

New York Tribune

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The Tribune uses its best endeavors to insure the trustworthiness of every advertisement it prints and to avoid the publication of all advertisements containing misleading statements or claims.

A Blow at the Freedom of the Press.

The Tribune regrets the decision of Judge Hand declaring two members of its staff, Mr. Burdick and Mr. Curtin, in contempt of court for refusing to disclose the sources of news published in this paper in reference to indictments for smuggling. It will lend all the assistance in its power to carry the cases up to the Supreme Court of the United States. Judge Hand himself gave expression to the idea that the technical issues involved should be passed upon by the highest court. The Tribune would be false to its record as a defender of the freedom of the press if it did not resist to the bitter end a proceeding which trenches upon that liberty and seeks to cripple the efficiency of the press as a helpful critic of public men and public measures.

We shall continue to expose crime wherever we may find it, and shall not become a party to any system which will result in shielding smugglers or other criminals, no matter how much the administration may wish to conceal the facts.

As an opposition newspaper The Tribune has incurred the enmity of men at the top or near the top of the Treasury Department. We published the facts concerning the acquisition of the United States Trust Company by the Munsey Trust Company of Washington, and undoubtedly stored up wrath for ourselves by emphasizing the role played in that transaction by the near relationship of an official in the Munsey Trust Company to the present Controller of the Currency, then an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury. But we waive that personal aspect of the matter. Even had there been no possible element of ill-feeling in the Treasury's attitude in the prosecution of these cases we should still regard the action taken by it as unreasonable and oppressive.

The Treasury Department's position is extreme and un-American. Carried to its logical conclusion, the plea of the department would set up in this country an absolutely bureaucratic control of all information concerning governmental operations which is to reach the public. If, as the District Attorney has contended in these cases, the divulging of information constitutes a crime for which both the giver and the newspaper man who accepts it are liable to punishment, no newspaper can hereafter, save at its great peril, accept any news about governmental affairs not officially stamped with the approval of the head of a department.

A Russian censorship would be established and the public would be shut off from any knowledge of public concerns except what it might get from the rose-colored bulletins of a departmental press agent.

That would be an ideal condition for an administration annoyed by such disclosures as The Tribune made recently in the Munsey Trust Company scandal. But it would be a condition intolerable to the public, which looks to vigilant opposition newspapers to tell a larger share of truth than ordinarily creeps into an administration's outgivings about its own achievements. We do not believe that the United States is living under such a press-muzzling law. If under our statutes we are on the brink of a government censorship the offending statutes ought to be repealed and that reasonable freedom restored to the press which has proved of such enormous service in the cause of civilization and political progress.

The freedom of speech and of the press is as essential now as it ever was. Every form of government harbors abuses, and if the power of the press and of individuals to attack those abuses with the aid of information obtained from persons connected with the administration is abridged a safeguard of good government is stricken down. The press realizes this, and will never betray the confidence under which alone in many cases it is able to collect information from inside the official pale.

The courts should be the last agency to wish to put power to compel betrayal in the hands of officialdom.

Such a step backward is hardly conceivable in the beginning of the twentieth century, when the fight for publicity in governmental operations has been practically won. Even in the old days of governmental omnipotence and nearly impotent public opinion the press managed to preserve a liberty of action which the Treasury Department, through its resort to an abnormal extension of the pardoning power, is now trying to destroy.

About forty years ago two of The Tribune's correspondents in Washington made public the text of an important treaty pending in the United States Senate. This was an affront to the Senate rule of secret consideration of treaties, and that body, after vainly trying to make the correspondents disclose the source of their information, applied for a contempt order and had them committed to jail. They did not purge themselves of contempt and public

opinion soon forced the Senate to free them. The Senate abandoned once for all the futile, roundabout attempt to enforce its own rules by muzzling the press. The Treasury Department, we predict, will also have to abandon it.

We are not living in the time of George III. We are a free people, and the thing least in conformity with our boasted free institutions would be a government-muzzled press.

Fruits of Fusion in the Tax Rates.

