

NEWS—DOMESTIC

California

cially. It does not send many Single Taxers to prison because it can "get them" almost as effectually through banks, credit associations, courts, black-lists and newspaper associations.

I do not mean that we should persecute but that we must be determined on making the ideal of privilege hateful. If only half the ink we use in telling a heedless world the glad tidings about our far-off vision were used in pointing out the cheapness of the present going ideal it would destroy the ambition of the Henry Dubbs to become Henry Fords.

"Surely we must fight if we would reign," and all the talk in which we indulge and all the wierd and fantastic zeal we demand as the only quality necessary in this great war, are bunk and infantile babble. No, it is not love for our vision but the lack of it that causes us to avoid this issue. The genuine lovers of men are unrelenting haters of lies. Revolutions are not made of rose water.

The question for us of the party then is: Are we to continue in the same mild propaganda as those from whom we have broken, *i. e.*, are we to continue to meet the merciless onslaughts of Privilege with simple protest and wailing prayer; or, shall we fight? GEORGE EDWARDS.

Not A Tax Reform

TO preach as a positive doctrine that the Single Tax means leaving to landowners one-half the rent so they will be encouraged to put the land to good use, is to lose sight entirely of the aims and teachings of Henry George. The term "Single Tax" applied to his philosophy was not of his coining or seeking. He did not write his book in order to perfect our tax system. He wrote it because the sight of his fellowmen in poverty and degradation would not let him rest until he found the cause and the remedy. What he preached was the abolition of that control over the earth which gives some men the power to enslave others. His philosophy was that of equal freedom extended to all human and social relations, including equal access to the storehouse of nature. He taught that the right of the individual to what he produces is just, and that it is violated when rent is taken by private individuals. He lived and worked and died for the liberty of every man to live his life and employ his labor and enjoy the fruits thereof, subject only to the equal rights of others. Whether the preaching of this gospel shall be ineffective is not for us who have him to thank for teaching it to say. To us, it is true; by us it will be preached. A. C. PLEYDELL.

A CAREFUL study of a large number of advertisements by subdivision dealers shows that the main appeal is to speculative greed rather than to the home-making and productive instincts of man. It does more harm to public morals than the preachers can overcome.

MR. DAUGHERTY thinks it wrong to speculate in sugar, but right to speculate in land on which sugar is produced.

CARY R. COLBURN, Secretary-Treasurer of the San Diego Single Tax Society, was a candidate in the Spring elections for member of the Common Council. He circulated widely an admirable campaign pamphlet entitled, "Home Building versus Land Speculation." In it he said in part:

My platform is short: More and better homes. My method of encouraging the people to build more and better homes is simple! Reduce the tax on homes and increase the tax on land held for speculation.

There is enough land in San Diego to furnish the foundation for a million homes, each with a large back yard and playground and garden, but it has all been monopolized by speculators who find it more profitable to hold it than to use it. While it is true that under our State constitution and city charter the city cannot wholly exempt homes from taxation, still much more can be done in that direction than is done. For example, the holders of land could be required to pay for the extension of water mains, thereby making it possible to reduce the water rate. In the past seven years the water rate has been raised from eight to fifteen cents, because the land speculators have not paid their just share of the cost of extending the water system. No San Diego citizen needs to be told that accessibility to water greatly enhances the value of land. It is unjust that water users should pay for carrying water to land speculators.

This is only one of the many ways in which the municipal administration could encourage the use of and discourage holding out of use valuable land in San Diego and make it easier to build and improve homes. Another, and a very practical method, is to assess the very valuable speculative holdings of land at their full cash value, as the constitution requires, and thus make it possible to reduce the tax on homes to a fraction of what they now have to pay. There are many other practical means of reducing taxes and rent on homes. Wherever there is a will there is a way to approximate justice, even under restrictive constitutions and charters.

Colorado

THE proposed amendment to the city charter of Denver was voted on in May and the result of the balloting is gratifying. The measure, a modified form of Single Tax, was known as the Lower Rent amendment, and was as follows:

"Each year the council shall fix and determine the tax rate to be levied for municipal purposes upon the assessed value of land and franchises in public ways, and shall also fix and determine the tax to be levied for said purposes on personal property and improvements on land.

"Provided, that no tax for municipal purposes shall be levied on the value of any building erected after the adoption of this amendment, if said building is used exclusively for dwelling purposes.

"Provided further, that for the year beginning January 1, 1924, the tax rate for purposes on personal property and improvements on land shall not exceed 90 per centum of