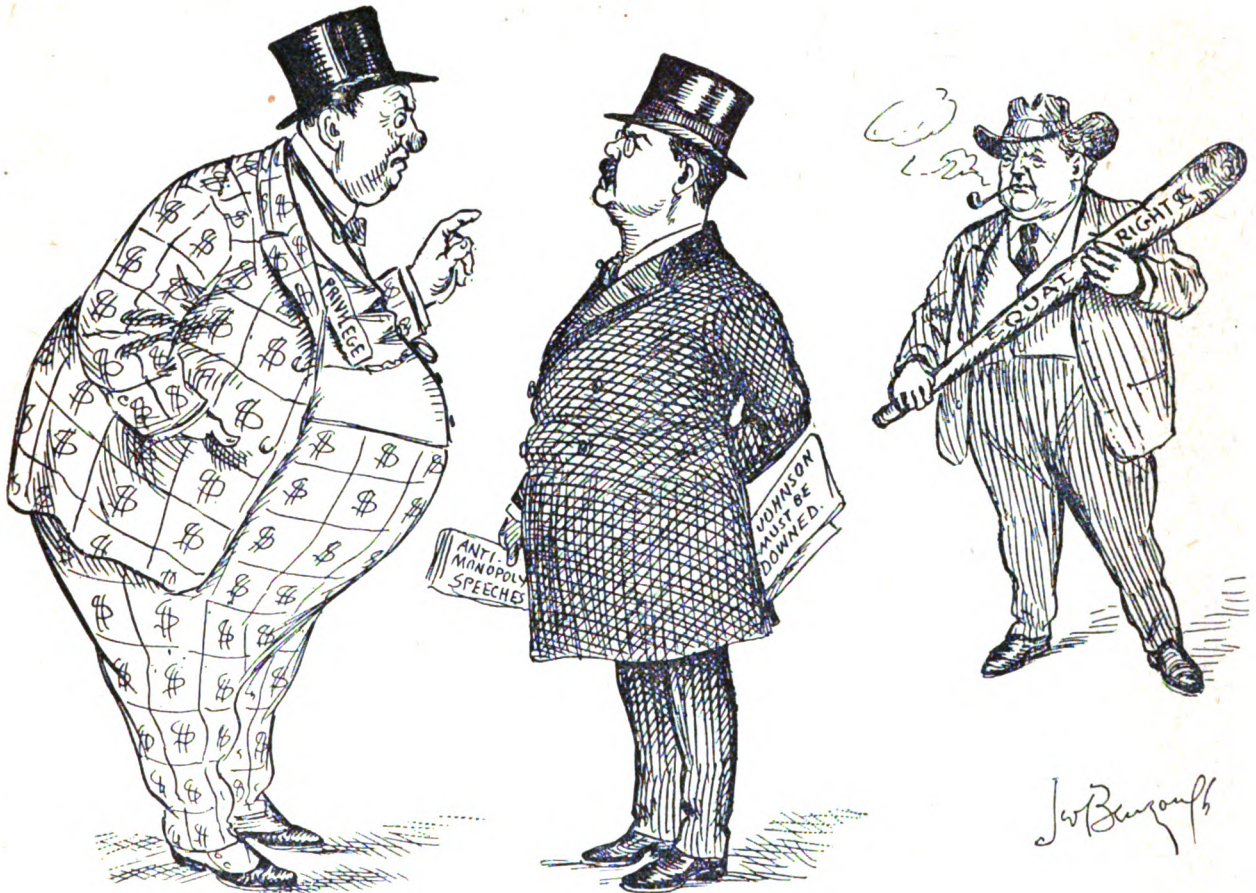


The Same Old Theodore.

Under the title of "All the Difference," this cartoon by J. W. Bengough who is now campaigning for land value taxation in Oregon, was published in The Public of November 2, 1907, at the time when Theodore Roosevelt was using his official influence as President of the United States to defeat Tom L. Johnson for re-election as Mayor of Cleveland.



Roosevelt: "But why should you hate and fear Johnson more than me? I'm fighting you, just as he is!"

Privilege: "Ah, but, confound him, he really means it, you see!"

taxes, and assessments, so that the question "Would the single tax be enough?" might be answered by saying that it would be the sum of all present taxes plus what the land-owner takes.

This is most important and should be further discussed and elaborated.

BOLTON HALL.

PERIODICALS

Judge McGee on the Singletax.

Levi McGee, with practiced hand, writes a brief explanation of the Singletax for the October number of "The Flaming Sword" (Rapid City, South Dakota). Such essays, simple, correct and non-controversial, are needed in the full bloom, no less than in the budding, or a great reform movement. Old reform-

ers do well to remember that to the youth every reform is young.

A. L. G.



The French Singletax Review.

