

would obviously be bad form and a suicidal policy to reject any proffered help that was cheerfully given. In the handling of that matter Fairhope's interests have never been financially involved, while she has been benefited much more than the cost of the boat even if she never again earned a cent. The truth is that until quite recently business has not been sufficient to meet the expenses of such an enterprise. Her losses however, have not fallen upon Fairhope, but upon those who so generously gave us the benefit of the enterprise. They have nobly stood behind it without quibbling or hair splitting as to whether or not it was *socialistic* and proving unequivocally that no spirit of *monopoly* governed their action.

Fairhope is not "apart from the great stream of human progress," but in the midst of it, manfully buffeting the waves with which the adverse winds of criticism and selfishness would overwhelm her, and she will outlive the storm.

J. BELLANGER.

Fairhope, Ala.

THE QUESTION OF ISOLATION.

Editor Single Tax Review :

In your issue of July 15th you say: " * * * Is it indeed written that nothing shall succeed apart from the great stream of human progress? That no man or collection of men can withdraw from their fellows and by themselves demonstrate any great theory of human life and conduct? Fourierite communities failed alike with Thoreau and his colony of one. These have passed with the early Christian communisms, the monastic communities, individualistic and socialistic alike." Farther on you say that Fairhope is different, but you leave the impression that the Fairhope people are all Single Taxers, and isolated from others. This is erroneous.

There are people living here (and some of them are lessees) who were here when Fairhope was founded, who had never heard of the Single Tax before that time. Some of them are not Single Taxers now, and some are avowedly antagonistic. A second class are those who have come here from Mobile, from places in our vicinity and from all parts of the country; attracted here because there is more business here than in any other town in our county, which is larger than the State of Rhode Island; and because Fairhope has public improvements which are not yet dreamed of by any other towns in this county, not even by the City of Mobile. Of this second class many do not pretend to be Single Taxers. Others do, but there sincerity is perhaps to be questioned, because it is to their pecuniary advantage to gain our good will, as they depend upon us to be supplied with labor. There is a third class here who are a sort of floating population such as reporters, both summer

and winter, etc. Some are lessees, but many are not, and they are probably mostly not Single Taxers. A fourth class of people living here are those who live among us but own their own land, and do not profess to be Single Taxers. There is furthermore a fifth class of people here who thought they were Single Taxers when they joined the colony, and perhaps were, but short-sighted self interest caused them to backslide. Some of them want the colony to sell out, as they figure that they can then realize \$800 from a share of stock for which they have only paid \$100. One of them demanded \$50 for the improvements on a 65 foot lot, said improvements consisting only of clearing and partial fencing worth at the most \$5. The remaining \$45 represented unearned increment, which this quasi Single Taxer wished to pocket. This class is now demanding deeds to the lands they have leased.

These five or more different classes of people mingle with us in our churches, lodges, schools, etc. They come into contact with us in our business and social life at every point, and they influence us in many ways. We are, therefore, no more isolated from other people than the members of lodges and churches are isolated from the rest of mankind. The sweeping assertion which you make concerning the failure of all isolated institutions does not, therefore, apply to Fairhope, even if the assertion were true. But the assertion is not true, as you will find if you will take a little pains to investigate the matter.

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SOME SUGGESTED CHANGES.

Editor Single Tax Review :

There seems to be a great deal to be said on both sides of the Fairhope controversy, and both sets of disputants have some truth on their side. But it seems to us it should not be difficult for all parties to get together, if they will only hold fast to fundamental principles.

In the matter of voting in Fairhope, as elsewhere, the question would be very much simplified if it could be clearly kept in mind what things should be matters of majority rule and what should not. In all cases voting should be limited to subjects which are properly affairs of government, leaving all other matters to individual decision. In Fairhope the corporation has the undoubted right to say each year what the total rental value of the land of the colony is, but the decision, as to what part of this whole each individual should pay, should be left to an assessor, or board of assessors, elected by a vote of all the residents of the colony, with an appeal to the whole population in case any one thinks he is unjustly assessed. The use to which the funds should be applied should also be decided by