

things for which there are no substitutes, and nature defies us to find any. These are liberty, justice, and land. There may be many substitutes for many things produced from land, but for land itself, mother earth, there is no accessible duplicate.

To find a substitute for liberty is equally impossible for in all the catalogs of imitations, there is nothing like it, Justice alone, of the three things enumerated has attracted the attention of our philanthropists and sociological sidesteppers and the best they can do is charity, as it is now administered by a large expensive and elaborate machine.

Now, when the worthy poor—imagine great numbers of worthy people who are also poor, in a republic—are at last located, what are the conditions exacted? What price do the worthy poor have to pay in exchange for the charity which they receive? Is it not the price of their self-respect, the whole of it, every last atom?

Does not self-respect lie at the bottom of a wholesome life? Is it not the foundation of virile, competent, useful American citizenship? Can a man or a woman, or even a child accept public charity and at the same time retain that pedestal of all the virtues, self-respect? Did ever a man, or woman in all the history of humanity do anything worth while who did not have a foundation of self-respect to build upon? And yet this is the price that our charity mongers compel their victims to pay; and it is one of the sublime commentaries, as the worth of this principle that many people have died and will continue to die rather than pay the price. It is too high, they simply cannot do it, so they yield up life instead.

To the Biblical inquiry: What has a man got that he will not give for his life? The answer in many cases is, self-respect. It is the most valuable, the most precious and priceless thing in the world; and this is the price of charity, that is, of the organized variety. Hence, it is the most expensive thing that man or woman has ever bought.

Now, what is charity, real charity? Is it not born of sympathy and does it not find its finest, freest, and most sincere expression in self-sacrifice? Much self-denial?

What charity is there that can compare with the multitudinous, yet unchronicled, acts of real charity, which in the daily lives and contacts of poor people in the slum and semi-slum districts lend aid and comfort to each other?

This is the only real charity practiced in our vast, complicated and hypocritical society.

It is the only kind that is not exploited in the

press, and that is not cheapened and vulgarized by the ink-smear and stentorian press agent.

What does the check of "Dives" amount to compared with unheralded, yet oft-repeated heroism in the "warrens" of the poor?

Giving money to "charity," settlements, and so forth, is usually a species of insurance premium to perpetuate privileges, when it is not used as a stimulant to a deadened and moribund conscience. "Charity giving" on the part of the rich is in all the world of organized injustice but a cheap means of purchasing immunity, at least for a time, from drastic and dangerous revolutions.

It is the cheapest and most unworthy substitute for justice that an Anti-Christian Society has yet been able to find.

HENRY H. HARDINGE.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

SINGLETAX CAMPAIGN IN COLORADO SPRINGS.

Colorado Springs, May 30.
The successful culmination of George J. Knapp's campaign for municipal Singletax in Pueblo aroused a flame of enthusiasm in Colorado Springs Singletaxers. Shortly after the November election we engaged him to manage a similar campaign for us.

All the schedules of the taxpayers for the year 1913 have been copied, and work at figuring them out is going forward to have them ready to mail to the taxpayers. An explanatory letter will accompany each schedule, showing each taxpayer how much he would have saved if the city's revenues for the year had been raised by the taxation of land values only.

The petitions will be ready to submit to the qualified voters for their signatures about the first of June. The details of the law have not yet been entirely settled, but it is certain that provision will be made for a separate assessment of the city's land by the Somers System. To make this possible a section of the law will confer the duties and powers of City Assessor upon the present Finance Commissioner.

We are confident that the law will pass because the tax-paying public is tremendously dissatisfied with the present system of assessments and taxation. This is because the Assessor, together with certain of the business interests of the city, took advantage of a change in the law, requiring that the assessment of all property be changed from the one-third valuation to the full valuation. Under cover of this, right or wrongly they managed to have down town values multiplied by two instead of by three, with the result that it was necessary to multiply the valuations of a large number of small taxpayers by four. The full valuation law itself is a source of discontent, because under Colorado law, \$200 of personal property being exempt, the full value assessments caused many of those who had been escaping under this rule to pay taxes, and many of those who had formerly been paying but two or three dollars to pay from 50 to 100 per cent or more. These different things raised

such a storm of dissatisfaction that hundreds of people have called on the assessor and angrily protested their grievances.

