

erty, and they saw just what it was intended they should see and no more. They came away well satisfied with what they saw. In Washington they had information from Munez Reviera and Cordova Davila, the Resident Commissioners, and both gentlemen knew exactly how much to say.

In all my goings and comings I never heard of one of these visiting Congressmen going off by himself to visit the poor in their huts. I have done it, and the pictures I have of Porto Rico are decidedly contrary to anything told at Washington.

India on a small scale! This is Porto Rico. It is our India. Unbelievable poverty! Filthy, vermin-ridden huts, poor food, the veriest tattered garments, no sanitation—these are the sights that greet visitors to the poorer sugar fields and to many of the larger plantations. Wealth, comfort, luxury and ease among the few residential districts of San Juan. There is a third class, a parasitic tribe of politicians who fawn upon the rich and live off the poor.

"Revolutionary" reform is the one thing needed in Porto Rico. Taxation of land values, or the collection of ground rent, as you please to state it, should be adopted by the insular government. This would force many absentees living in Spain and the United States to sell their idle lands.

Many a time I have sat on the bridge over the San Antonio channel, and admired the palm-covered hillsides in Santura, across the bay. It seemed so refreshing in the tropical heat to rest one's eyes upon such a paradise. I carried the picture with me to the cold North and looked forward to the time when I might have another glimpse of it. Last year I sat on the bridge again and looked across, but the palms were gone. Closer view showed the land cut up into building lots. The owner, a Spaniard, had returned for the first time since 1898 and was reaping a harvest. Lots were selling at \$2,000 each and Santura is not Flatbush! At the same time a Mr. Callender, who lived on the other side of the tract, has his house assessed at four times what he had paid for it during the war period. All these years the Spaniard's tract had been taxed as agricultural land.

A Mr. Parker, who owned a hillside in Bayonon, didn't have ambition enough to work it. In course of time the town grew out to it and started to cover it, and in 1916 he was drawing a handsome monthly rental simply because humans must have shelter, and in the tropics they multiply faster than elsewhere.

No, what the politicians who talk of "autonomy" really want is a feudal State where the present ratio of 100,000 of the upper class to 1,150,000 of the workers will continue. All talk of "autonomy," which to the deluded voter means "independence," is bunk because complete autonomy may be had by applying for admission as a State of the Union and this is what the leaders of the party favoring autonomy say they do not want.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

JOHN LUXTON.

WASTE NO MORE REGRETS

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

Please waste no more regrets that the Single Tax conference scheduled by the Los Angeles Single Tax League to occur at a date in February at Fresno was called off. No possible harmony could have resulted. For three campaigns, one group has worked for a Single Tax amendment in California, the other has worked with the antis to decrease the vote. There is no common ground upon which these two can stand. However, *this division between Single Taxers in California is not merely local and accidental; it is general and organic.* It is the nationwide gulf between those who would establish the new economic justice and those who fear it will come too quickly. In various parts of the country may be found examples of the class represented by the Los Angeles League, who deplore all attempts to put Single Tax amendments before the voters *anywhere*. Their constant fear is that Henry George's chief tenets may be breathed aloud. Millions are always ready to help hang on to the old; help is only needed to usher in the new. This is the chosen work of the Great Adventure League.

Glendale, Calif. LONA INGHAM ROBINSON.

PLEASED WITH THE REVIEW

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

I am thoroughly in sympathy with your paper and the cause it so ably advocates. I was delighted to read the list of those who subscribe to the fund to keep it alive, and hope more will be added in order that our paper may soon be made a monthly.

I was much pleased with your article "Spread the Light." For over twenty years I have practiced letter writing to newspapers and individuals.

I think what is needed is a man gifted like John Wesley, the apostle of Methodism in the 18th century, to go up and down the country preaching the gospel of justice and arouse the people out of their lethargy and indifference. General Booth had a good opportunity of doing the needed work of wakening men to the fundamental cause of poverty, but he did not himself see it, and so spent his time in doctoring the effects instead of going to the seat of the disease.

Princeton, Ill.

WM. COULSON.