Controller Pendergast's accountants figure that the tax rate for 1914 will be lower in every borough than the rate for 1913. Queens and The Bronx will get the big reductions, but even Kings and New York will have reason to be grateful for the relief.

The public which pays the freight, while rejoicing at the lessening of the charges, can remain confident that the service given by the city departments will not deteriorate. The reduction in the tax rate is due in large part to the efficiency of the present Fusion officials in serving the public during the last administration. They have set a good pace; they can maintain it, and it is quite possible that they may have still more speed. They merit congratulations and thanks. Efficiency and economy which show in a lowered tax rate are genuine.

McCooley Links Tammany and the Police System.

McCooley, sometimes dubbed "Murphy's section boss for Brooklyn," has discovered that he has high authority for his opposition to Mayor Mitchell's police reform bills. The Democratic state platform for 1910 declared the belief that "police officers are entitled to the writ of certiorari." Therefore, argues McCooley, no loyal Democrat who subscribed to that platform can support the Mayor's bills, one of which would deprive any policeman of the privilege of court review of his Commissioner's order dismissing him.

The Democratic State Convention of 1910 was the occasion on which Murphy, McCooley's overlord, first demonstrated his power as state boss. The candidate and the platform bore Murphy's thumb-print. It is especially appropriate that this platform should be cited in defense of the police "System." Tammany politics and Tammany politicians have made the "System" possible in the Police Department, and Tammany has profited by it in contributions from the "protected" lawbreakers and in police votes. It was quite natural that Tammany then should approve the legal apparatus which perpetuated the "System," just as it is natural that the "System" now should fall back on Tammany's strength.

Murphy, Tammany and the "System"—a beautiful triumvirate! McCooley's declaration and its true meaning should be spread broadcast over the state, so that each legislator and the people of his district might understand it. It is a call to arms for all defenders of the "System" and all allies of Tammany and Murphy. It stamps every legislator who takes a stand against the Mayor's bills as a supporter of the discredited boss of Tammany and a friend of the police grafters.

Uplifters with Their Eyes Open.

The "Democratic Party in New York," the new anti-Tammany organization, is to be congratulated. It has started out in life unhandcapped by any notion that Tammany Hall is merely the Democratic organization in New York County, or that Murphy is merely a local evil, to be disposed of by the large-sounding phrase, "county autonomy." It is not even suffering under the delusion which seems to prevail among those disciples of the Glynn "uplift"—if "uplift" is the word—that putting a respectable Democrat at the head of the state committee will make that body anything but a job grabbing and contract seeking agency.

"The action of the state committee," declares a resolution adopted by this singularly clear seeing band of uplifters, "is determined not by the desires of its chairman, but by the votes of a majority of its members. We look upon Tammany Hall as a business organization barren of any true political principles, and using the name of Democracy as a cloak under which to accomplish purposes far removed from bringing about needed governmental reforms or the advancement of Democratic principles."

If the new Democratic organization sticks to that view and makes a good, manly fight, it will thrive and prosper. Tammany is now and always will be a "business organization," enriching some Delmonico Directorate of insiders through graft of one brand or another. It swindles thousands of honest Democrats out of their votes by its paltry claim to being the "regular" Democracy in state and national campaign years. Thousands of others refuse to vote Tammany's ticket. The new organization should be welcomed by them, and even by the disgruntled members of Tammany who cannot longer stomach Murphy and his contract grabbing satellites.

The Tribune's Proposal of Joint American Action.

As a small matter of history in an exceedingly important concern The Tribune wishes to correct the tentative assertion made by our neighbor "The Brooklyn Eagle" in the following:

"We believe 'The New York Sun' was first in the field to advocate a settlement of the frightful mix-up in Mexico by a 'concert of American Powers' for armed intervention."

To the best of our knowledge the first advocate, here or elsewhere, of this policy was The Tribune. The first suggestion of this method which we have seen was a leading editorial which appeared in The Tribune of July 21, 1913, "American Powers Should Act Together in Restoring Order in Mexico" was its title, and it concluded in these words:

"A group of American powers acting together could exercise a powerful influence toward bringing about peace and stability in Mexico, and they would not be looked upon as intermeddlers in settling a grave international problem on this side of the world."

