

## PRESS OPINIONS

### Singletax in Canada.

\* Reprint from St. John Standard in Berwick (Nova Scotia) Register, Feb. 15.—Whatever may be the merits or demerits of the Singletax in its local application, and we are likely to hear a good deal on this subject before we are much older, there can be no question that in the comparatively new communities of the west the operation of the tax is having an effect in compelling owners of vacant land either to sell or put it to use.



### Singletax in the District of Columbia.

The Johnstown (Pa.) Daily Democrat (dem. Dem.), Feb. 19.—Congressman Henry George, Jr., has introduced a bill "to provide for a complete method for the annual assessment and taxation of real property in the District of Columbia." It provides for the gradual introduction of the Singletax. Mr. George's measure will, if passed, make the holding of land in Washington out of use a more expensive luxury. Improving of land will not be punished as now by a fine in the shape of increased taxes. The holders of vacant lots will find it to their interest either to improve these lots themselves, or let others do so. Consequently, there will be more houses, more competition between owners for tenants and lower rents. It will be possible then for wage earners of Washington to secure decent living quarters on more reasonable terms. There will no longer be the necessity of living under slum conditions. There will furthermore be an increased demand for labor in the city, not only in the building trades, but in all other industries. The untaxing of labor will remove a burden that is crushing industry. All lines of business must necessarily flourish as never before. Besides this, Washington will offer a refuge to tax-burdened enterprises of Maryland, Virginia, and other States, unless these should be wise enough to untax labor also. Every Congressman should be urged to vote for Mr. George's bill.



### Mr. Shuster's Case.\*

(London) Daily News (Lib.), January 30.—The plain tale which Mr. Shuster told at the dinner given to him in London last night by the Persian Committee makes lamentable reading for this country. It is the story of a betrayal as flagrant as any on record, and in that betrayal England is deeply involved. Persia had long groaned under the heel of a corrupt and tyrannous despotism. At last, against overwhelming odds, the people threw off the yoke, drove out the oppressor, and established a form of constitutional government. It rested with the two great neighboring Powers, Great Britain and Russia, to give the infant democracy a reasonable chance of weathering the storm. If they had simply stood aside it would have been enough. But they did not stand aside. They solemnly covenanted to preserve the independence and integrity of the country. If that

promise had been carried out there would have been no Persian question today. Persia would have been firmly established as a constitutionally governed country. . . . Meanwhile, Russia has overrun Northern Persia with her troops. Martial law, merciless and murderous, is established. Yesterday we reported six more executions at Tabriz. The treasury is depleted. No money has been collected since Mr. Shuster was driven out, and Teheran is confronted with famine. It is a situation that fills one with despair and shame.

## RELATED THINGS

### CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

### TO ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE.\*

For The Public.

You are the idol of your green-hued State:  
Filled with a purpose that has known no pause,  
You still are champion of a People's cause!  
Through bitter years of conflict, early, late,  
You braved the foe, unmindful of your fate,  
That Privilege be banished from the laws;  
And though you won the multitude's applause,  
The Few heaped on you ridicule and hate.

La Follette! ours is still the ancient strife  
That Liberty has waged from time unknown  
Against Oppression in its changing guise;  
O lighten not the labor of your life!

Unto the greater tasks to which you've grown,  
Bring undiminished your brave enterprise!

CHARLES H. WINKE.



### "UNSKILLED LABOR."

For The Public.

A gang of Italian workmen are breaking up the pavement for repairs to the surface-car tracks, in one of the city's busiest streets.

They keep their many steel sledges whirling over their heads in impetuous assault upon the long chisels that their companions hold in place with the grip of their bare hands.

The sun glints dully on the rotating hammers, and the clank of metal on metal fills the street like an anvil chorus of lesser volume.

Every few minutes the men have to cease their activity, the chisel-holders withdraw their tools from the clefts, and all clear the track for a car that demands passage with warning gong, but the rear platform barely gives clearance to the sledges before they begin again their wheeling flight.

There is mingled fascination and dread in watching such a scene of labor with its display of almost superhuman accuracy.

\*As a result of energetic campaigning for democratic Republicanism, Senator La Follette has been ill at Washington for two weeks, but is reported to be on the road to recovery.—Editors of The Public.

\*See The Public of February 2, page 109.