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SINGLE TAX FOR SEATTLE.

This paper just now is not prepared to argue for or against the adoption of single tax by the city of Seattle, but when you see the class of men who are fighting it you are inclined to believe it is not a bad thing. The P.-I.'s editorial one day this week against the single tax amendment was almost convincing until the owners of those valuable tracts of real estate, from which such large sums for tax purposes are annually raised unaimously approved of the thoughts and ideas advanced by the editorial. It seldom ever happens that even rich people cry to be given an opportunity to bear the burdens of the poor, and if the rich of this city are really advocating such then truly is the milennium dawn now at hand and neither side need give this or any other subject any further consideration. The ground on which stands the Alaska block may be a thousand times more valuable than a lot in the suburbs, but how about the hundreds of acres of vacant lots all over the city, on which only a few cents taxation are paid? A number of persons each own more than a thousand acres within the city limits and one concern owns in the neighborhood of 5,000 acres within the city limits, and those vast acres bear a very small part of the city debt. It seems that it would not be a bad idea for those acres to bear a proportionate share of the city burden. This, however, is not a single tax argument, but from our view point a just and equitable argument that the lands of the city regardless of their owners bear the burden of taxation and each parcel share and share alike in the amount.

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GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP.

Within the very near future a proposition will be submitted to Congress by the postmaster-general for the government to take over the telegraphic systems of the country and make the same a part of the postal service. This, perhaps, is the longest stride yet made in the direction of government ownership of public utilities, but it shows beyond a question of doubt that there is a general awakening along this line, and it is safe to predict that before another quarter of a century becomes history the government will not only control all of the public utilities, but will actually operate them. The day of the watered stock, get-rich-quick magnate will soon be a thing of the past. The government has successfully operated the postal department and periodically reduced the postage rate and that too despite the enormous graft on the part of the railroads for carrying the mails. If it can do that it can also operate the telegraph and the railroad systems, and in operating the three in conjunction at least cut off the enormous carrying rate and the various side grafts, which of itself would be the means of reducing the rate for the use of all of those utilities so far as the people are concerned. May the good work go joyfully on.

ANOTHER TELEPHONE STEAL.

It is safe to say no public service corporation that has ever operated in the state of Washington has devised more schemes and sharp practices to filch the patrons thereof out of the extra money to swell the coffers of its stockholders than has, what is commonly known in Seattle, the Sunset Telephone Company. Not satisfied with raising its rate 25 per cent the company has inaugurated a system whereby its patrons must pay them an iron dollar in case they overlook the payment of their bill before the 10th of the month. After that date your telephone is disabled **at the office of the company** and when called, your number is reported temporarily disconnected. You may go at once and pay the bill but you are informed that you will have to pay a dollar extra for a lineman to go out and hook up your telephone, which has been previously disconnected, all of which is the most blankety, blank, blank blank falsehood ever told, as the phone is put in commission by the chief operator simply taking the T. D. off your number. It is reported that nearly 2000 of such delinquents occur every month, which means a net gain to the company of $24,000 annually. This fully explains President Vail's statement that his company has plenty $10,000 positions for men who have the ability to fill them. If all of his ten thousand dollar places are figured out, on the same basis as is the one in Seattle, it is readily understood how they can be paid. If the manipulators of the Seattle telephone system can plan out one or two more schemes like the above whereby the patrons of the system can be filched out of equal sums without it costing the company a dollar's expense and yet net the company on the whole annually over $100,000, to say nothing of the regular income, such a $10,000 man is cheap. With these facts at the voters' disposal we can hardly see how they can be just to themselves, their children and their fellowmen, if they do not vote for a municipal telephone system for Seattle and likewise vote for a mayor and members of the city council that will get busy along that line as soon as they shall have been elected and qualified.

There is hardly any doubt, but that some women "live charmed lives," as says the Odessa Record, and some live charming lives from the number of men that is always hanging to their petticoats.

In commuting the fifteen year sentence of Charles W. Morse, to take immediate effect, President Taft has pumped an elixer of life into the imprisoned carcas of the bank looter, who will live on and on for, perhaps, years to come. Morse is a cunning old fox.

The Echo of Leavenworth is rejoicing over a bountiful ice crop that is being gathered thereabouts just now. Truly, truly, it is an altruism that, "it's an ill wind that blows no one good," as that community seems to always be harvesting some kind of a crop.

Governor Hay's paper, the Wilbur Register, after summing up the things Orville Billings is against in his gubernatorial ambitions, says, "We are inclined to think he will get his quick and sudden," to which we almost agree, but with the Register it's a case of, the wish being father and mother to thought.

Harry K. Thaw still insists that he is not crazy. Of course not, and never has been, but, when he was on trial for his life, the insanity dodge was a strong card to play, and the whole family thawed up to the situation, and for a while Harry and his whole family labored hard to prove insanity in some form or another had been a regular visitor in the Thaw family.

James O'Donnell, an inmate of a home for pioneers at Prescott, Arizona, refused to shake hands with one Sir Gilbert Parker, an English bowing ape, on account of racial differences. It was O'Donnell's prerogative to snub Parker or anyone else, and yet the matter was reported to the war department as though Parker was supernatural. If he felt so disposed O'Donnell had the right to refuse to shake hands with the King of England, and even tell him to go to the dimnation bowwows.

Such a clever plagerist is the editor of the Gazette of Colfax that, he garbles The Seattle Republican's comment on the gubernatorial candidacy of J. W. Arrasmith so well that he deceives his ownself into the belief that, it is original on his part. After reading the studied effort of the editor of the Gazette to appropriate the good things we dish up from time to time without giving proper credit, we are thoroughly convinced that The Seattle Republican is all wool and a yard wide.