

**BI-MONTHLY NEWS LETTER**

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**BY THE EDITOR**

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There is but little in the results of the November elections of interest to Single Taxers. The defeat of women suffrage in the three States of New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts marks time on the certain road to victory for that reform, and to those of our faith, who as fundamental democrats need no argument to convince us of its righteousness, can occasion neither exaltation nor regret. The defeat of a vicious tax amendment, of doubtful intention, in this State is a matter on which we may congratulate ourselves. It appears to have met with the fate that was visited on all that Senator Root characterized as his "crowning life work," and there is a certain pathos in the overwhelming majority by which this laboriously reared structure was rejected.

In Schenectady Dr. Lunn is again honored by an election to the mayoralty, and this is a distinct victory for the forces of progress. Mayor-elect Lunn is what might be termed a Socialist Single Taxer or Single Tax Socialist, and though we refuse to believe that the designation permits of a strict analysis, we will not seek to accentuate this difference until real occasion arises. Dr. Lunn's election reflects credit upon the intelligence of the people of Schenectady.

The Single Tax is defeated in Pueblo by a majority of 301. This does away for the present with the attempt to apply it in that city.

We shall likely hear a great deal as time goes by of the failure of the Single Tax in Pueblo. The Single Tax is a failure wherever they have not got it. It was a failure as tried in Pueblo, because its administration was in the hands of a hostile assessor and because the assessment was a swindle.

The assessed value of land was raised 62 per cent. but the assessed value of workingmen's homes increased 60 to 90 per cent.; in many cases improvements were raised much more than lots by additions over that of 1912 of 130 to 135 per cent. Some of the better homes of the city were raised from 100 to 200 per cent. Outlying lots were raised only 10 per cent. It was a bold and audacious attempt to discredit the system, and in a degree has succeeded. But the Single Taxers in the city were not idle. They issued a Bulletin demanding that the system for which the people voted be given a fair trial, and giving detailed figures of the fraud that was being perpetrated on the taxpayers. But for the present the battle is lost.

Three Single Tax members of Assembly have been elected in New Jersey, John H. Adamson and Josiah Dudley from Passaic county and Herbert M. Bailey, from Bergen.

The defeat of Peter Witt for the mayoralty of Cleveland is a matter for deep regret, especially as Mr. Witt attempted no concealment of his convictions as a Single Taxer. We in New York who have heard Mr. Witt, and REVIEW readers everywhere who have followed his career, know him as a worthy follower of Tom L. Johnson, of revered memory. His tribute to the dead leader in a recent speech made in the course of the campaign in Cleveland will bear quoting here. In victory or in defeat the sentiments to which he gave expression should be an inspiration to those who in the pursuit of political office are so often tempted to minimize the great truth to which they are committed. Peter Witt has stood the test, and it is up to others who, by more or less devious ways are seeking in this State to compass their political ambitions, to remember that such honors even if won are dearly bought at the sacrifice of the cause to which at one time or another they have pledged their adherence. And we who know them must not be led astray by the delusive notion that it is to the advantage of the movement to elect Single Taxers to office. It is to our advantage to hold them rather to a strict accountability to their faith in word and deed, maintaining at most a purely passive attitude if not one of direct antagonism where there is even a suspicion of an attempt on the part of nominees to conceal their previously professed adherence to our principles. It is time that we proclaimed with a solemn insistence this policy of solidarity. The future of our movement in a great degree depends on what attitude we assume to Single Taxers seeking office. Any other policy than the one indicated serves to bring contempt upon the movement. However we may wish personally to see our friends prosperous and successful we are not in the office brokerage nor employment agency business. Single Taxers should get office by our votes and through our efforts only where and when they stand publicly for a Cause, the importance of which dwarfs all petty ambitions, official emoluments or the tortuous windings of partisan politics.

But to quote Peter Witt on the eve of a campaign that was to decide his political fortunes, and hats off to him!

"Where Tom Johnson trod, others will tread! The fight he carried on and gave his life for will be picked up by others. The golden days are just ahead, not behind, and the struggle will be carried on by those with whom the fight is a religion, to bring the day when all will dwell on equal terms, one with the other, in the spirit of the brotherhood of mankind. And the way to bring that day is by the adoption of the philosophy of Henry George!"

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THE incongruities and imperfections that appear in nature are found in the details. In her larger aspects she is beautiful. Art is beautiful only in detail. The larger works of man are hideously incongruous—J. BELLANGEE.