

His mind was an encyclopedia of statistical information and historical fact which worked with the precision of a clock. He was known for many years in Kansas as an educational and progressive influence.

Dr. John Emerson Roberts, who delivered the funeral address, paid a remarkable tribute to the lost leader, and it is so notable yet restrained an eulogy, that we venture to quote a paragraph, wishing only that we had room for more.

"I did not know Mr. Snediker closely. I knew him casually, or superficially, for years. But I always felt that there was a mental depth that I had not fathomed. Something was kept back. I appeal to you if it is not true. If you ever met him and spoke intimately with him, didn't you feel out of those peculiar, brilliant eyes of his, that there was something there you had not grasped?—an earnestness, a loyalty, a conviction, that challenged? We are made up not alone of flesh and blood. In varying degrees, there is something different, something different from the physical, something that marks and differentiates and makes each each; and in the measure that that indefinable something transcends, in the measure or degree that it is different, we have the masterly man, the great soul. It is a native endowment, it is something that nature did, and not that we did. It is not the result of culture or education, or acquired knowledge; it is something that some people have, that seems like a special endowment. He had that, whatever it may be. I am unable to analyze it. I would simply call it the transcendence of spirit or soul. Other people have had it in different degrees, and they have been extolled, and called wonderful, and they have sometimes been called divine. I would not say that about Mr. Snediker, but I would say that, in an unusual and rare degree he had that something about him that exuded health, strength, courage, resolve, self reliance. I think that when anybody has that peculiar power that makes health contagious, whose touch is healing, whose presence is encouragement and inspiration, I think whenever there is a man like that in society, he makes us all his debtors. I was indebted to him, I am indebted to him; not for silver or gold, not for instruction, but for that indefinable something that comes unbidden and helps unseen."

## People Value

THE value that attaches to land because of the presence of population is essentially a "People Value." It goes where they go; and if they migrate to another place, they take the land value with them.

How absurd and unjust, then, to allow the individual with a title deed to land, to appropriate this community or "People Value."—*Square Deal*, Toronto, Canada.

KEEP us informed of tax questions in your town or city as they arise.

SEND us reports of lectures or addresses in your locality that treat of the Single Tax or the industrial problems.

## The Engineer's Service to Society

PORTION OF PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS BY  
MAJOR FRED J. MILLER AT ANNUAL  
MEETING OF AMERICAN SOCIETY  
OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

WE are hearing constantly more about service as constituting the only just claim to rewards. Certainly the engineer need not fear comparison with others on that score. Yet there are those who, with the best intentions I am sure, charge a large share of our industrial and social difficulties to features of modern industry that have been created and are maintained by the work of the engineer.

Especially do they charge that things done by machinery instead of by hand, and the multiplication of large manufacturing establishments in which the work is minutely divided, have had a bad effect—have, indeed, made men and women slaves of the machine.

I think we may claim that there is a misapprehension about this and that machinery and large industrial establishments do not nor can they by themselves enslave or oppress human beings.

It is easily demonstrated by reason and by human experience that division of labor, machinery for increasing man's productive capacity and the use of capital in production all tend, by themselves considered, to help the worker—to release him from burdensome tasks and from the necessity for working too hard or too many hours per day for too little money.

### TWO KINDS OF MONOPOLY

But certain monopolies may and do have the opposite and injurious effects referred to; especially monopoly of the earth's resources and the holding of such resources idle and beyond the reach of labor and capital that might otherwise be applied to them for the satisfaction of the wants of mankind.

And our tax system acts as though it were specially designed to promote this result, to discourage industry of all kinds and to encourage the holding idle of the earth's resources for higher prices to be brought about by pressure of population and the enterprise and labor of others.

Many a manufacturer has been hampered in making enlargements of his plant by the high prices of vacant and idle land needed for that purpose; said high prices having been actually created by the activities of himself and his employees and in no degree by those who had been holding the land idle.

Fourteen years ago our Society held its Spring meeting in Chattanooga and visited a water power development in the Tennessee River, near there. At that time the large dam was about half finished and I was told by a prominent member of this Society, himself a manufacturer, that already in anticipation of the coming cheap power, the owners of

factory sites on which it might be utilized had doubled or trebled the prices at which they were holding them.

