

## NEWS—FOREIGN

### Argentine

**S**PEAKING of the position of the Single Tax movement in the Argentine, one of the leaders of that movement has written us a few lines that will bear meditation by our Socialist friends in this country:

"Today," he says, "our ideas are floating in the environment. The very Socialists will be the ones to bring Georgism into operation, because they have ceased to be Socialists in order to become Liberals. They recognize that Capital is a necessity for keeping industry in motion; and through their organ, *La Vanguardia*, they have already declared that the question of the Land is the most important problem. Besides, as is known, they are Free Traders."

The organ of the Georgist Liberal Party in the Argentine, *El Liberal Georgista*, announces that two candidates of that party were recently elected to the Town Council of Coronal Pringles. The other candidates elected were: 2 Radicals and 1 Socialist. The population of Coronal Pringles is 14,000.

In the elections for national Senator held in Buenos Aires in February last, the candidate of the Georgist Liberal Party, Dr. Eduardo F. Belaustegui, received 1923 votes. This was eighteen more than the vote for the same party in the municipal elections of 1922.

It is worthy of note that the Socialist Party, likewise committed to the concentration of taxes on land values, won the election for Senator by a vote of 77,505 against the government candidate's 70,710. *La Vanguardia*, official organ of the Argentine Socialist Party, makes the following declaration in its issue of March 7th:

"The land problem embraces in its magnitude and importance almost all the others. By its solution in the form proposed, other questions of the highest importance which have a close or indirect relation thereto would be settled at the same time."

### The Fight for Free Speech In Youngstown

**A** \$100,000 damage suit brought by Joseph W. Gottlieb, in Youngstown, Ohio, against Judge William S. Anderson and Chief of Police Watkins, for false arrest, has resulted in some very interesting developments. The fight for free speech in that city is now at fever heat.

Proceedings at the trial revealed the curious conception of democracy entertained by the local Chief of Police. It is rare that such an open avowal of the contempt for democratic institutions is made by gentlemen of his ilk in their official capacity. Youngstown has a population of 132,000, and is an almost 100 per cent. American city. Its citizens are to be commiserated in the possession of a Chief of Police who, in imitation of the famous Louis of France, openly boasts, "I am the law."

Our friend, George Edwards, appeared as counsel for Gottlieb, and his skillful questioning of the Chief of Police

developed what amounts to a confession that should furnish some very serious reflection to the people of Youngstown as well as those of other cities:

"What did Gottlieb say in his speech?"

"Something about democracy. He mentioned Judge Anderson's name when I told the Captain to get him."

"As soon as he said Judge Anderson you ordered his arrest?"

"Yes."

"Do you recall what he said about Judge Anderson?"

"I don't recall if he said anything."

"Where did you go after Gottlieb was arrested?"

"You ought to know, Edwards, I went up and grabbed you from the automobile. I figured that an ounce of prevention was worth a pound of cure."

"Gottlieb was violating no law that you know of?"

"He was violating my law."

"Oh, you make laws. I didn't know chief of police had authority to make a law."

"I made that one."

"I wish, chief, that instead of this vaudeville show we would have a law suit," said Edwards.

"Gottlieb did not commit a crime. If you locked up every one you suspected would commit a crime there would not be enough jails. Quite a few of us could be locked up."

### A Soldier of the Common Good

**"T**O HAVE been a faithful soldier in the Army of Freedom—to have laid one stone in the glorious building of a Perfect Social State—to have done even so little to bring the Kingdom of God upon earth—nay, even to have attempted it with all one's might, is sufficient reward for all the work, the fret and toil, and the sacrifices that are involved in it."

MAX HIRSCH.

ABOLISHING a lot of laws would do more good than all the uplift laws ever enacted or proposed.

### BOOK NOTICES

#### CRIME, ITS CAUSE AND TREATMENT\*

Such is the title of an informing and thoughtful work by Clarence Darrow. Nothing more than a summary of its conclusions can be given here, in the hope that injustice may not be done to a most admirable performance.

Mr. Darrow shows that even the most severe punishment is no deterrent and that we must reverse all current theories respecting crime and the treatment of the criminal. Theories founded upon folk ways are tenable no longer. There is but one justification for any penal code and that is the protection of society.

Low wages he indicates as a cause of crime. He recognizes that under juster social conditions men who now drift into crime would find conventional life more profitable and attractive. Speaking of juvenile criminals he points out that children in the country escape most of the influences that make for crime, and he says: "The growth of the big cities have produced the child criminal." He speaks in many places of the close relation that economic conditions bear to crime, and says: "Not less than eighty per cent. of all crimes are property crimes."

\*Crime and its Treatment by Clarence Darrow, 12Mo. Clo., 300 p.p.. Thomas Y. Crowell & Co., New York City.

We venture this quotation from page 99:

"The criminologist must face the fact that, in spite of contrary preferences by most of our social doctors, we are still in our work-a-day world guided almost exclusively by the mores—the folk-way of old, founded on expediency as revealed by experience, and acquired by the only known process, that of trial and error. If this be true, it clearly follows that in order to conserve any vestige of a civilization, we must realize the fact that property crimes are the normal result of the complex activities making up the treadmill called civilization. We must likewise realize that to modify these crimes we must modify the trend of the race."