IMPARTIAL, AT LEAST

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

It seems to me that your friend who wishes to make a bequest to the Single Tax cause would do well to put the money in trust, the net income to be equally divided between the SINGLE TAX REVIEW and the Manhattan Single Tax Club. If either ceases to exist, the other would receive the whole income. May both live forever.

Sorrento, Italy.

ALFRED BISHOP MASON.

FOR LOVE OF HUMANITY

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

The campaign put up by the New York Single Taxers in California prove their sincerity and logical position. Just received today *Tax Facts*, whose editor is Stoughton Cooley. I admire his ability but I do not agree with him. He defines private property and ridicules free land enthusiasts. Before we can make real progress we must recognize the religion of love. Man is essentially an emotional being.

The right to the use of the earth must be demanded for "love's sake." If ours is not a religious question it is nothing.

Chicago, Ill.

DR. MORRIS LYCHENHEIM.

A MISTAKEN VIEWPOINT

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

Mr. E. W. Walthall says in his excellent letter in the January-February, 1923, issue of the SINGLE TAX REVIEW: "I concur in the view that the fundamental principle of the Single Tax is the restoration of the God-plan of man's habitation of the earth—the greatest, the most fundamental of all reforms' and that the tax phase is merely the way of accomplishment."

Ye Gods! "Merely the way of accomplishment."—Merely indeed! *It is the way of salvation* the—only way. It is a way upon which we can advance. True, there are obstructions, license tax boulders to be removed, personal property tax fences built across it, general property tax swamp to be drained away, and in one place there is an income tax landslide that needs removal. But each obstruction removed, we are further on the way, and strengthened for the next task, and have gained friends.

We need give ourselves no concern that fundamentals will be obscured by tactics. We who think that the light of truth shines for us need not fear that others will not see it.

A democracy is the most conservative thing there is. It is the slowest to take on new responsibilities, and the slowest to relinquish its liberties

Once the personal property tax is abolished and definitely out of use, for a number of years, there will be no return to it. The same is true of other taxes. People just naturally hate taxes. The proposal to levy a tax on land values will always have real opposition—but the proposal to exempt any given class of property will always receive consideration.

People pay little attention to tax rates. It is a complicated subject.

Here it seems to me are the obvious facts which should govern intelligent action by those who wish to live through the greatest possible advance toward the goal, and have a hand in it.

How about the restoration of the earth to the disinherited?

Well—when we have abolished the major part of the fool taxes, the tax on land values will leave so little to the landlord class that it will not be of any real economic importance and its political standing will be commensurate. The natural system of taxation will be so obvious that then even a protectionist will understand it.

Chicago, Ill.

HENRY L. T. TIDEMAN.

NOT EASY TO MERIT SUCH APPRECIATION

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

There never was a time when the REVIEW did not meet with the highest appreciation of which I was capable, and there is no shadow of doubt in my mind that as long as it is published it will be the same in that regard. That is no prelude to criticism or fault-finding. For years I have admired your power to express my thoughts far better than I have the ability or power to express them myself. I am not a praying man, but if I were I would sincerely pray that your power of hand and brain may continue and increase until the day we hope to see when men will turn to Nature's law and acknowledge the equal right of the least gifted of access to Nature and the opportunities that Nature offers free to all. And I would hope that you would even then continue for many years with undiminished vigor to be able to exert your powers in the cause of human liberty and human welfare.

I can see that it sometimes seems a thankless task in which you are engaged when those whose aims you are carrying out do not even send you a word of encouragement. In this I blame myself, but I assure you it has not been for want of will but simply for want of taking thought.

Van Buren, Maine.

JOHN LAWSON.

ONE OF THE LOS ANGELES UNTERRIFIED

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

Your last issue was one of your best. I heartily commend your stand for advocacy, first, last and all the time of the pure Single Tax without camouflage.

Los Angeles, Calif.