The next day, July 22, The Tribune printed a cartoon which pictured "The Western World" offering assistance to Mexico. And in the days following the proposal was elaborated and repeated. At this time, it may be recalled, the preposterous Lind mission was under way and the "Huerta Must Go" programme was hatching.

The antecedents of this proposal were many. The Hon. James Bryce threw out a significant hint, or prophecy, of it in his volume on South America. Mr. John Barrett proposed an "international commission" to investigate Mexican affairs in February, 1913, a few days before the murder of Madero. From The Tribune, however, came the first definite demand for concerted action in Mexico by the great powers of North and South America. The steadily mounting sentiment in behalf of this plan bears witness to its sound foundations and large future.

The Conning Tower

CALL YOUR FLOOR!
I was brought up on The Tribune.
Raised on its wisdom and power—
Maybe some morning you'll bring me
Up to the top of The Tower!
M. L. D.

They can put you in jail for carrying a lighted cigar into the subway, but they don't. Guard No. 0123 doesn't even speak to the offender, although a passenger called the guard's attention to it.

Still, if a Justice and a jury can't keep a proved grafter like Becker in jail, why should a subway passenger heed a printed sign forbidding, in a manner of inhibition, smoking?

CHEERFUL THOUGHT SUGGESTED BY THE LOT OF A CHEERLESS ANIMAL, or WHY SHOULD WE COMPLAIN SO LONG AS WE HAVE OUR SIGHT?

By CHAS. PHELPS CUSHING
O, airless and muggy and black is the hole—the minicature subway—where dwelleth the Mole! Consider his sorrows, ye Straphangers; he watcheth his stepping with obsolete eyes!

He sees the huckster, the small tradesman and the great merchant graft on their customers through "trade customs" that spell twelve ounces to the pound, a butcher's thumb on the scale pan, five quarts to the gallon.—The Sun.

Down with these grafters! Especially those that give five quarts to the gallon.

THE DIARY OF OUR OWN SAMUEL PEPYS.

February 26—Up and to the office, where all the day at petty business and got no scrivening done soever, and no reading either, but my employer did promise I should have a place on Saturday and wagers me an hundred cigars against one, which if they be an hundred of the kind he uses against one of the kind I do smoke, is tremendous odds. Met with Mistress Alma, in a new purple dress and we walked a little, and then I did see my wife upon an omnibus and boarded it too, and so home to dinner, of a fairish soap and some beef-tongue which was too salty and too tough and the spinach cooked not as I like it, and I said so, which I ought not have done, for Heaven knoweth my wife and Olive to try to do as I like. Thence to the office again, where I did my stint, but weak stuff, meseemed and I dejected over it.

27—With E. Robinson and G. Parsons to luncheon and we had a merry time of it, E. making me laugh till I feared the waiter would eject me. Thence to the office where all the day at work and far into the night too, but with greater content to myself than in a seven-night. A fine warm day and made me long for the summer when I can trounce Will Beebe at tennis again, and Jesse Williams too, that vain, swashbuckling braggart, vaunting all winter that I never beat him, when I did take a sett from him last November, and before witnesses too.

"Ralph Bunker," the Shubert press sheet offers, "has begun to teach the tango and maxixe steps only recently. He does this in addition to other manual labor." Obviously, Ralph teaches in the deaf-and-dumb language.

It's Just as Funny as a Grampus to Lamp Ourselves as Others Lamp Us.

[From the Johannesburg (S. A.) Post.]
The relations between the United States and Japan have again become somewhat strained. Private advices from Washington state that the chief cause is Mr. Bryan's unconventional diplomacy. Sometimes when the Japanese Ambassador called to see Mr. Bryan, the latter was appearing with a variety company in distant towns, and on other occasions interviews ended abruptly, as Mr. Bryan had to catch a train.

