

calmly and support us; but, I find, that while on one hand we invite them, on the other we needlessly run counter to all their inherited or acquired party prejudices. Our citizens are alligned with the various parties, read their party newspapers and are daily inoculated with the party virus.

How then can we make headway against such a heavy and powerful opposition?

Commencing our examination of the problem with the Federal electorate, we find that the Tariff and Prohibition issues dominate national thought, and on these issues we are ourselves divided; to nominate candidates for Federal office is consequently futile. A further reason against doing it is found in that the Federal government has no present power to tax or appropriate rent in the States. That we want the Federal expenses to come out of rent ultimately is true, but the Federal field is not the logical place to start for its attainment. We must first acquire strength in the States and then move to amend the constitution.

Coming then to the States we find that for want of State issues, the party machines reiterate national issues and demand the allegiance of partisans to State executive candidates as endorsing or vetoing the policies of the Federal administration. Now, please note, that Governors, State officials, or Mayors have no power to aid our cause other than to recommend it to the proper legislative body, and we know that even a Governor Dunn or Mayor Gaynor will refuse to commit political suicide by such recommendation ahead of public sentiment. During the campaign the newspapers daily discharge an irritating partisan broadside, and the only state issue made is that each party claims to be more honest and economical than the other.

What then can the Commonwealth Land Party do?

We can nominate candidates for the State Legislature, Assemblymen and Senators. By an irony of fate these officials, important to us, are grouped as "Also ran"; even their names are practically unknown to the citizenry until encountered on the ballot; they are without an issue against their rivals; their nomination is a reward given to party henchmen, and without any personal campaign they ride into office on the success of their ticket. Yet these officials if elected have the power to change the tenure and taxation of land, and they only. Were we to nominate for these offices we could introduce our issue and force it logically; we could hold our opponents ignorant or indifferent as to the cause of poverty and disease in their particular districts. We could force them to defend private property in land. By not having antagonized Republicans or Democrats on their general tickets we could solicit their aid for our principle. To nominate any other candidates than these is spectacular, and would only weaken our position without any prospect of gain.

I reiterate; the same logic which simplified our platform to one plank, should also obviate useless candidates; thus saving us time and expense. In so doing we will avoid partisanship and leave no Single Taxer with an excuse for not supporting us.

As a matter of fact Single Taxers do not support us at present, and as an example I refer you to our campaign in 1917. Our candidate for Mayor, George Wallace, received only about 200 votes, whereas I for Comptroller received 1600. This shows that 1400 professed Single Taxers refused to throw away their votes for Mayor, and, subconsciously at least, they knew our cause was not a pertinent issue in the Hylan-Mitchell fight and consequently they voted as their party prejudice dictated.

With the right candidates a political campaign provides the proper and most direct field for propaganda, and the votes cast each year would be a measure of our efficiency. That such vote is small at first should not discourage us; it is for us to do our duty and leave the final outcome in the lap of the gods.

To recapitulate. The National Committee of the Party should urge Georgists throughout the Union to nominate by petition candidates for State Senator and Assemblyman, and refrain from nominating for other offices.

In asking serious consideration and endorsement of this plan, I would state that I am confident I could go into any village or town in the U. S. with this programme and within a year and also without asking any outside aid, form an organization, nominate and get votes and adherents.

And what I could do, others, with more ability, could carry on to final victory.

Finally, this plan, if approved, furnishes a national programme which can be systematically followed wherever there are any Georgists, and I believe each group could furnish the small charges entailed without begging for outside help.

Taco-Taco, Cuba

ANTONIO BASTIDA.

