

*Editor Single Tax Review:*

There being no Single Tax party, Single Taxers may vote with parties favoring private ownership of land without incurring moral guilt. With a Single Tax party in existence Single Taxers, believing private ownership of land to be robbery and voting for political parties favoring such robbery, would incur "moral guilt."

Expediency is the political curse of the age. "Truth and Honor and Justice are great names, but don't treat them as other than names in politics. It is not expedient." "Don't denounce scandals in our own administration. It is not expedient." Don't nominate So and So for office—he is a good man, but has radical ideas, and his nomination would not be expedient at the time." So they go.

Men in this country who have believed in moral principle in politics have met with frequent defeat, but their names are a sweet savour in the mouths of decent men. Other men, political characters like Platt, Gorman, Quay and Hill, apostles of expediency always, have won many victories, but the sanitary condition of *their* reputations is much like the sanitary condition of Havana under Spanish rule.

The private appropriation of public values, enriching a small portion of the community at the expense of all the remainder, and the consequent robbing by Government of those already robbed by individuals under form of law, resulting, as they do, in hampered industry and decreased return to labor and capital, make it inevitable that public office, offering higher rewards than private business, will attract a certain class of men. And the dispensing of Governmental favors allowed by our laws make corruption certain. To imagine that parties ruled by politicians will be wise enough and good enough to enact into law the Single Tax, is to out-Haggard-Haggard.

For fifteen years we have played dogs to the Democratic party's Lazarus, and licked its many sores. It is time time to stop it. We have had our fill of "wise expediency" and "working along the line of (supposed) least resistance." I am afraid that here in New York we are priding ourselves on hoodwinking certain officials into favoring Single Tax measures.

Says Henry George, "The truth that I have tried to make clear will not find easy acceptance, \* \* \* but it will find friends; those who will toil for it, suffer for it, if need be, die for it." And expediency will not be in their dictionary.

The Single Tax is the Truth of God, and Truth marches, sometimes slowly, but always steadily forward. If ever she seems to halt or falter it is when her friends denounce "folly and fanaticism and become practical."

More power to your elbow, Mr. Weeks! This is Lowell's picture of a man who did not believe in expediency:

"He stood upon the world's broad threshold;  
wide  
The din of battle and of slaughter rose;  
He saw God stand upon the weaker side  
That sank in seeming loss before its foes;  
Many there were who made great haste and sold  
Unto the cunning enemy their swords;  
He scorned their gifts of fame and power and  
gold,  
And underneath their soft and flowery words,  
Heard the cold serpent hiss; therefore, he went  
And humbly joined him to the weaker part,  
Fanatic named, and fool, yet well content  
So he could be the nearer to God's heart,  
And feel its solemn pulses sending blood  
Through all the wide-spread veins of endless  
good.

Brooklyn.

WM. F. CAREY.

*Editor Single Tax Review:*

The question of Single Taxers ignoring the old political parties and organizing a party of their own, to act independently of all other political organizations, is certainly one of grave importance. Whatever is best for the progress and final triumph of our principles should be done. Every true Single Taxer must feel this in his heart of hearts, and I believe those who advocate either independence of, or affiliation with, the Democratic party are equally sincere in such advocacy.

I regard it as a two-sided question. Much can be said in favor of the proposition to "go it alone," and much also for upholding the policy of training with the Democracy at least a while longer. Perhaps I would feel more inclined to the affiliation policy if I had not witnessed so much of the rottenness and hypocrisy that permeates the Democratic party in California. The defeat of Hon. James G. Maguire, one of the ablest and purest of men, has not yet ceased to grate harshly on my memory. Five years ago the Democracy of California had the opportunity of its lifetime. Had it stuck to its principles and stood by the Jeffersonian Democrat who led the party of professed democracy in that campaign, he would have been elected Governor by a rousing majority. And not a principle advocated by the Judge in that campaign was in the slightest degree antagonistic to the purest Democracy. No true Democrat could object to the platform. As to the ticket, it was unexceptionable, also. Yet Maguire's opponent—a man utterly unfit for the office, and now known throughout the State as "the worst Governor California ever had"—was elected by a majority of over nineteen thousand!

In the light of such an experience I can not feel very enthusiastic in advocating the policy of sticking to the party calling itself Democratic. I mean so far as California is concerned.

