

estate, the improvements not being taken into consideration. I would relieve all improvements from taxation of any description, and would impose no tax whatever upon productive industries.

I would then derive the necessary income for the support of the state from a tax on inheritances, levied through the Probate Court.

It should, of course, be understood that no taxes shall be levied except such as are necessary to the administration of any community, municipal or state, economically conducted and on strict business principles.

Full consideration being given to this proviso, I would have all taxes and imposts, direct and indirect, levied in the one case on real estate, and in the other case on inheritances.—CHARLES F. ADAMS, Boston, Mass.

FAVORS A SINGLE TAX PARTY.

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

The movement for a Single Tax Party has my deepest and most earnest cooperation. I shall try to give my views at length. You can publish them if you wish, though I am not concerned about publication. I have been a Single Taxer for over 25 years. Have done work in The Delaware Campaign while living in Philadelphia 15 years ago. Was a subscriber to *The Standard* and have been a student of economics all my life. When an early disciple of economic freedom I could not understand why people did not immediately adopt the true method of escape from economic slavery. As I battled in the work and saw the panorama of life passing before me in greater experience and knowledge, I came to the conclusion that "All is good" and that the great mass followed the line of "least resistance" and could not be expected to do otherwise.

Yet the saving of billions of dollars may not make a man lift a finger to help until he can see its relations to a happier home blessed with smiling children and educated brothers and sisters in the common Brotherhood who lift him up mentally and spiritually. Saving of waste can be shown to

be a moral question. We see that we are only tenants on this earth, and only have a right to use, not misuse it. In the light of all the wonderful discoveries and inventions, man often asks himself how can he be brother to the brute man living in the wilds of Africa or Patagonia, where the development is so low. Perhaps these puzzling questions can no more be answered than the question of life and death which baffles the wisest. But just as the ultimate of electricity is not known, and yet the wonderful use made of it is apparent, so the known can be utilized while frankly admitting our inability to go far before the unknown is reached. This is written as a preliminary to the objections offered against political action by Single Taxers, especially those who have been considered leaders. Higher than any consideration of expediency or success as a party is: What will a "Single Tax Party" do for those who engage under its banner. No one is willing to fight a straw man. Academic discussions are well enough for those who have nothing else to do, but for the man who is busy day after day, what he is concerned about, is to get enough time to rest and prepare himself for the never ending struggle of life. Life is a battle against the elements, against want, against enemies of all kinds. We can engage in it good humoredly or as pessimists. As Optimists, we find we gain because the battle strengthens us. Therefore, as live men and women we are anxious for battle, believing that we can achieve if our cause is just. I cannot believe that Justice is blind. In a free field and no favors, fortune favors the just if the just are as capable and work just as hard. Injustice rules today because of the inertia of the men and women who see the economic problem clearly. The odds are on the side of Right and it is because of ignorance and lack of patience that the seeing individual refuses to stand up and be counted. To explain more clearly. A man may see the problem of his social relations clearly and yet not take part in a political party because he cannot see success immediately, or in the near future, but takes out his interest in talk, shrinking from the shock of actual application. He may live in a Fool's Heaven of dreams,

and keep on dreaming and working while the world is robbed and the lesser individuals in the reform sit around and admire the wonderful clearness of vision of his leaders who have never put the theories to the touch. Education is the cry of these leaders. It all depends on one's meaning of education. Slickley in *The Craftsman* claims a man is not educated unless Head, Heart, and Hand are educated. This can only be accomplished by completing the process begun as far as it is possible to complete it. To put forth a theory and be content to let it remain in *statu quo*, is against all logical reasoning. No man can hold a theory for long without striving to complete practical fulfillment, or become weary and abandon it, either actively or passively. In great part, this is the position of Single Taxers. Seeing no hope of practical and actual accomplishment in their lifetime, and frowned down upon by able and educated advocates who have the public ear, the rank and file have simply remained quiescent. Now I am not able to speak for any one but myself. But I believe in great part I epitomize the experience of others. Now, if one can see that the ultimate of his efforts promises concrete results within his lifetime, just as the seeker of gold is willing to wait for returns, so there is something to enthuse over in man in real political activity as against the so-called educative work under cover of a Democratic, Republican or Socialistic Party, or that Spiritual joys are the deepest and truest. The Church today has its hold on the imagination of mankind, if it has any hold whatever. A religion such as Single Taxers can present upon a political platform, would sweep the world in time. Why? Because its advocates can prove their singleness of purpose. Above all, "It is Right." This is the supreme test. Fired with the zeal of the early crusaders, how can the minions of wrong defeat the wise and alert and capable worker for the right? It is a contradiction for anyone to assert it. "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick." When one reflects that for 25 to 35 years, clear brained thinkers have seen presented to the people the craziest patch-work of reforms, and they not lifting a finger in

actual definite concrete form for the deluded to hear the truth or have a chance to vote for the truth, the question arises, are we not a part of the deluded? We do not know human beings, we do not know how they grow—that they can only grow by doing. We do not know that the fire and zeal of youth must be directed into accomplishment or approximation to real accomplishment. We who claim to know, must profit by the work of psychologists. Prof. Sides shows what can be done by giving actual work to a child instead of letting it play. How many boys and girls of 18 know anything of political economy? Not that they cannot reason, but that the questions have not been presented. What better plan to present them than in the actual business of government they are called upon to support? My mind teems with reasons for political action, but a few in closing will suffice. It makes a trained thinker out of an untrained thinker, to meet in actual verbal warfare upon a live, real question with the result for the weal or woe of humanity as the issue. It brings forth dollars and efforts where merely academic discussion does not interest. It presents daily the issue applied to every question, public and private. It urges men and women to interest themselves in the serious things of life, instead of the superficial. It makes, in other words, life worth living. Hastily jotting down these thoughts, I submit them in the hope of The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man—may it become a reality.—MORRIS LYCHENHEIM, D. O., Chicago, Ill.

IS FOR ORGANIZATION, BUT AGAINST POLITICAL ACTION.

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

What we want is a thorough organization like that of a political party without being one. We would wield a far greater influence than if we tried to start a new party. The experience of the temperance people ought to convince you of that. Over thirty years the Party Prohibitionists have been fretting around doing nothing and abusing everybody who doesn't vote