

have said it was better than the silly talk of a man's right to the use of the earth—which you always said meant parts of the earth owned by somebody else. It was better than the radical talk you used to condemn. And it was addressed to people who might easily have been aroused to action that would have boded ill to those thirty thousand acres you own in South Jersey. Isn't it better that people should be amused over something they cannot understand, or at most leads to no particular consequences? You are very unreasonable, Auntie, at times."

I have been thinking of what Myra said. Perhaps she is not so unreasonable after all.

Ever yours,
Eustacia Von Twilliger.

BY-MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

By **THE EDITOR**

Our Missouri friends have formulated the following amendments to be voted upon in the general elections of 1918.

"Be it enacted by the people of the State of Missouri:

The Constitution of the State shall be and the same is hereby amended by adding the following Section to Article XIV thereof:

Sec. 13. There is hereby established in the State Treasury a fund to be known as the Homestead Loan Fund.

Said Homestead Loan Fund shall be lent to citizens of Missouri for the following purposes and for no other purpose whatsoever: (1) to purchase homesteads: (2) to erect permanent improvements on homesteads. Not more than three-fourths of the appraised value of any homestead shall be lent thereon; provided, however, that three-fourths of the appraised value of the improvement may be added to the three-fourths of the appraised value of the land to ascertain the limit of the loan. No loan exceeding three thousand dollars shall be made on one homestead. Every loan shall be secured by note and mortgage or deed of trust constituting a first lien on the homestead, except taxes and special assessments; and the improvements on the homestead shall be kept safely insured against fire and windstorms of the full insurable value thereof, and the policies shall be assigned as additional security for the loan. Every loan made from said fund shall bear interest at three per cent. per annum, beginning one year after date of the loan, which interest, together with one-twentieth of the principle shall be paid at the end of the second year and at the end of each year thereafter until the loan is paid in full; provided, however, that if the homestead on which such loan is made shall cease to be used as such by the owner thereof or his family, then the unpaid portion of such loan shall become payable in three equal installments falling due at the dates

of the next three installments of the loan as due by the original terms thereof, with interest at six per cent. per annum.

It shall be the duty of the Legislature at its first meeting following the ratification of this amendment to enact such legislation as may give full force and effect to the provisions thereof, and of all state and local officers respectively to execute the same under penalty of a forfeiture of their office.

THE PROPOSED HOMESTEAD TAX AMENDMENT

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Missouri:

The Constitution shall be and the same is hereby amended by adding the following Section to Article thereof:

No tax shall be imposed in this State upon personal property or upon improvements in or on land, or upon any person or occupation; provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall in any sense apply to taxes upon intoxicating liquors or tobacco or upon the manufacture or sale thereof, or to such licenses as may be necessary to a proper exercise of the police power; and provided, further, that this amendment shall not be construed to prevent the levying of income or inheritance taxes. All public revenue for State and local purposes shall be derived from a tax on the value of land, exclusive of improvements. Mines, franchises and rights of way of all public service utilities operating under public grants shall be deemed to be property in land and the value thereof shall be assessed and taxed accordingly. This amendment shall govern all assessments made after its adoption.

All provisions of this Constitution in conflict herewith are repealed as far as they so conflict.

The Homestead Loan and Land League have begun the publication of an official organ edited by Carl Brannin. Frank P. Walsh, who is president of the League, contributes an article which occupies the first page, the title of which is "To Give the Homeless Homes." Mr. Vernon J. Rose, who needs no introduction to readers of the REVIEW, presents the editor of *Land and Labor* in the following appreciative words:

"I have known Carl Brannin from boyhood. As a boy he was an active, virile chap, in love with the out-of-doors. He comes of good antecedents; a father and mother as fine people as are found in the Lone Star State and possessing unusual intellectual powers. They are sincere people and that splendid virtue has been transmitted from parents to son. Carl Brannin has the spirit of a Crusader, plus the common sense which Crusaders usually lack. He has turned his back definitely upon those paths which lead to ease, preferment and conventional respectability to put his life and efforts into the cause of justice and liberty; the making of this a fairer and easier world for all mankind, with equal opportunity. For the past two and a half years he has held the position of assistant to Herbert S. Bigelow in his work in Cincinnati and Ohio.

