

revision of which might command much greater unanimity.

1. "Wages," while apparently drawn from capital and dependent upon capital, are primarily the product of labor; hence it is practically true that labor produces its own wages. Yes, 109. No, 24.

2. "Ground rent" is what land is worth for use. Yes, 132. No, 3.

3. "Public franchises" are exclusive free privileges granted to one or several persons incorporated, and from which the mass of citizens are excluded. These franchises usually pertain to land, including, as they do (to use the language of the New York Legislative Ford Bill), all "rights, authority, or permission to construct, maintain or operate, in, under, above, upon or through any streets, highways, or public places, any mains, pipes, tanks, conduits, or wires, with their appurtenances for conducting water, steam, heat, light, power, gas, oil, or other substance, or electricity for telegraphic, telephonic, or other purposes." Hence their classification by the above Act as "land values" may be confirmed as correct, and their annual values properly classed as ground rent. Yes, 103. No, 25.

4. A tax upon ground rent is a direct tax, and cannot be shifted. Yes, 108. No, 26.

5. The selling value of land is, under present conditions in most of the American States, reduced by the capitalized tax that is laid upon it. Yes, 105. No, 17.

6. Hence the selling value of land is, to the same extent, an untaxed value, so far as any purchaser, subsequent to the imposition of the tax, is concerned. Yes, 95. No, 24.

7. The normal price of a labor product is fixed by cost of production of that portion of the supply whose total necessary cost is greatest. Yes, 100. No, 25.

8. General prosperity lies always in the direction of high wages and low prices. Yes, 103. No, 30.

The following letter was received from Charles Francis Adams:

"MY DEAR MR. FILLEBROWN:—It is with great regret I find myself unable to attend the dinner of the Single Tax Association on Friday evening next.

"I met Professor Seligman in Washington, a few days since, and had some conversation with him on the subject of the address he proposed to deliver on this occasion. I had fully intended to be present as one of his auditors, and it is with regret I find myself debarred from so doing. My talk with him satisfied me that what he proposed to say would well merit the attention of the audience of which I was to have been one.

"I am suddenly called to New York for Friday, and will be unable to return in time.

"As you are well aware, I am, after long and deliberate consideration, a thorough believer in what is known as the 'single tax'; that is, in the system of raising all the revenue required for the economical administration of public affairs from ground rent. In this connection, however, there is

one point I wish, now and always, to emphasize. While the principle at the basis of public revenue from ground rent is correct, it must, in my judgment, be very carefully connected, in the legislative mind, with the two following principles: first, the exclusiveness of that tax; second, that the amount to be raised shall be only what is required for meeting public expenses necessarily incurred under an economical administration of affairs.

"A few years ago, you will remember, a tax commission of this State recommended, in view of the utter and long demonstrated impossibility of collecting the annual tax on personal property, the abandonment of that tax, and the substitution thereof of an inheritance or succession tax on personal property, to be collected through the Probate Court. To the dismay of those who made this recommendation, the Legislature at once caught at the idea, but declined to impose the tax in question as a substitute. It looked upon it as an additional source of revenue, and proceeded to levy not only the annual personal property tax, but the inheritance or succession tax in addition thereto. They regarded it as so much pure gain—a newly discovered bonanza.

"I cannot but apprehend a like danger would be incurred in the imposition of the 'single tax,' as you designate it. Were the Legislature converted to your idea, it would, as at present constituted, be apt to regard this tax, not as a substitute, but as an additional tax to all those heretofore imposed. It would then proceed to levy upon the ground rent, without doing away with other additional burdens, without any simplification or readjustment of the present absurd and preposterous methods of raising revenue.

"It therefore seems to me, that in advocating your scheme, which I regard as sound in principle, it is necessary always to emphasize the fact, that this tax, if imposed, is an exclusive tax, and a substitute for all other forms of taxation; and furthermore, that the amount to be raised therefrom shall in no case exceed the reasonable requirements of the community, economically administered. It is in no respect a treasure trove."

SPEECH OF C. B. FILLEBROWN.

"The Massachusetts Single Tax League, rich in the tolerance of its friends, a kind of riches that, it is hoped, will never take wings, scarcely has need to ask for blessing as it sits down to-night, in this year of our Lord 1902, to its fifteenth, so-called, banquet, in a series which began in 1897. Its sole aim from the beginning has been to promote an understanding of the single tax. Its sole incentive has been the amelioration of hard conditions, which offend the eye and heart of man on every side.