However, it must be admitted that there are many thousands of true Democrats within the party bearing the name of Democracy, even in California, and many thousands more in other States. It is well known to all men familiar with political

methods in campaign times that a very few persons in the party, on either side, practically dominate the whole organization. There are many, very many, good, square-toed, Jeffersonian Democrats in every locality, who have not yet "seen the cat," as we Single Taxers call it, but who can, and eventually must, become as radical as we now are. We can lead them and educate them toward the whole truth, much more likely if we are within the same party with them, working shoulder to shoulder, than we could if we were organized in a much smaller crowd by ourselves. One of the shrewdest of all Single Taxers in California—a man who has made political methods a constant study for many years—is now, unknown to many persons here, doing preliminary work looking to the capturing of numerous precincts and wards in this city in the interests of a species of Democracy satisfactory to any and all of Henry George disciples. His plans, as outlined to me a few days ago, seem to be plausible, and I believe he can succeed. If one man can be instrumental in bringing about such a result in Los Angeles, similar work can be made successful in thousands of other places throughout the entire country which—in spite of Imperialism—we still call the United States of America.

For my own part I have no use, nor any large amount of love, for a man who pretends to be a Democrat and at the same time advocates a tariff, wars of conquest, monopoly in any form, or who can see anything desirable in the party now disgracing the name "Republican."

At all events, will it not be wise for us to work within the Democratic party through the coming momentous national campaign, all the time sticking to our principles and drumming them into the heads and hearts of all the voters we can reach? It is true we are not as numerous as the enemy is; but a comparative few armed with God's burning truth and inspired by an unquenchable love of justice, can accomplish anything they undertake short of an actual miracle.

These suggestions are offered for what they are worth, in compliance with an urgent request from the Editor of *THE REVIEW*. I love and honor every true Single Taxer doing the best he or she can do for the cause, regardless of any differences of opinion as to methods. We are all aiming at the triumph of our God-given principles. That is the inspiring motive of each and all. An experience of thirteen years of active effort in our great movement finds me more firm, confident and enthusiastic than when I first joined the ranks of Henry George disciples. May we all live to witness the triumph of what we know is the great need of the human race.

RALPH HOYT.

Los Angeles, Cal.

#### Editor *Single Tax Review* :

I want to give a bit of experience to show that taking separate party action would be ill advised. During the last ten years in our small hamlet, Trenton, we have had nine lectures on the Single Tax by four of its most noted exponents, besides protracted meetings, as they might be called, on the subject by some of its principal lights, held in nearby towns. We have figuratively inundated this region with Single Tax pamphlets and weeklies and had Teachers' and Farmers' Institutes in a state of uproar. But we have just one pronounced Single Taxer in this township and one in the adjoining. Counting all the strays and malcontents it would not be safe to bet on casting six votes in these townships or twenty-five votes all told in the county.

Last Fall, under the auspices of Tom L. Johnson, the Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow became the Democratic nominee for Secretary of State on the platform of Home Rule and Just Taxation. "On this issue we shall fight, and by this sign shall we conquer" was Johnson's opening thrust. Everybody in these parts already knew Rev. Bigelow as a radical, aggressive Single Taxer, and if anybody suspected Johnson of fighting under cover he was quickly righted by Johnson's open, public declaration: "All that I stand for in this campaign, and the moving spirit of everything I do as Mayor of Cleveland is to propagate the cause of the Single Tax enunciated by Henry George. The Republican press quoted and garbled "Progress and Poverty" without stint, but that caused never a visible sign of friction. When the polls closed on the first round of battle and where the Single Tax had been unusually agitated, Bigelow had about three-fourths of the entire vote, that being about the normal complexion.

This Summer we held our annual primaries, and in the adjoining township an old line Democrat was defeated ignominiously for central committeeman because last Fall he had been found in open alliance with the enemy against Bigelow. There was greater rejoicing over the defeat of this Bigelow bolter than that of any other candidate at the party primaries in the county.

The bolter was still owned by a beer faction, for it must be explained that in this county (Butler) long known as the Gibraltar of Democracy, the party was fast being torn asunder for want of any vital principle. A question of public policy hinged mainly on a preference for one or the other kind of brew, so that the dispenser of a certain Democratic brand was almost able to sell or trade any candidate and elect his Republican opponent. To the average politician Tom Johnson who, immediately on reentering the political arena at the other end of the State, turned Republican Cuyahoga into the Democratic banner county, is still a sort of puzzle. The outlook among the rank and file is more propitious. A new