

SINGLE-TAX ARGUMENT IS FALSE

Will Fool the Uninformed. But There'll be None in Saline.

There are people who can be convinced of nearly anything as long as some oily tongued schemers are abroad. The following plausible Single-Tax article would fool many if not explained or studied carefully.

Single-Tax Article

Hon. Thos. L. Johnson, late Mayor of Cleveland, was, during his life, hailed as the ONE great and true friend of the people. During one of his campaigns, after speaking on the issues in his State and county for some half hour, the Mayor, as was his custom, called for questions. A venerable gentleman, with long white whiskers, arose and said:

"Mr. Speaker, I have a suspicion, from what I have read in the papers, that Mayor Johnson desires to place all taxes on land. Is this correct?"

Replying to the elderly man, the Mayor said: "Most emphatically, No!"

He paused for a moment, then continuing, said: "But if you mean that I have a desire to place all taxes on land VALUES, I answer most decidedly, Yes!"

"A tax on land would be an unjust and iniquitous system, but a tax on land values would be the best and fairest system that the world has ever known. Laws which would bring about the taxation of land values would be of more service to humanity than any legislation ever yet enacted."

"Farmers are large owners of land, but not of land values. We have land in our city that sells at the rate of five million dollars per acre; have any of you farmers land as valuable as that? In New York City there is land that sells for fifteen million dollars per acre; is there any land in this neighborhood at that price?"

"To answer my friend's question, I will relate a little talk I had one day with Congressman Pierson, of Tuscarawas County, when we were in Washington together."

"Pierson was a farmer and he said to me one day: 'Tom, I cannot go your Single Tax, as it would be a hardship on the farmers, and they already have more than their share of the burden of taxation.'

"I said: 'Look here, Pierson, if I thought the Single Tax would increase the farmer's burden I would not stand for it for one minute. In fact, if I did not know it would be the greatest blessing to the farmers and to the workingmen in the city as well, I never would advocate it again. I can show you that the Single Tax will lighten the farmer's burden as compared to the present method.'

"Let me ask you some questions, to see if we can get at the facts in the matter. How much, Mr. Pierson, of the present tax burden do you think the farmers bear?"

"Well," he answered, "the farmers constitute over half the population of the United States, and I should say that they pay at least 50 per cent of all taxes."

"Very well, let's call it 50 per cent to be safe."

"No, no," said Pierson, "that's too low. They pay more than 60 per cent, rather than less."

"All right, but to be safe, let's call it 50 per cent. Now Mr. Pierson, I want you to tell me how much of the value of land the farmers have in the United States? Please take into consideration all the valuable coal land, the iron, silver, gold, copper and other valuable mines—the water power privileges, the railroads and their rights of way and terminals, including street railroads, telephones and telegraphs, for these are built on the most valuable lands; all the gas and electric lighting rights of way, built on land of great value; all the city lots, some of which are worth more than a whole county of farming land. I want you to take all these into consideration, and then tell me how much of these values in the United States the farmers have."

"Mr. Pierson replied: 'Well, I should say, less than 5 per cent.'

"I said, 'Call it 10 per cent to be safe.'

"No, no, no, that's entirely too high; that's double."

"Well, we will call it 10 per cent, any way. Now, don't you see that if the farmers are paying 50 per cent, that if all the taxes were raised by Single Tax on land values the farmers, since they have but 10 per cent of these values—you say 5 per cent—would pay less; that their taxes would be reduced five times? That instead of paying one-half as now, they would under that plan, pay but one-tenth?"

"I declare, Tom, I never looked at it in that light, and I guess you have got me."

"So, I say to you farmers here tonight, that this Single Tax, of which I am proud to be an advocate, would be to the over-burdened farmers and workingmen the greatest boon, the greatest blessing, the greatest God-send that any country ever knew."

The Answer

Mr. Johnson was a visionary sort of mortal and while he may have intended to help the people he missed it very far at times. His arguments may apply to some sections of the country in the East but never to Missouri or Saline county.

Here in Saline the farmer is the big tax-payer and to exempt personal property will raise his taxes that much. We have no cities to offset the additional taxes, although city real estate would have to share the increase.

The percentage quoted does not apply to us in the least, as our land values are so much higher.

Under the Single-tax there is no doubt that our lands will be taxed in proportion to city, while at present, owing to the fact that our county has so much valuable land and our needs are small, we are taxed only about one third of the city values besides a lower rate, which proportionately to the city would make our present rate about 5 per cent, and with the exemption no doubt raise it to 10 per cent, far different from Mr. Johnson's figures.

"I'll Die Trying"

Somebody blundered and as a result the Omaha fast mail going nearly a mile a minute, crashed into the Denver limited at Western Springs and thirteen persons were killed and many wounded.

Engineer Bronson of the fast mail died in his cab with his hand gripping the reverse lever.

Lying in the hospital his face twitching with pain, Fireman Cran told how Bronson died.

