

WHY I FAVOR THE SINGLE TAX.

By H. H. HARDINGE.

TAXATION is a subject to which little public attention is given, yet no subject is more vital to the progress of the human race and the establishment of a true democracy.

There are only two things that can be taxed. These two things are man and the earth he lives on. Therefore labor-values and land-values are the only two things extant upon which taxes are or can be levied. That taxes are essential to the administration of government is undeniably true and that something must therefore be taxed is clearly apparent. The right thing to tax is monopoly, the wrong thing to tax is labor, because government sustains monopoly and labor sustains itself. Not only does it do this, but as taxes are now levied it sustains the government which in turn supports monopolies of every sort. These monopolies exercise the taxing-power, sustained as they are by government, and between being robbed by government in public taxes and by monopolies in private taxes, the workers of the world are kept forever poor. This in turn fosters land-speculation, which greatly lessens opportunities for labor. This also gluts the labor-market, reduces wages and is a fruitful cause of strikes, which in turn are frequently put down by the strong arm of government. The real reason we have a labor question is because the laborers have been disinherited and the earth, the gift of the common Father to His common

children, is held at a prohibitive price. The small portion that is used is artificially high in price, which means high rents while the rest is kept out of the market for speculation. This is the chief cause of poverty among the workers.

Why should wealth-production and poverty be always associated? Nature gives nothing to idleness. She, being both generous and just, rewards only the workers. Why should the worker be poor and the idler rich? It is because men are rewarded, not in proportion to what they do, but in proportion to what they monopolize. Divorce government from monopoly, and the latter fails. Separate labor from land, and humanity dies. This is what the land-speculator tries to do and in a measure succeeds in doing, though without evil intent. The worker's real enemy is the speculator in land; his imaginary enemy is the capitalist.

No evil can be remedied by merely finding fault with it. The cure must be discovered and applied; heroic remedies alone will suffice. And since the evil has been and is now largely due to unscientific taxation, what more sensible plan could be suggested than to place the burden of government where it properly and justly belongs, leaving industry free to produce and to retain; to build and also to inhabit; to reap as well as to sow?

H. H. HARDINGE.

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LINTON SATTERTHWAITE in this issue of *THE ARENA*. Mr. SATTERTHWAITE is one of the strong, clean, high-minded lawyers who are ornaments to the American bar, and his sense of humor combined with high ideals and a keen appreciation for moral rectitude enables him to discuss social scarecrows in an altogether charming and edifying manner. The interest of this paper has been greatly enhanced by the admirable drawings by GARNET WARREN. Mr. WARREN is one of the foremost newspaper cartoonists of the New World. Our readers will be pleased to know that a special feature of the December *ARENA* will consist of four full-page cartoons drawn expressly for this review by Mr. WARREN and illustrating the criminality and folly of the age of gold-worship. These drawings will, we believe, be widely copied. Certainly they will merit general attention and they will do much to stimulate thought.

Why I Favor the Single-Tax: In a brief but timely paper Mr. HARDINGE gives the reasons for his adhering to the social philosophy of Mr. GEORGE. It had been our purpose to publish an extended editorial on Count Tolstoy and the land question, embodying a large part of the remarkable manifesto recently published by the Count in the *London Times*; but the insurance question seemed to demand consideration while the subject was uppermost in the minds of the people. We expect, however, to publish this editorial in our December issue. We are also arranging for a series of papers on the land and the people, to be prepared by the ablest advocates of the Single-Tax philosophy, as one of a number of striking features which will make *THE ARENA* for the ensuing year indispensable to the more thoughtful, advanced and progressive citizens.

A Physician's View of the Divorce Question: We trust all our readers will carefully peruse the paper on divorce by R. D. BUSH, M.D., Dr. BUSH has been recently appointed Professor of Anatomy and Gynecology in New Orleans University. This contribution gives a physician's view of the question and is an admirable complement to ERNEST DALE OWEN's "The Divorce Question: A Lawyer's View." Nothing to us is more amazing than the superficial manner in which the advocates of divorce suppression seem to view this great question that is so fundamental to the development and happiness of the race. The contention that a man and woman should live together and bring children into the world when hate has taken the place of love, or when the husband is a drunkard or otherwise debauched, so that any offspring would be probably cursed with a heredity that would make his life a blighting failure, a charge to the state and a clog on the wheels of civilization, is to us so incomprehensible that we marvel how those who want to foster morality can strive to make such abhorrent conditions inescapable.

Two Souls in One Body: No, this is no fanciful sketch, no wild dream of an erratic imagination. It is a scientific study of a phenomenon not unknown to psychology. In his letter to us enclosing this paper Dr. WILLIAM LEE HOWARD said: "I enclose

an account of a case that has been under my personal observation for three years. At present the case is under the observation of the United States War Department." Dr. HOWARD is an eminent and trained physician and psychologist and a valued contributor to many of our leading medical journals. The phenomenon which he describes is one of the most perplexing, amazing and almost incredible of the many new phenomena which have during recent decades challenged the most serious thought of leading scientists of Europe and America.

Our Stories: This month we give our readers two stories of interest and worth. It is our purpose during the coming year to make a feature of capital short stories—stories worth the reading and which will carry some helpful lesson or emphasize some important truth on the mind of the reader.

In *The Spirit of the West* we have a fine story of the great free West with its splendid idealism and dreams—the West which we believe holds the promise of democracy's redemption as does no other section of our land. And this story is rightly named. We are in the midst of as titanic a battle as has ever been waged for freedom in the New World—the battle between a real or true democracy in which the people are the source of government and the arbiter of laws and in which equality of opportunities and of rights must take precedence over all special privileges or class considerations, and that vicious, reactionary class-government that would steal the livery of democracy and wear it so as to deceive and enslave the people while substituting class-rule or government of privileged wealth through servile tools, political bosses and party-machines, for the enrichment of the few at the expense of the many. It is the old battle between privilege and the people, between money and manhood. The exaltation and deification of the dollar has well-nigh destroyed the old-time democracy. The hour has struck for the revolt of freemen against the domination of the dollar, the rule of the financiers and the debauchment of government by sordid, corrupt, wealth-seeking privilege. The spirit animating the hero of Mrs. COCKERELL's story is the spirit of true democracy. Mrs. COCKERELL, we predict, is going to do for the West what MARY WILKINS FREEMAN has done for the New England and what WILL ALLEN DROMGOOLE has done for the South and especially for Tennessee in her short stories. We shall at an early date publish another story from Mrs. COCKERELL's pen which will be of special interest to all friends of honest industry.

In *When the Genedarmes Came* Mr. DABO has given us a story of an entirely different character from *The Spirit of the West*—a simple, realistic pen-picture, sad but deeply interesting and teaching a lesson very much needed to-day,—the lesson of ever being thoughtful in speaking words that may wound, disturb or injure another. There have been many minds wrecked—hopelessly wrecked—by such thoughtless—wickedly thoughtless—treatment as that so vividly described in Mr. DABO's *When the Genedarmes Came*.