THE POWER TRUST PROBLEM

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

A matter of current interest is the Power Trust activities past and present in educational institutions. Mr. A. B. duPont once remarked, "The biggest trouble with the Single Tax movement is that all Single Taxers are generals, there are no privates." I am wondering about the generalship of the publicity which has been turned onto the Power Trust. My view-point is expressed in the following letter, sent to several papers, but which did not have the usual success in clearing the editorial waste-basket and reaching the linotype, although one or two did print it:

"Discussion of power company propaganda in schools is moving in the direction power companies want it to go. 'Throw propaganda textbooks out' is the sentiment developing. If power company propaganda cannot be quietly injected into the minds of young America monopoly's desire is that the 'conspiracy of silence' shall rule. To shut power company ideas out of schools justifies monopoly's friends in demanding that public ownership discussion be kept out—exactly what monopoly wants.

"The Secretary of State in California furnishes its voters a text book on referendum measures. It contains arguments for and against written by the best available writers. Schools and universities should have text books with an equal number of pages for text by advocates of monopoly efficiency and for the proponents of public ownership service at cost. Students should pass an examination showing a thorough knowledge of both sides and the relative importance of arguments submitted.

"Thus we may promote liberty and an education enabling future voters to intelligently decide these problems. No question will be settled right by a monopoly of propaganda on either side, or privilege's next best weapon the 'conspiracy of silence'".

In this connection, I some time ago saw an article in *The Forum* published by Mr. L. D. Beckwith, 1325 East Poplar St., Stockton Calif., which gave me the impression that he considered that the public ownership movement now is being operated by the land speculators. Practically every public ownership movement's publicity tells readers how much profit has been made for the community. It is impossible to make use of the profit, either in public construction or public service, without making land more desirable or valuable where such new construction or public service may be provided.

In the early days of the fight in the Modesto Irrigation District to establish their own electric power and light system in competition with the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, the original slogan was "Public ownership and service at cost." As soon as some large holders of land began to get active in the movement the slogan changed to "Public Ownership and Modesto the Tax Free Irrigation District." The interpretation of this was that it was proposed to pay for irrigation tax, i. e., lower the irrigation tax by earnings in power and light sales. They are doing exactly that now. The farmers' irrigation tax is being lowered and Modesto city people are paying something like 80% of the power and light bills.

Mr. Beckwith's reasoning is that had Prof. Ely given his ability to the land speculators only this publicity would not have been turned

Ely being the big toad in the Power Trust puddle in furnishing textbooks for educational institutions, and the ground-rent grafting and speculators desiring public ownership, as a tax collecting agency, they could hide their taxes in the power and light service bills, they turn the light on Ely's textbooks so far as they promote power company monopoly, but nothing is said about their crooked tax propaganda.

Perhaps Brother Beckwith gives the ground-rent ground-hogs credit for more intelligence than is used in their game. At any rate, I am giving you the whole theory for what you may think it worth and for any use you can make of it. I may add another observation of Mr. A. B. duPont's, viz., "Power companies give some service, land speculators give none." We naturally ask, how much progress in liberty do we make when we kill power company monopoly to establish public ownership as a revenue raiser to subsidize land monopoly?

San Francisco, Calif.

GEORGE CARTWRIGHT.

FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE YORKSHIRE LEAGUE

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

During the recent election I spoke for three candidates. Andrew McLaren was one and he was returned as a Labor man by a big majority.

Ashley Mitchell (Liberal and President of our League) and C. H. Doyle (a Vice-Chairman, also Liberal) were both badly beaten.

F. C. R. Douglas, a Labor Candidate, was badly beaten. Douglas is one of the ablest men in our movement and would have been a help to Snowden.

I particularly regret the defeat of these three for all of them are real good Single Taxers. Our old friend Wedgwood was again returned.

I think Philip Snowden will give us some reduction of food taxes in his first Budget, and a tax on Land Values. Lloyd George has not the influence he once had and I seldom meet Liberals of middle age who will admit that they have any faith in him. As Henry George said, "We cannot safely leave politics to politicians, etc." The thing that matters is public opinion, and our cause is making great progress in that direction.

Yorkshire, Eng.