Japanese dignity was upset by these slights, ill feeling accumulated, and produced the present crisis, which may have far-reaching consequences.
"Treasurer Reports Ahead of Time," says the head on The Tribune's story from Marlin. That was the trouble with him in the first inning of the third game of the W. S. last October.

THE HEADLINE READER SPEAKS.

After "Sylvia and Bruno."
He thought the judge had saved the time
The lawyers always waste;
He looked again and saw it was
"But 'prejudice' and 'haste';
'Appeals are based on such,'" he said,
"On what is Justice based?"

BAR.

A good many newspaper proprietors, magazine owners, theatrical magnates and politicians are highly incensed at Mr. Charles W. Murphy's saying that he cares nothing at all for the public. Incensed, we repeat, at his saying so.

BRYANALYSIS: OR THE VICISSITUDES OF MAKE-UP.

[From Collier's Weekly.]
His sentences are short and ordinarily he employs words (Concluded on page 30)

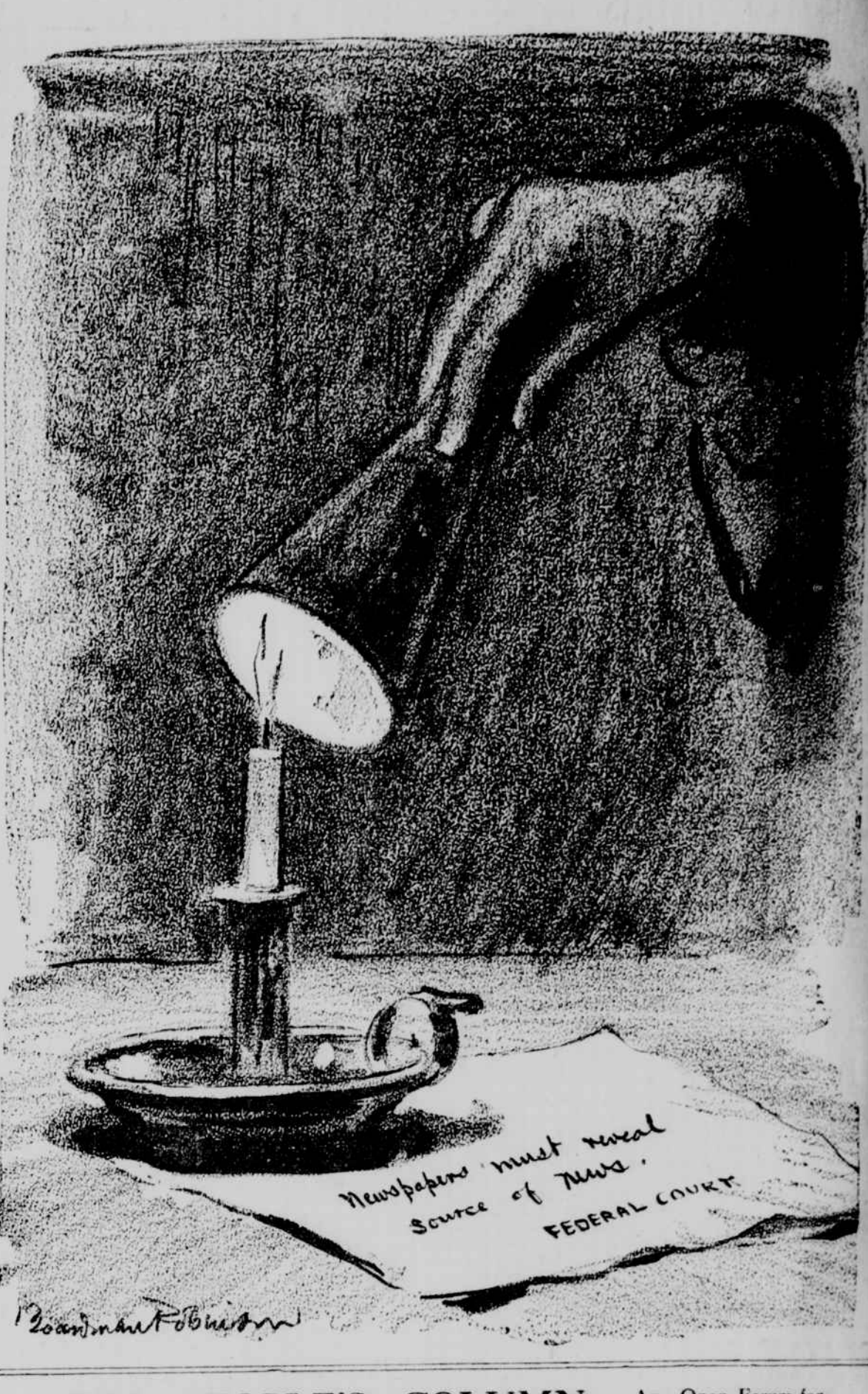
The time is not ripe yet for the introduction of Oriental methods—the combination of dining room girls with wine cellars. It is un-American—Justice Russell, in passing sentence on Rose Barrick, proprietress of the Little Hotel Belmont.

