

Herbert S. Bigelow, President of the Constitutional Convention, which is the culmination of the long Ohio fight for the "I. and R." begun under the leadership of Tom. L. Johnson, is, since the death of Mr. Johnson, the acknowledged leader of the Ohio Single Taxers. They are planning an active Single Tax campaign if the Initiative and Referendum are adopted. The Fels Fund has also aided this fight by contributing several thousand dollars.

Dr. Hill, spoken of before in connection with the Missouri situation, was the starter of the "I. and R." agitation which began a number of years ago in Arizona. The movement for direct legislation in Colorado was also instigated by Single Tax advocates as "a way out." It was not until after eight years of campaigning, led by Senator Bucklin, John B. McGauran, John H. Gabriel, J. R. Herrman, and other ardent Single Taxers, that they succeeded in getting the Initiative and Referendum into their constitution, although it has cumbersome and expensive features inserted by the bosses and the boss-controlled newspapers, that make its operation difficult." Again, in California there was a strong Single Tax sentiment back of the "I. and R." campaign.

The status of the Single Taxers in this country is well expressed by Mr. F. P. Stockbridge when he says, "It is hardly beyond the fact to say that wherever the movement for the restoration of the government to the people has been accomplished, the objective of the Single Tax has been one of the inspiring forces behind the movement, if not the main one."\*

(*To be Continued*).

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## WHAT IS THE SINGLE TAX?

(*For the Review*.)

By **PH. H. CORNICK.**

The so-called Single Tax on land values is a means to an end—a simple and practicable political expedient whereby land may be made common property without resort to judicial expropriation or force of arms; and whereby alone the common heritage of the human race may thereafter be equably administered.

In an incomplete form, it was first advocated as a fiscal measure by a group of political economists in France, just prior to the outbreak of the French revolution. It was similarly advocated by certain American statesmen in the early part of the nineteenth century, and sprang up sporadically in various parts of the world, sometimes as a result of the works of its earlier French proponents, sometimes independently.

In 1879, however, Henry George, an American political economist, published a work entitled "Progress and Poverty," in which he clearly demon-

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\* "The Single Taxers," by Frank P. Stockbridge, in *Everybody's Magazine*, April, 1912.

strated the direct connection between the law of rent and the law of wages, and proved conclusively that involuntary poverty and economic maladjustments have their roots, not in natural law or Divine will, but in that denial of natural rights on which the institution of private property in land is based.

As the means by which land might be made common property without "needless shock to present customs and habits of thought," he proposed—and proved the justice of and the economic necessity for—the abolition of all taxes on the products of man's labor, and the diversion from private pockets into the public fund of economic rent. "We would simply," he said, "take for the community what belongs to the community, the value that attaches to land by the growth of the community; leave sacredly to the individual all that belongs to the individual."

This expedient whereby economic equality and social justice may be brought about was unfortunately christened by some of his followers the Single Tax—unfortunately, because the appropriation by the community of the value it creates can in no sense be considered a tax. The name, furthermore, has become a shibboleth, the sound of which serves to divert men's attention from the fundamental economic reform at which the movement aims.

Today, the Single Tax has come to be regarded by a world staggering under injustice and hungering for social redemption, merely as the rallying cry of fiscal reformers; but in the eternal truth behind it, lie the hope of the down-trodden, and the foundation of the brotherhood of man.

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## THE SITESBURG FAIR

(For the Review.)

By BOLTON HALL.

"I am glad to see you, though I have to get off in ten minutes," said the Man on the train as his friend got in. "They told me you'd got some queer notion about a Singular Tax—Single Tax, that's it; and I knew a sensible man like you wouldn't be carried away with any such fool fad as that. How is it?"

"Oh, I'll tell you all about that; but first I want to hear about your Great Permanent Exhibition and Industrial Fair. How's it getting on?"

"Grand," says the Man, "couldn't be better! You know we've got the finest site in the United States, climate, soil, transportation, water, everything to beat the band. Why the whole business is run on our water power and we have the best people in the country doing business there."

"Good! then you sell them the land?"

"Not any, the land is our asset, we've got lots of it, but we never sell a foot—we rent it to them forever—every man as much as he wants to pay for."