

What he says is all too true. The men who keep back the Single Tax movement are those who solemnly avow their Single Tax beliefs and then advocate other things. These other things were amusingly characterized by E. W. Doty at the Niagara Falls Conference several years ago as "half sisters to the Single Tax." He intimates that the trouble was that they were not "half sisters" at all, and were not even distantly related.

Mr. Henry George himself years ago in a public address said, "Here comes my friend, Sam Gompers, with 24 remedies for our labor troubles and not one the right one." Would our friend, for many years a Single Taxer, say in this case "that the worst enemy of the Single Tax was the Single Taxer," in this case Henry George himself, in whose company we would rather be found than in that of the gentleman who seeks by his criticism to confirm Mr. Gompers in the course he has taken.

We have cheerfully paid to Mr. Gompers the tribute of our admiration for his valuable public services. He was a steadying and worthy influence in the war when the motives of our entrance into that conflict were being questioned by the unreflecting, and the extremists in the ranks of labor. It is not too much to say that he helped as no other single influence did to "win the war."

It is due him, too, to say that his leadership which held, and still holds, in abeyance the extreme socialistic and communistic elements in the A. F. of L. has been, on the whole, a healthy influence. We pointed out in the article which seems to have excited Mr. Gompers' ire, that to the degree that this conservatism lacks the element of constructive proposal it must cease to be a restraining influence on the wild-eyed radicalism in the organization. Men impatient of the dilatory programme that is being held out to them as the sole remedy for conditions as they exist, will demand some social change. One or another of those social theories—the one most clamorous and insistent—will sweep over the dikes which Mr. Gompers has so carefully erected for the protection of the organization, and he will see the labor movement transformed to something which he least desires.

There is but one way of meeting this, and that is by opposing to them the doctrine of social justice—the destruction of the monopoly of natural resources and the removal of those artificial restrictions which bar the way to a world of peace and plenty.

JOSEPH DANA MILLER.

## Wisdom From Jos. P. Tumulty

**E**LECTION returns do not permanently settle any grave question, and those gentlemen who say they do, are generally feeling their own pulse, which, very often, is a pulse of passion, hatred or intrigue. When politicians tell me that election returns settle great events, I say, "The trouble with you is that you are feeling your own pulse and not the pulse of the public."

## NEWS—DOMESTIC

### The Division in California

**T**HERE is again an unhappy division of opinion regarding methods among Single Taxers in California. The Los Angeles Single Tax League has decided to devote all its energies for a year or two to propaganda and educational work, and to abandon all efforts to get on the ballot. The reasons for this course have been given in a statement mailed to Single Taxers throughout in the country.

"Single Taxers have the reputation of being interested in nothing but their own creed and its doctrines," says the statement. And it is then proposed that Single Taxers in California support other measures of social amelioration, and thus evince a greater disposition to team work.

Among the movements which are "gathering force," is the proposal to exempt all new houses and improvements for a period of ten years. Another is the Non-Partisan League now at work in California to organize the State.

But the chief reason impelling the League to abandon the political fight is that "the use of the initiative too frequently for the same question may jeopardize this most valuable instrument of popular government." And lastly this statement declares that "the financial stress is so great that funds cannot be secured without hardship to Single Taxers."

The Los Angeles League feel that "during the reactionary wave which envelopes the world most people are inclined to center their attention upon measures that will give them immediate relief."

We present these reasons as stated. We imagine that Single Taxers of the country will be disappointed at the decision and surprised at the inadequacy of the reasoning. We express no opinion at this time. We are convinced, however, that the political movement for the Single Tax is too far advanced to be halted by the falling away of any group of workers. We do not question the sincerity of the men who append their names to this statement, but we do question their judgment.

The office of the REVIEW, however, is to present both sides, and this we do, commending the absence in the presentation by both groups of those unpleasant recriminations which have characterized other divisions among Single Taxers in the State of California.

In a counter statement issued by the Great Adventure League, Mr. William L. Ross and others say, "We have worked in good faith and will continue the fight with all the forces at our command."

We are wondering if this abandonment of the political fight will not be heralded far and wide by the enemies of the movement.

It is the opinion of the SINGLE TAX REVIEW, however, that if forced to abandon the fight in California, Single Taxers of the entire country will now turn toward Oregon,

where the forces for industrial emancipation are practically united under the leadership of J. R. Hermann, and where a large measure of support has already been secured under the disadvantages of little publicity and inadequate resources.

