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News and Notes of Single Tax.
EDITED BY EDGAR POMEROY.

Be just and fear not.
Let all the ends thou aimest be thy country's.
Thy God's, and truth's."

Single tax is on the hum all over the world. In the United States the single taxers of New York, Chicago and St. Louis are entering upon an unusually busy season. The headquarters of the propaganda department in Washington, D. C., comes forward with a proposal to offer \$10,000 for the best novel setting forth the principles of single tax. Fifteen hundred dollars has already been subscribed in that city and \$1,000 more pledged. The call is now being issued in the various societies, and the whole \$10,000 should be easily raised, particularly when we remember that some of the most earnest single taxers are millionaires. Thos. G. Shearman, Tom L. Johnson and Bolton Hall, for instance, could easily subscribe the amount themselves if need be—in fact, they probably do expend that amount for the cause every year. Progress is not, however, confined to the States alone. Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Great Britain are facing the question squarely now, with never a chance to run.

The county society is in a particularly healthy condition, and is entering upon what promises to be a lively season. Not only will there be debates with other societies, but there will be meetings once a month, at which prominent public men will speak and to which the public will be invited. In January Rev. R. F. Coyle will address the society: in February Dr. Dille will speak. These meetings will include lectures by Hon. Jas. G. Maguire, Rev. Whittaker, Alfred Denton Cridge, James H. Barry, John E. Bennett, Judge Leggett, A. J. Gregg and other prominent men. The committee is also waiting upon some of the Universities' faculty.

The full list of debates will appear next week.

A real estate firm in San Francisco cleverly advertises pieces of the earth for sale, and at the same time unwittingly illustrates two of the points of the single tax theory, viz: That the present system of taxing men on improvements puts a premium on land speculation: and (2) that the value of land is not created by the owner as owner, but by the ingenuity, enterprise and industry of the community. and should therefore be appropriated by the community for community expenses.

THE RIGHTS OF PROPERTY.

Every good Citizen recognizes the sacredness of the rights of property. The Federal Constitution says: "Private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation." This is sound doctrine, as every reasonable person must admit. Now, why should we not also admit the corollary of this proposition, namely: That public property should not be taken for private use without due process of law and for just compensation. Surely one principle is correct if the other is.

Land values are public property. No one can dispute this and sustain the denial with facts or with

even a shadow of logic. All the value that adheres to land anywhere, either in cities or in rural districts, is the creation of the public in general—that is to say, of the community or State. Such value is not the result of any one person. The legal owner of a piece of land may have had nothing to do with the value of the land. He may never have done a single thing towards making it valuable, and yet it may be worth millions per acre, as is the case with land located in the business center of a large city.

Then surely, if the use value of that land is a creation of the community as a whole, the community has a moral right to appropriate it to community purposes. There is no escaping this conclusion. Our existing laws recognize this principle, but only to a limited extent. A portion of the value of all land that has value is taken in the form of taxes for public purposes, but most of it is left in the hands of the land owner. Why should not all of it be taken? If the community has a moral right to take it all, or at least as much of it as may be needed to meet public expenses, and that would be nearly or quite the whole thing.

By taking what rightfully belongs to the public for public uses, the Government would have no need to lay the hand of taxation on any property in the form of labor products. That is sacredly his who produces it, and it should be left to him. RALPH HOYT.

FOREIGN NOTES.

Glasgow. Scotland, is making a great effort to induce Parliament to grant the right of single tax for municipal purposes.

Sir William Harcourt committed himself in a speech to the support of the single tax. He is now frightened at the pace of Parliament in that direction, and refuses to continue as Liberal leader. John Morley, the famous and brilliant member for Montrose, is out for the single tax movement, and will lead the Liberals on condition that they make the land question the main issue. The landlord element of the Liberal party appeal to Lord Roseberry to take the lead, but he, too, has committed himself in public speech in favor of the single tax on ground rents.

On October 6th, Cheviot county, New Zealand, carried single tax by 165 to 41. Until bought by the Government for £250,000 under an act passed in 1892, providing for compulsory purchase and sale to actual settlers. It was Robinson's sheep station, supporting twenty persons: now it has a population of 2,000, and is the first farming county in the South (sometimes called the 'Middle') island to adopt the single tax. Its area is 330 square miles; valuation, £500,000