

always recalled into line, and of a handful of men like yourselves, isolated, poor, unflinching, consumed with ardor, enlisted for life. With such a record in the past, who dare doubt of the future ?

ATHENREE, NEW ZEALAND.



## COLORADO'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS.

BY JAMES W. BUCKLIN.

The turmoil and official lawlessness which Colorado is now exhibiting are the natural results of golden opportunities heretofore rejected. In order to understand the Colorado situation it is necessary to go back at least three years in the history of our state. At that time an eight hour law passed two years before, had been rendered void by a decision of the supreme court of the state. The legislature was now in session. It was almost solidly Democratic in both houses, with a Democratic Governor and state officials. It passed and submitted to the people six very important constitutional amendments by more than the constitutional two-thirds vote, and also revised and adopted an entirely new revenue law, containing many important conditions and omissions.

The six constitutional amendments were more or less of a compromise. Three of them were in the interest of plutocracy and were condemned by organized labor, and three of them were in the interest of Democracy and were endorsed by organized labor. One of the three plutocratic measures limited the ballot to those who had resided in the state one year and to citizens of the U. S., a residence of six months and declaration of intention being all theretofore required. By this means considerable numbers of workingmen and their wives were disfranchised. The other two plutocratic measures consolidated state, national and local elections, making such elections biennial, thus enormously increasing the power of the political machines. The three Democratic measures were 1st, the eight hour law made necessary by the adverse decision of the supreme court ; 2d, the amendment consolidating the city and county of Denver and increasing its home rule powers, and 3d, the Australasian tax amendment. As soon as the legislature adjourned a powerful and persistent attack was made upon the Australasian tax amendment, and upon the new revenue law. Thereupon a special session of the legislature was convened to repeal the constitutional amendment, and to amend the tax law. The law was amended, but the attempted repeal was defeated. Plutocracy felt that it could not successfully attack the eight hour amendment before the people, but raised an enormous corruption fund with which to defeat the Australasian tax amendment, and with which to organize the large land and mine owners, the corporations and plutocratic element generally. Such organization then made has been the most potent force behind the Peabody administration since his election, although the name of such organization was changed from that of "The Anti-Bucklin League" to "The Citizen's Alliance." This large corruption fund and powerful organization frightened and paralyzed the Democratic party, causing it to refuse to either endorse or condemn the amendment, although it was the principal issue and the only one arousing any interest in the election. None of the Democratic leaders of the state dared to raise their voices in its behalf, although a majority of them had previously endorsed it. The result of this cowardly policy was that both the amendment and the Democratic party were defeated, the Populist party which had endorsed the amendment polling a considerable vote. I am satisfied that had the Democratic party of Colorado been Democratic and endorsed it, both the amendment and the party would have been successful, and Peabody's administration and the crimes following in its

wake would never have existed. All the other five amendments were endorsed by all political parties, and all pledged themselves to adopt an eight hour law thereunder.

An effort was at first made by the state officials to make a fairly decent assessment of corporate property under the new revenue law, but such action was strenuously and successfully resisted. The revenue law as finally enforced, very largely increased the revenue of the state, without much increase of taxes on the corporations, and it continued the policy of taxing only a small per cent. of the output of the mines instead of taxing the full value of the mines themselves, thus allowing the most valuable property of the state to almost entirely escape its share of public burdens. Let it be remembered, however, that it is the owners of these untaxed or lightly taxed properties who have induced the governor to call out the state militia, and who have thus created an enormous state debt, and absorbed our largely increased revenues.

Five of the six amendments, being those which were endorsed by all political parties, were adopted. After election most strenuous efforts were begun to defeat the operation of the two Democratic amendments. The Denver amendment was juggled with, until finally a charter satisfactory to the corporations was adopted, which will prevent much if any good resulting from the adoption of the amendment. The new legislature failed to pass any eight hour law as required by the constitutional amendment, and as it was pledged to do, and the miners and smelters became discouraged, and resolved on a strike for the purpose of securing by force what they had been defrauded of by the political parties and plutocracy.

