

use of the increment of social values, plus speculative values.

"Now Social Land Values are those created by population; they cannot be destroyed save through depopulation. Speculative land values are based on the anticipated increase in population, and cannot be eventually realized save by the realization of such increase.

"It thus appears that social land values are due to the social demand for land, and that the appropriation to private use of such values gives that power of monopoly which makes speculation in land and its products possible, and creates the social ills of which we complain.

"The remedy is obvious. Collect society-created values for social uses, and thus prevent abnormal concentration of wealth."

#### MR. J. W. BENGOUGH

Gentlemen:

I come before you as an Orthodox College Professor of Economics, and accordingly take my stand upon a volume of Political Economy as a fitting platform. The significance of this is that it is my interest, if not my duty, to keep the truths of this science as far from my head as possible.

I am both surprised and pained to observe that this audience is made up of representatives of Capital and Labor, standing together in apparent harmony. You do not seem to be aware that these two great forces are in violent conflict. Their interests are antagonistic—irreconcilably so—and that they should thus fraternize is simply indecent. Capital has nothing in common with Labor. You gentlemen with the silk hats are out of place alongside of the "Horny handed sons of toil." You rightfully belong within the barbed-wire enclosure here, with my esteemed friend, the Land Speculator, because Land is Capital. The most atrocious heresy of men like Henry George, who have presumed to teach Political Economy without having gone through College, is that Land is not Wealth, but the natural storehouse or source of wealth, and that, since Capital is stored-up wealth, Land is not Capital. This monstrous fallacy I denounce with all the vehemence of which I am capable! (Here he pounds his right hand with his left fist). I note the expression of disdain on your faces, but this only shows how your minds have been poisoned by those upstarts. I tell you Land is Capital and Land Rent is the legitimate profit of those those who perform the toil of owning title deeds. Landlordism is, indeed, the palladium of our liberties, and the only sound policy for this Republic is Protection. It fills your dinner pails, my laboring brothers, and it is the salvation of your industries, my Capitalist friends. This is the Truth, and I will continue to declare it as long as my job depends upon the will of those whose interests demands that it be taught!

Land cannot be property in the sense that movable things are property.

J. A. FROUDE.

CANNOT persons who think about taxation learn something from the ordinary laws of physical science? The lower the centre of gravity in a ship or a car the greater its stability. A much greater weight can be carried safely if it is properly stowed. Even a wayfaring man, or a seafaring one, must see that the lower the centre of gravity can be placed in the social structure the less likely it is to capsize or upset. The weight of government is the taxation which it imposes to pay for itself. When we put this on the land, distributing the pressure according to its value, we have placed it at the lowest point in the social framework and thus helped to stabilize the whole structure.

THE little boy's definition of "salt" as the thing which made the egg taste so uninteresting when you didn't have it, may well be applied to the Single Tax. It is the thing which makes civilization taste like ipecac when you don't have it. Doubtless the world was a long time in existence before men had sense enough to put eggs and salt together. Doubtless also men were found who protested vehemently that the combination of eggs and salt would produce a poison of unprecedented virulence. Clearly it would put the egg business on the half-shell. The high state of civilization which had been then attained would go into the discard.

How the great revolution came to be accomplished is shrouded in the mist of ages. Let us hope it was achieved without bloodshed. Probably there were some old families which never became reconciled to the innovation and organized Societies of Unsalted Eggs which survived through many generations and in which membership was equivalent to a patent of nobility. But the hardest conservatives succumb to fate and the most venerable hierarchies are fretted away by the slow tooth of time. The sons of the revolutionists became the bulwarks of the new order and sometimes die assaulting the barricades their fathers built. The fact that a thing *is*, is the best proof that it will not be. Some day we shall sprinkle on the egg of civilization the salt of the Single Tax and then life will have a new savor and hope a new meaning and we shall proceed to interest ourselves in new combinations of which now we do not even dream.

## Is Business Against Economic Reform?

A STRANGE but undeniable phenomenon is the aversion of business interests to pay for space in papers which advocate fundamental economic reforms. Business in general is acclaimed the handmaid of progress; but when increased beyond a certain point, it feels an identity of interest with the great properties which draw their sustenance from monopoly and special privilege. In this respect business men do not differ from other members of the community. The politician, who, standing on the bottom rung of the ladder, experiences, and appeals to, the feelings of his poorer constituents, when "honest graft" has swelled

his bank account, finds it very difficult to retain his old point of view, though to stimulate it may be necessary to the maintenance of his power. Even the labor leader who accumulates a substantial fortune finds it hard to arouse in himself the "fine frenzy" with which, when poor, he once appealed for the rights of the people. To paraphrase the old rhyme:

"When the devil was poor  
A demagogue was he;  
But when the Devil got rich  
He became a Pharisee."

