

themselves off from one of the finest fellowships that ever enlisted in the cause of human freedom. Go, if you must, gentlemen, but be sure that the cause of your going is adequate. Remember, it is a discreet man who takes no offense unless he is sure offense was intended; it is a generous man who accords his fellows the same motives as his own; and it is a wise man who can separate the essential from the non-essential.



Once more, now, let us laugh long and loud and deep; and then let us get to work in the cause of justice.

S. C.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

AFFAIRS IN MISSISSIPPI.

Jackson, Miss., July 15.

We have some very serious situations here in Mississippi which the singletax would solve. One is, we have a great iron and coal mine which the people refuse to turn over to the big interests. They are trying to find some way that the people can get their share of the proceeds of these mineral deposits. At the last legislature the legislators flatly refused to let some Boston bankers come into the State and work this mine. Another situation we have is that all the vast southern part of Mississippi, the richest country in the whole world, is in the hands of three or four corporations. This land is perfectly wild, no one on it. The corporations will not allow any one to come on it, but are waiting for a rise in land values. They say they are trying to "colonize" it. If you will look into the Acts of the Legislature since 1906 you will see that the Legislature has made constant war on the corporations, and all to no effect, of course. And the corporations have made constant war on the people of the State. We have one British corporation which owns about 500,000 acres of the finest cotton land of the Delta, the greatest cotton country in the world. The whole people of the State were infuriated when they found out that our laws permitted such a thing to happen as this. So we go ahead and make a law prohibiting corporations from owning land for agricultural purposes. The result is that the great corporations are buying land and holding it in the names of individuals. And I am lawyer enough to know that there is absolutely no way in the world to check these holdings save by way of the singletax.

ROBERT S. PHIFER, JR.



PROGRESSIVE ADDRESS ENTHUSES CATHOLIC GATHERING.

Erie, Pa., July 16.

The Pennsylvania branch of the American Federation of Catholic Societies has been convening here, and on Sunday evening last a public meeting was held in the Majestic Theater. The theater was crowded, many being obliged to stand, and the audience numbered fourteen or fifteen hundred.

The main address was by Hon. James Manahan, Congressman-at-Large from Minnesota. A Catholic himself, and speaking before an almost exclusively Catholic audience (several prominent priests and bishops being present also), Mr. Manahan delivered an eloquent and convincing address which would satisfy the most exacting Singletax critic.

Although he occupied more than an hour, he held the interest of his hearers to the end, and on the way out several remarked that they wished he had spoken even longer.

The Bishop of the local diocese, before pronouncing the benediction, expressed briefly his approval of and thanks for what had been said. The address was a logical argument for progressive, democratic Singletax principles from beginning to end, although the term "Singletax" was not used, and he did not mention Henry George.

Among other things he said that being a Westerner he did not realize what poverty meant in large cities until he came East. He contrasted the crowded conditions of London and New York with the millions of acres of lands in the West that are idle. There is something wrong. He then said:

"We all need the necessaries of life—food, clothing and shelter. Let us see that these material things are supplied as a first requisite. We can then expect progress forward and upward along moral and spiritual lines.

"We are dependent upon the natural resources, and yet we have given away the most of our public domain.

"The main point of my message to you is the importance that all of us (non-Catholic as well as Catholic) give more attention to the affairs of government, to our laws and legislation.

"Some feel it a disgrace to be involved in politics, but politics should concern us all. Government and morals cannot be dealt with apart from each other. If we as citizens at the ballot-box vote for bad laws, the effects come back to us in our home and social environment.

"It is idle for us to waste our energies in combatting Socialism. Socialism is only one indication of injustice and unrest. We should give less attention to such symptoms. We should get at the bottom cause and remove that."

The speaker then described how his eyes came to be opened to the actual state of things.

As attorney for some Minnesota farmers, he was fighting the railroads for a reduction of rates. Examining a prominent railroad official, he was fortunate enough to obtain from him in open court, an admission that his railroad and others had been using money in Wisconsin and Minnesota to influence legislation. It was just the sort of evidence that he needed, and on the strength of it he subpoenaed J. J. Hill, and was actually able to get Hill present in the court to testify. When court opened the judge stated that the case had developed beyond the jurisdiction of that court, and had been placed in the hands of the Attorney General of the State. What it amounted to was that Hill controlled the legislature and courts of Minnesota, and the people's will was thus subjugated. Representative government had ceased to be.

This revelation led Manahan to investigate further