

That's one reason the people of Edmonton and Calgary own their street car lines. They seem to have some prejudice against private monopoly; and their experience with public ownership shows that it does pay, not only in money, but in morals. Their public utilities have never spent a dollar to corrupt municipal politics.

You may not believe it, but Calgary and Edmonton don't know what it means to have a street car company delegate in a municipal convention or meeting of any kind—which shows how easily people can get along without the actual necessities of life if they have never had them.

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Calgary has 40,000 people. Its first street car was run July 1, 1909, and at the end of the first six months the system showed a surplus of \$6,944.08; not only showed it, but had it.

In the next twelve months, which ended December 31, 1910, the net surplus was \$33,315.28, after the municipal government had put away out of the earnings a reserve of \$9,370.55, paid to the general fund \$22,500, and put into a contingent fund to cover depreciation of plant, etc., \$10,634.07. So you see how the people of Calgary are squandering money on a "fad."

Yet when I asked a conservative business man in Calgary if there were any sentiment in favor of private ownership of the street car system—of selling it to a private corporation—he replied: "Why, no one here would suggest such a thing. We are being gouged by private ownership of the Canadian Pacific, and that's enough."

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For its 18 miles of double track, 18 cars and all other things the city of Calgary invested \$516,000 in its street railway plant, and the total earnings to December 31, 1910, were \$214,778.44; that for the first eighteen months, and the earnings went right back to the people. That's the reason public ownership doesn't pay the would-be private monopolist.

"But see how the people are bonded!" a street car monopolist would exclaim. "They are loaded down with a debt of almost \$13 per capita for their 'fad.'" But are not the stocks and bonds of a private monopoly a load upon the people? Do the private monopolists pay the principal and dividends and interest out of their own pockets? And would "private capital"—which in this case means private monopoly—have been content to stock and bond the street car system of Calgary at only \$516,000? Ever hear of street car monopolists capitalizing a first-class system at only \$28,-

667 a mile? Wouldn't they add \$71,333 a mile just to make it "even" and look more business-like, thus "capitalizing" the permit given by the people for the use of the streets? And then wouldn't they say that they shouldn't be taxed on the franchise "because it isn't worth anything"?

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The people of Edmonton and Calgary have in operation a plan by which they avoid the payment of something for nothing to private monopolists, and at the same time avoid incessant meddling in municipal politics by professional corruptionists.

W. G. EGGLESTON.

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## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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### CONGRESSMAN GEORGE IN IDAHO.

Boise, Idaho, Feb. 22.

Another step toward the realization of the single tax may be credited to the State of Idaho. The Senate wing of the legislature now in session yesterday unanimously passed a bill to exempt \$200 of improvements from taxation, and the House wing is expected to act similarly. Hon. Dow Dunning, member of the House from Owyhee county, the father of the bill, looks for much single tax progress in the State during the next few years. He counts four out-and-out single taxers in the Republican legislature, and a majority of the members of both branches ready to make advances of some kind. The Democratic Governor, James E. Hawley, is by his own statement to me, "more than ninety per cent a single taxer."

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I came to the capital city of Idaho under the lecture management of F. H. Monroe of the Henry George Lecture Association, and have made six addresses. The most important was in the Pinney Theater, and the subject "The Single Tax." The next in importance was in the House chamber at the capitol, before a joint meeting of the two wings of the legislature, the subject there being "Direct Legislation." A large part of the members of House and Senate attended the single tax lecture and, judging from the applause, were not frightened by the most radical sentiment. Mr. Floed, the Governor's secretary, presided, and spoke as one fully in the faith.

The address before the legislature was in support of measures for the Initiative, Referendum and Recall, introduced by House Member Dunning. They are with him only means to single tax ends. He calls himself a farmer, and he does work a little Idaho irrigated farm. Among other things, he raises some of the finest apples I ever saw.

When he first went to the legislature two years ago he was regarded as a "fool farmer" and a "crank." He had had little or no public-speaking experience and had stage fright for almost half the session. But at last, driven to desperation by the heresies uttered and the things done on the legislative

door, he forgot his timidity and mixed up in debate. His first attempts to speak were regarded somewhat as jokes, and his statements were challenged; but he was so prompt with proofs that he was mighty soon taken seriously. Then came his turn. With keenest sense of humor, but utmost outward gravity, he'd seek chances to read to the chamber appropriate passages of Adam Smith, John Stewart Mill, "Progress and Poverty," and The Public. He might call himself a farmer, but his quotations and his general stock of information, together with his facility in stating his case, caused him to be regarded as a man who was not to be trifled with, but on the contrary treated with the respect due his ability and transparent sincerity.

