

PERIODICALS

In the Arms of the Steel Trust.

The Survey of January 6 offers a symposium study of the city of Birmingham, Alabama, type of The New South and example of a great municipal opportunity lost. Exceedingly rich in natural resources, iron ore, coal, limestone—all the makings of steel—the city in its mere forty years of life has grown to be one of the great industrial centers of the South. Yet, begun and built after our older cities had learned many lessons of town-planning and town-keeping, Birmingham is today municipally unkempt and poor. Greatly lacking in public improvements, in civic enterprise, in modern homes and worthy citizenship, she lies among her beautiful hills, a murky pattern of an industrially exploited town. The Survey writers point dutifully to signs of regeneration. But the reader learns that here is the home of Morgan's panic pill, the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company, and the reader's prognosis is bad.

A. L. G.



Statehood for Porto Rico.

"Pica-Pica," a weekly paper published at San Juan, Porto Rico, by Luis Brau, prints in its issue of January 6 a protest signed "Amargo" (Bitter) against the recommendation of Secretary of War Stimson that Congress change the laws governing that island. It is argued that he is not correctly informed as to the exact condition of affairs nor of the sentiment of the people there relative to their control by this country. The present laws inflict many hardships but allow some measure of home rule in way of electing judges, control of sanitation and civil service. They would lose these advantages under the proposed new law. The Secretary of War declares there is no appreciable sentiment in the United States or in Porto Rico that the final status of the island should be that of a Federal state, but that there is an almost universal sentiment on the part of Porto Ricans that they be given American citizenship, and this because of their firm loyalty to the United States. These statements the writer declares are erroneous. Statehood for the island is urged by both the Republican and Unionist parties, hoping as a Federal State they will gain greater independence. There is no feeling of loyalty among the Porto Ricans for the United States; they merely recognize their weakness and ask for citizenship that it may at least have some standing in the eyes of the world, for at present they are practically without a country.

C. L. LOGAN.



The Spanish Singletaxer.

The first number of Impuesto Unico (The Singletaxer) has been received. It is a well printed, sixteen page paper, published at the Imprinta Rondena, Plaza del Ayuntamiento, Ronda, Spain. The annual subscription is \$1.25; single copy, 10 cents, Spanish money. This Spanish Singletaxer begins with a "manifesto" introduction as follows: "The movement for social justice by the system formulated and

advocated by the immortal economist, Henry George, is advancing so rapidly throughout the world that it appears to us that the time has arrived for our nation to arouse itself from its traditional lethargy, and enter the lists for the defeat of privilege and the establishment of economic equality. Knowing that this cannot be done by the formation of parties, nor by revolutions, but only by active and persistent propaganda of these ideas until they become of general knowledge, then by popular demand for their adoption by legislative bodies, we make a public appeal to all those who, seeing the vice and misery resulting from the iniquitous distribution of wealth through privilege, feel the possibility of a more elevated social state, and desire to strive for its attainment." Extracts from "The Condition of Labor," by Henry George, on "the rights of all to the use of the earth," are quoted, and have been adopted as the creed of the Spanish League for the Singletax. The constitution and objects of the league are fully outlined in other articles. There is a translation from "Land Values" of London, of an address on the study of "Progress and Poverty," by Mr. Wm. Cassels of Glasgow, and there are several other interesting articles on singletax subjects. News articles on the advance of the movement throughout the world are well worked up. The paper will compare favorably with any other singletax periodical.

C. L. LOGAN.



The French Single Tax Review.

Owing to the difficulty of receiving mail while travelling, the sixth and seventh numbers of La Revue de L'Impot Unique, comprising the December and January installments, did not reach the writer until he arrived in Paris early in January, when he had the privilege of meeting M. and Mme. Darien, whose felicitous collaboration gives their review the wide outlook which readers of The Public have learned to value. A series of articles, contributed by Mme. Darien and beginning in the December issue, sets forth the importance of the land question in the struggle for the emancipation of woman. Coming at a time when the woman suffrage campaign is approaching an active stage in France, her arguments can scarcely fail to bear fruit. Olive Schreiner perceived that "behind the phenomenon of female parasitism has always lain another and yet larger phenomenon," which has been preceded "by the subjugation of large bodies of other human creatures, either as slaves, subject races or classes." "Free trade in labor and equality of training, intellectual and physical," she declared, "is essential if the organic aptitudes of a sex or class are to be determined." And she demanded that natural conditions should determine the labors of each individual, instead of artificial restrictions. The underlying principle, which she failed clearly to perceive, is revealed by the articles in question. In the spirit of the editor of the Liberator, who assured the defenders of slavery that he would be "as harsh as truth and as uncompromising as justice," M. Darien expresses a whole-souled abhorrence of the present industrial slavery which is no less real for being subtle and indirect. His characterization of Single Tax periodicals in England and America may be applied with equal force to his own publication. "Always di-

