

patible with the maintenance of good order, or with any obligations which you have wisely or hastily undertaken. All we require is a definite assurance of independence. Everything else can easily be arranged, and at one-tenth the cost of the present "wicked absurdity."

#### SENATOR BUCKLIN'S PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

It is impossible to overestimate the far-reaching effect, to the people of Colorado, of the question raised by Senator James W. Bucklin in his report on taxation, or even to foreshadow what its adoption would mean to the people of this country and to the civilized world.

This report has brought out, in a thorough and masterful way, the workings of the Australian land tax. Your distinguished citizen deserves great credit for having made the first complete investigation and report on the workings of this equitable revenue system.

He has exposed the errors of those who prophesied evil results that did not arise, and, what is more important, he has made plain how much the friends of the system underestimated its benefits.

With a land value tax that raises only a small part of the revenue in the four Australian colonies that have adopted the principle, large landed properties have been divided and sold to actual users, the building trade has been stimulated, and the population, without exception, has increased; while exactly the opposite result is apparent in each of the other three colonies adhering to the old methods.

It was the Australian secret ballot which found such universal and instantaneous favor with the people of the United States.

Why should not Colorado initiate the Australian land value tax as Massachusetts did the Australian secret ballot? One brought about a more just method of voting, the other will guarantee more equality of tax burdens. One made it possible for the plain people to express their judgment on all questions, free from intimidation; the other will enable the plain people to reach Nature's storehouse by breaking down monopoly and special privilege, the offspring of unjust taxation.

The adoption of the Australian land tax will make it more profitable to use land than to hold it until others must use it. It will be easier for men to find places on which to build homes

and factories and to acquire farms. It will make it harder for men to hold vacant lots, mineral deposits and great water privileges in idleness, thus opening opportunities by which men can employ themselves and not be forced, as now, to compete for a bare existence in what is an apparently overstocked labor market, but is in reality a market artificially restricted.

If Colorado is the first state to adopt this just system of taxation, the progress of her people in the production of wealth will be unsurpassed by any sister states and the tide of emigration and capital will set in her direction.

Colorado's great gain will be an object lesson to the people of other communities, who will find that the real solution of the labor problem and the trust and monopoly question is to be found in a just system of taxation that will relieve the producers from their present burden and put it where it justly belongs, as a charge on land owners, who not only appropriate the land value created by all, but in doing so restrict opportunities to such an extent that an idle horse seems of more value than an idle man.

People of Colorado! You have the chance not only to lift yourselves to a higher plain of justice, but to be a beacon light that shall point the way for others.—Hon. Tom L. Johnson, in the Denver Times of January 20.

#### THE FABLE OF THE WISE MAN AND THE FOOL.

With Apologies to George Ade.  
For The Public.

Once upon a time a Wise Man and a Fool dwelt happily together in the same Land. The Wise Man was a Paragon of public spirited Push, but the Fool was a self centered Poor Thing. So it happened that the Wise Man lay awake Nights thinking how he could Do the Fool—Good, while the Fool pursued his own selfish Ends all Day and spent the Hours of Darkness in slothful Slumber. And since Everything bringeth forth Fruit after its Kind, in the fertile and phosphoric Filaments of the Wise Man's Brain there budded and blossomed and ripened in all its Juiciness and Lusciousness a glorious and patriotic Scheme for the Betterment of the Fool. Then the Fervor of Inspiration filled the Wise Man with a warm Glow, and altho' the Hour was yet late and the Wise Man had not yet closed his Eyes—except to his own Interests—he struck his Hand upon his Knee and exclaimed: "It is borne in upon me with great Force that this Idea of mine is a good Thing."

Straightway, therefore, he hied himself to the Abode of the Fool, for in his Youth his Parents had taught him that the early Bird catches the Worm, and the Habit was strong upon him. He discovered the Fool asleep with his Head covered up with the Blankets and one Foot out of Bed in the Cold. He pulled the Fool by his other Leg with a quick Jerk that brought him up Standing, saying at the same Time: "Arise, thou Sluggard, and behold thy Benefactor."

The Fool heard the Voice but was forced to reply: "The Atmosphere is so Opaque that I can't see."

"Well, listen, then," said the Wise Man, "I am a Philanthropist and I love you better than I do myself, and I have a burning Desire to improve your Condition. I see that you do a great Injury to yourself by trading with the Foreign Devils who come Here in Ships. You buy your Clothes from Them and for that Reason Nobody makes Clothes Here. Hence there is no Market for the Wool that you grow; but if you would get a law passed to prohibit Them from bringing Clothes Here in Ships, I would build a Factory and buy your Wool at a high Price, because I would create a Market for It, and you would soon become a Rich Man."

The Fool smiled and thought: "This Philanthropist must be an Easy Mark, but that is None of my Funeral."

But he said aloud: "I should like to become a Rich Man, and you are a nice, kind Gentleman to show me How." And he went and did as the Wise Man had said.

When all these Things were accomplished Wool did indeed go up and the Fool had Money to burn, but he just grinned a Grin and went fishing, seeing which his Neighbors said among Themselves: "This is a Free Graft; let us raise some Wool and get Rich, too."

But when they did this the Price of Wool went down with a dull, sickening Thud, and there wasn't any Money in it any more. Therefore the Fool came back from his fishing Expedition and asked the Officeboy to see the Boss. He waited there two Days for an Interview to be accorded him.

"Who are you and What do you want?" said the Boss, whom the Fool recognized by his Voice as the Philanthropist, as he added: "This is my Busy-day; please get a Gait on."

"I merely came in to tell you that that Get-Rich-Quick-Scheme hasn't panned Out, and I don't want to prohibit myself buying Clothing cheap anymore. My Clothes cost me Twice