F. SKIRROW.

A TAX IN FORM ANYHOW

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I once asked the late Charles Zueblin who lectured on economics throughout this country and in England if he believed in the Single Tax. He answered yes, but he also advocated other taxes. I inquired what they were. He replied income and inheritance taxes. I am wondering what his reply would have been had I asked "Do you believe in all men getting what they produce?" Notwithstanding all the tons of literature speaking of justice and righteousness we find the minds of thinkers confused and cloudy under the spell of precedent.

Alexander Hamilton who did more perhaps than any other man to pervert the ends of justice nevertheless recognized the concept of justice when he said, "Justice is the end of government. It is the end of civil society. It ever has been and ever will be pursued until it is obtained or until liberty is lost in the pursuit." When Emerson was asked if the slave should be paid for he answered, "yes, pay the slave." This is in answer to S. Tideman, who says that the objection to the words Single Tax are unwarranted. Either the Single Tax is a tax or it is not. If it is not a tax why doubly confuse our thought and that of our hearers by calling it so?

I have taken part in campaigns since the days of the George movement in Delaware, Philadelphia and other cities and I found it difficult to explain how a tax implied equal justice. Because he would not adhere to the Single Tax theory Prof. Zueblin was no more befuddled than those who argue for the taking of a percentage

of land value in taxation. If exact justice is our aim, and only exact justice will satisfy civilized man, we must exact every penny owing to society by each and every member and declare in season and out that this is not a tax.

Chicago, Ill.

MORRIS LYCHENHEIM

NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

MAGNUS H. ALEXANDER, president of the National Industries Commerce Board, in a recent address said: "Tariff walls which obstruct and prevent the free exchange of goods from one nation to the other always stand as a threat to world prosperity. So in the end the problem of the tariff is at best the problem of civilization."

J. R. HERMANN writes regarding the proposed Single Tax amendment in Oregon: "I now have over two thousand names to the petition. I speak before the electricians and addressed the carpenters recently. There are so many unions now committed to the programme that they must be recognized."

WE have received a pamphlet containing a selection of Single Tax songs by Samuel Danziger, Will Atkinson and others. It is published by Chas. G. Baldwin, Munsey Building, Baltimore, Md.

WE are glad to note the publication of the July number of the *Ohio Single Taxer*, edited and published by Thomas J. Dolan, of Cleveland, and "issued when necessary by the Single Tax party of Ohio."

Stimuli is a little well filled eight page paper coming from Baltimore. F. Lincoln Hutchins is the publisher and Samuel Danziger contributes a page of notes on current topics.

The Square Deal in its July issue prints a picture of the new headquarters of the Single Tax Association, with Secretary L. B. Walling standing in the doorway.

Land and Liberty announces the death of John Muir, for many years a prominent Henry George man in Glasgow, Scotland. His age was 81.

THE memory of Richard Cobden is being celebrated in a series of lectures in London. On July 17 Sir Richard Mallet spoke at a meeting presided over by Lord Grey of Falloden. Sir Richard said in one sentence:

"Free trade, what is it? Cobden had demanded. 'Why, it is the breaking down of the barriers that separate nations, those barriers behind which nestle the feelings of pride, revenge, hatred and jealousy which every now and then break their bounds and deluge whole countries with blood'."

It is interesting to note that a large contribution for maintaining Cobden's old home, Dunford House, as a permanent memorial came from America through Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

WE are apprised of the recent death of B. H. Nadal, an old friend of this paper, and a resident of this city, author of "The Fairy Court" and several plays. He had been for many years a follower of Henry George and known to a number of the friends of the movement. Details of his life and death are lacking.

OUR readers will be sorry to hear that F. H. Monroe was ordered by his physician on June 28 to take to his bed. But he is now greatly improved and will soon be back in his office.

THE Schalkenbach Foundation has published a little pamphlet, "The Hat Trees of Ireland". It is a story of how the Fairy King