

chines, books, cutlery, pipes, cigarettes, shoes, and even the English language is stopped. A negro comedian from the States was in the act of singing "On the Mississippi!" and the police stopped the act—"No English permitted, Angol tilos—Englisch verboten."

We Americans suffer by it, as we also speak the English language. We do not go on the streets at night, and the mob changes the sign of any merchant who has the word "English" on display.

Newspapers print only fixed news, and as no foreign papers reach us we do not know what is really going on in the world—or even in Europe. Nothing can appear in the press or in the stores without the sanction of those who are working at the war game. They have taken all the able-bodied young men away to the wars and have left the old men and the cripples. This is government by proclamation. Whenever the powers choose to send a letter or a message or the news of a battle they do it—otherwise the women do not know when they become widows. Women manage street cars and subways, as the men have been led to slaughter.

After it's all over Europe will awaken from her bloody nightmare. Her young men will be in graves or in hospitals and they will wonder—those who are still among the living—what it was all about. Europe is bankrupt today. Treasuries are empty and food is scarce. After the battles, the living will "make a break" for America, the land of many dreams of the future of the race.

NICHOLAS KLEIN,
Attorney of Cincinnati.



CONNECTICUT DEMOCRATS ARE PROGRESSIVE

Hartford, Conn., Sept. 19.

The campaign for progressive measures, which was launched by Democrats at Lake Compounce June 27th last, is beautifully reflected in the platform adopted by the Democratic State Convention at Hartford this week. This favors every one of the eight proposals put forward by the Compounce Committee as follows: Nominations by petition and direct primary; the initiative and referendum; the short ballot; votes for women; repeal of the personal tax; abolition of contract labor in jails and prison; home rule for all communities; and prohibition of special legislation. These questions were referred to the registered Democrats of the State, by means of a post card ballot. Several thousand answers were received, and with the exception of votes for women, the favorable majorities were overwhelming. The platform declaration on the suffrage question calls for the submission of the necessary constitutional amendment to popular vote.

CHRISTOPHER M. GALLUP.



NATIONAL TAX CONFERENCE AND SINGLETAX.

Denver, Colo., Sept. 15.

The National Tax Conference held on September 8 to 10 was interesting, especially the final session, which was devoted to the singletax discussion. There was presented a paper by Mr. F. J. Dixon

of Winnipeg which was read by Mr. A. C. Pleydell. F. C. Wade of Vancouver, who was to oppose the singletax, was not present but contributed a paper that was read by one of the delegates from Iowa. This was followed by a short speech by Pleydell in defense of the singletax. R. E. Smith of Roseburg, Oregon, followed with the usual stereotyped speech about the farmers owning much of the land and singletax being in the interest of the rich fellow. Smith's effort was rather sophomorical and I would judge that it did not make much of an impression. Thomas S. Adams, State Tax Commissioner of Wisconsin, immediately followed Smith. Without committing himself on singletax Adams played havoc with Smith's argument about the farmers. He showed that the great burden of personal property taxation in Wisconsin rests upon the farmer. The discussion had a good effect although it did not partake of the nature of a debate and was a rather tame affair.

JOHN B. McGAURAN.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

A HERESY TRIAL SUGGESTED.

Cincinnati, O., Sept. 18, 1914.

The editorial on page 890 under the heading, "A WAR-LIKE CLERGYMAN," is suggestive. Would it not be a wholesome proceeding for the Baptist denomination, in fact all Christian denominations, to try the Rev. Mr. Haldeman for heresy? We have had heresy trials in the past for difference of belief as to matters of fact inessential to Christian life. Why not expel Brother Haldeman for rank heresy in denying one of the supreme teachings of Jesus? Whatever the practicability and efficacy of the Golden Rule, it would seem unthinkable that a man should be a Christian clergyman and deny its applicability to life. A heresy trial as to fundamentals would be interesting.

EDWARD F. ALEXANDER.



MORE ABOUT THE RED CROSS

New York, Sept. 18, 1914.

The militarists are coming to their peaceful friends in droves now, pleading through Press and Pulpit for funds for the Red Cross, and many a heart melts at the thought of bringing healing and comfort to the "poor victims of war." Let us look at the matter calmly, we radicals, and speak the truth about this although it may make us seem unkind. Logic is frequently unkind, and offends the sentimental.

