

Perry, La.

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

I desire to express my views upon the article of Mr. Edward T. Weeks upon "Independent Political Action For Single Taxers." I do not know that I thoroughly agree with the details of Mr. Weeks' plan, but wish to state that in my opinion, his position as to the moral guilt of all Single Taxers, who for any cause whatever vote with either of the existing political parties, is unquestionable. There is also no question in my mind but that our political work and attitude should be governed by as high a moral principle as actuates all honest men in any transaction of life, and the question of expediency should not, in my mind, be considered at all unless it absolutely conforms to this high moral standard.

I believe, and have always believed, that we would accomplish more, and would by now have been much further advanced, had we come out in the open years ago and made an absolute fight for the principles we believe to be right by organizing and working in the political field for single tax straight, and refusing to compromise, or be side-tracked by any party on any other issue. Believing this way, I have not voted any party ticket in national or congressional elections for twelve years, and do not expect to until I can have a proposition to vote for with a principle behind it.

WM. P. MILLER.

New Iberia, La.

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

By all means let us have a Single Tax party. It seems clear to me that the advertising obtained and the discussion aroused can be obtained in no other way.

I cannot but believe that had a party, advocating *only the Single Tax*, been organized after the anti-poverty meetings were held, that long ago the fight would have been won.

Since that time we have seen the Populists rise to a respectable vote, and I feel confident that had they a living truth behind them, it would have been held up to the light, and the inevitable discussion have brought it to the consideration of every thinking man and woman and forced one of the old parties to adopt it or perish.

Let us meet at St. Louis in 1904 and organize.

RICHARD S. MCMAHON.

Cleveland, Ohio.

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

Permit me to call Mr. Weeks' attention to the following quotation from "Progress and Poverty."

"It is an axiom of statesmanship, which the successful founders of tyranny have understood and acted upon—that great changes can best be brought about under old forms. We, who would free men, should heed the same truth. It is the nat-

ural method. When nature would make a higher type, she takes a lower one and develops it. This, also, is the law of social growth. Let us work by it. With the current we may glide fast and far. Against it, it is hard pulling and slow progress."

Fifteen years of active Single Tax propaganda makes it very evident to my mind, that here in Ohio, we have but one choice, and that is to support with heart and soul the fight that is now being waged under the leadership of Mayor Johnson.

If I have a buggy and harness, and my friend has a horse, and my destination is Jonesville, and his is Thomasville, fifty miles this side of Jonesville, I do not alter my destination when I say to him "Put your horse in my harness, and hitch him to my buggy, and together we will drive to Thomasville." It is simply a common-sense, every day transaction, in which neither party is deceived.

Here in Ohio, we have an opportunity to raise the whole question of taxation. Because every man with whom we associate politically, has not the same destination in view as ourselves, we do not feel that there is any "Compromise," or that it is a mere matter of "Expediency," when we work with him.

There is always a time to strike, and that is when the iron is hot. That time has arrived in Ohio, and Single Taxers who lose the opportunity, or stop to split hairs, are of no special use, either to themselves or the cause. The world progresses by the acts of men who do things.

J. B. VINING,

Secretary Ohio Single Tax League.

Emporia, Kansas.

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

Ten years ago I was informed that only recruits to the Single Tax desired independent action, but time has confirmed my opinion that we were wrong then and wrong now in not throwing this question into the political arena. If leading Single Taxers refuse to go with us, go without them.

We are striking cowardice into the hearts of the Single Taxers of the future by our inaction. I have never yet found a royal road to success, and this continual hunt for the "Line of least resistance" is a hunt for something that does not exist and never existed. The only way to do anything is to go ahead and do it.

N. A. VYNE.

Fayette, City, Pa.

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

Where there are a number of active workers in a county I would say organize, and through it boldly show the right and capture any organization you can, for the prestige of organization is much.

