

Toledo, Ohio, in his 49th year, of A. Mead Coghlin, removes one who worked unselfishly and unostentatiously in the cause of fundamental democracy. He was a friend of humanity and an advocate of the Singletax. His religion was faith in the Golden Rule. A staunch friend of The Public, his modest nature would not permit of any acknowledgment. He insisted strongly on observance of the scriptural injunction: "Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth." His works were of the kind that are sure to live after him.

S. D.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

BUFFALO [PROGRESSIVES' OPPORTUNITY.

Buffalo, N. Y., October 17.

Mr. John O. Herbold is a fundamental democratic Democrat, and, like his father, a Singletaxer. Why shouldn't he be? His grandfather was a rebel in Germany in 1848, whom they would have shot against a wall as they did his friend at Rastatt. Mr. Herbold is running for Assembly, Second District, New York, on the Democratic ticket, and Singletaxers in that district will make no mistake in giving him support. He has a large Republican majority against him and needs every progressive vote to win.

THOMAS H. WORK.

CONNECTICUT'S DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE.

Hartford, Conn., Oct. 15.

Professor Willard C. Fisher was known to be the only nominee of the Progressive primaries for the governorship when the Democratic state convention of Connecticut occurred at Hartford, September 17 and 18. And he sought the nomination of his own, the Democratic party, when its delegates assembled, but the party machine, which hates a "radical" as heartily as such a man is hated by its prototype in the other old party, prevented his nomination in spite of the generally acknowledged fact that Fisher's nomination by two parties assured his election, and the probable election of the rest of the nominees on the Democratic ticket. The convention appeared to agree with a prominent McKinley Democrat, an editor of Hartford, who was a delegate, that it is better for the party to lose than that such a radical as Fisher be governor. Fisher's friends who, through an ante-convention campaign, made in his behalf, have styled themselves Progressive Democrats, expect him to win because of their conviction that the progressives in the State outnumber the Tories and they assert that the Democratic nominee, the present lieutenant-governor, is already beaten, though he has the nomination, while the Professor is certainly not yet defeated though he failed to secure it.

Professor Fisher is forty-nine, though he appears

younger because he has always been morally and physically clean, and he has been for nearly twenty-five years a professor of political economy, succeeding Professor Woodrow Wilson at Wesleyan University when this famous radical went from there to Princeton.

Fisher dreaded the hard work of campaigning, the loss of sleep and traveling, dreaded the possible enmities, and greatly loved his books and pipe, his only dissipation, and pressure was exerted for many months by his friends in all parts of the state before he consented to the use of his name as the Democratic candidate. He said, when finally he decided to run, that he was still young enough to sacrifice a short period of his life to endeavor to secure better political conditions for the working class and that though his election was not greatly necessary, it was decidedly important that the people should be told what was being done to them by various interests whose corrupt work it would give him much pleasure to describe wherever he could secure audiences. He addressed many assemblies of shop men at the noon hour and many political and labor organizations in all parts of the state previous to the Democratic convention, and he plans to continue the process with the aid of his little old "Ford."

The Professor encourages "heckling" by his audiences, his experience as instructor accustoming him to questions and having taught him that perfect understanding can be secured only through quizzing and criticism. The present campaign will certainly introduce beneficial changes into political methods in Connecticut, and no nominee for the governorship can hereafter hope to win who fails to give the voters of the state a chance to see and question him, as may probably be realized by the Democratic and Republican nominees of the present campaign, who have planned no speeches. The Progressive nominee can certainly be depended upon to strive to secure direct nominations, a favorite measure of his, and a condition which would have assured his nomination if it were now in force, as is proven by his receipt of nearly 2,500 assurances of help from voters throughout the State. And he will surely destroy the favorite teaching of the old-fashioned, and rapidly disappearing, machine politician of the duty of "sticking to the party," regardless of its platform or nominees. The Professor favors abolishing contract labor in jails and prisons; the prison commission of Connecticut comprising several leading editors, and others, who have for years prevented investigation of conditions which are popularly believed to be disgraceful. He also favors measures which shall oblige the Consolidated and other corporations to submit such complete reports as are now demanded of the insurance companies, and which shall protect the stockholders and public against stock juggling and the state against tax dodging; he favors spending more to improve the wretched, and at times impassable feeder roads, over which the farmers must drive to market, and less upon the already fine highways, built for the motors of the leisure class. Professor Fisher thought for several years after his graduation that the money question surpassed all others in importance, but he became convinced that the labor question must first be set-