Our Comrade Bolton Hall wrote an answer to appeals for charity which the Public has often quoted. It is unique in its way, so perfectly does it cover the ground. And I shall quote some of it here once more, to show how, with some slight changes of words, it will serve as an answer all Singletaxers may rightfully make when asked to contribute to the Red Cross Funds.

Mr. Hall says:

"Asking help from supporters of things as they are is merely asking the persons responsible for poverty, misery and disease to do something to relieve

their victims. But asking help from Singletaxers is practically asking those who are using all their spare means to prevent further mischief, to relax their efforts in order to enable others to evade the duty of relieving those whom they have made poor."

This, therefore, is my answer when asked to contribute to the Red Cross:

"Asking help from the supporters of militarism and imperialism is merely asking the persons responsible for war, death and destruction to do something to relieve their victims. But, as one who has devoted what little energy, power and means she may possess to combatting the ideals of militarism and imperialism, as well as all the other forms of brutal privilege and enthroned force, I cannot see why I should relax such efforts to enable those who believe in all these things to evade their full duty of helping updo in some part the wrong they have brought about."

The Red Cross is as much a part of army organization as is the engineer corps, or a battleship or any of the rest of it. A true anti-militarist, who understands to the full what the terms militarism means and implies, might as well give money towards a new battleship as toward the Red Cross work. The Red Cross stands as an acknowledgement that war and militarism and all they mean are a necessary part of civilized society. Exactly as organized charity is an admission on the part of the community that the conditions which make charity necessary are an inevitable and integral part of the community life. We Singletaxers who deny this, do not believe in nor support organized charity. Therefore those of us who are convinced anti-militarists do not support the Red Cross, whatever the Unthinking may say of us.

GRACE ISABEL COLBRON.



THE SALARY AND WAGE PROBLEM.

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 12.

There seems to be a cloud of superstition befogging the mind of the average individual, especially the minds of the salary earning classes. These good people think they are working for money and that the higher the wage the greater the income. This is a false belief. If the wages of the lowest paid worker should be raised to \$100 a week and the wages of the other workers adjusted to this scale, which would be sure to follow, the purchasing power of the wage would not be increased the value of a paper collar. Money is only a substitute for the debit and credit side of the ledger. No one works for money except the miser. All others are striving for that which money will purchase. Practically the workman exchanges his labor for the commodities which he uses and consumes during his stay on earth. This statement is proved by the following approximate list of necessities and luxuries used and consumed by the average working man during a period of say thirty-five years, to-wit:

- 25 suits of clothes.
- 100 suits of underclothes.
- 40 each of neckties, pairs of gloves.
- 2 watches, a number of rings, stickpins, charms, collar buttons and knives.
- 10 sacks of sugar.

4 barrels of flour.

5 barrels of liquors.

A quantity of drugs.

A supply of household goods.

A house and lot or its equivalent paid in rent.

One street car, or its equivalent, paid in 5-cent fares.

An interest in a railroad car, paid by buying railroad tickets.

A load of books, papers, stationery and postage.

The equivalent of an interest in a theater, circus or ball game equipment.

Some insurance, chances, risks, lawsuits, church and lodge dues. City, county, state and tariff taxes. But all the wage earners are not satisfied with that which their present exchange of labor will procure; therefore they resort to strikes and boycotts, believing that through these means they will better their condition. This is a delusion. No such methods will ever bring about that which they desire. But if, instead, they will abolish the custom houses and destroy all tariff walls the present purchasing power of their earnings will be increased one-third, thus giving them all or more than they hoped to gain by means of the strike or boycott.

When Adam and Eve were driven out of the Garden of Eden they were compelled to depend upon their labor for protection. It is labor, not protective tariffs and the hidden taxes consequent thereunto, that increases the income and adds to the material comforts of man.

F. A. TAPPAN, M. D.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of The Public for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, September 22, 1914.

The European War.

Few changes of moment have occurred in the position of the several armies during the last week. Ten nations are now engaged—Germany and Austria on one side, and Russia, France, England, Belgium, Portugal, Servia, Montenegro, and Japan on the other. Severe battles, accompanied by heavy losses, have been fought by the troops of all these nations, but no decisive action on land or sea has occurred. Casualty lists are either withheld from the public, or are given out in such a form as to prevent a full understanding of the situation. No indications are yet apparent that any of the countries is ready to talk peace. [See current volume, page 897.]



The Franco-German Campaign.

No sooner had the German right wing, under General von Kluck, safely crossed the River Aisne, in its retreat after the battle of Marne, than a continuous and dogged struggle began along the