

Henry George's ideas, died on the 10th. He was a manufacturer of bicycles, etc., and 32 years of age.

—Admiral Togo's flagship, Makasa, was destroyed by the explosion of one of her magazines at Sashebo on the 12th, and 599 officers and sailors suffered from the disaster—5 killed, 251 missing and 343 wounded. Admiral Togo was not on board.

—A bolt from the national convention of Post Office Clerks (p. 358) took place at Cedar Rapids on the 7th over the election the day before of officers by viva voce vote instead of ballot. The bolting organization elected Martin A. Desmond, of St. Louis, as its president.

—The Church of England in Canada, at a general synod in Quebec on the 9th adopted a canon forbidding the solemnization of marriages to which a divorced person is a party (see vol. vii, p. 475). The bishops were unanimously in favor of the canon, and only eight of the clergy opposed it, but the lay delegates almost defeated it. The majority for it was only 9.

—Active organization is proceeding in the State of New York to secure a tax exemption of real estate improvement values to the amount of \$3,000. The Evening Telegram of New York City is taking a postal card vote on the question, and building and loan associations especially are being solicited to support the measure. Leagues for the Partial Exemption from Taxation of Improvements have been organized and a convention is to be held at an early day. Edward Polak, Dr. Samuel W. Greenbaum, Thomas A. Hand and Dr. J. L. Stern are among the leaders in the movement.

—Before leaving for his trip around the world, William J. Bryan closed his relations with the Bennett estate (vol. vii, p. 794) and published in the Commoner of the 8th a full and detailed statement of the execution of his trust. It appears that he has contributed to the purposes designed by the late Mr. Bennett, all that he received as compensation and all that he received in reimbursement of his expenses. That he did not do more in furtherance of the wishes of his dead friend was because relatives, already well provided for, succeeded in breaking the will on a legal technicality. As it is, Mr. Bryan is out of pocket in the matter over \$1,500 in cash besides the time he has devoted to it.

PRESS OPINIONS

CHICAGO TRACTION QUESTION.

Chicago Tribune (Rep.), Sept. 12.—The action of the majority of the committee was understood to contemplate the resumption of efforts, interrupted a year ago, for disposing of the traction question by the tentative ordinance or by some similar arrangement with the present companies.

Chicago Examiner (Dem.), Sept. 11.—Under Mayor Dunne's contract plan the service can be improved more quickly than by

the private companies. The moment the Council agrees to the Mayor's plan the work of improvement can go right ahead. There will be money and men to do it.

Chicago Examiner (Dem.), Sept. 12.—Here is one thing the people who voted for municipal ownership know and they are in a majority in Chicago: They are not going to permit any alderman to extend the franchises of the traction companies now in Chicago and they are not going to permit these companies to have any rights of any sort that will add one minute to their corporate life.

MISCELLANY

THE SCHOOL OF RICHES.

I.
Blessed are the poor who know the emptiness of riches.
The poor are no better than the rich.
It is the poor in spirit—those who do not desire riches, (those who have passed beyond riches, not those who are yet below them)—who are better than the rich.
We are all in the same school of the Vanity of Riches, and the rich are in the senior class, the class of experience, and will perhaps be the first to be graduated.
Some day we shall all take the degree of Contempt for Riches.

Blessed are the poor who know without experience the vanity of riches, for they shall take the degree cum maxima laude.

II.

Methought I heard God and Satan talking of me as once they talked of Job.
And Satan said: "I am tired of all these ancient forms of torture. The writhings of the prisoner under the lash weary me. The shrieks of the captive in Central Africa as he feels the slow inevitable fire make me yawn. All these old-fashioned sufferings have become maddening in their monotony. When I was young, how I reveled in these joys, but now, alas, those days have passed away. What new punishment can I invent for this man?"
And God said: "What hath he done to deserve punishment?"
And Satan answered and said: "He prayed continually for riches and pleasures and consideration, and strove for them above all things, and forgot Thee altogether."
And God said, "Give him wealth and its honors and pleasures, and see to it that he find no way to escape from them, and then open his eyes that he behold what manner of things they be."
And Satan went forth from the presence of God exulting as of yore.
—Ernest Crosby.