He said: "We got no warning until we were within about 150 yards of the limited. Then somebody flagged us, and at the same time a couple of torpedoes were exploded. It was foggy. Before we knew it we had crashed into the Denver train. Bronson died at the throttle. When he saw death ahead he turned to me and said: 'Train ahead, I don't think I can stop her. I'm going to die trying.'"

"Well he died that way. He stayed right in his seat with his hand on the reverse lever."

Somebody blundered. Make your roadbed as level as a parlor floor, build your cars of steel, put semaphore towers every half mile, use every safety appliance known and yet somebody may blunder.

You cannot insure the perfect working of the mechanism of the human mind. In this dreadful wreck somebody blundered. It was not brave George Bronson, though now he is dead they are trying to throw part of the responsibility on him. He died trying. Could any man die better than that? Could death find a better time to snatch away a mortal than in such a moment?

Could a brave souled man go in to the presence of his Maker on instant call in a better way?

"I'll die trying!"

George Bronson's wife was as dear to him as your wife is to you. He loved his dear ones there in Burlington as you love your own, but he loved his duty more.

He is but one of the great army of railroad men, who live always in the presence of death and duty, who when the clear call comes to them on the instant, calmly push aside all thoughts of self and loved ones and die trying.

To all such heroic souls and to the intrepid soul of George Bronson, engineer, Hall and Fallwell.—Ex.

Highway Improvements

Walter Williams. "More than 200 stone, cement or corrugated iron bridges and culverts have during the past twelve months replaced wooden culverts on the Old Trails Road across Missouri," says the report of the Missouri Old Trails Road Association issued today by its president, Dean Walter Williams of the School of Journalism of the University of Missouri. The report sums up the observations made on an inspection tour in a Cave car over the west half of the road, the Santa Fe Trail. This inspection tour was from Columbia to Kansas City and return and included

both divisions of the road through Howard and Saline counties, crossing the Missouri river at Glasgow and at Boonville.

"The improvement of the road is specially noticeable through western Missouri," says the report. "The best work during the year has been done in the Lexington special road district where the road has been macadamized. The best twenty miles of earth road work has been done between Boonville and Arrow Rock. Notably good work, equal in character but not so extensive, has been done in some sections of southern Howard county and between Glasgow and Fayette and in Saline county between Glasgow and Slater. The Case car found some of the worst pieces of road in the incorporated towns along the cross-stay highway. More markers are needed in and near the towns of Fayette and Franklin and between Rocheport and the Boonville cut-off. The new markers showing mileage in the Lexington district are the best on the road. Scarcely a wooden bridge, except the old covered bridge, remains on the Santa Fe Trail division of the highway."

The report in full, with reports from every county, will be made at the annual meeting of the Missouri Old Trails Road Association at Fulton Thursday, September 26, and Mineola Sept. 27.

The department has not formally announced the exact location of the government's plant. It is in the alfalfa belt of Southeast Missouri and was under water for a considerable period of time during the recent flood. Since that time, however, it has been put into commission once more. It is expected that a formal bulletin dealing with the experiments will be published by the department in the near future.

Hay artificially dried is subjected to great heat for a short time and comes through the process retaining a rich green color. The juice is forced out and the larger part of it preserved.

Hay Drying a Success Washington, Sept. 21.—That it is commercially profitable to dry hay by artificial means, thus eliminating the large waste due to damage by rain in the fields after cutting, is the belief of officials of the Department of Agriculture. For two or three years past experts of the office of farm management have been conducting experiments in Southeastern Missouri with alfalfa hay, putting it through a kiln-drying process. For a doubt existed as to whether hay could be dried in this manner on a commercially profitable basis. While the work of experimentation has not been concluded, officials are satisfied that kiln dried hay would save the farmers of the country an enormous amount of money annually.

Root's Conscience

Senator Elihu Root, of New York presided at the convention which renominated Taft for president. It was he who was dominant in the fight against Roosevelt. What sincerity is his? What must be in the man's heart of hearts? Here is his declaration as made in 1904 in an address before the Union League Club of New York.

"I count it, my friends, as one of the greatest privileges of my life to have been able in that day of our great sorrow, when our lamented President McKinley was carried away, to have been able to stand by and hold up the hands of his true and loyal successor, Theodore Roosevelt. Men say he is not safe. He is not safe for the men who wish to prosecute selfish schemes for the public detriment, but I say to you that he has been, these years since President McKinley's death, the greatest conservative force for the protection of property and our institutions in the city of Washington. I would rather have my boys taught to admire as the finest things in our life the honesty and frankness, the truth and loyalty, the honor and devotion of Theodore Roosevelt than to have all the wealth of this great metropolis. The work of President Roosevelt has more weight for good in this land than that of any score, or all of his detractors put together."—Contributed.

