

in favor of Single Taxers forming an independent Single Tax party; go before the country and enunciate the doctrines of Single Tax as outlined by Henry George; make a clean-cut fight in the open, and quit prostituting their ideas of justice and right by voting with parties that stand for Land Monopoly, and for almost everything else that is contrary to the fundamental principles of Single Tax.

This has been our policy in the past, and if continued, we can only expect to be classed as a small body of "Visionary Cranks" that carry no weight and count for nothing. Though we will be defeated time and time again, we will gather more and more strength with each defeat, and even should we never succeed, (which I do not believe) defeat in such a cause is far better, far nobler than any compromise with wrong. History points to the fact that small bodies of resolute thinkers and workers with justice and right on their side, have changed the conditions of nations from the gloom of injustice and suffering, and left humanity freer and better for their unbending, uncompromising stand for right.

ROBT. H. CAGE.

Denver, Col.

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

In reply to Mr. Weeks' request for opinions regarding a National Single Tax party, we the undersigned, are in favor of such political action, not that Single Taxers will win at the polls this time, but because we have always been opportunists and now is the opportunity to contrast pure Democracy with Republican spoils-ism. There is no call for two Republican parties, and if the reorganizers win out in the next National Democratic Convention that is what we will have. The radical element of the Democratic party must find a name somewhere and the Single Taxers should be the nucleus of the Radical Democratic Party.

We will win radicals to our cause from all parties, and find many 38d degree men of whom we know nothing at this time, as they know nothing of us, and many who are skeptical will view the Single Tax through clearer glasses when they are looking for a political name and have to defend their affiliation with the Single Tax party. By all means, let us have it for propaganda, if for no other reason and that we may be well along the road in 1908 for political and presidential preferment. We travel fast in these days, and are not too early in the field.

L. C. LAW,
JOHN HILLS,
SIDNEY HOLMES,
GEO. K. OSBORN,
T. P. LYON,
R. T. WALSH,
J. B. SPUHR.

Denver, Colorado.

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

A letter from each of the Single Taxers of the country expressing their views upon the future policy of our cause, at this time would be very opportune, for, it seems to me we are in a "precarious moment" and we could form some idea of the numbers and perhaps cull a program for the future action.

It seems to me that the day for the academic propagandist is past, so far as our cause is concerned, and political action is our only course; as a school we are avowed individualists, we believe, free and equal, and primarily our political tendencies are toward those enunciated by the author of the Declaration of Independence—we believe, almost religiously, that equal rights for all and special privileges for none, would be most likely to effect the happiness and prosperity of all; we have followed the radiant will-o'-the-wisp of a political party, Democratic in name only, dazily dreaming that it would in some way lead us to terra firma, until we are now almost hopelessly foundered in a mire of boggy, soggy, indigent political clap-trap. Like Asiatic devotees, we have annually visited the shrine of the jaggernaut though it continued to crush and squeeze us, and now that our political eyes are opened, we in wonderment are looking about us preparing for the coming lightning stroke which will rend asunder the rotten old shell we so long revered.

In the early commencement of the year 1901 a Democratic Legislature of Colorado passed with a two-thirds majority a bill providing for local option in matters of taxation. This measure was indorsed by the outgoing Democratic Governor, and the incoming Democratic Governor in their messages and everything seemed serene and pleasant. The Democratic Senator elected by this same Legislature also endorsed the measure in his paper—the leading Democratic daily West of the Missouri river. In less than a year shuddering convulsions attack some of the owners of special privilege and when a call was issued for an extra session, the way was left open for repealing this measure before action might be had upon it by the people, and by hard and incessant work we were able to defeat this design.

When the conventions were held for nominations for office in the following summer, the Republicans denounced us in scathing terms, and the Democrats never even mentioned our amendment. Each of them declared for the Initiative and Referendum—we know only to catch the votes of the spineless flies.