#### LAND ABSORBS DIFFERENCE IN COSTS

We hear much of the blessings to humanity of the cheap water power that may be developed in large quantities from our streams. As a matter of fact, it will be found that in nearly every case where water power rates are substantially less than the cost of steam power, the total cost of the water power is nevertheless about the same as for steam; for the owner of available land on which to build factories and who, as such, has rendered no service of any kind either in producing power or in any other way, pockets the difference in prime cost—not the engineer, the manufacturer, nor the consumer of the goods produced.

Moreover, while as a general thing the manufacturer whose efforts and enterprise build up these values is taxed heavily for doing it, the vacant land owner escapes with nominal taxation on the ground that his property is non-productive, if you please.

I mention these things, not because it is the engineer's special province to deal with them, but it is at least as much his business as that of any other citizen and it has a direct and vital effect upon his work and his opportunities for employment, or for going into business.

If it is the engineer's business to render service, then it is equally his duty to see to it that so far as possible all others do the same, and he has only to look about him to see that very many do not render service, yet are "clothed in purple and fine linen." The cure is not to take away their purple and fine linen, but simply to see to it that their having it is not by reason of their being able to restrict the opportunities of others for access to Nature's storehouse of raw materials and to work for the general welfare.

## Denmark

THE Radical Party this Spring again proposed its bills for land value taxation, national and local. There is nothing in the bills about lowering the tariff, but if the bills were law about half of the ground rent would be taken. The parties in power, the Moderate Left and the Conservatives, refused bluntly to discuss the question which was ably advocated by a member of the Henry George League, Berthold Delgaard, lately elected a member of the House. The Minister of Finance, Mr. Neergaard, refused to go into details because, as he announced, he expected, in the Fall of this year, to propose new bills in regard to the whole system of taxation.

In these bills we anticipate a measure of land value taxation, but surely in a very moderate degree, while the old system of robbery that taxes labor and improvements will be continued.

We work as we are able. We have a small weekly paper, *Det Frie Blad*, with more than 4,000 subscribers, and carry on many meetings at which much literature is sold. Still

the work is hard and the prevailing indifference and opposition difficult to cope with.

We watch the movement in California and Oregon with great interest  
ABEL BRINK.

## Japan

THE Imperial Finance Department is now directing its activities toward lots in Tokyo and other cities which are being held idle by reason of the light taxes they are compelled to bear. The question is rapidly coming to be considered as a very pressing social problem.

These lots which have escaped direct taxation by the citizens because registered in the Imperial tax books as rice fields, will now be taxed directly as city lots. Receipts from this source will be used in the improvement of streets and in city planning. It is argued that this tax will compel the owners of unoccupied lands to open such lands for rent.

The Finance department will work out this plan by Imperial decree, fearing that it would be defeated or delayed. Tokyo, it is stated, will thus find room for 20,000 more homes and accommodation for 40,000 families.

One of the most influential journals of Japan, the *Yomiuri*, states that the immense holding of the Iwaski family has not been used for a number of years. The same journal gives an instance of a widow who lives by herself on an estate of about ten acres, while in some quarters three families live in one room of 18 feet square. This is probably the poor widow of whom American Single Taxers are accustomed to hear.

The *Yomiuri*, in quite the fashion of the more far-seeing statesmen of this country warns the rich against the consequences of this state of affairs should they fail to supply a remedy, and that their own salvation depends upon changing conditions. Truly Japan is moving.

## Benefactor and Robber

IN the year 1894, moving to the growing city of Alexandria, La., my husband and I paid a monthly rental of twenty dollars for a barny old house much out of date and repairs. Houses were very scarce and one had to take what they could get at any price the owners chose to ask for them.

Living in the town near us was a public-spirited citizen, Bringhurst by name, who, seeing the great and pressing need for homes, started in and built a number of houses all over our section of the city. These were built on his own land and rented anywhere from ten to thirty dollars. We rented one for twelve dollars which suited our purpose better than the one we formerly rented for twenty.

Another good citizen who was also our neighbor and stood well in the community, spent all his surplus earnings in buying up land out in West Alexandria, towards which the city was rapidly trending. He built no houses but cut up into building lots his various additions as the city approached him. These lots were nabbed up almost as