"Boston, at great cost, has established enormous reservoirs, from which every man, woman, and child may have enough pure water to drink. At the service of Boston,

already established, also at enormous public cost, compounded for generations, is an immense reservoir of ground rent, having a static pressure, the natural, unobstructed operation of which will insure to every industrious man enough for himself and family, not only to drink, but to eat and to wear, and to be withal comfortable and happy and godly. Not only is it true that Boston barely has tapped this great reservoir, but the professorial wand is awaited to reveal its proportions, if not its unsuspected presence.

"In justice to the Massachusetts Single Tax League, as well as to its friends, the public, it should be plainly stated that this work, together with the personal utterances that have accompanied it, does not fairly represent all the views of all members of the League. In so far as these expressions come short of or differ from those of other single taxers, the immediate conductors of the work should be held alone accountable.

"The attitude of this particular work of the Massachusetts League toward the prevailing regime is well defined in the following language of Henry George himself:

"I would like those who are thinking of the single tax as springing on unsuspecting landowners, like a tiger from ambush, to know that much as we single tax men would like to have it go into force to-morrow morning, we realize the certainty that we cannot be gratified. We can only accomplish the change we seek by the slow process of educating men to demand it. In the very nature of things it can only come slowly, and step by step. We do not delude ourselves on that point, and never have."

"The single tax is not a new device with a set of newly devised principles peculiar to itself; it must stand, if it stands at all, upon demonstrable scientific principles of political economy. These we are seeking to determine and apply, believing that the operation of such principles must bear the fruits by which they may be known and justified.

"Other sciences, mathematics, chemistry, physics, astronomy, have long been showering the world with blessings. Is it not time that economics, the science *par excellence* of the fair distribution of all these blessings, should assume its high privilege and prerogative as quartermaster, commissary, and purveyor, to govern the issue of all these Aladdin stores?

"We offer this diagnosis of the situation:

"Broadly speaking, wealth is distributed in but two channels: (1) wages; (2) special privileges, chief of which is the private appropriation of that which is wholly a public product, viz., ground rent, and we now ask your leave to summon the professors to come into consultation and to take the case.

"Respecting the outcome of what it is hoped may prove only a tentative beginning, we trust you will pardon the expression of our satisfaction at the practically unanimous assent given to the definition of ground rent, viz., "what land is worth for use," because

in our endeavor to show that the single tax means simply the taking in taxation of a proportion of ground rent, to the extent of one half, more or less, with which to meet all the public expenses of to-day, instead of taking one-sixth of it, as is now done, with which to meet a part (say one-third) of this expense, it is far easier to explain "ground rent" as distinguished from "house rent" or from "store rent" (hopeless inaccuracies), than it is to explain the strict accuracy of the term, "economic rent."

"While this League is proud of the topic and the occasion, these could not have taken form but for the generous aid and abetment of half a dozen neighboring college professors, none of whom (I am happy to say) are single taxers. Its present realization is due to countenance and counsel from that noble university whose reforming influence knows no bound of State or nation, and whose distinguished representative was to have been our honored guest to night, he having kindly consented, without reward, to come and conduct us, not into our truth, or into your truth, but into the truth that is profitable and indispensable to us all. Professor Seligman is not a single taxer, but he is the new president, just inaugurated at Washington, of the American Economic Association, to which this appeal for 'agreement' is being addressed.

"The consternation wrought this morning by the following telegram may be readily understood:

"NEW YORK, Jan. 10, 1902,

"C. B. FILLBROWN:

"Have been suddenly taken ill. Doctor refuses to let me go. Dismayed beyond expression. Am sending messenger by limited ten o'clock with full abstract address. How can I atone for disappointment?"

"SELIGMAN."

"Sharing to the full Professor Seligman's bitter disappointment, we are grateful for his thoughtfulness in giving us, by special messenger, the full abstract of his address. In this emergency we are fortunate in the possession of a home supply equal to every foreign demand, and it is our privilege to turn to Williams College to find one who, with your indulgent co-operation, has kindly consented to do what he can to repair our loss, one very like Professor Seligman, in that he is especially schooled and exercised in the general field of taxation. I have great pleasure in presenting to you Professor Charles J. Bullock, of Williams College."

Professor Bullock said:

"Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

"It was not until the middle of the day that I learned that I should be expected to act this evening as Professor Seligman's understudy, and it was only a short time before the banquet this evening that I was able to secure a copy of the abstract of Professor Seligman's address. In the short time at my disposal I have been unable to familiarize myself, as