The leading article in "La Revue de L'Impot Unique" for October deals with coöperation and quotes at length the arguments of Henry George to show how the present land system would make it impossible for coöperation to achieve the general improvement at which it aims. On October 4th the French Singletax League held a meeting in Paris which was addressed by Josiah C. Wedgwood, M. P., whose letter to the "Manchester Guardian" setting forth the objections to land nationalization, is reproduced in the current issue of the Review. An article on Albert Maximilien Toubreau (with an excellent portrait) adds a link to the history of the Singletax movement. Toubreau, a Belgian, born in 1836, was

deeply impressed with the need of establishing a national land system in order to abolish poverty. His independent thought having led him towards the conclusions which were reached by Henry George in "Progress and Poverty," he became an enthusiastic advocate of the Singletax and was active in forming the agricultural congress which was held in Paris during the Exposition of 1889, and in which George took part. Toubeau's effective labors in the common cause were cut short by his untimely death in 1890 at the age of 53 years. A review of an essay by Ernest Maspuy,* a French accountant, reveals another mind at work in France on the stimulating theme of economic justice. To his trained mind the fiscal confusion into which governments plunge, results from their not seeking a fundamental basis for taxation. "They do not hesitate to embark on the most diverse and incoherent systems. Sometimes they accept more or less dubious evidences of wealth which they take at random as a base for their exactions; sometimes they employ the time-honored method of the highwayman and ransom travelers and merchants by means of national and local tariffs which they have the audacity and the ineptitude to propose as an improvement on the natural conditions of commerce and industry. At other times, by taxing alcohol, tobacco, etc., they attempt to lessen our temptations; and there are those who advocate taxes which shall induce bachelors to marry and married men to have children!" Such is the ridiculous outcome of the belief that governments can create justice and truth by edict. Visionaries and self-seekers are encouraged to hope for the attainment of this end by adding another page to the statute book. "The solution of social problems does not call for the transcendent genius of statesmen and professional reformers. It depends simply upon the initiative of citizens, using the elementary common sense which is the possession of all."

F. W. GARRISON.

Will Maupin's "Midwest."

With its issue of October 25th that bright and genuinely democratic periodical of Lincoln, Nebraska, "Will Maupin's Weekly," merges in "Midwest" (Lincoln, Nebraska), a monthly magazine of standard size and representative of the State of Nebraska. Mr. Maupin explains that he had "Midwest" in mind when he started his weekly, and that the weekly was begun merely as a forerunner of the larger and more expensive publication, the time for launching which he believes to be now ripe.

Culture in Eclipse.

E. Benjamin Andrews in the October number of the International Journal of Ethics (Philadelphia) deplores the present "Decline of Culture": "There is a falling off in men's desire to procure and promote the things of the mind, less thought than once of ideals, less enthusiasm for the true, the beautiful, and the good, less submission to these. . . . In this age so rich in invention everything breeds uniformity. . . . The ponderous paving rollers of industrial-

ism, bureaucracy, and fashion pass over society, crushing out originality and flattening individuals into specimens. . . . Everywhere specializing breeds pettiness. . . . There is wide remission of enthusiasm for humanity. Few think it articulately; fewer avow it; but very many are in fact now cherishing a notion quite akin to that of slavery's advocates before the Civil War, that God has organized society aristocratically, the multitude being ordained to live ignorant, poor, in servitude to the elect."

For this grievous degeneration, Dr. Andrews gives four co-operating causes: (1) "The country's astounding growth in wealth" joined with "the disappearance of free arable." (2) "The spread of communistic socialism"—which admittedly "is going to mean out-and-out equality of income among all the adult members of society, from hod-carriers and stone-breakers up to the rarest artists, jurists, authors and professional men." (3) "Bad theory and practice in education." "Ethical training is neglected," "the cry for shorter courses that young people may begin work earlier in life" is "pestilential," and the mere imparting of information has displaced the "instruction that sets on fire, consumes and recreates the pupil." (4) "Depressing views of the world, life, and man"—with which the Darwinian biological hedonism has much to do. The author's analysis is thought-provoking, and—just "provoking." Little, plain questions intrude on the simple reader's mind, and go tantalizingly unanswered.

Were the many rich and the few poor, where would be the popularity of the communist's "equal distribution of wealth"? Were school and youth relieved from poverty, and Business bereft of Privilege, would there arise this cry for a short and "practical" education? Were human lives less cheap, could racial life seem purposeless?

A. L. G.

"Senator," said the new reporter, "may I ask what you think of the political situation?"

The distinguished statesman reflected a moment. "I presume," he said, "you do not wish me to ex-

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STANLEY BOWMAR,
Manager.

*See *Public* of October 11, page 979, for review of this essay.