

patible with the maintenance of good order, or with any obligations which you have wisely or hastily undertaken. All we require is a definite assurance of independence. Everything else can easily be arranged, and at one-tenth the cost of the present "wicked absurdity."

SENATOR BUCKLIN'S PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

It is impossible to overestimate the far-reaching effect, to the people of Colorado, of the question raised by Senator James W. Bucklin in his report on taxation, or even to foreshadow what its adoption would mean to the people of this country and to the civilized world.

This report has brought out, in a thorough and masterful way, the workings of the Australian land tax. Your distinguished citizen deserves great credit for having made the first complete investigation and report on the workings of this equitable revenue system.

He has exposed the errors of those who prophesied evil results that did not arise, and, what is more important, he has made plain how much the friends of the system underestimated its benefits.

With a land value tax that raises only a small part of the revenue in the four Australian colonies that have adopted the principle, large landed properties have been divided and sold to actual users, the building trade has been stimulated, and the population, without exception, has increased; while exactly the opposite result is apparent in each of the other three colonies adhering to the old methods.

It was the Australian secret ballot which found such universal and instantaneous favor with the people of the United States.

Why should not Colorado initiate the Australian land value tax as Massachusetts did the Australian secret ballot? One brought about a more just method of voting, the other will guarantee more equality of tax burdens. One made it possible for the plain people to express their judgment on all questions, free from intimidation; the other will enable the plain people to reach Nature's storehouse by breaking down monopoly and special privilege, the offspring of unjust taxation.

The adoption of the Australian land tax will make it more profitable to use land than to hold it until others must use it. It will be easier for men to find places on which to build homes

and factories and to acquire farms. It will make it harder for men to hold vacant lots, mineral deposits and great water privileges in idleness, thus opening opportunities by which men can employ themselves and not be forced, as now, to compete for a bare existence in what is an apparently overstocked labor market, but is in reality a market artificially restricted.

If Colorado is the first state to adopt this just system of taxation, the progress of her people in the production of wealth will be unsurpassed by any sister states and the tide of emigration and capital will set in her direction.

Colorado's great gain will be an object lesson to the people of other communities, who will find that the real solution of the labor problem and the trust and monopoly question is to be found in a just system of taxation that will relieve the producers from their present burden and put it where it justly belongs, as a charge on land owners, who not only appropriate the land value created by all, but in doing so restrict opportunities to such an extent that an idle horse seems of more value than an idle man.

People of Colorado! You have the chance not only to lift yourselves to a higher plain of justice, but to be a beacon light that shall point the way for others.—Hon. Tom L. Johnson, in the Denver Times of January 20.

THE FABLE OF THE WISE MAN AND THE FOOL.

With Apologies to George Ade.
For The Public.

Once upon a time a Wise Man and a Fool dwelt happily together in the same Land. The Wise Man was a Paragon of public spirited Push, but the Fool was a self centered Poor Thing. So it happened that the Wise Man lay awake Nights thinking how he could Do the Fool—Good, while the Fool pursued his own selfish Ends all Day and spent the Hours of Darkness in slothful Slumber. And since Everything bringeth forth Fruit after its Kind, in the fertile and phosphoric Filaments of the Wise Man's Brain there budded and blossomed and ripened in all its Juiciness and Lusciousness a glorious and patriotic Scheme for the Betterment of the Fool. Then the Fervor of Inspiration filled the Wise Man with a warm Glow, and altho' the Hour was yet late and the Wise Man had not yet closed his Eyes—except to his own Interests—he struck his Hand upon his Knee and exclaimed: "It is borne in upon me with great Force that this Idea of mine is a good Thing."

Straightway, therefore, he hied himself to the Abode of the Fool, for in his Youth his Parents had taught him that the early Bird catches the Worm, and the Habit was strong upon him. He discovered the Fool asleep with his Head covered up with the Blankets and one Foot out of Bed in the Cold. He pulled the Fool by his other Leg with a quick Jerk that brought him up Standing, saying at the same Time: "Arise, thou Sluggard, and behold thy Benefactor."