On behalf of the committee, when Carl Brannin comes to you, may I bespeak for him the cordial reception and earnest co-operation from you which the character of the man deserves and the cause he so well and faithfully represents imperatively needs."

The Los Angeles, (Cal.) Single Tax League, at a meeting on April 19, adopted the following resolutions which may well serve as a model for other cities:

"WHEREAS, due to a state of war now existing between the United States and Germany, this country is facing a food shortage; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has called upon every man, woman and child to give tangible evidence of their patriotism by using every possible means to increase our food production; and

WHEREAS, there are numberless vacant and idle lots within the limits of the City of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, there is a great number of men, women, boys and girls in the city who would cultivate gardens on these idle lots, if their owners would grant permission; and

WHEREAS, the owners of many of these vacant and idle lots will not grant permission for their cultivation; and

WHEREAS, it is believed that if the City Council would assess a water rate against vacant and idle lots in the city, such action would tend to induce the owners to permit cultivation of same by parties who would be willing to pay the water tax;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Single Tax League of Los Angeles request the City Council to pass an ordinance assessing a water tax against all vacant and idle lots in the City of Los Angeles, said water tax to be the minimum rate now assessed against occupied premises."

The Los Angeles Club have also adopted and circulated the following resolutions, which originated with the Toledo, Ohio, Single Tax Club.

"WHEREAS, the United States is confronted with the problem of raising additional revenues; and

WHEREAS, the income derived from the ownership of land is estimated as being five billion dollars per year; and

WHEREAS, this income is due almost exclusively to the presence and activities of the American people;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Single Tax League of Los Angeles urge upon Congress the justice and expediency of taxing land values to secure the necessary additional revenues; and

RESOLVED FURTHER that a copy of this resolution be sent to our Senators and Congressmen from California, and to the press of this city."

There are many incidents that show a real advance in public thought in

our direction. The recent action of the United Mine Workers of America in adopting resolutions urging the repeal of the constitutional provision for the apportionment of direct taxes and the levying of a tax on land values to meet all the expenses of the war, is a gratifying evidence of an awakening in the ranks of labor to the importance of the land question.

An inconspicuous item in the *Tribune* of May 13 announces that the Administration will compel the cultivation "through a scheme of heavy taxation" of idle lands, and that the plan has the endorsement of Secretary Lane.

In the House of Representatives Congressman Crosser has introduced a bill which is practically a duplication of the Bailey bill, for the federal taxation of land values.

EVEN in the front ranks one's position is not very dignified when standing on another's toes.—JAMES BELLANGEE.

ONLY the man who is accustomed to do for himself is qualified to appreciate what others do for him.—JAMES BELLANGEE

MEN can only do efficient work when the mind directs the hand. Hence self-employment is the best employment.—JAMES BELLANGEE.

THE moon sheds her light, not in charity, but because by her nature she can do no better with the light she receives from the sun.—JAMES BELLANGEE.

THOSE who make private property of the gift of God pretend in vain to be innocent. For in thus retaining the subsistence of the poor they are the murderers of them who die every day for want of it.—POPE GREGORY.

IF ALL men were so far tenants to the public that the superfluities of gain and expense were applied to the exigencies thereof, it would put an end to taxes, leave never a beggar and make the greatest bank for national trade in Europe.—WILLIAM PENN.

I FULLY admit this; I have stated it long ago at Midlothian I hold it without the smallest doubt; if a time came when the British nation could think that land ought to be nationalized and that it were wise to do it, they have perfect right to do it beyond all doubt and question.—MR. GLADSTONE.

LAND which nature has destined to man's sustenance is the only source from which everything comes and which everything flows back, and the existence of which constantly remains in spite of all changes. From this unmistakable truth it results that land alone can furnish the wants of the State, and that in natural fairness no distinction can be made in this.

—EMPEROR JOSEPH II.