tled, and properly and fairly settled, or a revolution would occur in America similar to the terrible French Revolution and he is an omnivorous student of that problem. Probably for the first time in the history of the labor movement the universal rule of labor unions forbidding endorsements of political candidates was disregarded when more than a hundred unions in various parts of the State adopted resolutions endorsing Fisher's candidacy; and many of them made appropriations to help in paying his campaign printing and postage bills. This unprecedented action of the labor organizations was a graceful acknowledgment of gratitude to the man who is, more than any other, responsible for the Workmen's compensation measure, which was adopted at the legislative session of 1913, when Fisher had worked hard for its success during two terms of the assembly and had created universal demand for it in many public addresses delivered after the refusal of the assembly of 1911 to adopt it. And he worked without pay and simply because of his conviction of the justice of such a measure, even refusing \$800, which the legislature awarded him to repay his actual expenses during his endeavors to secure its passage.

Fisher is not what politicians call a "good loser;" he is rather a good fighter, like his Scotch ancestors, and like President Wilson, whom he greatly resembles in many respects. He is an extraordinary speaker and convincing, though not an "orator," as his tone is conversational and he rarely even moves a hand. His friends hope great things of him because of his undoubted honesty, ability and desert, which must appeal to the many voters he is to address in the course of his projected tour of the State.

RAOUL W. D'ARCHE.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

FOR TENANTS AND SMALL HOME OWNERS.

New York, October 12.

Not since the Civil War have the workers of this country been in so hard a position as at present. Scores of thousands throughout the country are out of work—other scores are working part time, while many cities, like New York, are threatening to retrench in needed improvements, and so to add to the armies of unemployed.

Prices of food stuffs have risen.

The European War and thrifty purchasing in reasonable amounts by housewives are assigned as causes for high prices. Neither "reason" explains the jump in prices.

The farms east of the Mississippi could raise food for the entire country. The United States could feed the world, if all farms were cultivated to their full productivity.

Production and consumption of both food and manufactured products is limited by taxing producers nearly 2 per cent of the value of their products, in addition to compelling them to pay land speculators enormous profits for opportunity to produce anything. This raises prices to consumers, and naturally limits consumption.

Europe is struggling to overthrow the militarist

system, under which "every laborer carries a soldier on his back."

America is struggling to overthrow the land monopoly system, under which every worker is carrying a land monopolist on his back.

Tenants and small home owners will do well to resolve to enlist to overthrow land monopoly. Nowhere else is it so firmly entrenched and such a menace as in our cities, where it is more deadly than militarism in Europe.

Only one out of every thirteen persons, over ten years of age, in gainful occupations, is a member of organized labor. It is, therefore, necessary for the twelve-thirteenths of the workers of the country to take steps to secure employment at decent wages.

BENJAMIN C. MARSH.



TRIFLING WITH SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

Johnstown, Pa., Oct. 12.

For years Big Business objected to compulsory education, when suddenly this opposition was withdrawn. And there appeared upon the horizon the new cry of vocational education and the continuation schools and "sich like." Why this sudden change of heart? To the thinking this is easy. Where formerly Big Business got the raw recruit at 14 to 16 semi-illegally, and trained him at its expense, under the new dispensation it got him at 14 to 16, legally, and partially or fully trained at the public expense. Here was a brilliant example of how Big Business, with its usual stupidity had overlooked a bet until brilliant but misguided reformers had shown it a way.

Recently a typical American thing occurred in our town, which gave me a clue to a new phase of Big Business' methods. I may be in error as to this, but think not. There are always good people who start things, and then, when it proves burdensome as to time or money, proceed to unload it onto the tax-paying public. This town was no exception. It started an amateur recreation commission, which, aided by a newspaper, really did some good work. It started playgrounds, baseball, etc. But the playgrounds deteriorated into loafing places, and the baseball into rowdiness, and it was time to dump them. First school athletic leagues were started and the board induced to accept it. Now this commission desires the school board to take over all its activities. Aided by a subservient superintendent, who partly perverted county aid to teachers' institute funds, a Mr. Curtis devoted the entire week of the institute to boost school playgrounds, their needs and uses. After the botch the amateur commission had made of affairs I must confess I was provoked, and expressed my displeasure to the principal of the high school, who had recently returned from the St. Paul meeting of the National Educational Association. He is a broad-minded man and said a gentleman at that meeting had told him that the public playground movement was on a par with the "swat-the-fly" campaign. This gave me an idea. I looked it up and cogitated thereon. Who is back of this movement? Largely the Russell Sage Foundation, aided also by the Carnegie and Rockefeller funds. Is history repeating itself?

Victor Gardhausen in his "Augustus und Seine