

(The following letter is from a Texan, a newspaper man, and one who is favorably known for his work in behalf of the single tax. In view of the recent vote for the single tax in the House of Commons which was defeated by a narrow majority of thirteen, we are able to appreciate how closely Mr. Fitzgerald's optimism is "founded on fact.")

I have seen all of Europe that I shall ever care to see again. Not that Nature has not been lavish in her gifts to men even in that quarter of the world, for she has been very kind to them, and there is much to be seen there, but the gifts and the things to be seen are the property of the very few and the poverty of the many is appalling. No one can know it only he who has seen and partly experienced it. I have trod the ground that Henry George trod twenty years ago, but I saw things that George never saw—things that, perhaps, were hidden from his ken. George never visited a "Model lodging house" or a "spike" in the winter time as I have done, and he never saw the true depths of degradation to which man has fallen in the British Isles.

Poverty there is so general and acute that extreme cases of destitution excite no comment whatever. There are no *extreme* cases of poverty to record; the whole social situation is extreme. Extreme cases of poverty are not the exception, but the everlasting rule, and it is impossible to exaggerate the situation, and summer and winter are all one to that tenth of the population which is said to be and is, hopelessly "submerged." In November there were 20,000 school children in the east end of London going to school every day with "noffink for dinner" in their dinner baskets. The London *Daily News* said the children must be fed and clothed and it immediately opened its columns for subscriptions to save the little ones. The Tory papers call the London *Daily News* a "Radical organ," but it can intelligently discuss the single tax. Strange how every man who is "for men," who loves his fellowman, should be called a "radical." I am glad to be a radical.

You would like to know, no doubt, how "the cause" is progressing on the other side. It is progressing wonderfully, smoothly and without the least friction from within. The single tax finds its great support among the business and mercantile class and an intelligent conception of the fundamental principle of single taxism—freedom of opportunity—is held by them. The question is thrust upon them there and they meet it at every turn in the economic highway. They couldn't avoid it if they would. It confronts them eternally, and their conception of the aims and purposes of the single tax couldn't escape their intelligence without insulting it, and the consequence

is that "business" and "commercial" England and Scotland are for the single tax. When the United States have traveled as far along the road of Progress and Poverty that Britain has traveled, they will be for the single tax, too. And for that day we must be found waiting.

JAMES FITZGERALD.

We regret to chronicle the death of James T. Barnard, of Hamilton, Ont., a leading single taxer of the dominion. Mr. Barnard was well to do, and was far and favorably known to the Canadian workers in the cause. His death leaves a vacancy not easy to fill.

The New York *Times* having referred to Mr. Louis F. Post as a socialist, Mr. Daniel Cavanagh, of this city, took the trouble to write a letter to the editor, calling his attention to this error. The *Times* did not publish the letter, but sent to Mr. Cavanagh the following explanation. It will be remembered that the *Times* once referred editorially to the single tax as the "ideal system" of taxation, but this was just on the completion of its present building, when the tax assessors swept down upon it, and demanded a slice of its value. Its opinion of the "ideal system" has undergone a change since that time. Following is the letter to Mr. Cavanagh:

DEAR SIR:—As you have doubtless noticed, we have already printed a letter setting Mr. Post and his views straight and that, we think, makes it somewhat needless to print your own very interesting letter on the same subject.

As to the plea for a single tax, we have printed very many columns and your letter on that subject, and the portion of your letter referring to that subject hardly, we think, adds to what has already appeared.

It is a pleasant picture you present of having all the vacant lots built on, and it would be doubtless extremely interesting to see all the dwellers from Avenue A moving en masse and occupying lots facing on Central Park and other desirable locations; but if all the lots in the City of New York were built upon, they would house several times the number of people who now live within the confines of the city.

We presume that somebody or another would be willing to pay the owners of the property for the loss they sustain in having no tenants for their beautiful new buildings, although that point does not seem to be made clear in your letter.

Respectfully,
The New York *Times*.

To this letter Mr. Cavanagh replied: