutional amendment for home rule in taxation has very greatly increased within the week, and prospects are better for a full understanding by the people of the measure at issue—this is due in no small degree to the hostile action of members of the Denver Real Estate Exchange, the Denver Chamber of Commerce and the Denver Commercial Club, who held a meeting on the 16th, and organized the Anti-Bucklin Amendment League, which has adopted the following motto : 'The Bucklin Amendment means the Single Tax, Confiscation, Confusion, Panic.' It has issued a personal letter to sympathizers over the State, calling upon them to organize local leagues, and to prosecute the work of defeating the Amendment. In response the Australasian Tax League has sent to each member of the Chamber of Commerce and to every business man of Denver, and is circulating over the State as widely as its narrow means permit, a challenge to the hostile organization."

This challenge was issued on the night of organization, and as far as I can learn, has not yet been accepted. They dare not discuss the real issue in a public meeting where questions may be asked and reasons must be given. So far they have contented themselves with publishing "tirades" in the newspapers, whose assistance special privilege possessors can always readily procure. As yet the Denver "combine" is the only one in existence, but others are on the eve of formation. They have "right of way" in a majority of the large newspapers of the State, while the Amendment, outside of numerous labor and small city issues, have not an open exponent. The *Rocky Mountain News* has been almost silent editorially since the special session, although giving space generously to any favorable articles.

The *Post* denounces it as dangerous, and the *Republican* can, with difficulty, find terms and cartoons severe enough with which to "kill the thing." (In one issue this paper was kind enough to assert that the local and State organization of the supporters of the Bucklin Bill was better organized and more alert than any of the numerous party organizations in the State.) During the latter part of July Dr. Frank G. Tyrell, of St. Louis, made a tour of the State—speaking in the larger cities. The public was not yet interested in campaign speeches, and the attendance was small. He is expected again a little later. The Hon. John Sherwin Crosby, of New York city, visited the State, addressing enthusiastic audiences and adding immeasurably to the strength of the movement. He saw, what becomes more evident every day, that if the cause is lost it will be due to lack of funds with which to carry on the necessary educational work. We have the workers, but cannot equip them.

On the first of September Senator Bucklin commenced a two months' campaign, speaking in every town, village and city where an audience could be obtained. This untiring, noble-hearted democrat, who for ten years has been battering away at the Bastile of Privilege, still fights an, unbaffled, undismayed.

In the meantime, numerous county and state conventions have met, passed resolutions, nominated candidates and adjourned. Relative to the Amendment, the Arapahoe County Republican Convention made special mention of it, as "untried and revolutionary legislation." Shortly after this the El Paso County Republican Convention duplicated the above resolution, and the State Republican Convention did likewise. Denver being in Arapahoe County, and Colorado Springs in El Paso County—and these two cities containing the "Princes of

Privilege" who rule over the domains of monopoly in Colorado—it is readily recognized as their handiwork throughout.

This placed the Republican party as officially opposed to the Amendment, although they endorsed the other amendments enacted by the Fusion Assembly. After this came the State Democratic Convention which, after a general endorsement of the previous democratic legislative acts—specifically endorsed (4) four of the amendments, making no mention of the Bucklin Bill. So here we are left afloat upon a non-partisan sea, surrounded by the great ships of Privilege—attacked by the Republicans—without any prospects of assistance, valiantly fighting our way into port.

A close examination of the situation will reveal conditions that do not appear upon the surface. Despite the continual agitation carried on for fully four months past—the speeches that have been made—the 100,000 Bucklin Reports (containing a thorough treatise of the nature and effects of this system in Australasia), that have been carefully distributed over the State, and the circulars, letters, cards, etc., without number, that have been used in local work by the different organizations—the amount of ignorance among all classes, upon even the simplest provisions of the Amendment, is amazing. Comparatively few have ever read it throughout. Business men, lawyers, physicians, professors, editors and even politicians, confess to a lack of interest or absence of information.

