

any one thinks that he has the right of absolute ownership in anything, for he knows that the State's power of taxation and even confiscation knows no limits in emergency.

The most that the Single Taxer requires to contend for the establishment of his case, and he does not always need that, is that the right of ownership created by production is a more sacred right than State created rights such as titles, and that necessities of the State shall be met by levying on the second up to their full annual value, before touching at all upon the first. That it may be necessary at times to trench on the first was made evident by the war.

The logic of events is doing more for sound economic processes than all our propaganda. The tariff, instead of furnishing a plenteous trough in which there was room enough for all the hogs to wallow, is now becoming a bone of contention, sharpened at both ends, which threatens to split the party of great moral ideas. (Does anyone call it that any more?) The Mayors' Council of New York State, backed up by the Committee on Taxation and Retrenchment of a Republican Legislature, actually advocates the repeal of the Personal Property Tax in New York State, and would have the bill passed if it could find a way of making up to New York and Buffalo the taxes that these cities would lose thereby.

New York City's legislative body, with many grimaces at the unpalatable dose, has finally decided to avail itself of the permission given it by the State Legislature for the purpose of remedying the housing shortage, to try the experiment of untaxing new dwelling houses for ten years, and already the real estate papers are chronicling the great building boom foreshadowed. The reaction from the war experience when government had to assume the role of divine or malign providence has discredited the socialistic programme as a remedy for social ills. More and more clearly is it seen that government is a clumsy instrument for performing functions outside its own domain. In business it is about as effective and graceful as a seal on dry land. If internecine conflict due to capitalistic arrogance and union labor bitterness can be postponed for five years, there is still a chance that civilization may be saved, at least in America, for there are faint signs like the foregoing that we have begun to move in the right direction. But so far as we can see with ordinary vision, moralizing or rationalizing has had nothing to do with it. We have explored every blind alley that our pseudo-reformers could discern anywhere on the horizon, and we marched plumb up against the wall at the end before admitting that we could go no further. But we have not gone up them twice, and now we seem to have seen some traces of the street, which we should have tried first, and which opens out more broadly the farther we penetrate into it.

No! the movement to which Henry George gave a sublime impetus, and which has continued under the uninspiring (except to its apostles) name of Single Tax is not a "back to the land" movement, nor a property in land confiscation movement, but a movement to restore to everybody his right of properly safeguarded ownership in land, safe-

guarded to the extent that no one's ownership of any land shall be equivalent to another man's exclusion from the land, and the relegation of governments, National, State and local, to the very limited functions which they can perform without endangering the common freedom.

The very fecundity of our law making bodies is forcing on the public attention the need for this latter policy. No man can begin to remember the number of governmental agencies now created for the public welfare. The natural characteristic of such bodies is to perpetuate themselves and extend their powers. No human brain can keep track of their activities.

MARTIN McMIX.

The Time is Here

AT no time in the history of the country was there a more opportune time for Single Taxers to advance their cause than exists at present. Wide dissatisfaction exists throughout the country among the producers. They complain of high prices, high rents, high taxes and unemployment. What better situation could be asked by those inoculated with the Single Tax to give the cause a tremendous advance? As one that has been connected with the Single Tax movement for many years may I say that now is the accepted time for all that have this cause at heart to actively take part in the Single Tax political party movement.

It will be remembered that the writer was secretary and treasurer of the Chicago Single Tax Club for nine years, and that under his term of office the club went into political action from the standpoint of propaganda and not with the idea of electing anyone. At that time more converts to the cause and more real free advertising was obtained than in the entire life of the club which extended over a period of fifteen years. Experience has proven that the majority of people are only interested in political matters that affect their personal well-being and discuss these affairs at election time. I regretted very much that I had not the financial resources to carry on this growing movement that is crystallizing into a substantial following and that the support of those who were not in accord with this necessary and most important step was lacking.

How long must we follow in the wake of every palliative measure, devote our time, money and energy to indirection, inference and the political montebank? Admitting that a certain time is necessary for incubation is there not a time when the chick must peck through the shell? History does not record a reform or movement that gained recognition and was adopted into law that was not made a political issue in some form. Single Taxers have seen in their time reform movements of a superficial nature that were unheard of when they first espoused the cause become not only great movements but were actually enacted into law. Single Tax propaganda without political action and a party for the following to rally around only can give us the opportunity to choose between the lesser of two evils. What hurts us most is that without political action our

field is limited to a few speakers when every political subdivision in the country can be made a contested field between politicians, privilege and justice G. J. FOYER.