Governor Peabody immediately, whether with or without an ante-election understanding is not material, placed himself wholly at the service of the mine and smelter owners, and at their behest, while the civil authorities were in full control, called out the state militia for the purpose of breaking up the miners union. The union was officered and led by able men, and it was evidently their interest and intent to conduct their strike in accordance with law so far as possible. On the other hand the mine owners who had the governor and the supreme court with them, are determined not only to break the strike, but also to break up and destroy the miners organization, and to incidentally damage all labor organizations as far as possible. This is being done by the military power, and by organized mobs in several counties of the state. No such exhibition of wanton power, of total disregard of constitutional and legal enactments, and of the over-riding of all fundamental rights of the people, has ever heretofore been made in America since the time of King George the III. The only excuse offered in defense of such action is the horrible crimes committed against non-union miners, and charged by the military and mine owners to have been committed by the miners union. It was beyond question the interest of the mine owners association to have committed these crimes, but as to who is guilty there is as yet no proof. All that unbridled military and official power can do is being done to fix the guilt upon the miners union.

Let no one mistake the temper of this struggle. It is different from that heretofore aroused by strikes. There is in it the spirit of intolerance which was aroused over the slavery question in the late fifties. It is difficult to hold an even temper and to avoid taking sides. Only students of economic principles thought such conditions could arise, and as a result the great majority of the people are astounded and yet silent. Will they wake up and turn to the ballot while that weapon is still in their hands? I think so. That is what the people did in New Zealand and Australia after the great maritime strike of 1890. So far the labor organizations of the country have made the terrible mistake of petitioning President Roosevelt to interfere, the most dangerous thing to local government and to the preservation of liberty, imaginable. The

most discouraging feature of the whole situation, is the fact that workingmen seem to think that the whole trouble is merely political instead of economic, and that a mere change of governors, or perhaps of political parties, would have enabled them to win their strike, and would have averted the calamities which have befallen the state. The truth is that the now dominant element in the Democratic party of Colorado is as plutocratic as is the Republican party, and that nothing short of fundamental economic changes can preserve Democratic institutions, and prevent even more serious military and labor troubles than have yet occurred. Let us hope that rational and conservative councils will prevail, and that the way out, the open door—EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY—will be entered, to the end that a government of, for and by the people may not perish from the earth.



## THE SINGLE TAX AS A PEACE MEASURE,

(*For the Review.*)

By JANE DEARBORN MILLS.

Many persons believe that labor never will come into its economic rights without a total upheaval of all things, with more or less of bloody strife accompanying. No doubt there are great numbers of our citizens who keep their faces turned away from all reforms, because they are convinced that nothing radical can be accomplished in any gradual and peaceful way; and they decide, perhaps unconsciously, that after us shall be the deluge, if keeping their ears stopped and their eyes blindfolded can bring about a long enough delay.

These are not necessarily ignorant, weak or wicked persons. They dread the suffering for family, self and for the country; they dread the stopping of all progress in the higher things of life while readjustment is proceeding; and they believe that nothing adequate has been found, as yet, to substitute for the present ungainly and disorder-producing system, later on, there may be—must be, some discovery of a better way. So it seems wise to them to shut their eyes and make the best of things that are.

The reason that so many of such people live unknowing of the Single Tax is no more their fault than it is our deficiency. The simple fact is that Single Taxers have not found the methods which will give to this large class of people an insight into our great truth as a peace measure. So far, it has been put forth rather as a war measure—that is, the main work has been that of tearing down established customs. Not that this has been done belligerently, but the purpose of very many of the addresses, lectures, and the written articles has been to show, first, how corrupt, inherently, the present system is, and secondly, how simple and how pure the Single Tax would be when once established. Between the two, however, a great gulf yawns, and one hearing about it for the first time immediately supposes that to pass over that gulf no path can be found except the bloody bridge of war. The question, “How get from here to there?” has always received less attention than any other phase of the whole subject.

“First get your principle established” is the natural motto of the reformer. But is it necessary in establishing a principle to let go entirely—or more truly, largely, of the connection between it and the things we live in and must live in till the other is established? That is—if it is wise to go and live on the hither border of the gulf, is not the question how to get there as vital as the knowledge that the other country is the happier abiding place?

The whole Single Tax is a Peace Measure, and the answer to “How to