## The California Situation

THE Single Tax League of Los Angeles has decided to devote all its energies to educating the voters to understand the Single Tax before again putting the question on the ballot. Reasons for this course of action were given in a formal statement last month. The Great Adventure group of Single Taxers has announced its purpose of circulating petitions to have the measure on the ballot this year.

This difference of purpose on the part of California Single Taxers may cause wonder among friends in other parts of the country, and a few words of further explanation may be well.

Let it be said at the beginning that no question of orthodoxy or good faith is involved. It is merely a question of method or procedure. The members of the Los Angeles Single Tax League, and the Single Taxers throughout the State who are in accord with them, are as eager to get the relief that will follow the adoption of the Single Tax as any one can be. It is, indeed, because they fully realize what its adoption means that they have taken counsel of experience, and decided to work for the present along educational lines.

Ten years' experience, and five elections, show that the balloting method does not secure results in proportion to the time and money expended. Not only has the vote not increased materially in the ten years, but these repeated campaigns without the necessary educational work have resulted in organized opposition, and needless antagonism on the part of many people who were called upon to vote before they knew the reason why.

This opposition is not against the Single Tax as it is, but as it is represented to be by the press led by nine-tenths of the voters. The public is worse than uninformed; it is misinformed. It will take time and much labor to disabuse the people's minds of this error.

It was thought by some Single Taxers that the mere putting of the name "Single Tax" on the ballot, accompanied by a brief description, acquaints the voters with the nature of the subject. Experience has shown this to be a fallacy. The vote shows that the voters do not understand the question, or, understanding it, do not want the Single Tax. And every Single Taxer knows that it is rare indeed that a man or woman who really understands the Single Tax does not accept it.

Voters read and discuss what interests them. On what they are not interested in they vote "no," without troubling themselves to consider. Until they have been interested in the question they are quite content to accept the opponents' statement, which may include anything from Bol-

shevism to anarchy. Such phrases as "land owners are robbers," "freeing the land," "restoring the land to the people," "private property in land is robbery," and similar words used by over-zealous persons, have been seized upon by our opponents to prejudice our public. These phrases have always been questionable, but since the communistic regime in Russia they have been used to stamp the Single Tax movement as a system to take the farms and homes away from the people. The Anti-Single Tax League, and nine-tenths of the press, have fostered this idea until they have closed the minds of the vast majority of the voters.

To break down this prejudice requires patient and careful work. It cannot be done by a "hurrah" campaign. The people cannot be stampeded into "voting away their homes." Only an intelligent home-conservation campaign of education will remove this unjust stigma attaching to Single Tax. When the voters feel themselves reassured that the Single Tax will not disturb their title to land or other property in any way, shape, or manner, the measure can be put on the ballot and carried.

That the action of the Los Angeles Single Tax League has not been taken without the most careful consideration of all the factors in the case is evident from the cordial approval of Louis F. Post, John Z. White, James R. Brown, J. W. Bengough, George Foster Peabody, Otto Cullman, James A. Bell, James H. McGill, and many others in the east who have given time and money to the cause. Nor have the well known California Single Taxers like James H. Barry, Wm. G. Eggleston, C. E. Todd, E. P. E. Troy, Judge J. H. Ryckman, Mrs. Anna George deMille, and many others been wanting in their approval.

The Los Angeles Single Tax League questions no man's motives. Nor does it condemn those who choose a different course. The League has not retired from the field. On the contrary, it purposes to conduct an educational campaign throughout the year with the same zeal that has heretofore marked the ballot campaigns. It invites the co-operation of those who would instruct the voters before asking them to vote.

STOUGHTON COOLEY

## From W. L. Ross

AN article signed by John H. Meyer appeared in the January-February number of the REVIEW under the caption, "The Farmers' Load of Taxes." Had this article appeared a year ago it would have sounded more plausible to those acquainted with the facts. Appearing when it did it becomes misleading. It gives the impression that educational work among the farmers of California is now being done that was abandoned over a year ago.

After the close of the last campaign Mr. Briggs announced that he would do educational work for eighteen months among the farm center organizations. He did this work a short time but gave it up over a year ago. It is important that this be made clear at this time because it was under the leadership of Mr. Briggs that the Los Angeles League