So much for the public mind on taxation.

But another weighty reason why we should win at our election is found in the state of alarm which exists because of the terrible conditions which have continued for eight or nine months in the Colorado Strike District. Feeling against Big Business has been growing intense among the poorer classes, and even Big Business has been shocked to such an extent that many of those who profit by it are more willing to lend a sympathetic ear to any one who thinks he has the real remedy to offer. Many people who would have been ashamed ten years ago to be seen talking with a Socialist or a Singletaxer are more anxious to listen to their proposals than they would be willing to admit. And this is due not only to the strike trouble. The present lasting industrial depression has been having its effect upon that conservative class of people made up of the "respectable" professions, such as lawyers, physicians, musicians, etc. For if the people are so poor that bills cannot be paid, what will they do who are but an adjunct to the main mass?

The Fels Fund is duplicating all money raised here, and this generous assistance, together with the practical hard-headed methods of George J. Knapp and the never-tiring efforts of a couple of dozen inveterate Singletaxers, make us confident of victory when our proposition is submitted to the voters next spring.

ERNEST A. SINTON,
Secretary, The Colorado Springs Singletax Club and
Tax Reduction League.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of The Public for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, June 2, 1914.

English Politics.

The Irish Home Rule bill, introduced in the British House of Commons, April 11, 1912, and passed for the third time, May 25, 1914, and now under consideration by the House of Lords, is just what its title indicates, a bill to give Ireland control of Irish affairs. The machinery to secure this end consists of an Irish parliament, composed of a Senate and a House of Commons. The Senate contains 40 members, nominated in the first instance by the Imperial executive for a fixed term; and as the members retire by rotation their places are to be filled by the Irish executive. The House of Commons has 164 members, of which Ulster has 59 and the universities two. The members are to be elected from existing constituencies, but no constituency is to have less than 27,000 inhabitants. The executive will be a lord lieutenant, nominated by the imperial executive, after the

manner of colonial governments. The cabinet form of government will prevail. The Irish parliament will have no power over the army, the navy, the crown or imperial affairs. Temporary restrictions are laid upon its control over the Irish land purchase, the old age pensions and national insurance acts, the Irish constabulary, the post office savings bank, and public loans. The Irish constabulary is to be transferred automatically to the Irish government after six years. The old age pensions and insurance may be taken over, by giving a year's notice to the imperial government. Religious equality in Ireland is guaranteed, and the Irish parliament cannot make laws, directly or indirectly, to establish or to endow any religion, or to prohibit the free exercise thereof, or to give a privilege or preference to any religion, or to make any religious ceremony a condition of validity of any marriage. The lord lieutenant has the power to veto or suspend any bill on the instructions of the imperial executive. The judicial committee of the privy council is to give the final decision as to the constitutionality of any act passed by the Irish parliament. The collection of taxes remains in the imperial service, which will pay over to the Irish executive an amount equivalent to the expenditure on the Irish services at the time of the passing of the act. An additional sum of \$2,500,000 will be paid to Ireland the first year, to be diminished \$250,000 yearly until it is reduced to \$1,000,000, at which point it will remain an annual payment. The Irish parliament is to have power to reduce or discontinue the imperial taxes excepting the income tax the stamp tax, and the estate duties. It will also have power to alter the excise duties, but in the case of beer and spirits it is debarred from adding to the customs duties anything that will give a greater increase than 10 per cent. The Irish representation in the British Parliament will be 42. [See vol. xv, p. 367; current volume, page 513.]



The present situation of the Home Rule Bill revives interest in the Parliamentary Act of 1911, which now governs its destiny. This act, passed by the Lords under the threat of the Liberal Government to create a sufficient number of new peers to out-vote those in opposition, provides that, "If a Money Bill, having been passed by the House of Commons, and sent up to the House of Lords at least one month before the end of the Session, is not passed by the House of Lords without amendment within one month after it is sent up to that House, the Bill shall, unless the House of Commons direct to the contrary, be presented to His Majesty and become an Act of Parliament on the Royal Assent being signified, notwithstanding that the House of Lords have not consented to the Bill." The Parliamentary Act also provides that, "If any Public Bill other than a Money Bill, or a