The State Federation of Labor, and all of the National Labor conventions which meet in this city during the summer passed resolutions in favor of the measure and each of the local bodies of labor in the State

were supposed to be in favor of the amendment; this was the situation at the beginning of the campaign. The leeches on the body politic—the landlords and speculators—organized an "ANTI" League and behold, their President was one of the leading Democrats of the State, their Secretary was the chairman of the bureau of literature of the Democratic party during the former campaign, and all of the leading speakers against us were members of the Democratic party; the party here is the microcosm of the macrocosm. These phlegmatic, pot-house political parasites went into hysterics in their vague mumble-mouthing of our measure, calling us every vile and contemptible epithet that their weird imagination could conceive or their bleared mind could invent; as a result we learned our friends and the friends of mankind, and better yet, we learned ourselves; we were enabled to cull from the rubbish those who are in earnest to remedy the wrongs we suffer from.

Formerly the Democratic party stood for a conceivable principle, and possibly would have attempted to inaugurate a change had they not been led astray by the ponderous stuffed prophet of fishing proclivity, who in the name of Democracy established the virulent aristocracy of privilege and sugar.

We hoped for redemption under the leadership of Altgeld and Bryan; noble statesmen politicians, outnumbered many to one; our hopes are withered and gone; the pendulum is swinging backwards to the mists and fumes of falsehood. A few years ago the growth of radical thought was more than rapid—it seemed that the day was not far distant when true reform would be counted with the deeds of history; now in the gloaming we see nothing but a dismal, direful darkness, a hopeless, rayless void. Look at the kaleidoscopic panorama for a moment. The Republican party advocates privilege and the protection of wild animals, with once in a while a chirp of civilizing the brown man in the distant seas. The Democratic party's only audible yelp is "anti." Like the Irishman, who, when he landed at Castle Garden, inquired whether we had a government here, being told we had, replied: "Well, I'm agin it." Not only are the leaders of "The Eastern Democracy" agin the pseudo doctrines of the Republicans, but the Western wing, so far as we have had any experience is concerned, is against everything that tends for the betterment of the race.

Can we go to the Socialists? No. They do not pretend to be able to do anything for the suffering and disinherited dreamers, designless and hopeful; they offer no remedy and no method. Only a dream; class consciousness, whatever that may mean, is their slogan. Their success would bring upon us a dreariness beside which the dismal swamp would be an Utopian paradise. What are we to do in this chaotic condi-

tion? Volney said that the cupidity of the upper classes and the stupidity of the lower classes had been the cause of the ruin of empires. What words of wisdom. The cupidity of the leaders and the stupidity of the rank and file (in the tin pail procession) not only has crucified the Declaration of Independence, but destroyed every vestige of equality to America or before the law, and we are to become a colonial empire.

We are aware that the lightnings of Jupiter are being gathered, and at the next National Convention of Democracy the bolt will sever the rotten shell that has furnished shade for so long. What are we to do? Were it not for the gallant fight of Hon. Tom L. Johnson in Ohio, there would be no question on this point, but under the situation, it seems to me that the best thing is to be in a thorough organized condition, have our delegates at the place of the convention, knocking, knocking for an entrance, and when the division occurs open our arms to those who feel like going with the democratic Democratic patriots. By so doing, we can gather some help and show that we believe in the principles. Remember that right and justice never get grey headed or bald, like Cupid. They drink from the fountain of perpetual youth. If we can collect together and with concerted action, no doubt we can make ourselves felt, and then we will be on the high road to make the doctrines of our lives a living reality. Only when that day arrives will we be able to say that we have done our duty, we have not lived in vain. My conclusions are therefore to organize, send delegates to the convention, apply for admission, as did the silver forces in St. Louis, and then take the political field for good, never to cease until the day is won and the earth becomes in reality a place for human beings to live upon.

Sincerely and fraternally yours in a common cause.

EDWIN N. BURDICK,
Chairman Australasian Tax Campaign Committee.

News—Domestic.

ALABAMA, DAPHNE.—(Special Correspondence.—E. Q. Norton.)—Of late there has been much interest aroused in this State upon the tax question. Every Legislature, since Alabama became a State, has modified the tax laws and still they are as unsatisfactory as ever; in fact, more so, since the people are getting educated to the idea that there is no possible hope of making our present system (?) of taxation any more effective or less objectionable.

The *Montgomery Journal* has started in with a series of articles, showing some of the inequalities of the present system, more especially the varying returns as made by