Speaking Dates for Robert C. Macauley

CORT-ALBER CHAUTAUQUA INTERSTATE CIRCUIT FOR 1921

THE appointment of Robert C. Macauley as Chautauqua lecturer on the western circuit is noted on page 4 of this issue of the REVIEW. Following are his speaking dates:

Hudson, Ohio, June 18; Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, June 19; Girard, Ohio, June 20; Canfield, Ohio, June 21; Leetonia, Ohio, June 22; Lisbon, Ohio, June 23; Mingo Junction, Ohio, June 24; Amsterdam, Ohio, June 25; Jewett, Ohio, June 26; Smithfield, Ohio, June 27; Warwood, West Virginia, June 28; Hundred, West Virginia, June 29; New Martinsville, W. Va., June 30; Pine Grove, W. Va., July 1; Middlebourne, West Virginia, July 2; Harrisville, West Virginia, July 3; Roi Grande, Ohio, July 4; Oak Hill, Ohio, July 5; Wellston, Ohio, July 6; Piketon, Ohio, July 7; Mt. Sterling, Ohio, July 8; Danville—Buckeye City, Ohio, July 9; Shreve, Ohio, July 10; Smithville, Ohio, July 11; Wadsworth, Ohio, July 12; Wellington, Ohio, July 13; New London, Ohio, July 14; Bloomville, Ohio, July 15; Crestline, Ohio, July 16; Mt. Victory, Ohio, July 17; West Mansfield, Ohio, July 18; West Liberty, Ohio, July 19; DeGraff, Ohio, July 20; Brookville, Ohio, July 21; Waynesville, Ohio, July 22; Morrow, Ohio, July 23; New Holland, Ohio, July 24; Junction City, Ohio, July 25; Cumberland, Ohio, July 26; New Lexington, Ohio, July 27; Reynoldsburg, Ohio, July 28; Cardington, Ohio, July 29; Milan, Ohio, July 30; Delta, Ohio, July 31; Montpelier, Ohio, August 1; Paulding, Ohio, Aug. 2; Delphos, Ohio, Aug. 3; Rockford, Ohio, Aug. 4; Ft. Recovery, Ohio, Aug. 5; Mooreland, Indiana, Aug. 6; Lapel, Ind., Aug. 7; Carmel, Ind., Aug. 8; Milroy, Ind., Aug. 9; Bethel, Ohio, Aug. 10; Williamsburg, Ohio, Aug. 11; Winchester, Ohio, Aug. 12; Peebles, Ohio, Aug. 13; New Vienna, Ohio, Aug. 14; So. Charleston, Ohio, Aug. 15; Cedarville, Ohio, Aug. 16; Versailles, Ohio, Aug. 17; Rushsylvania, Ohio, Aug. 18; Dunkirk, Ohio, Aug. 19; Basil, Ohio, Aug. 21; Ashville, Ohio, Aug. 20; Seville, Ohio, Aug. 22; Cambridge Springs, Penna., Aug. 23; Girard—No. Girard, Penna., Aug. 24; Andover, Ohio, Aug. 25; Madison, Ohio, Aug. 25; Minerva, Ohio, Aug. 27.

"THE children of today, when they are allowed to be born at all, are born in a cubbyhole. They have no fields where they may get foot room. The real American home, the bulwark of the nation, is fast disappearing."—SARAH LOUISE ARNOLD, Dean of Simmons College.

TAXATION—a method by which the industrious are deprived of their property by due course of law.

California

THE enlistment roll of the Single Tax League is a thing to be proud of these days.

Stoughton Cooley, successor to Louis F. Post as one of the editors of the *Public*, arrived about ten days ago to make Los Angeles his home.

John Goldstrom, formerly editor of the *Ground Hog*, is here to stay. He came from New York by aeroplane on a commission from one of the big news agencies to write up the Air-Mail Service.

Frank Butler, formerly of Chicago, one of the ablest, staunchest and best known Single Taxers in America, has engaged in business here.

All these seasoned workers have volunteered for the duration of the war against Privilege.

Professor Lewis J. Johnson, of Harvard University, is visiting Southern California. He is scheduled to speak this week at the City Club on "Proposed Political and Economic Changes."

The Los Angeles *Examiner* is recognizing the numerical strength of Single Taxers. Once each week in its Sunday edition it has carried an article on Single Tax from the brilliant pen of William C. DeMille, president of the Single Tax League. This series had first page position in the Real Estate section. Later it will be published in pamphlet form. The Sunday *Examiner* has a circulation of almost a quarter of a million.

Our Farm Center meetings have convinced us that the California farmer is ready to welcome Single Tax when he understands it. Every night some farmers tell us that they never understood Single Tax before. Others say they have always voted against it but now see their mistake. The most disheartening but not surprising experience perhaps was when Dr. Benson, the Fresno County Farm Adviser and his three assistants, all highly trained college men, some of them Ph. D.'s, all told us they had never heard the Single Tax explained before.

Those of us in the movement can scarcely realize how little the average man knows about it. Often he knows nothing except what he has read in the newspapers against it. It is our job to tell him in terms he will understand and like. It will take lots of cash; but as our needs are explained folks are contributing as liberally as their hard-upness will permit.

In addition to our Farm Center work we are preparing two series of six folders each illustrated by that prince of cartoonists, J. W. Bengough. One series will be addressed to the farmer and the other to the small business man. They will attack the problems immediately confronting each class and will be designed to show, in the words of Jas. F. Morton, that "the significant feature of the Single Tax is not the burdens it imposes but the burdens it removes."

Visitors at headquarters are welcome. There is plenty for them to do addressing envelopes, folding circulars, checking lists and doing other useful things. GEO. A. BRIGGS