

THE SINGLE TAX

Editor Argus: I had supposed that the debate over the single tax was ended, that about all had been said in its favor that could be said, and that any final determination of the theory must be the appeal to experience. It is worth while to notice, therefore, that the experience of a little town in Norway has very little value here, in the United States, conditions being so vastly different.

It may be true that if the single tax had been adopted when the country was new, and the land unimproved, it might have developed into a workable method of raising revenue. The initial difficulty would have been that land was then so plenty that nobody would care to pay for the privilege of occupying it, and until after improvements had been made upon it the land had no rental value, and would have produced no revenue. Still, the state could have refused to convey title to the land, only granting permission to the settler to occupy the land he had improved as long as he was willing to pay to the state that somewhat indefinite something called by single taxers "ground rent." In some such way the system might have been introduced, and it might have been, for any thing I know to the contrary, an improvement on the methods now in use.

Beyond all doubt the government made a great mistake in surrendering the title to the mineral and forest lands. But the mistake having been made, it is not easy to see how to correct it. If there is any way for the state to recover possession of these lands, except by purchase, I am ignorant of it. We all remember the old adage about locking the stable door.

We may some time come to see that a public service corporation which includes those engaged in the mining and distribution of coal; that shall fall in discharging its obligation to the public, as was the case with the coal companies not so very long ago, commits suicide, and its estate reverts to the government in trust to be administered for the public benefit. (Blackstone Book I, Chapter 18, Section 4.) We are not quite ready for such a radical proposition.

Also, beyond all doubt, any mineral or forest land remaining in the public domain should be withdrawn from entry, and held by the government as a perpetual trust for the benefit of the people.

To return to the single tax. Admitting for the sake of argument that the single tax theory looks good on paper, admitting that there is in it an element of justice, since the density of population is an important factor in fixing the rental value of land, admitting that without "access to land" industry cannot exist, yet there remain serious difficulties in the way of putting it into operation. Granting that the ground rent, if diverted to the public treasury, would produce a vast amount of revenue which might be expended in many ways for the good of the people, still the question persists, who pays this rental? Land of itself produces nothing, and never can produce till labor is applied to it, and out of the proceeds of the labor all charges must be paid. It matters nothing what these charges may be called, whether ground rent paid to the state in lieu of tax, or rental paid to a land owner or tax levied by city, county or

school district, productive industry foots the bill. Right here is the weak point in Henry George's philosophy. He could produce no testimony from experience, or any inference from logic, or deduction from reasoning that such would be the result.

But, suppose the people should be convinced that the single tax is correct in theory and should show their faith by their works, transferring the land to the government to be administered according to this system, what now becomes of the improvements? Improvements, according to Henry George do not belong to the land. They are personal property and belong to him who makes them, forgetting apparently that they cannot be separated from the land without destroying them. If the single taxers have any way out of this difficulty they should make it known.

Thomas B. Shearman, of Brooklyn, N. Y., some years ago proposed and this is the only attempt to solve the puzzle I have seen, that each parcel of land be offered annually at public sale, and the highest bidder gets the use of that parcel of land one year; it being assumed that his bid would represent the value of the ground rent, which may be true, but the improvements must be assumed by the purchaser. The practical result would be that the most valuable lands in the cities, which are expected to yield such fabulous revenues, would be bid in by their present occupants for a song, as no other person could afford to put up the value of the improvements on a yearly tenure. Vacant lots and unimproved lands in and near the cities could not be disposed of in this manner, as they produce nothing, and nobody would want them. Farming lands, apart from buildings might be handled, and the net outcome of it all would be to dump upon the farming interests nearly the entire burden of supporting the government.

Nor does it follow that the single tax would benefit labor by giving it easier access to land. Access to land would benefit labor not at all unless labor has the help of capital, and it is entirely reasonable to believe that capital would be reluctant to engage in large enterprises upon the uncertain tenure contemplated by the single tax.

Neither would the single tax break up monopolies. The Standard Oil, the steel corporation, the coal combine, the railroads are in possession. They cannot be ousted, even under the single tax, except by a combination of capital larger and stronger than themselves. Capitalists find it better policy to combine than to fight each other. It is safe to affirm that if the single tax was put in operation according to Mr. Shearman's plan money enough could not be raised in the United States to secure one year's lease of 100 feet frontage in the business center of Chicago, and the monopolists would keep right on doing business at the old stand.

These considerations, if no other were alleged plainly indicate that the single tax is no universal cure for all the disorders of the social organism.

JOHN G. OSBORN.

Port Byron, Ill.

NEWS OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD

(Continued from Page Two.)

On Sunday evening with Mrs. Wall's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Burgoyne.

Mr. and Mrs. John Shaffer and children, who have been visiting relatives at Grinnell and other points in Iowa for the past two weeks, returned home Monday.

The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Glaezer died Sunday morning.

Mrs. F. E. Cole spent Sunday and Monday in Rock Island visiting her mother and sister.

TAYLOR RIDGE.