Most of our people are naturally opposed to the Single Tax amendment and many of our politicians are taking advantage of the feeling of the public by recommending the repeal of the initiative and referendum law under which it was submitted to a vote. While this law permits the submission of an unfair measure it also protects our voters from unfair legislators. It is well known that the state was unfairly districted in 1910 so as to give most of the congressmen and state senators to the Democrats. Although the districting is utterly unfair, the voters of the state have no redress except under a law such as the initiative and referendum which permits the matter to be placed before the voters and gives the majority an opportunity to express themselves. Even though the single tax carried it could not be put into effect as it is certainly contrary to the constitution of our country and the Supreme Court would declare it so. And every other confiscatory measure would meet the same fate, so that the initiative and referendum does not seem so dangerous as we are led to believe. When a spirit of fairness prevails we will have no need for it of course.

Nineteen Miles a Second without a jar, shock or disturbance the awful speed of our earth through space. We wonder at such cases of nature's movement, and so do those who take Dr. King's New Life Pills. No gripping, no distress, just thorough work that brings good health and fine feelings. 25¢ at P. H. Franklin.

In Memory of My Teacher Miss Emma Harvey Dear mother and father be con-tended your darling is at rest, The Savior is watching over her, the Lord knows the best. Home is not home for your darling is not there, Dark is her room and empty is is her chair. Now will she rest from her school's and her care, I'll be the morning so fair. Sleep darling sleep with your hands on your breast, And give them to mother and father at last. Well have we loved thee, but God loved thee best. Thy God giveth thee rest. Dear teacher we will miss you at our parties, will miss you at play They will miss you in your school room we will miss you every where. Ella Fitzsimmons.

Ungrateful Brute. It was a very hot day and a picnic had been arranged by the United Society of Lady Vegetarians. They were comfortably seated, and waiting for the kettle to boil, when, horror of horrors! a savage bull appeared on the scene. Immediately a wild rush was made for safety, while the raging creature pounced after one lady who, unfortunately, had a bad parasol. By great good fortune she got over the stile before it could reach her. Then, regaining her breath, she turned round. "Oh, you ungrateful creature!" she exclaimed. "Here have I been a vegetarian all my life. There's gratitude for you!"

Hippopotamus Described. Johnny, who had been to the circus, says the Youngsters Telegram, was telling his teacher about the wonderful things he had seen. "An' teacher," he cried, "they had one big animal they called the hippo-hippo." "Hippopotamus, dear," prompted the teacher. "I can't just say its name," explained Johnny, "but it looks just like 6,000 pounds of liver."

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

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Really Have Little Value as Sustenance and There is Always Danger of Poison.

There are in this country more than one hundred edible species of mushrooms. The popular distinction between mushroom and toadstool is one of name only. Many of the supposedly inferior specimens have proved on careful examination to be harmless, whereas some of those which bear an extremely close family resemblance to favored articles of diet are the carriers of danger in the form of exceedingly powerful poisons. Let him, therefore, who lacks the training requisite for the unerring detection and identification of species carefully refrain from excursions into a field of uncertainty so fraught with danger. Mushrooms form an unusually nutritious and sustaining diet. A well-known botanist says that mushrooms might properly be called vegetable meat and used as a substitute for animal food.

It is doubtful, however, if this is true. The more we learn of mushrooms the more it becomes apparent that they are scarcely different as regards dietary virtues from the general run of the green vegetables which have never achieved the distinction of any unique or superior nutritive properties. They belong rather to that large group of food materials which we consume for reasons quite apart from the body.

Journal of the American Medical Association.

How the Modern Spanish Swain Finds a Way to Overcome Serious Obstacle.

In Spain, as is well known, a vigorous etiquette governs the business of love-making. A young man cannot interview his sweetheart without her parents' consent, and, indeed, all conversation openly carried on between the couple must be in the presence of the fair one's mother.

Many subterfuges are adopted by the lovers to overcome this difficulty, and the "reja"—the ornamental iron-work on the windows of Spanish houses—has become one of the favorite trying places. Modern life, however, has imposed fresh barriers. If a young man's sweetheart lives on the third floor of a city building he cannot very well meet her at the "reja."

In this, as in other spheres of life, necessity is the mother of invention. London Answers remarks, and some ardent lovers have brought speaking tubes to their assistance. The seniors, at the appointed hour, lowers this to her lover, and they are thus able to carry on their love affairs with the assurance that they are not overheard by the people on the intervening flats, as would be the case if the conversation were carried on without such aid.

Joy Bell. A deaf woman used to tell this story on herself: At a reunion of Confederate veterans where she was officiating as hostess a man was brought up to her and reintroduced as a Mr. Blank, a former resident of her town, and one whom she had not seen for fifty years. He was so little changed by the touch of time and so free from any of the lines that care and anxiety set upon the face that she presently asked, "Mr. Blank, did you ever marry?" She thought she heard his reply, "I married forty-five years ago." "What he really said was, 'My wife died five years ago.' Then she, in view of his free, unabashed-of-fate look, said, "You don't look much affected by the experience." Since then it has become her habit to hesitate for a significant second after the first syllable whenever she speaks of her damaged ears.

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Dr. J. S. McKee, Marshall, Mo.

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