J. A. WINANS.

NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

GRACE ISABEL COLBRON comments on Shakespeare's saying, "There's something rotten in the state of Denmark." In a letter to the editor of the REVIEW she says: "Nowadays Denmark is about the only State where there is so little rotten that you can't find it with the naked eye. Of course, up to half a century ago or less it *was* rotten with landlordism. Just like other States. So we will have to exonerate the immortal Will for his aspersion on this now forward-looking State."

F. H. MONROE has recovered from a serious illness, and is now out and at work for the Henry George Lecture Association.

BARNEY HAUGHEY, of Denver, writes as follows, which suggestion we commend to our friends of the Los Angeles League:

"Why wouldn't it be a good plan for the step-by-steps to put up a mild bill in California next year and at the same time leave the Committee from the East free to put up their radical bill. That would give the voters a chance to express a choice, and my opinion is there wouldn't be much difference in the vote."

"THE CHRIST CHILD," a poem of dignity and distinction, by our old friend, Dr. Marion Mills Miller, is reprinted in the *Literary Digest* from the *India Rubber Review*, of which impressive organ of the rubber trade Dr. Miller is associate editor.

A TRANSLATION of a speech by Max Hirsch is given in Spanish in a late number of *El Impuesto Unico*, Single Tax organ of Spain.

THE National Commission of Mexico has just founded a monthly entitled *Article 27*, which advocates the public right to the soil. The president is Dr. Ramon P. Denegri, a well known Geologist.

WE congratulate the *Fairhope Courier* on its new and enlarged form. It is full of matter of local and general interest. The editorials are well written and dignified in tone. Altogether the paper reflects credit upon the colony, and the enterprise of E. B. Gaston.

N. A. VYNE, of Camp Verde, Arizona, writes: "I am thoroughly in accord with the article of R. B. Brinsmade in your January-February issue, "Can a Geologist be a Single Taxer?"

THE legislature of Florida appropriated \$40,000 for Florida's real estate exhibit at the convention of the Real Estate to be held in Cleveland in June. Howard M. Holmes, in *Cleveland Citizen*, calls this "a gross misuse of public funds."

COUNTY AUDITOR JOHN A. ZANGERLE, of Cleveland, never minces terms in his characterization of our tax system or his criticism of administrators and officials. He is reported in the *Cleveland Plaindealer* as saying:

"If the legislature does not initiate an amendment to the constitution whereby Ohio may institute a system of taxation enjoying a modicum of public sanction, the spineless members thereof ought to be jailed, not the auditor."

THE *Forum*, issued every Tuesday, at Stockton, California, teaches economic truths, but scrupulously avoids the words Single Tax. Its declaration of principles leaves nothing to be desired. It calls itself "a newspaper, not a space merchant, and occupied with journalism, not merchandising."

OSCAR H. GEIGER is now connected with the firm of H. Berger and Co., Importers and Manufacturing Furriers, 48 to 56 West 38th st., New York City.

THE news of the death of Bishop Chas. D. Williams at the age of 62 came too late for notice in our last issue. An appreciation of the life and work of this valiant servant of the church appears in another column. He was born in Bellevue, Ohio. He was educated at Kenyon College, later receiving the degree of LL. D. from Hobart. From 1893 to 1903 he was Dean of Trinity College. In the latter year he was consecrated Bishop of Michigan.

JOSEPH P. DAY, real estate auctioneer, in a letter to Governor Smith, of New York, urges the continuance of tax exemption on new dwellings. It has been a good object lesson to more than real estate men.

ALBERT FIRMIN has been connected for forty years with the New York Post Office. During that time he has not lost a single day through sickness or any other cause. He has risen to be Superintendent of the Money Order Division. The employes of the Division are very proud of their Superintendent, and lately presented him with a floral offering of forty roses, one for each year of service. Mr. Firmin is a convinced Single Taxer, and will be remembered by many of his associates in the cause.

A LENGTHY adv. appeared in the Socialist *Call* of this city signed by George Lloyd, Secretary New York Single Tax Party, urging a union of all those working for economic emancipation on a five plank platform, as follows: Proportional Representation, the I and R, Public Ownership of Public Utilities, the Socialization of the Entire Rent of Land, and the Abolition of Every Tax Now Levied.