In Owyhee County, one of the largest in this large State, Dow Dunning has been farming and ranching for more than thirty years. The railroad, the sheep and the timber interests are strong there, as elsewhere in Idaho; but not strong enough to down Dow Dunning. And he is not a man to be crossed with impunity. The tale is told of him that in his earlier days he encountered a "bad man," who sought a quarrel with the obvious intention of having a pretense for killing him. Dunning was unarmed and realized his danger. Instead of quailing, however, he walked straight up to the bully and said: "I know what you are up to. You want to force me into a quarrel and have an excuse to kill me. Well, you might as well have your excuse at once." And with that, Dunning struck the other in the face. Instead of shooting, the bully backed away—awed by the cool courage of the unarmed man.

Dunning received his single tax education from a fellow farmer, who is also water commissioner, Robert B. Wilson of Emmet; and Wilson received his from G. M. Paulsen, now of Idaho but formerly of the Chicago Single Tax Club. These two men I met with Dunning in Boise. Dunning is a Republican—a Republican of the advanced stripe, as may be judged. In fact it is difficult to tell his politics from that of such an advanced Democrat as Judge K. I. Perky, and there are many here like him; while City Attorney Frank Kinyon, City Magistrate Willard White, and the Rev. H. L. Pickett of the Unitarian Church of Boise (whose wife is the talented Anita Truman Pickett), are among Dunning's intimates.

It should also be recorded that two of the most active workers for this brand of single-tax-Republican-Democracy in Idaho are Curtis F. Pike, a real estate agent in Boise, and Edward Stein, a large land owner in and about Boise.

HENRY GEORGE, JR.

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### ON THE TRAIL OF THE "BEGGAR KNIGHT."

Topeka, Feb. 26.

There is nothing but the most humiliating news to report regarding the political situation in Kansas. The Senate defeated the direct legislation amendment; the bill to submit it getting only 23 votes. This was two less than we had been confident it would receive. The arguments of Senators on the floor in behalf of submitting it, lacked force and faith, and from this resulted much confidence on the part of the distinguished attorneys who were

opposing it. They blossomed out in a regular flower garden of skilfully worded distrust of the people, and dread of what would result to the temperance and morals of the citizens of Kansas if they were placed in the position which it is fair to presume was the one in the minds of the men who conceived the ideal of American government.

To listen to the effusions of those attorneys, and to note the complete uselessness of logic, was indeed a punishment for a pure democrat. And it was one which is deserved too, I regret to say. What have we done to show the folks in Kansas who labor 10 or 12 hours a day in order to sustain life, the fundamental principle of direct legislation? For another two years privileged business is safe. I hope that the whip this really is to some of us, may urge us to organize to prevent such another fiasco.

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Have you noticed the diplomatic ease with which a child can turn the conversation from a subject that reflects upon his conduct, to one that has an entrancing interest both for himself and his mentor? In this I find that I can pattern my conduct after the example of those eminent professors, those educators unsurpassed, the children.

I have been drunk, blind drunk, and I have been glad of it, too, for the last two days. And the joy of it is that today, instead of the headache customary after such orgies, I am the possessor of a head comforted by a memory that will never die. There is no ache to me; the air is redolent with confident hope, based upon most encouraging facts.

Now the champagne in this case was Mr. Joseph Fels. I used before 1893 to have a very exalted opinion of Pomery Greno (extra sec.); I never have tasted it since then, but when someone else paid for it, it used to seem to me to be a very pretty nectar. Everything becomes pale and insipid, however, if you compare it with this remarkable and unturning man.

Through the very able efforts of a scholar, I have together with others got some sort of picture, right or wrong, of that remarkable Israelitish Prophet Elijah. It is indeed a great scene when Elijah calls to the prophets of Baal: "Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is on a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awakened." It is not a whit the less striking to see this man Fels, mounted upon a soap box, oblivious to everything but the principle of justice, without thought of the consequences,—as that expression is commonly used,—hold up to scorn the idols of personal property taxation, of income and inheritance taxation, of charitable giving, of orthodox religion, as remedies for the brutal poverty of a civilization whose progress in the industrial arts should make want unknown. It is good—even when he hits one—to see what a man can do, if he dare to be completely driven by Jehovah, by the natural laws of God.

I heard him at a supper of a New Era club; I heard him in the Jewish Temple of Kansas City; I heard him before the City Club, and I heard him before a charitable institution for looking after orphans. There was no change in a single item of his conduct. At all those places he recognized Jehovah alone; and in scorn he called upon us, asking