

Editor Single Tax Review:

There being no Single Tax party, Single Taxers may vote with parties favoring private ownership of land without incurring moral guilt. With a Single Tax party in existence Single Taxers, believing private ownership of land to be robbery and voting for political parties favoring such robbery, would incur "moral guilt."

Expediency is the political curse of the age. "Truth and Honor and Justice are great names, but don't treat them as other than names in politics. It is not expedient." "Don't denounce scandals in our own administration. It is not expedient." Don't nominate So and So for office—he is a good man, but has radical ideas, and his nomination would not be expedient at the time." So they go.

Men in this country who have believed in moral principle in politics have met with frequent defeat, but their names are a sweet savour in the mouths of decent men. Other men, political characters like Platt, Gorman, Quay and Hill, apostles of expediency always, have won many victories, but the sanitary condition of *their* reputations is much like the sanitary condition of Havana under Spanish rule.

The private appropriation of public values, enriching a small portion of the community at the expense of all the remainder, and the consequent robbing by Government of those already robbed by individuals under form of law, resulting, as they do, in hampered industry and decreased return to labor and capital, make it inevitable that public office, offering higher rewards than private business, will attract a certain class of men. And the dispensing of Governmental favors allowed by our laws make corruption certain. To imagine that parties ruled by politicians will be wise enough and good enough to enact into law the Single Tax, is to out-Haggard-Haggard.

For fifteen years we have played dogs to the Democratic party's Lazarus, and licked its many sores. It is time time to stop it. We have had our fill of "wise expediency" and "working along the line of (supposed) least resistance." I am afraid that here in New York we are priding ourselves on hoodwinking certain officials into favoring Single Tax measures.

Says Henry George, "The truth that I have tried to make clear will not find easy acceptance, * * * but it will find friends; those who will toil for it, suffer for it, if need be, die for it." And expediency will not be in their dictionary.

The Single Tax is the Truth of God, and Truth marches, sometimes slowly, but always steadily forward. If ever she seems to halt or falter it is when her friends denounce "folly and fanaticism and become practical."

More power to your elbow, Mr. Weeks! This is Lowell's picture of a man who did not believe in expediency:

"He stood upon the world's broad threshold;
wide
The din of battle and of slaughter rose;
He saw God stand upon the weaker side
That sank in seeming loss before its foes;
Many there were who made great haste and sold
Unto the cunning enemy their swords;
He scorned their gifts of fame and power and
gold,
And underneath their soft and flowery words,
Heard the cold serpent hiss; therefore, he went
And humbly joined him to the weaker part,
Fanatic named, and fool, yet well content
So he could be the nearer to God's heart,
And feel its solemn pulses sending blood
Through all the wide-spread veins of endless
good.

Brooklyn.

WM. F. CAREY.

Editor Single Tax Review:

The question of Single Taxers ignoring the old political parties and organizing a party of their own, to act independently of all other political organizations, is certainly one of grave importance. Whatever is best for the progress and final triumph of our principles should be done. Every true Single Taxer must feel this in his heart of hearts, and I believe those who advocate either independence of, or affiliation with, the Democratic party are equally sincere in such advocacy.

I regard it as a two-sided question. Much can be said in favor of the proposition to "go it alone," and much also for upholding the policy of training with the Democracy at least a while longer. Perhaps I would feel more inclined to the affiliation policy if I had not witnessed so much of the rottenness and hypocrisy that permeates the Democratic party in California. The defeat of Hon. James G. Maguire, one of the ablest and purest of men, has not yet ceased to grate harshly on my memory. Five years ago the Democracy of California had the opportunity of its lifetime. Had it stuck to its principles and stood by the Jeffersonian Democrat who led the party of professed democracy in that campaign, he would have been elected Governor by a rousing majority. And not a principle advocated by the Judge in that campaign was in the slightest degree antagonistic to the purest Democracy. No true Democrat could object to the platform. As to the ticket, it was unexceptionable, also. Yet Maguire's opponent—a man utterly unfit for the office, and now known throughout the State as "the worst Governor California ever had"—was elected by a majority of over nineteen thousand!

In the light of such an experience I can not feel very enthusiastic in advocating the policy of sticking to the party calling itself Democratic. I mean so far as California is concerned.

However, it must be admitted that there are many thousands of true Democrats within the party bearing the name of Democracy, even in California, and many thousands more in other States. It is well known to all men familiar with political