

also wish to receive the same service and must also have the use of land, a competition arises for the possession of the land, which advances the price, or rent, until it equals the value of the service. Since this service of government is to individuals, and individuals must occupy land within the jurisdiction of the government in order to receive the service, it follows inevitably that services rendered to buildings, such as scavenger service and fire protection, raise the value of vacant lots exactly the same as improved lots. Buildings do not command a greater price when given these services, for the reason that their number can be increased indefinitely. But the number of lots within a given area is fixed, and any increase in demand sends up the price. The same logic that prompts Mr. McLagan to levy a part of the expense of government upon land values, because the owners of land receive from those who use it full payment for it, demands that he levy all the expense of government upon land values, because the owners of land receive from those who use it full payment for all the service rendered.

s. c.



Missouri's Anti-Singletax Amendment Explained.

Before Mr. George Falloon of Kansas City wrote a pamphlet in 1912, entitled "Singletax Explained," he should have pondered well over the Biblical remark, "Oh that mine adversary had written a book." Mr. Falloon wrote in behalf of Missouri's plutocracy against the then pending Singletax amendment. The pamphlet did not live up to its title by any means. On the contrary, it consisted principally of misinformation concerning the matter purporting to be "explained." But one subject was explained therein accurately and clearly. It was the opinion of the Initiative and Referendum held by the interests represented by Mr. Falloon. This is important, since these same interests have induced the Missouri legislature to submit an amendment purporting to be an anti-singletax amendment, but which, if adopted, will practically abrogate the Initiative and Referendum. In this pamphlet Mr. Falloon made such statements as the following:

Initiative and Referendum was conceived in iniquity and born in sin.

Initiative brings to the surface the scum of society.

Initiative, Referendum and Recall are of no benefit to the poor.

Now the advocates of the pending amendment are trying to appear as friends of the Initiative and Referendum. This is not surprising. They fooled the voters in 1912. It is only natural that

they should hope to do so again. Mr. Falloon seems to have explained pretty well the designs of Missouri Plutocracy, even though he made a bungle of explaining Singletax.

s. D.



Municipal Markets.

Chicago has endeavored to loosen the grip of the high cost of living by establishing municipal markets. After much investigation, consultation, and speculation the City Council, and the various public spirited citizens who have interested themselves in the matter, have come to the conclusion that the first factor to be rid of is the exorbitant profit of the middleman. They found no fit relation between the price paid by the citizen and the amount received by the gardener. Means must be inaugurated to bring the producer and the consumer together. With this end in view, the Council passed an ordinance to establish a number of municipal markets in various parts of the city, wisely trying one at first to see how it worked. Some unused school property was opened, neighboring truckers were invited to bring in their vegetables, and the people promised to be there to buy. The venture started according to schedule. Prices were printed in the newspapers to show how much cheaper it was to buy directly from the producer, and photographs were taken of actual sales. The solution for the high cost of living had been discovered.



But fortune has not smiled upon the venture. The truckers returned to their old enemy, the commission man, and the patrons went back to the piratical middleman. Now there is doubt as to whether the other municipal markets will be established. Disappointed patrons of the idea are charging the commission men and the middlemen with intimidating the truckers; but there are a few who are beginning to doubt the wisdom of their course. The trucker, after all, is a human being, constituted very much as other men. One of his governing characteristics is an irresistible desire to proceed along the line of least resistance; in other words, to secure the greatest return with the least effort. And it did not take him very long to discover that he knew more about raising onions in a garden than he did about selling them in a market. Knowing more about the former than the latter, he very likely concluded that he could do better as a grower than as a seller. And not being handicapped by doctrinaire theories, he concluded to