MITCHELL'S "POLITICAL ECONOMY" STORY.

John Mitchell, the labor leader, was discussing an English financier.

"His ideas of political economy," Mr. Mitchell said, "remind me of those of Marshall Saunders, of Braidwood."
"Braidwood is an Illinois town, and I passed my boyhood there. Marshall Saunders had a fine apiary. He raised good bees and good honey. It was a pleasure to visit his neat, well-painted city of hives.

"Marshall had an inquiring mind, and he would sometimes ask himself strange questions. One of the questions he continually asked himself was this:

"Have I any right to rob these bees of their honey?"

"And for a long time he could not answer that question to his own satisfaction. Finally, though, he found an answer. I have heard him tell it to his friends with pride.

"I used to feel mean," he said, 'about robbing the beehives, but after thinking the matter over I see now I'm in the right. If it wasn't for me taking the honey, all them bees would be out of work the whole of next summer.'"

A MISTAKE IN COUNT TOLSTOY'S LETTER.

For The Public.

In the absence of statistics, and indeed in the impossibility of getting the statistics in such matters, no one can tell the number of single taxers in this or any other country. Tolstoy, therefore, cannot be proved to be wrong, but I am convinced that he is wrong, in saying that there has been a falling off in the number of those who believe in the teachings of Henry George.

Certainly it is not true of England. The words, single tax, and the name of George may not be so much in men's mouths or in the newspapers as was the case 15 or 20 years ago, but the demonstrations of the growth of the idea are unmistakable.

As to this country, while the form of single tax activity has changed, there are good reasons for believing that the change has been inevitable and beneficial, and that the growth of the movement, though not loud, and not so rapid as many of its adherents believed it would be, has been steady. This seems to me to be apparent in occasional conventions, like the recent meeting, for example, of the International Typographical union. But I base my belief mainly upon personal observation in different parts of the country. In every community where the single tax has been made known, there are people, generally quiet and thoughtful, who are as fixed in their judgment of the justice and practicability of the single tax as are the more active workers. I am sure that the number of such as these is much larger than is supposed. It has been too much the custom of more aggressive adherents to take no account of them. But they exist nevertheless. That they do not work directly for the movement is mainly due to disposition.

They do not hide their belief; they simply are not aggressive in preaching their economic or political beliefs any more than in preaching their religious beliefs.

Again, there are single taxers who are working in indirect ways, as earnestly and persistently as ever the first enthusiasts worked directly. Any one who is maintaining and teaching the essential principles of real democracy, is helping to pave the way. Wherever work is being done for equalization of assessments, for higher assessment of unimproved property, for separate assessment of land and improvements, for local taxation, it is a step in the right direction; and it will generally be found that single taxers are at the bottom of the agitation. The single tax may not be mentioned, but it is no less in the thought of the workers. And there are many engaged in these lines of immediate improvement who have not proclaimed themselves single taxers, and yet are such at heart.

It is not surprising that Tolstoy and others should have fallen into the error of supposing that there has been a lapse in single tax progress. For, in addition to the reasons given above showing, to some extent, why the movement has been less loudly pronounced, there is truth in what Count Tolstoy himself says, that there is an inclination to hush it up. There are certainly some who, as he says in the letter, "use all possible means to conceal from themselves and others the truth which is disclosing itself more and more clearly."

J. H. DILLARD.

MAYOR JOHNSON'S WAY.

CLEVELAND AS THE "BEST GOVERNED CITY."

"Nothing in a city adds so much to the comfort and health of the inhabitants as clean streets. Johnson certainly has succeeded in cleaning and in keeping things clean and he will find that it is a very great vote-getter. What do the great majority of the people care about fads, isms and such like if they have good government, no boodling and the streets cleaned up." The speaker was a Republican who has never voted for Johnson, but who declared that he is going to do so this year.

