

was not elected on a Single Tax issue he was not called upon to make it an issue. It is easy to argue, and idle to deny, that his responsibility was to those who had elected him, and to the platform on which he stood. But we had worked so hard for his election.

It was this reply in substance if not in words that Justice Seabury made in perfect good nature to our statement at a recent dinner that we had been too busy electing Single Taxers to office who in office were, so far as the Single Tax is concerned, relegated to obscurity.

The defence of the Justice was sound. Unless candidates are elected on a Single Tax issue their responsibility is to others than Single Taxers.

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#### THE DEATH OF DUKE PROSPER.

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The death in Brussels a few weeks ago of Duke Prosper of Arenberg seems to call attention anew to some of the curiosities of our economic system. The Arenbergs were the spoiled darlings of our land system. The mineral rights in Westphalia in possession of the family were confirmed by the Emperor Charles IV. away back in 1358, and royalties from these holdings have been paid the family for ten centuries. But at no time have they increased so rapidly as in the last two decades.

Duke Prosper was a degenerate and was convicted of a peculiarly revolting murder years ago, and sentenced to fifteen years penal servitude, which his rank and influence enabled him to escape.

Think with what arguments this noble family would resist the taking of these royalties by public taxation. Wouldn't they argue something like this: "For ten centuries our family has rested secure in the belief that the law which has recognized our right to these royalties, confirmed by act of the Emperor Charles IV., would not be rudely abrogated. Under the sanction of this law these holdings have been wisely 'administered' by our family; numbers of humble and deserving workmen with families have made their living by extracting the ores; why its very age constitutes an

argument for the excellence of the institution of Arenberg rights to these Westphalian mineral royalties. It is true these mines have grown in value since the time of Charles, but so has everything else that has survived his reign—paintings, missals, cathedrals. It would have been all right if we had begun that way, and no doubt in a new community the Single Tax would be practicable, but,—etc., etc."

So would the Arenbergs "reason" and their reasoning would be just as valid in their mouths as in those of the Astors.

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#### IN MEMORIAM—THE PERFECT LANDLORD.

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We made no mention in our last issue of the death of John G. Wendel, landowner, second only to the Astors as a holder of New York real estate. Unconsciously, he was a silent apostle of the great cause of the entire absorption of land value by taxation for public use. While others have been obliged to content themselves with mere verbal advocacy of this belief, he conducted his affairs so as to be a living testimony to the truth of the doctrine that we champion.

Confident in the legal rights over his vast estate, and the publicly created values attached thereto, which our land system vested in him, he had no patience with the weak spirit of truckling to public opinion, which many of his landowning brethren betray. His land was *his*, to do with as he pleased, and no sickly sentimentality dimmed his view of his relation to his fellows. No idea that he was a trustee for the Almighty to dispense His blessings on the poor and lowly ever entered his head. He was in some sense a hero of a lost or losing cause—lost because the common sense of the future will not long tolerate a legal fiction which converts the product of the labor of millions into the private property of the few.

Mr. Wendel belonged to a generation of men who had no more doubts of their right to do this than had the planter as to his right to own, buy, sell and breed slaves, under the cruder, if less efficient system of chattel slavery, which preceded the indus-

trial bondage under which we now live.

"Neither sell nor improve" was the Wendel maxim, and that it was a wise one for those who could afford to adopt it as a rule of conduct, is shown by the great fortune of which John G. Wendel died possessed. With the exception of a few negligible acts, he contributed nothing to progress or the well-being of his contemporaries. He stood like a great rock in the stream of advancing civilization, much as the Hell Gate rocks stood in the East River until twenty-five years ago. We recognized the physical obstruction to commerce and removed it. The world has not yet recognized the rocks on which both capital and labor split, nor has it learned to use the means required to clear the channel so that everyman's ship may come home, whatever kind of vessel it may be.

But whatever else may be said of Mr. Wendel he was neither hypocrite or sycophant. He did not try to veneer with a shallow philanthropy the ugly fact of predatory privilege. He flew the skull and cross-bones at his masthead without trying to cloak it with the red cross. In his demise, as in that of Morgan, Harriman and in one soon to be expected, though so long deferred, we see the end of an epoch. "Their sons inherit them" but they shame their sires. Some gleams of social justice have lighted up their superficial souls. They have neither the stolidity, the authority nor the grit of their forebears.

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#### HYGIO—ECONOMICS.

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Alfred N. Chandler, a well known Single Taxer of Montclair, N. J., has invented the above term to describe the effect of land speculation in suburban and rural communities on the health of dairy cattle and the price of milk in Essex County, N. J., where Mr. Chandler has made special investigation, many tuberculous cattle have recently been found in the dairy herds. Inquiry revealed the fact that dairymen were compelled to house their cattle in badly ventilated barns a good part of each day owing to the scarcity and prohibitive price of pasture land, which had been bought up by land speculators and

held out of use for building sites, the owners meantime escaping with a low tax on their unimproved property. As a result of this artificial scarcity of land the cattle contracted tuberculosis just as humans do in crowded tenements, many small dairymen were forced out of business and the milk supply was slowly but surely passing into the hands of a few large producers who controlled the supply and could regulate the price at will.

The relief is obvious. Tax the speculators up to the full rental value of their holdings and the greater part of the acreage could be profitably used for pasturage, the supply of milk could be increased and improved in quality, for the cattle could then have more and better pasturage and more fresh air to ward off tuberculosis. The land speculators would lose their graft of course, but the rights of the public would be conserved.

Mr. Chandler's theory has attracted comment from several newspapers, including the *N. Y. Times* and has received the approval of the great pure food champion, Dr. Harvey W. Wiley. When the people rouse themselves from their torpor they will begin to understand how vitally this question of land monopoly affects their health and happiness.

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#### TEACHING THE GERMAN SAILORMEN.

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Our old friend, Edward McHugh, in conjunction with Joseph Havelock Wilson, president of the British National Sailors Union, has distributed Progress and Poverty among the sailors at the concentration camp about eight miles from Northampton. Here on an estate of fifty acres surveyed by a splendid country mansion, 2,000 English-speaking German seafaring men are learn the economic gospel that will make for the final peace of the world. When this war is over many of these sailormen will go to all parts of the world and some will bring to distant parts the message they learned while prisoners of war. And this they will the more eagerly welcome as coming from one who himself was a sailorman.