Ever so un-American. It is American, inferentially, to pretend that there is no such thing as vice, and that it may not have occurred to you, but two years from to-morrow won't be anything of the kind.

Still, it's a safe gamble that a ballplayer's attack of nervousness induced by playing before the King of England is less acute than the ague that suffices the recruit the first time the manager watches the work-out.

A critical view of some of the bare-legged dancers in "The Passing Show" leads the searching Percy Hammond to observe that the human knee is a joint, not an entertainment.
Mr. Hammond has been to see "Tante," too. "Miss Barrymore," he writes, "is irresistible in the skill of her last line." Still, it isn't so hard when you pull the same one night after night.
Speaking of ultimate 's, As we maxixe to press an idea for the world's best lastline occurs to us.
But we are afraid to print it. We should refuse to reveal its source, for one thing.
And \$500 a day for lastlines cuts into one's wage a bit.

PUTTING OUT THE LIGHT.



Newspapers must reveal Source of News. FEDERAL COURT.

THE COURTS ABOVE CRITICISM
A Lawyer Resents Any Lay Comment on Our Appellate System.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: I am surprised and disappointed that a newspaper of the standing of The Tribune should take the position it does regarding the decision of the Court of Appeals in the Becker case. We are accustomed to see the yellow newspapers trying, convicting and sentencing a man regardless of legal formalities in any case presenting sensational features, but the traditions of your paper have been generally considered as opposed to that sort of journalism.

Becker may be guilty—the chances are that he is—but certainly he or any other citizen is entitled to a fair trial. Does the opinion of the Court of Appeals leave any possible room for doubt that he did not have a fair trial? You say: "The public applauded Justice Goff's conduct of the Becker trial." Does it necessarily follow from this that the trial was properly conducted? In a case like the present, where the opinion is general that the defendant is guilty, the applause given to a judge who conducts the trial to suit the popular taste is bestowed with about the same degree of discrimination as that given to the hero in the melodrama when he fells the villain. With no disrespect to the learned justice in question, I venture to say that if you will consult your best informed friends in the legal profession you will find that their views are not in accord with the popular view of the trial.

Even granting the practical omniscience of newspaper men, do you not think that lawyers and judges are perhaps better fitted to pass on the proper conduct of a legal proceeding than even the best informed journalist? You would, I am sure, prefer the judgment of newspapermen as to the qualifications of a city editor to the opinions of a lawyer or doctor or "the public." A LAWYER.
New York, Feb. 25, 1914.

MEXICAN JUSTICE

An Example of Its Traditional Speed Is Cited from the Past.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: Considering the quickness with which the contending factions in Mexico dispose of prisoners or other objectionable persons, I am reminded of a remark made by the late Captain John G. Bourke, 3d United States Cavalry, a noted author and Indian fighter.

During the Garza insurrection in the winter of 1861 and 1862, Captain Bourke was asked: "In case the Mexican troops should capture one of the insurgents, how long do you think it would be before the insurgent was brought to trial and execution?" "Well," answered Captain Bourke, "I think it would be about fifteen seconds." ROBERT J. GIBSON, Lieutenant Colonel U. S. A., retired.
New Haven, Feb. 25, 1914.