Mrs. James Bowers and daughter, Mrs. Jane Vanatta, were Rock Island callers Saturday.

Mrs. Roush of Viola is staying with her mother, Mrs. Sam Fox, who is ill.

Mrs. Peter Eckhart spent last week in Rock Island.

James Coulter has sold out and bought the Ben Redicker farm south of the Ridge.

Miss Ella Baumbach of Rock Island is visiting at the home of Miss Nannie Miller.

Mrs. Cyrus Miller and Eliska Hofer were elected delegates to the W. C. T.

Nervous Exhaustion From Hard Work

The story that Mrs. B. E. Smith of 222 Bird Ave., Buffalo, N. Y., tells of the complete recovery of her niece from a most deplorable condition of extreme weakness and nervousness only goes to prove the wonderful power that Dr. A. W. Chase's Nerve Pills have over all nervous affections. So complete and full is the statement of the case and the splendid recovery that we need only quote her own words. This lady says: "My niece, a young lady of 22 years of age, was in a deplorable condition from nervous exhaustion, the result of hard general work. Her general make-up was of the high strung nervous kind—the appetite was poor. The head ached constantly—no rest at night—the heart action was very weak, the slightest exertion bringing on pain about the heart and palpitation. She grew very weak and lost weight rapidly. I heard of the splendid work of Dr. A. W. Chase's Nerve Pills in such cases and procured some, and I am pleased to say they acted finely—she soon rested easily at night—the headaches stopped—she picked up in weight—the appetite was good, and, in fact, the change on the whole was most marked and gratifying. As a consequence of this splendid result I can conscientiously and heartily recommend the medicine to others in similar cases. 50c a box at all dealers or Dr. A. W. Chase Medicine Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

For Sale at Harper House Pharmacy.

IS YOUR "I" Always in the Public



Egotism used to be defined as "suffering your eye to get too much in the public eye."

The censure in this definition is all very appropriate if applied only to people who lead wholly "private lives"—to people quite outside of trade or business activities.

But, to people who "keep stores," to people who must find a market for something or other, and whose names are identified with their business, keeping their "I's" in the public eye is not egotism—it is fundamental good sense.

There was once an adage which said: "Seldom seen, soon forgotten." It was a true adage—true of almost everything, and especially true of Advertising as applied to business prosperity. A business enterprise grows in sure proportion to the regularity with which it is kept in the public eye and memory.

The strongest sometimes eat the least, but they eat wisely.

Not what you eat, but what you digest, gives you strength.

Uneeda Biscuit

is the most nourishing and digestible food made from flour. Eat wisely—eat for strength—Uneeda Biscuit

5¢ In moisture and dust proof packages. NATIONAL BISCUIT COMPANY

Rocky Mountain Limited.

The newest and most luxuriously equipped train between Chicago and Colorado.

Such important things as a new mission-style library-buffet-observation car—a barber—electric lights and fans, Garland car ventilators; these differentiate the Rocky Mountain Limited as the BEST.

But one night en route. Leaves daily at 1:35 p. m. A second daily train leaves at 3:20 a. m., carrying standard and tourist sleeping cars.

"Rock Island to the Rockies"

Ask for dainty illustrated booklet describing the Rocky Mountain Limited.



F. H. PLUMMER,

City Pass. Agt., Rock Island Lines, 1829 Second Ave., Rock Island.

Now Complete General Store

We wish to announce to our patrons and the public generally that we have lately added to our stock of fancy and staple groceries a

Complete Line of Hardware

and accessories to that line, and it will be our endeavor to keep the stocks complete at all times.

We pay highest prices for country produce. Make this store your headquarters.

Tomlinson & Convill,

1624 Fourth Avenue, Rock Island. Both Phones.

U. county convention this week. Preston Ball will accompany R. P. Watt to Canada. They left Tuesday. Mrs. Kettlekamp of Joy, Ill., is a visitor at Taylor Ridge.

CABLE.

The Coal Valley Mining company's mine resumed operation here Monday, Sept. 16, after being shut down all summer. All the men now employed at Sheppard who formerly worked here will be given employment again.

F. D. Hays went to Albert City, Iowa, Monday to join his family who have been there for some time. He has disposed of his livery business here to Robert Whan who will continue the business at the old stand.

Gust Wydeen was taken to the hospital at Davenport, Tuesday, where he will go through an operation. He has been suffering from appendicitis for several months at different times.

Roger Scott moved his family and household goods to Rock Island last week where they will make their future home.

Mrs. John Edgar went to Cambridge Monday for a few days' visit with relatives.

Mrs. Murt Connor of Coal Valley is visiting relatives here.

Notice to Contractors. Bids will be received at the office of the city clerk up to 9 a. m., Sept. 21, 1907, for constructing certain sidewalks on certain avenues in the Fifth ward in the city of Rock Island, Ill. Specifications on file at the office of the city engineer. The contractor will be paid in bonds bearing 5 per cent interest. Proposals shall be accompanied by a certified check on a responsible bank or by cash, payable to the president of the board of local improvements, to an amount not less than 10 per cent of the aggregate proposal.