The aim of business is the sale of goods and however unsound a man's views may seem, to the business man one man's dollar is as good as another's and should be equally worth going after. Yet we rarely see any reform publication wrapped in a reasonable garment of advertising pages to protect it from the chill of an unsympathetic world. Such support is today practically necessary to the maintenance of any paper of extensive circulation. The greater the circulation, the greater the deficit, is almost a publisher's axiom today, wherever a paper is not supported by heavy advertising patronage. Even though a paper be alone in its field, the example of other papers holds it down to a subscription price which hardly pays for cost of manufacture, leaving little for editorial and contributor's work. Many of the papers of the largest circulation used to get no revenue from the purchase price, which went entirely to the vendor. This is now illegal, but the net sum they do get is no real payment for the paper, in the sense that the price of a book is. Of course, such a condition makes these periodicals mere advertising pamphlets and makes their editors, artists and writers mere "barkers" to inveigle the public into buying cigarettes or clothes or tires. Their subordination to the advertiser is so marked that often even their stories are selected for their subtle bearing on some line of goods which takes a page ad. As they gain in circulation they lose in influence. The number of "copies sold" becomes their sole criterion of success. To take a position which would diminish circulation is the unpardonable sin; desiring to attract everybody they must take no position which would offend anybody. The situation, however, is not new. It seems to have always been so. In a book published in 1839 by one F. J. Grund, entitled "Aristocracy in America," occurs the following passage: "There are generally considerably more Whig papers than Democratic in a city, which I take for the best possible proof that talent loves to be rewarded, and in republics, as well as monarchies, naturally serves those who are able to reward it." Another interesting passage from the same book reads as follows: "You may always doubt a Democratic editor's sincerity when his advertisements begin to increase. He is then sure of making himself agreeable to a certain portion of the commercial community, and to meet soon with the proper reward of his new political faith. You may then expect to see him promoted in society and on change; and ten chances to one he will be able to settle with his creditors. After that he begins to differ on one point

or another with the leading principles of the Democratic Party (for it is seldom that a man changes *at once* from Democrat to Whig), until by degrees he renounces the whole doctrine as unworthy of a "gentleman and a scholar." Though times change and customs, people are, in main very much the same. OWEN MERRIHUE.

## The Single Tax Five Year Book

THE Single Tax Five Year Book (See adv. on back page) is now on the reference shelves of over 700 public libraries in the United States, England, Australia, France and Belgium. The vast majority of these institutions have ordered the book, their attention having been called to it through the many reviews that have appeared in the newspapers and periodicals of the country.

Others have been sent by Single Taxers as a gift to their local libraries. Pronounced by a well known Single Taxer of Washington as "second in importance to Progress and Poverty," and hailed by the Single Tax world as filling a great need, the work is now nearly exhausted. While it is not yet too late, our friends should secure it for their local libraries.

Dr. Victor Alderson, president of the Colorado School of Mines, writes:

"I feel the publication of this work is an epoch-making event in the history of the Single Tax movement."

We have before us a letter just received from William Lloyd Garrison, Jr., in which he says: "I find the work invaluable and am free to confess that I turn to its pages more often than I do to those of the Bible."

Our friends should secure this work while there is yet time. To every purchaser of the work we will give a years subscription to the REVIEW.

THE SINGLE TAX REVIEW is better than ever. If it received the support to which it is entitled from the friends of the movement it would no doubt appear once a month. Here's hoping.—JNO. J. ABRAMSON, Los Angeles, Calif.

YOUR magazine is doing splendid work for the cause.  
—ROY R. WATERBURY, San Francisco, Calif.

Pay ransom to the owner,  
And fill the bag to the brim;  
But who is the owner? The slave,  
And ever was, pay him.

—R. W. EMERSON.

THE kingdom of God is advanced in and through the State, where the State concerns itself with the needs of humanity and tries to make character, not merely to alleviate a passing trouble.—DR. CLIFFORD.

UNDER our existing conditions there are a few men who play boldly with millions and who rise to the top; there are thousands who pick up pins or save bits of candle-ends and remain at the bottom.—GRANT ALLEN.