rected with the greatest care, often with uncommon power and ability, filled with profound thoughts and constantly presenting new horizons to their readers, they are above all remarkable for the power of their dialectic and for the irrefutable logic upon which all their arguments are based." Signs are not wanting of an increasing discontent with a government more deeply involved each day in the difficulties engendered by false economic conceptions. Even the casual traveller through "la belle France" is struck by the misery caused by merciless taxation, the outward barriers of trade being reinforced at the gates of every town by the mediaeval octroi system. Malthus himself could not accuse the country which stands aghast at its diminishing population of suffering from excess of numbers, and yet poverty is everywhere visible. The opening of the new year has been signalized by disorders which spring naturally from poverty and governmental demoralization. The daily press is loaded with accounts of violence actuated by misery, and of recurring accidents on the state railways. At such a juncture, when "times are ripe and rotten ripe for change," who can estimate the value of the propaganda courageously undertaken by *La Revue de L'Impot Unique*? The announcement in the December number that public meetings would be held twice a month in Paris is followed in the January issue by encouraging reports of good attendance and lively interest in the discussion.

F. W. GARRISON.

William Marion Reedy, commenting upon the French Single Tax Review, with the same high opinion of the magazine as The Public's reviewers have expressed, says in *The Mirror* (St. Louis) of January 6: "Henry George himself was the greatest master of clear statement who ever wrote upon economic subjects, at least in our English speech. But even his clarity seems heightened by putting his ideas into French, which is so devoid of ambiguity and so well adapted to the logical development of philosophical conceptions. Georges Darien is familiar with the writings of the Physiocrats of the eighteenth century, and he is always glad to point out to his countrymen that the great American, Henry George, was in the line of descent, intellectually, from De Quesnay, Turgot, Mirabeau and Du Pont de Nemours. Those men were on the right track before the outbreak of the tremendous Revolution of 1789, and the five succeeding years, convulsed France and enthroned violence for such a long and a terrible period. M. Darien like many other distinguished students of history and politics, believes that the French Revolution actually retarded the progress of enlightening the minds of men and, so to speak, put reason out of court for nearly a century. The Physiocrats appreciated the importance of the land question and were approaching a practical solution of it when the Revolution drove men into courses of fury and madness which, with the reaction they produced, almost ruined France and seriously injured the whole fabric of civilization. M. Darien makes no attempt to deprive Henry George of any of the credit he so richly deserves. On the contrary, the Frenchman is an enthusiastic disciple of the American, but M. Darien understands the

value of attaching any propaganda to a national tradition, or to a school of literature which once flourished in the country in which the propaganda is being introduced. So he wisely seeks to create interest in the single tax by showing that it is a logical development of the ideas of the Physiocrats and that De Quesnay and Turgot were the forerunners of Henry George."



Editor: "See here! You didn't send us in a single word on the burning of the city of Wangdoodle, one of the biggest stories of the war."

War Correspondent: "Of course I didn't. Didn't I set it myself in order to attract the attention of the other correspondents so I could beat them to the telegraph office and give you the 'scoop' on that skirmish by the Tzegang River!"—Puck.



A sightseeing visitor recently went aboard a tramp steamer in the harbor. Noting that the deck-hands were Chinese, she approached one of them and said: "You no speak English?" The Chinaman looked bored and answered nothing. The woman continued: "Me go your country soon. Me learn speak Chinese."

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

A small advertisement in The Public is the most inexpensive and effective way of reaching the members of Single Tax Clubs and of democratic organizations generally. Notices of meetings for insertion can be received up to noon on Monday preceding day of issue (Friday).

THE PUBLIC, Ellsworth Bldg., Chicago.

THE CHICAGO SINGLE TAX CLUB meets on the 26th at 8:00 P. M., at 508 Schiller Bldg.

Speaker, MR. H. L. T. TIDEMAN

Subject: "PROGRESS; WHO GETS THE BENEFIT"
EVERYONE IS WELCOME

THOSE who wish to become members of THE CLEVELAND SINGLE TAX CLUB are invited to send their names and addresses to the Sec.-Treas., MARTIN F. MCCARTHY, 1464 E. 111th Street, CLEVELAND, OHIO. There are no dues or other obligations. The Club has luncheon every Thursday, 12 to 2, at Weber's, opposite Post Office.

Youngstown, Ohio. A meeting of Single Taxers and other progressives will be held at 15 So. Hazel St., Sunday, January 28, at 2:00 p. m. You will be welcome.

File The Public

A special Filing Binder for The Public costs only 75c.

Start your file with the issue of January 5.

The Public, Ellsworth Bldg., Chicago