

receivable at the government treasury for all dues to Government.

VII. These government checks, when received at the government treasury, would thereby be redeemed. What is to be done with them thereafter is a matter of no concern. They may be burned up, or they may be put safely away to be re-issued. If they are ragged and dirty, burn them. If they are whole and clean, pay them out again. Every time one of these checks is paid out, it is a new check, just as much as if it were printed or stamped for the express purpose.

VIII. There is no reason why the government should prohibit any person or association of persons from printing their notes and circulating them among all persons who may be willing to take them, but such private issues should not be permitted to resemble the Government issues so closely that anyone could be deceived thereby.

The above simple propositions seem to me to cover, in a general way, the whole field of government issues. All the money in circulation in the United States to-day except the gold coins is essentially of this character, being paid out by the government for services and materials and received at the federal treasury for all dues to government. This receivability for dues to government is what really keeps our paper and silver at par with gold. The so called gold reserve is rather a menace than a help as it furnishes a temptation to gold exporters and gamblers to raid the treasury for gold at the very times when such raids can do the most harm.

A low interest bearing, interconvertible bond would be far better and safer than a gold reserve as a means of taking care of any real surplus of outstanding government issues.

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DISHONEST PRACTICES OF HONEST MEN.

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

Recently in a hastily written article, I made use of the expression, "it is only a change from the methods of the confidence

man and pickpocket to the methods of the highwayman or burglar." This sounds rather harsh to say the least, and I tried to tone it down, but in the interest of plain unvarnished truth, I had to leave it stand.

Let us suppose a pickpocket arraigned before the court, who should make the plea that his victim did not know of his loss, and therefore it was no hardship for him; or a pickpocket who should say that he performed a righteous action in relieving the bank messenger of his "roll," because it was keeping wealth out of the bank vaults, thereby he was making the bank richer—Or suppose a burglar after being caught "red-handed" in robbing a rich man, should say that after committing the robbery the rich man had plenty of wealth left, or a highwayman after the death of his victim, should say "alas! poor fellow, he is dead now, and has no use for his money, and then his heirs might spend it foolishly."

This all sounds ridiculous, of course, but do we not hear arguments every day in support of personal property taxation, that are not based on any sounder foundation than the plea of the supposititious criminals?

Right here is where I wish every Single Taxer to "sit up and take notice." The men who use these arguments for personal property taxation are not all criminals or defenders of crime, but on the contrary, are personally honest, and actually think they are doing right, in advocating their mischievous and immoral system.

One of the chief reasons why many of them do not embrace the Single Tax is because of their honesty, that is, they think it would confiscate the Landlord's property. "Eyes have they, but they see not, and ears have they, but they hear not."

These well meaning people would scorn to take any portion of their neighbor's wealth without his consent, but under the plea of governmental needs, would tax their neighbor's house, clothing, food, and savings during his life time, and even after death would demand a share of what he had saved for others.

It is men like this that we should make an extra effort to reach. They have honesty of purpose, but the trouble is that their

eyes and ears have become atrophied.

Landlordism in their eyes is like the "graven image" of the savage; no matter how much human vice, crime, degradation, and misery may increase, they ascribe it all to other causes, and for the suppression of these causes, they will give time, money, and thought.

Here is the great paradoxical problem. What is the best method to adopt, to get honest men, advocating dishonest methods, to adopt an honest plan that they abhor, because they think it is dishonest?

As for myself, I am trying to convert Christians to Christianity, because there is nothing in its teachings opposed to our doctrines; in fact, the "Rendering to Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's" comprehends our entire philosophy, and the "seeking for the Kingdom," by the establishment of Right, Justice, and Truth, will add to us all the good things of life.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.

OLIVER MCKNIGHT.

REMARKS OF PRES. FREDERICK C. LEUBUSCHER AT THE JEFFERSON DINNER OF THE MANHATTAN SINGLE TAX CLUB.

The followers of Henry George can congratulate themselves upon the distinct progress that has been made during the past year. Not only in this country, but in England and elsewhere as well, the underlying principle of our philosophy is beginning to gain recognition. True, the fundamental right of every human being to the use of the earth is openly acknowledged by only a few, but it is dimly felt by all. "Eminent domain," the right of the government to take whatever land it may require for the public good, is exercised by all civilized countries; and it is a recognition of the economic fact that property in land is a different kind of property from property in labor products. In England the House of Commons has passed by an overwhelming majority, a bill that, carried to its logical conclusion, will wipe out the great landed estates of the Duke of Westminster and other monopolists of the soil that belongs to the people of England.

And the Single Tax method of bringing the people to their own has also made progress since we celebrated Jefferson's birthday last year. I cannot within the limits of a short talk even outline the advances that have been made. I will only call attention to a significant recommendation that was made a few days ago right here in Manhattan. About two years ago our friend, John J. Murphy, Secretary American Single Tax League, said "Why not build needed subways with money raised from assessments on the lots benefited by their construction? If sewers can be built and streets opened and widened that way, why cannot a hole in the ground be dug and the land owners made to pay for the digging?"

The suggestion fell on good ground. Last fall the City Club issued a report that the increase in land values in Washington Heights and in the Bronx, through which the present subway runs, amounted to enough to build it, with a hundred million dollars to spare. So when this staid, respectable, aristocratic City Club advocated the extension of our transit system by levying assessments, some of our newspapers hailed the idea as a great economic discovery. And now, only a few days ago, the Public Service Commission recommends the same plan as ideally just.

We Single Taxers have been criticized as men with only one idea. Never was there a greater calumny. I think it was Lincoln Steffens who said that wherever there are reform movements, national, State or municipal, Single Taxers are always in the forefront. The leaders in the propaganda of the initiative and referendum, direct primaries, women suffrage, free trade, municipal ownership of public utilities, purity in politics etc., are generally Single Taxers. Last year, though the Democratic party managers deprecated over-much discussion of the tariff question, all the Single Taxers that supported Bryan (and nine-tenths of them did) preached tariff reform or pure free trade. They pointed out that the promise of the dominant party to revise the tariff downward, was a hollow pretense, never meant to be kept, a prophecy which has been fulfilled to the letter.

A party of hunters camped in the Adirondacks were swapping stories of famous