He further said: "I keep a horse and have occasion to do a good deal of driving. I remember what sort of streets we used to have and how there was a constant complaint that there was no money available to keep the filth out of the streets. There are no excuses now but the streets are really clean. People do like results a great deal better than

excuses. I was driving with a friend the other day who lives in a city a long ways from here. He remarked about the cleanliness of the streets, and said that he supposed this comes from the fact that Cleveland 'has the best mayor in the United States,' and I told him it was undoubtedly from that cause."

It is little realized what a wide reputation that article by "Link Steffens," as the Governor calls him, has had on the country. But the greatest effect is right here in Cleveland. Don't imagine for a minute that the ordinary citizen does not like to live in the "best governed" city. Don't get it into your head that there is not a swelling pride when other people come here and say that Cleveland is "best governed." Does any one imagine that it is not worth thousands of votes for the Mayor, so long as he continues to do well and wants to be Mayor?—Cleveland Recorder of Aug. 30.

THE MAYOR WON'T GIVE GRAFT.

A committee representing an organization which is making arrangements for a picnic called on Mayor Johnson yesterday.

"Of course you know I am a candidate for mayor," said Mr. Johnson.

"Certainly, that is why we called. We are visiting all candidates. Here is the result of our visit." And a book detailing names of subscribers and the amount given was produced.

"Hem," said the Mayor glancing over it. "A great many Republicans and some Democrats, too. That is good for you, but bad for the interests of the people.

"You know I have a rule that when I am a candidate for office I make no contributions of any sort whatever. Neither do I buy any tickets, no matter how worthy the cause. This has been my policy ever since I have been in politics. It is my policy now, and while I would like to take some tickets I cannot do so while I am before the people of this city as a candidate for the highest office in their gift. I am very sorry that any Democratic candidates took any.

"Boys, I will go to your picnic if you desire, but I cannot buy any of your tickets or give you a contribution."

An invitation to attend the picnic was promptly extended and the Mayor said he would go.

"That is a rule that will not be broken," said the Mayor afterwards. "Of course, I may be bothered for a short time, but the people will stop coming to me when they find it to be a waste of time to apply. Some time ago you know the Republican committee proposed formal action to put a stop to

the working of the 'graft' against candidates. My advice then was that they would encounter little difficulty if they adopted a rule refusing money to anyone."—Cleveland Plain Dealer of Aug. 31.

THE LONDON TIMES AND TOLSTOY.

An editorial in the London Times of August 1, the issue in which appeared the letter from Leo Tolstoy which was reprinted in full in The Public of August 19.

We print to-day a long and characteristic communication from Count Leo Tolstoy. It is entitled "A Great Iniquity," and deals with what the writer regards as "the chief evil from which the whole of the Russian people are unceasingly and cruelly suffering . . . the fact that the majority of the people are deprived of the indisputable natural right of every man to use a portion of the land on which he was born." We shall not be suspected of a sudden conversion to the doctrine of land nationalization because we have thought it right to accord the hospitality of our columns to a discussion of the great economic problem of Russia by one of the most eminent of living Russians. That the agrarian question lies at the root of nearly all the internal troubles of Russia is not to be disputed, nor can it be doubted that any contribution towards its solution by so eminent and influential a writer as Count Tolstoy may have, for good or for evil, very far-reaching effects in the present critical state of affairs. But the line of argument pursued by Count Tolstoy will carry little conviction to western thinkers, and is even calculated to alienate their sympathies altogether. It is not, in our judgment, by a crude reproduction of the belated and exploded theories of the late Henry George that agrarian salvation can be wrought in Russia or elsewhere, and it is almost enough to make reasonable men despair of the regeneration of the Russian people to find that such a man as Count Tolstoy has no better and no truer gospel to preach to them than this.

A CLAIRVOYANT'S TRANSLATION OF THE FOREGOING EDITORIAL.

In another column of to-day's issue will be found a long letter by Count Leo Tolstoy. The fact that the writer is a man of world-wide reputation, and especially that he is a member of the Russian aristocracy, accounts for the insertion of the letter, which otherwise would certainly have found its way into our waste-paper basket. For its appearance he owes thanks to the