

In traveling on the railroad yesterday and today from Firebaugh to Los Banos I saw many thousands of cattle and more thousands of sheep, but outside of the railroad station I did not see five human beings in the 26 miles on the railroad. Through this territory there are probably over 200,000 acres of as fertile land as can be found in California. If cut up in small tracts it would support not less than 20,000 farmers and their families, and many large towns in addition. But Miller & Lux do not want to develop the country. They employ unmarried men, and pay them such small wages that they never can get married. One of the company officials even said to me that the men could not support wives on the wages they are paid. He said the pay ranged from \$30 to \$35 per month with board and lodging. But such "board!" A bunk in a shanty about 15x20 feet with anywhere from 5 to 40 other men. And the "board!" One of their employes told me it is "mul-ligan," composed of "lump jaw and macaroni." He said Miller & Lux pay a winter wage and a summer wage. The official I spoke to justified this on the ground that there are more men out of work in the winter and the work is not so hard as in the summer, so they pay \$1.10 in summer and \$1.00 in winter for 26 days in a month. The official said that on many of the "divisions" of their ranches the pay roll changes completely each month.

With such a condition existing you can understand why the people in the towns about here see in our Home Rule in Taxation constitutional amendment the salvation of the country. They realize that the only way this land monopoly can be broken up is by taking the burden of taxation off industry and putting it upon land value.

EDWARD P. E. TROY.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

ADVICE TO SINGLETAXERS.

New York City, May 11.

I think I have read as much Singletax literature as anybody, but I have recently re-read Dove's "Theory of Human Progression" with renewed interest and got valuable ideas from it. I urge our well-read Singletaxers to be sure that they are familiar with Dove's presentation of the doctrine from his own original and special point of view, and accordingly to take advantage of Mr. L. J. Quinby's generous offer to send a copy of Miss Kellogg's admirable abridgment of it, together with the clever skit "Shovelcrats," for postage only, twelve cents. If every good Singletaxer would give as generously as Mr. Quinby gives in proportion to his means we should hardly need a Joseph Fels Fund.

BOLTON HALL.



FUNCTIONS OF THE BREADLINE.

Westover, Md., May 11.

In answer to inquiries requesting information as to the functions fulfilled by the breadline* as a New York City institution, it may be said:

Among the more important uses of a breadline is the insurance it gives against bread riots. The bread

line is the American version of the panem et circenses [bread and circuses] of that period of Roman history corresponding to the present period of our own.

Were there no Rockefeller and no Grace Church, and the interests of which these are typical, there would be no bread line. While Rockefeller is trimming roses in Colorado, Grace Church is chiming the hours, and the bread line is only a natural result. Both are unconscious of the volcanoes gathering; or, if vague rumblings annoy, diversions, such as Mexican war, are arranged to do by wholesale and in short order such social surgery as may relieve the pressure for a time.

The text thunders with possibilities of exegesis, but—what is the use?

WESTERN STARR.

*See Public of May 13 at page 413.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of The Public for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, May 19, 1914.

The New British Budget.

The London Daily News & Leader's fuller text of the 1914-15 budget emphasizes the importance of the new revenue measure. The amounts are unprecedented, and the boldness with which the Chancellor meets the new requirements is not a whit less than when he introduced the epoch-making budget of 1909. The new budget involves a finance bill, a revenue bill, an education bill, an insurance bill, a rating, or local taxation bill, and possibly other supplementary measures to complete the Government's comprehensive scheme.



During the three-hour speech in which Chancellor Lloyd George presented the budget to the House of Commons, he dwelt upon the new points involved, and upon old ones enlarged. The readjustment of the relations between local and imperial taxation received careful attention. For forty years, he said, Parliament had been casting new functions of a costly character upon local authorities without making provision to meet their financial liabilities. This resulted in making good statutes dead letters. The acts dealing with housing were instanced. "I am told," said the Chancellor, "that five millions of people in this country are living in slums with very disastrous effects on the future of the race." The local authorities are given the right to clear out the slums, but not the means. "When we are contemplating large projects of cleansing this country from the pollution of slums," the Chancellor