

for the public service, is akin to the suggestion, seriously put forward when the income-tax proposal was pending in the Congress, that if incomes were taxed the rich would emigrate, taking their wealth with them. They might have taken money, currency or securities, but all the real wealth of the nation would have remained. Senator Reed need not worry over the danger that in a time of national peril the citizens controlling the nation's wealth are suddenly going to lose their patriotism, merely because they will make less profits in time of war.

## Australians' New Capital Profiting by Mistakes

SPECULATOR IN REALTY HAS BEEN ELIMINATED.

THE following is from a news article which appeared in the *Washington Post* of October 31. In a letter to the editor of LAND AND FREEDOM Mr. Louis F. Post writes: "It is the first fair account of Canberra that I have seen in any news press. You may remember that the location was chosen by a legislative Commission appointed several years ago, under a law which provided that the compensation for the site taken should be no more than its value at a stated period prior to the enactment of the law (or the appointment of the Commission, I forget which.) William Burley Griffin was assisted by his wife in the plans drawn for the city. Both were well known Single Taxers of Chicago at the time. It is a comprehensive and ideal design."

The *Washington Post* says:

"How Canberra, the new capital of Australia, conceived with this city as its ideal, is now facing the identical problems Washington grappled with and solved more than a century ago, was recounted yesterday by Joseph A. Alexander, of the *Melbourne Herald and Sun Pictorial*, who is in Washington collecting biographical material for a book he is to publish.

"In May, the Duke of York will formally inaugurate Canberra as the Australian seat of government, 25 years after his father, King George, then the Duke of York, also inaugurated the Australian commonwealth. On that day parliament will sit in Canberra for the first time and the scepter of power will pass from Melbourne.

"Following the precedent set by Washington, Canberra is being erected on a grant of unpopulated land ceded to the commonwealth by one of its states. Like Washington also, according to Alexander, the selection of the site was forced by rivalry between states, each seeking to have the capital situated within its boundaries.

### COMPROMISE ON SITE.

"Residents of Victoria demanded that the seat of government continue in Melbourne, while citizens of the state of New South Wales were just as positive to have it removed to Sydney. Following the American analogy, a compromise was finally effected in the present site of Canberra, situated in New South Wales territory, between Sydney and Melbourne.

"As in America, provincialism died hard," said Alexander. "Now that it has been vanquished, a truly national capital is arising. As Washington typifies the national spirit of the United States, Australians hope that Canberra will ultimately represent, politically and architecturally, the highest development of Australian genius."

"In the same manner that Canberra will profit by this city's example, Alexander points out, it will also profit by what are often considered Washington's early mistakes. He holds the opportunities this city has offered to land speculators is one of the most serious of these. In Canberra, all land is owned by the government, and leased at auction to individuals for 99 years. As reappraisal of values is provided for, every dollar spent in improving the city accrues to the profit of Canberra, instead of the speculator.

"Another disadvantage is safeguarded against through stringent building regulations contained in the leases. One will not see in Canberra, as they may to this day in Washington, a shanty and a mansion within the same city block.

"However, Washington is the great architectural and spiritual ideal to which the Australians have set themselves, Alexander insisted. All information concerning Washington is eagerly seized upon and studied. Then, again, Canberra is essentially an American conception. The plans for the city were drawn by Walter Griffin, of Chicago, whose design was selected in an international competition."

## Bob Davis Recalls

A WINTER NIGHT'S ADVENTURE WITH THE SOUL OF HENRY GEORGE

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STEADY readers of this column, if there be such, may have observed that in previous references to my father I pointed out his catholicity with all sorts and conditions of men. He was an omnivorous reader, a student of political conditions, a subscriber to most of the magazines that pretended to present the best thought of the period, and a staunch advocate of the Single Tax theory. In the remote fastnesses of the Sierra Nevada, where he conducted his Episcopalian parish, he found time to develop a very considerable correspondence with men of the outside world. Among them was Henry George, whose tax doctrines had begun to attract the attention of economists. The friendship that grew up between them resulted in the great expounder of the dangers of the "unearned increment" paying a visit to my sire at Carson, Nev., in the early '80's.

Mr. George arrived at our house in a blinding snowstorm. My father, who had met him at the train, was carrying the guest's carpetbag, while the Single Taxer clung tightly to a small leather grip in which was concealed, as I learned later, his whole existence.

I valeted the visitor to the extent of removing his galoshes and his heavy overcoat. To this very day, although