DRINK AND SCHOLARSHIP

What Hobart College Has Done to Discourage Tipping.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: In the interest of absolute accuracy I venture to substitute the following for the note which appeared in your issue of February 23 concerning the student loss of scholarships at Hobart College because of drinking?

Like other American colleges, there have always been some in Hobart who now and then have celebrated an unusual occasion by drinking. Last December three men, while mildly intoxicated, let loose an automobile in the middle of the night on our main street, with the result of some damage to property.

Within thirty-six hours the administration, which is determined that there shall be a college where intemperance does not prevail, took drastic action in the case of the three students, and announced that any student holding a scholarship would automatically lose it if he in the future should indulgently in drink. Student sentiment practically to a man was back of

delivered at my house, and, the Lord knows, I'm paying enough for newspapers and magazines already!"
BROOKLYNITE,
Brooklyn, Feb. 27, 1914.

ROOSEVELT AND GOETHALS

The First for Senator, the Second for Governor, Is the Proposal.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: The interview of that sprightly young statesman and tango expert, Dudley Field Malone, with your Washington correspondent, must have been interesting reading for Governor Martin H. Glynn.

Mr. Malone, after a talk with the President, mentions several names for the forthcoming Governorship contest, but lays particular stress upon the point that Governor Glynn ought to run for United States Senator to succeed Ellhu Root, the greatest mind in the Senate to-day.

This is only the Wilson way of saying that as Governor Glynn has elected to stand or fall with Murphy the administration has decided that it better be a fall, and a hard one at that. The talk of running Governor Glynn for the Senate is mere political moonshine.

The next Senator from the State of New York will be Theodore Roosevelt, if he will but say the word. As for the next Governor, how would Colonel Goethals do?
JAMES E. CLARK,
New York, Feb. 26, 1914.

MEXICAN JUSTICE

An Example of Its Traditional Speed Is Cited from the Past.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: In a recent issue of your paper Mr. F. R. Serri admits the truth of my contention—that Henry George's theory that wages decline as population increases is historically false. But he asserts that like General Walker, I make the mistake of thinking that I have discovered a fatal defect in the single tax when I have "only destroyed a part of the wild logic of Henry George. The solid foundation of the single tax remains." I have only destroyed the superstructure.

Henry George adopts the theory of rent and adds to it his own theory of wages. The rent theory asserts that in the beginning of society the best land is taken up first, and that in-reasing population compels resort to inferior land. This theory was refuted by Henry C. Carey seventy years ago. I assailed the theory of wages thirty-three years ago in letters to "The American Protectionist." It is some satisfaction, even at this late date, to find Mr. George's followers admitting that I was right.

The weakness of George's doctrine, however, is seen not only in his theory of wages and rent, but also in the arguments which he presents to bolster up this doctrine. Take, for instance, his attempt to prove that wages are not drawn from or dependent upon capital. Because the primitive man did not have to accumulate capital to earn subsistence (wages) by gathering wild birds' eggs or berries, therefore it follows that the civilized man of to-day does not depend on capital to earn wages by making shoes, clothes, houses or bridges; and, therefore, he also concludes that "labor upon land can produce wealth without the aid of capital." Capital is not a necessary factor in the production of wealth.

Put this argument into effect; let all the idle land in New York be auctioned off to the highest bidder, according to the single tax plan. How could the idle laborers begin to earn wages without capital?

Mr. Serri's foundation of the single tax is "that the rent fund made up of ground rent is the product of society. Therefore, since this fund is due most directly to the contributions of social activities, it is only fair that this fund should be used for the expense of the commonwealth."

The arguments usually urged in favor of this single tax plan are about on a par with those put forward by Henry George to prove that wages are not drawn from capital. If this plan was drafted into a proposed law so that we could see how it works nine-tenths of the people would denounce it as the scheme of a lunatic.

W. H. ALLLEN,
Brooklyn, Feb. 25, 1914.

THE PEOPLES COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.