

rents, especially in the cities, have risen enormously; so that wage earners are probably worse off than before.

It works in a "vicious circle"; wages are raised by the wages boards; the employers if possible raise their prices; protected manufacturers demand increased duties, and generally get them; and the cost of living mounts faster than wages.

ERNEST BRAY.



## THE SINGLETAX IN MISSOURI.

Kansas City, Mo.

A debate on the Missouri Singletax amendments came off here on the 15th at a banquet of the Merchants' Association. The debaters were the Secretary of the Land Owners' Protective Association, Mr. Silvers, and Vernon J. Rose.

Mr. Rose opened the debate with one of the most effective explanations of the George philosophy I ever listened to. After a clear presentation and explanation of the proposed amendments he gave a splendid account of Henry George's doctrines, emphasizing the moral and human side of the question. He was frequently and vigorously applauded. Especially pronounced was the applause when he made his plea for securing for every child born into this world—rich and poor alike—an equal right of access to the natural bounties of the earth. This, he said, is the object that inspires every follower of Henry George.

Mr. Silvers quibbled some in reply, but was in no way offensive. He is young, rather slender, smooth-faced, and would seem boyish were it not for an air of ease that he assumes. He said some very foolish things, considered from our point of view. For instance, that the just principle would be to tax every man alike because we are all citizens alike and are protected alike by the government. Some of the well-fed, with fat faces and bald heads—must have been as bald inside as out,—heartily applauded that sentiment. Mr. Silvers won frequent applause from Singletaxers for his correct statements of the George teaching, but the objections he offered were pitifully weak.

The cities and mining districts may make a good showing in favor of the amendments. The farming districts wherever I have come in touch with them, are, or seem to be, solidly hostile. But no matter if defeat comes, the favorable reaction will come. The educational work that has been done in the cities

has awakened a faith that can not long be held in check.

ROBERT CUMMING.



## MORE CAMPAIGNING IN MISSOURI.

Topeka, Kansas.

Once upon a time when Frederic C. Howe was a McKinley Republican largely, I said this to him: "Why does a man so busy as you are, and of such steel-like sense, live down here in a settlement to do good to these foreign and ignorant folk?"

His answer was a direct denial of "doing good," and made claim "that he was being educated."

For the last seven years I have thought I was a well grounded advocate of land value taxation. But now I really am, for I have spent a week in Cass Co., Missouri, and got educated.

Letters already published in The Public have given dramatic pictures of what is doing. Yes, dramatic—pictures to make the heart bound by the unbreakable chain of Henry George's forging, leap up with joy. My picture is not of quite that kind; we did not win exactly.

To not have won exactly, does not prevent one who is bound by that sacred chain, from having seen things—from being better educated.

In Pleasant Hill, Missouri, I saw some things good

### In Missouri.

Cartoon in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