Mr. Darrow has well summed up the environment that makes for crime. He has traced for us the development of the criminal under the conditions that surround him from the time of his first infraction of the law, his incarceration and his freedom when the period of imprisonment is at an end. But his record does not cease to follow him when he is free—in fact, he is never really free from the time when he falls into the clutches of the law. Whatever environment and heredity have done to start the criminal on his career the law and society tend to confirm. Darrow, with his long familiarity with the phenomena of crime, knows the story as presented in a thousand chapters and in the lives of hundreds of unfortunates.

Here is Darrow's exclamation which should arrest the reader: "If only the public would understand. If only the public were more intelligent, which in this connection would be more human."

Altogether this is a book which is well worth the perusal of one who loves his fellowman and wishes to hear at first hand from one who has moved among the dark places of mankind, who has associated with those whom society has branded, and who writes of all he knows—and what he knows is more than most men—with a fine sympathy and out of a discriminating mind.

J. D. M

#### TOO MUCH GOVERNMENT, TOO MUCH TAXATION\*

With much of this book's protest against the meddling by State and Federal governments with what is properly the sphere of private industry, all Single Taxers can heartily agree. The annoying extension of regulatory legislation, with its boards, commissions and bureaus, all attempting to control production and distribution by an army of officeholders, is a discouraging sign of the bankruptcy of intelligence on the part of national and State legislators. Crises are discovered in trade and industry. Make a law to stop them. If the law does not work, create a supervisory commission with powers to investigate and make regulations. This failing, enact more laws creating bureaus to supervise the commissions, and find out why they are not serving the public. Thus the bureaucracy grows, until there are millions of officeholders supported by the patient taxpayers, all busily engaged in showing how not to promote industrial and commercial prosperity.

Mr. Hay sees clearly that governmental extravagance and corruption are largely due to the failure of the great masses of the people to realize the heavy burden laid on productive industry by existing systems of taxation. If the average citizen could be brought to realize the extent to which he is robbed by indirect taxes, ultimately paid by the consumers of goods, he would revolt against the political quacks who are responsible. Yet, as is the case with so many well-meaning persons who protest against present conditions, he has no better remedy to offer than the crooked and discredited Sales Tax, which he suggests as a way out of the indirect taxes that are not felt by the public. He wants to rouse the American people against the crushing and oppressive taxes on capital, industry and trade, but his only solution is a tax on consumption that would increase prices, decrease purchasing power and cut down production!

The author has heard of the Single Tax but discusses it in a ten-line footnote, with the casual comment that it is a tax "on real estate or rents," which, he says, has the great disadvantage that it is levied on a limited class, the land owners. After this exhibition of perspicacity it is not surprising to find him accepting the canned wisdom of the financial freebooters and princes of privilege who are trying to force the Sales Tax upon the country.

\*Too Much Government. Too Much Taxation. By Norman Hay. Doubleday Page & Co.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### AN APPROVING WORD FROM A WELL KNOWN AUSTRALIAN WORKER

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

I have greatly enjoyed your articles in the REVIEW, "The Single Tax more than a Fiscal Reform," etc., and I feel sure that your attitude is right, as opposed to Mr. Cooley's.

Corowa, N. S. Wales, Australia.

ERNEST BRAY.

### A PROMISING FIELD

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

In my opinion Single Tax will never have a fair trial until it becomes a national measure. It would take a long while to get it passed and in force in the United States, with so many States to adopt it.

I believe Western Canada is the best place to try it out. We have a large domain sparsely settled. There is some friction between the East and West and some talk of seceding, though I think nothing will come of it. The West will have an increased membership in the federal house at Ottawa next election.

The farmers are in control in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta in the provincial legislatures. They are out for taxation of land values and almost to a man the leaders are strong for it. Their official organ, *The Grain Growers Guide*, advocates it. The trouble is the rank and file are passive and will not let their leaders put it into effect.

The Premier of Ontario is a Single Taxer, also the head men of the United Grain Growers, the largest grain company in the world, are mostly strong for Single Tax. Here we have the head men who direct affairs strong for it but cannot do much, as the ordinary people do not understand it.

Here seems to me a great chance to work. The heads of the farmers organizations in the Eastern Provinces are also in favor and with some encouragement would fall in line.

If some generous great soul would put up enough to finance a vigorous campaign for five years (advertising) by that time others would fall in line and help out. This advertising campaign to advocate 100% Single Tax with no compromise at all. In rural Manitoba on farms, there is no tax on improvements. No doubt you are familiar with what has been done in the other provinces along these lines. Vancouver particularly has led in exempting improvements, as well as Victoria, Edmonton, Calgary and other cities, but with the after effects of the war things have not gone as some predicted. Single Tax in a federal way would have solved the question.

Here in the West we could advertise it with least expense of any place and reach most of the people. The *Manitoba Free Press*, of Winnipeg, has a large circulation in the three provinces, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The *Grain Grower* also has a large circulation among the farmers in the four Western Provinces. These two papers with one in Vancouver would reach most of the people in the West. We call Port Arthur the dividing line between the East and the West. The farmers are just now in straitened circumstances and would welcome some kind of a change, are mildly in favor of Single Tax now but in mass have not studied it much.

Single Tax is my religion and like most Single Taxers count myself a citizen of the world. Am not advocating a trial here because I am a Canadian but because it seems to me the best place to try it out.

S. J. Farmer, Mayor of Winnipeg, is an ardent Single Taxer. F. J. Dixon, member for centre Winnipeg, and leader of the Labor Party, has been for years preaching the cause for us. Under proportional representation he received in 1st to 10th choice about 80% of the votes polled.

What I wish to show is that our leaders are in line but the rank and file are holding them back.

Toronto, Canada.

T. R. WILLIAMS.