What this mass of voters will do when struck by the whip of partisanship—or brought under the influence of a calamity-howling candidate, is conjectured. Hence the vigorous campaign of education now being carried on by the friends of the Amendment. The indications are that very little reference to it will be made by the party candidates in public addresses. Many of the nominees for the legislature are pledged to support it. Many, who might oppose, fear the effects such action would have upon the Union Labor vote. And well they may, as nearly every Labor organization in the State has officially endorsed it. Were the vote to be taken to-day it would undoubtedly be ratified by a large majority, but what the next month will bring forth must change the result materially, be it for better or worse.

One peculiar, but not unexpected feature of the campaign against this measure is that the opposition place their highest hopes of success in securing its defeat upon the apparently plausible accusation that it means the "Single Tax."

They use this designation without explanation, as a red flag flaunted in front of an angry bull. The Anti-Australasian Tax League of Denver, in a circular but recently issued, attempts to terrify the intelligent voter as follows:

They say: "We are conservative when we assert that:

First—The Bucklin Amendment means the Single Tax.

Second—It will reward tax dodgers.

Third—It will confiscate real-estate.

Fourth—It will confuse our tax system.

Fifth—It will thwart the revenue law.

Sixth—It will disturb business.

Seventh—It will drive away capital.

(Continuing this ludicrous arraignment they submit the following statement of facts (?))

"Our appeal must be to the intelligence of the voters, and to the instinct of self-preservation in all property owners. No amount of quibbling can conceal the fact that the Bucklin Amendment is essentially nothing less than the single tax on land, which is designed to accomplish the indirect confiscation of

all real estate, immediately or ultimately; not of unimproved lands alone, but of all improvements on land; not of city lots only, but of the farms and small homes of the people of the city. If it is adopted, all existing values will be upset, and a panic may follow. The holders of mortgages will scramble to realize before real estate becomes worthless. Our long-delayed but finally rising wave of prosperity will roll back."

This article may reach some individuals who are willing to lend a hand during the last days of the campaign. I would urge them to consider our needs quickly.

Those of us who live in the state, and earnestly desire this reform, have given of our time and money generously. The work is but half done, and the hardest fight yet to come. We need financial assistance more than we do physical. Good, short articles for publication, from those who are familiar with the amendment—bearing directly upon the Local Option feature it entails, will be valuable. Money may be sent to the Hon. E. N. Burdick, 610 Charles Building, Denver, Colo.



THE IMPORTANCE TO RELIGIOUS TEACHERS OF THE SOCIAL PROBLEM

BY THE VERY REVEREND RICHARD LALOR BURTSSELL.*

(Expressly for the Review.)

Clergymen must interest themselves in the promotion of the temporal, as well as the spiritual welfare of the people. New projects are now offering themselves every day for the betterment of the temporal condition of men. It is therefore important that clergymen should keep in the van in the study of social problems. They are guides in the question of justice, and unless they look below the surface of mooted questions, they will be liable to place themselves in an erroneous position which may thwart their search for the spiritual well being of their neighbor.

In the matter of the Single Tax the principle underlying it, if once understood, appeals evermore to sympathy and cooperation for its spread. This

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His ecclesiastical career has extended over a period of forty years, most of it having been spent in New York City. He was ordained to the priesthood by Mgr. Clementi, Archbishop of Damascus, August 10, 1862, having crowned a very successful career at Rome with the title of Doctor of Divinity at the age of twenty-two.

The first few years of his ministry were spent as assistant to the late Rt. Rev. Mgr. Preston, vicar general, as the pastor of St. Ann's Church. In 1868, he was appointed to organize the parish of the Epiphany, where reside the richest as well as the poorest of the city. Within a few years the steeple of the Church of the Epiphany towered high over the adjoining buildings, a magnificent tribute to priestly zeal and fidelity to his flock.

A PRIEST-FINANCIER.

Dr. Burtzell succeeded in building a rectory and an elegant schoolhouse, and after a few years had cleared the church of its financial encumbrance. The importance and diffi-