H. C. SCHAFFER, President Board of Local Improvements.

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A Humane Appeal. A humane citizen of Richmond, Ind., U. D. Williams, 107 West Main street, says: "I appeal to all persons with weak lungs to take Dr. King's New Discovery, the only remedy that has helped me and fully comes up to the proprietor's recommendation." It saves more lives than all other throat and lung remedies put together. Used as a cough and cold cure the world over. Cures asthma, bronchitis, croup, whooping cough, quinsy, hoarseness, and phthisis, stops hemorrhages of the lungs and builds them up. Guaranteed at W. T. Hartz's drug store, 301 Twentieth street. 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

ROCK ISLAND MINING COMPANY MAKES A RICH STRIKE OF LEAD

Joplin (Mo.) Daily Globe: The mineral prosperity which was started some time ago at Carthage still remains unabated. Hardly a day goes by but what an exceptionally rich strike of ore is made in some part of the Carthage district. On Thursday of this week two rich bodies of lead were encountered on the Payne and Weaver properties.

What promises to prove quite a bonanza in the mining field was a lead strike made Thursday by the Rock Island Mining company on the J. W. Weaver farm northwest of Carthage.

The drill struck a good vein of lead ore at a depth of 210 feet, and was still in good ore when the drill crew quit work, having gone through several feet of fine stuff. It is thought that the vein is quite deep, and the quality of the drill clippings indicate a rich strike has been made.

This is the fourth drill hole on the Weaver land in which the Rock Island people have opened up good prospects. In the first hole a good vein of lead ore was found, in the second a 20 foot vein was opened up, and in the third hole lead was struck in small quantities for a distance of 190 feet.

The new hole seems to be the richest of all. If the drill continues in good ore for several feet it is probable that a plant will be erected and a shaft sunk at once. Nearly every one of the drill holes would warrant a shaft being sent down for the stuff.

A fine body of lead was also drilled into on the A. M. Payne 10-acre tract Thursday afternoon. This land is located on Highland avenue just east of Grand avenue.

Mr. Payne has been having the land prospected with a drill, and is likely to

get big returns for his investment. The body of lead was encountered at 30 feet, and was very rich. A shaft was at once started and will be put down to the body of ore as rapidly as possible. The owner of the land is feeling jubilant and feels sure he has a big thing. Property owners in the vicinity are excited, many are talking of prospecting, and the price of real estate is on the upward tendency.

Some time ago J. W. Aylor, who owns some land adjoining Mr. Payne's tract, looked over the place and gave it as his opinion that there was mineral there. He based his judgment on the surface indications and his long experience in mining. In this instance at least, Mr. Aylor seems to be a true prophet, and his services as a mineral locator may be in great demand by those owning land south of Carthage.

Our Great Annual Fall Clearing Sale

Wall Paper

At Less than Factory Cost. Look:

- 2,000 rolls good Wall Paper only 2c a roll
- 3,000 rolls better Wall Paper only 3c a roll
- 5,000 rolls 10c, 12c and 15c grade only 5c a roll
- 5,000 rolls 18c, 20c and 25c grade only 10c a roll

All our celebrated Special Imports, worth up to 75c, during this sale at only 25c a roll.

100 Room Lots of Fine Wall Paper Only \$1 for the ENTIRE ROOM.

This sale only lasts a few days. Buy now. Prices will never be so low again.

Adams Wall Paper Co.,

310-312-314 Twentieth Street, Rock Island.

Illinois State Fair

Sept. 27—Oct. 5, 1907.

ONLY 2c PER MILE

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SPRINGFIELD

VIA THE

CHICAGO & ALTON R. R.

"THE ONLY WAY"

Direct connections via Peoria and the Alton's direct line.

This year's fair will surpass all previous ones. Twice the usual amount of exhibition space has already been assigned.

C. & A. trains leave Peoria 7:00 a. m., 7:03 a. m., 9:00 a. m., 12 noon, and 6:10 p. m. Fine connections returning.

SPECIAL SHUTTLE TRAIN FAIR GROUND SERVICE will be in effect by the Chicago & Alton between its Springfield depot and the State Fair grounds upon arrival of all C. & A. trains. Trains will be run every few minutes. Fare only 10 cents.

FOR LOW RATE TICKETS SEE TICKET AGENTS.

Ills that Beset Womankind

Every woman should guard herself against the ills that menace her health and happiness.

When Nature makes unusual demands upon the system, extra precautions should be taken to maintain the health and strength of the organs. At such times

Beecham's Pills

are recommended as a safe and natural remedy that gives exactly the needed help at the right time. The excellent results from these pills have made them the favorite standby of women for over half a century. Beecham's Pills strengthen the nerves, purify the blood, regulate the bowels, remove sick headache and promptly

Relieve Back Pains and Depression

In boxes with full directions 10c. and 25c.