The Fool heard the Voice but was forced to reply: "The Atmosphere is so Opaque that I can't see."

"Well, listen, then," said the Wise Man, "I am a Philanthropist and I love you better than I do myself, and I have a burning Desire to improve your Condition. I see that you do a great Injury to yourself by trading with the Foreign Devils who come Here in Ships. You buy your Clothes from Them and for that Reason Nobody makes Clothes Here. Hence there is no Market for the Wool that you grow; but if you would get a law passed to prohibit Them from bringing Clothes Here in Ships, I would build a Factory and buy your Wool at a high Price, because I would create a Market for It, and you would soon become a Rich Man."

The Fool smiled and thought: "This Philanthropist must be an Easy Mark, but that is None of my Funeral."

But he said aloud: "I should like to become a Rich Man, and you are a nice, kind Gentleman to show me How." And he went and did as the Wise Man had said.

When all these Things were accomplished Wool did indeed go up and the Fool had Money to burn, but he just grinned a Grin and went fishing, seeing which his Neighbors said among Themselves: "This is a Free Graft; let us raise some Wool and get Rich, too."

But when they did this the Price of Wool went down with a dull, sickening Thud, and there wasn't any Money in it any more. Therefore the Fool came back from his fishing Expedition and asked the Officeboy to see the Boss. He waited there two Days for an Interview to be accorded him.

"Who are you and What do you want?" said the Boss, whom the Fool recognized by his Voice as the Philanthropist, as he added: "This is my Busy-day; please get a Gait on."

"I merely came in to tell you that that Get-Rich-Quick-Scheme hasn't panned Out, and I don't want to prohibit myself buying Clothing cheap anymore. My Clothes cost me Twice

what they used to, and my Wool brings Less than ever."

"You are a Fool," returned the Wise Man, "not to have got a Corner on Wool as I did on Clothing. See how I have prospered by my superior Industry and Thrift. I cannot let you repeal the Law that you have secured to keep out the Clothing made by the Pauper-Labor of the Foreign Devils. I have invested my hard earned Rocks in Reliance upon that Law, and now I have a Vested Interest in it. I have a Wife and a Child whom I must shield from Want; and altho', as I have said, I love you more than I do myself, I know that Charity begins at Home, so I must not forget my Family in my Zeal in your Behalf. Besides, 'a Cheap Coat Makes a Cheap Man,' and as a person of superior Intelligence and Foresight it is my Duty to protect you from Yourself. Now I must write an Article for a Magazine telling 'How I Earned My Millions Mostly' by my Habits of Industry and Thrift, and how any Young man can do likewise by devoting himself exclusively to the Interests of his benevolent Employer, so please chase Yourself."

Thereupon the Fool got Spunky, hired a Lawyer, and appealed to the Court. But the Court said:

"The Wise Man is right, by Gum. The fundamental Law of the Land is attached in this suit, for the Constitution is founded upon the Sacredness of Vested Interests. Besides, the ignorant Populace is not capable of dealing with this Question so we must take it out of Politics." and entered Judgment against the Fool for the Costs.

The Fool's Sheep were sold to pay those Costs and the Lawyer got his Farm, but his young Son secured a Job as Office-boy for the Boss (for the old one had married the Daughter of the Philanthropist and gone to Europe on his Honey-Moon), his Wife took in Washing, and his Daughter went to work in the Over-All Factory. So the Fool sat on the Back Stoop all the rest of his Days, and smoked a Pipe, and tried to figure it Out.

MORAL.

Public Spirit is Sometimes Synonymous with Private Snap.

JAMES W. CLARK.

IS NOT THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FIT FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT?