With me in this monopoly ridden county of Fayette, Penn., where nine out of ten

are after coal land or corner lots for the rent, I am the only one who writes Single Tax articles for our county papers. Two papers have published my articles for ten years quite regularly. But one died two years ago. It had a Single Tax column for six years in nearly every number. I don't know whether that column killed it or not. But the *Genius of Liberty*, the oldest in the county, and one of the leading papers, publishes articles from me in both daily and weekly editions. The Editor assures me that in a short time he will be able to handle more of my matter than he has in the past. He is not afraid of its killing his paper.

My work has been to present our cause boldly to all men and women, regardless of creed, parties, wealth or poverty. The only wealthy man besides Tom L. Johnson, who has written me is the famous coke baron, Henry Clay Frick. He wrote me: "I was much interested in your letter, but don't believe in your conclusions." This was more than I expected.

To the second question: "Moral principle should govern."

Suppose I am opposed to the rum traffic, and the only ship going to my destination is well loaded with rum. My going in that ship will not violate a moral principle. But as an aggressive reformer, I would try to make the rum dealers feel like dumping the stuff overboard.

Then whichever political party we can steer furthest our way let us get aboard and try to induce them to throw overboard all their frauds and follow us.

If I vote that party ticket I vote my principles though they may have planks that I do not approve. Sometimes by not voting we help the party to which we are opposed. A legislator was approached by a briber and he spurned him, he was approached by a briber on the other side and he spurned him and he was approached by an offer of \$500 if he would not vote and he did not know what to do.

Let our plan be to hammer away and the rocks of prejudice and ignorance will fall into a dozen pieces, useful to fill a mud hole where the "red van" can cross in comfort.

Let us get a Single Tax plank into the Democratic platforms where we can, and use them to steer to port.

C. B. POWER.

Amarillo, Texas.

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

Replying to Mr. Weeks' first question, I would say that Single Taxers could vote for the party nearest to their way of thinking, until the time is ripe for some other political action, without incurring moral guilt. And indeed they would incur moral guilt not to do so.

Regarding his second question, it is quite obvious that they should be governed by both "moral principle" and "expediency,"

and that it would be unwise to the extent of immorality to ignore expediency.

This, I think fully answers (omitting argument), his queries; but possibly, for Mr. Weeks' purpose, he has not put his questions well. They savor too much of the frazzled catch-question. "Shouldn't we vote as we pray? A question that could be answered either "yes" or "no" without involving morals—or even without locating in the least the "where we are at."

It is but fair to Mr. Weeks to presume that he simply wants to know if there will ever be a time when the Single Taxers should organize a separate party, and if so, how near to hand is that time?

As for myself, my answer to the first question is, "I don't know." The latter can be answered only when "I do know." It all depends.

One thing certain, I am not looking for the middle of any pig trail road in the woods to stand up in, like the Populists and the Prohibitionists, and at the present like the Socialists.

Henry George, at the Syracuse convention, upon the organization of the United Labor Party by the Single Taxers and Socialists—dominated by the Socialists—strongly opposed a third party movement, but he was overruled, and the organization affected. He yielded under protest, and accepted the nomination for Secretary of State—the highest elective office that year. "But," said he, and I remember almost his very words—"but, my friends, we make a mistake by cutting ourselves off into a third party. We once were listened to, we will not be listened to now. In this campaign of the whole State I will not nearly receive the vote I got in the one City of New York for Mayor." His words were prophetic. He didn't receive half so many votes. Afterward, through his *Standard* he fired his "I told you so!" and slid gracefully back into the Democratic party. His editorials against third party building were the most philosophical and conclusive I have ever read, before or since. Some of them ought to be reproduced.

Times change, it is true, and human conduct must keep up with the procession. But I was too glad to get back home into the Democratic party from my prodigal ninety days with the United Labor Party to be in a hurry again to go astray. As luck had it, no election was held while I was riotously living, and so I have ever since been able to boast of never having voted other than the Democratic ticket.

But we are making history rapidly and few can tell what a year may bring forth. Watch, pray, and read the *Commoner*—and the *Public*—and THE SINGLE TAX REVIEW, and work for and vote with the better of the two old parties—and wait for developments of the Single Tax that are sure to be seen and felt by the persistent and intelligent propaganda efforts.