

creates a cause of war among the classes of society; which cause of war creates perpetual uneasiness, frequent agitations, and occasional revolutions. . . .

God has constituted nature aright, and that the only protection trade requires is protection from violence, and fraud, and state interference. . . .

And first and foremost must come the question of the land. Suppose, for instance, it should be clearly proven, according to the science of facts (as some have termed economy), that it would be more beneficial to the whole associated community of Britain, to abolish all customs and excises, and all taxes whatever except land tax, which could be collected for nothing or next to nothing, what would political economy say in that case? Would it abolish all the taxes that interfere with trade, and thereby absorb the rents of the lands; or would it determine that a man with a parchment who does not labor, is to be preferred to a man without a parchment who does? From this dilemma political economy can not escape. There must be another system, one that can solve these questions by rule, not arbitrarily but scientifically—by a rule that is general and applicable to all parties.

And this new system is necessarily politics, or the science of equity.

Political economy, in fact, is the natural preparative for a science of equity. . . . And thus, politics, or the science of equity springs necessarily in chronological order out of political economy; and when economists have directed the state affairs up to those questions which they cannot answer, they must cede the first place to the true politicians, or themselves become true politicians. And when that period arrives, the political evolution is complete, and there is the reign of equity or justice.”

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## BI-MONTHLY NEWS LETTER.

By THE EDITOR.

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There is little to report for the summer months that have passed since the publication of the last REVIEW, except the successful conference held in San Francisco, of which our readers will learn with gratification. They will also read with satisfaction the accounts in this issue of the reception accorded to the little woman evangelist of the movement, Mrs. Mary Fels, widow of Joseph Fels, in her tour of the western cities. There is every reason to believe that this tiny little person with the big brain and big heart is growing in power and usefulness. She is growing, too, in economic knowledge as she is brought into more intimate touch with the many sided problems of life as they are exhibited in their infinite variety. She will fill a larger and larger place in our movement as it grows in power and volume.

Our congratulations to ex-Mayor Lunn, of Schenectady, N. Y., and his associates for having passed in the convention of the Schenectady County Convention the following plank on taxation. “We demand and urge the assessment of all real estate at its true value, and the introduction of a tax on land values so calculated as to take for the public funds that part of the

rise in value due to the growth of population and public improvements." The plank was offered by Alexander Hutton and passed by a two thirds vote.

The new Manitoba legislature will have a number of Single Taxers, among whom, elected as an independent, is our well known friend F. J. Dixon. His majority was the largest of all members of the newly elected body. Among other Single Taxers in the Manitoba legislature are John Williams and W. R. Wood.

The situation confronting us in the province of Alberta is far less promising, as we learn from partly confidential communications. It should be remembered that the entire movement in Northwestern Canada to relieve improvements of taxation had its origin, not in the economic truth laid down by Henry George, but was in part the attempt to tax the absentee land owner. The gratifying progress made in the exemption of improvements from taxation because it was not followed up led to a prosperity which in turn produced the land boom that has now completely collapsed. It was of course the result of not going on, and shows the need of much more education in the fundamental principles of the Single Tax before the provincial governments of Canada can be induced to make the advanced steps that will put an end to land speculation.

It is, however, a condition and not a theory that now confronts the government of Alberta Province. Land has lost one-third of the value that it had in the fall of 1913. Many of the landowners caught in the pinch are in difficulties. It is now being pointed out that the Single Tax (in this case misnamed, of course) has failed to prevent land speculation, and must be given up. It is easy to see that any proposition to return to the taxation of improvements, even though only a partial return, will be seized upon everywhere to point the moral of the failure of the Single Tax. Our friends in Canada have a hard fight before them; and again it is necessary to remind them that no permanent gain to our cause can be made that is not preceded by an intelligent and well-grounded body of public opinion respecting the nature and operation of a Single Tax upon the value of land.

There seems to be an opinion very generally shared by Single Taxers that the new Constitution to be submitted to the voters of New York should be defeated. The taxation article to be voted on separately will permit of the most rigorous taxation of personal property. That this is a move backward must be conceded, but it can be argued with some plausibility that a real attempt to ferret out personal property might cause a revolution of sentiment that would clear the atmosphere on this vexed question of the taxation of personalty. But the proposal is probably doomed to defeat along with the rest of the work of the Constitutional Convention.

The most vital item of progress to be chronicled is the recommendation of the U. S. Industrial Commission of which Mr. Walsh is chairman, for the taxation of land values as a cure for unemployment. No happening of recent years has so significantly indicated the amazing growth of our movement, for never before has a nationally official body gone on record in a way so unmistakable and emphatic.