During the consideration of the reapportionment bill in the lower house of congress, January 8, Hon. Champ Clark, of Missouri, offered an amendment to the effect that the District of Columbia should be created a territory, by the name of the territory of Columbia, and that the usual officers, and a legislature,

and representation in congress, should be provided for. The amendment was declared out of order, but Mr. Clark was allowed five minutes in which to plead for its pertinency. We give his speech in full from the Congressional Record.

Mr. Clark, of Missouri—Mr. Speaker, the part of that amendment that is pertinent to this bill is to give the District of Columbia a delegate to sit in this house. Ever since I came here I have been in favor of the proposition, and all I have witnessed confirms me in that opinion.

It is a disgrace and a reproach to the American republic that right here under the shadow of the dome of this capitol 300,000 people, white, black, yellow and copper-colored, are absolutely disfranchised and have no more voice in their own government than if they were so many Digger Indians. The only objection that I have ever heard to my proposition was the statement of some fine-haired solar-walk citizens of this city, that "if the right of franchise were restored to these people the poor whites and damned niggers would vote them into bankruptcy." That is a very strange statement to be made in this city—the finest capital in the world.

You cannot walk 300 yards in this city without seeing the effigy of either Andrew Jackson or of Abraham Lincoln. To say that poor whites are dangerous voters in this country, which holds up those two illustrious men, sprung from the poorest of poor whites, as exemplars of American manhood, is absolutely preposterous. A wag out in Missouri told me that when Andrew Johnson was sworn in as vice president, in looking up at the senate diplomatic gallery, he happened to catch sight of the representatives of the foreign governments up there, and, shaking his fist at them, said: "You aristocratic cockadoodles, go back to your royal masters and tell them that in the land of the setting sun you saw a tailor and a rail splitter climb to the apex of human power." (Laughter.) That is a gorgeous sentence—a patriotic sentiment.

Whether he ever said it I do not know. However that may be, it was worthy to be said, because in that idea is the genius of our institutions. And I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that if a "nigger" is good enough to vote against me in the Ninth congressional district of Missouri, he is good enough to elect a representative for the city of Washington to sit on this floor. (Applause.)

We have always professed that we are in favor of "home rule." Our desire to see the Cubans have home rule lay at the root of the Spanish war. We are

all in favor of home rule for Ireland, and a vast majority of the American people, irrespective of party affiliations, wish to see the brave, heroic Boers win in their unparalleled fight for home rule. Yet, with persistency which is amazing, and inconsistency which is enigmatical, we refuse to grant the precious boon of home rule to our own fellow-citizens at our very doors. It is not only an anomaly in our system of government; it is an anomaly in human nature.

I do not believe that the people of this district are unfit for self-government. They have a fine opportunity for educating themselves in that difficult art. They hear more politics and talk more politics than the people of any other portion of the republic. Things are always happening here to incite their patriotic fervor. The monuments of our achievements, and our greatness are all about them. The visible evidences of our power are forever before their eyes. The glorious traditions and fascinating legends of American worthies who have passed into history are familiar to their ears. The numberless blessings of our free institutions are known to them. To say that they are unfit to govern themselves is to confess that our experiment in representative government is a colossal failure.

Mr. Speaker, you may rule this bill out of order now, but if I sit in this house long enough, I intend to bring this bill here in a way that it will have ample discussion, and whenever it does I will drive the republican majority of this house into taking the position openly on this floor, that the negroes are not fit to vote at all, because that is the idea that they have in disfranchising the people of the District of Columbia, though, for political reasons, they dare not avow it. And in this connection I have only one wish, and that is to be in this city on the day that they elect the first delegate to sit in the American congress.

There would be 500 candidates at the least calculation. It would be a battle royal, to witness which would be worth ten years of peaceful life; and it is the saddest commentary ever made on free government that we sit here and refuse to these people the right to govern themselves—to indulge in the luxury of voting and being voted for. A gentleman said to me the other day that this was the best-governed city on the continent, when I was talking to him about this bill. Suppose it is. Every city has a right to govern itself as it pleases. If it wants to let the hoodlums run it, all well. The only reason that