

"Honestly concerned" they may be, but we credit too highly Mr. Gaston's intelligence to believe that *he* thinks there is anything fundamental or real about the principles of La Follette and his party. He knows better, and because the light has been given to him he is sinning against that light. Surely, there is a code of conduct in politics as well as in religion; surely there are canons of commonsense which should forbid a man aiding and abetting causes fundamentally at war with the beliefs he holds.

Mr. Gaston has been so brave a protagonist for principle, hazarding his personal fortunes in what twenty years ago was a project wholly in the experimental stage, that his argument as he presents it seems a little curious. There may be arguments against independent party action, as there are surely arguments in its favor, but Mr. Gaston has not indicated any of the former, and as for the latter, time and the early eclipse of the La Follette movement, will tell the story.

One thing more. We do not understand the advocates of party action as expecting success. The Single Tax movement is in the propaganda stage. Party action seems to them the best mode of propaganda. As Mr. Le Barron Goeller, noting the publicity he has gained for the cause since his nomination for Lieutenant governor, exclaims delightedly, "It is great advertising."

How Would Henry George Vote?

IF Henry George were here today, and he is truly present in spirit and in the abiding fruits of his great mind and dauntless courage, how would he vote at the coming Presidential election? No one who knew him can believe for a moment that he would endorse the present incumbent, advanced by accident after a long service as handy man for Senator W. Murray Crane, of Massachusetts, representative of the privileged interests and public service corporations. Nor would he support the counsel of big business and the Standard Oil Co., running on a platform of meaningless generalities and weasel words that mean anything or nothing as you may choose. And most decidedly he would not favor Senator La Follette. Henry George once voted for Grover Cleveland because he mistakenly believed that the assault on the thieving protective tariff would lead to a general attack on all crooked taxation and special privileges. Later he supported W. J. Bryan, believing that that eminent mouther of phrases was in reality a democrat, who would work for the restoration of the rights of which the American people have been robbed by class legislation. His experiences with these false alarms would have convinced him that there is absolutely nothing in the candidates or platforms of the three parties today to merit a vote from anyone who hopes to see established through constitutional methods the reign of industrial peace and social justice.

Coolidge and Davis are not worthy a paragraph. They are both eminently respectable tools of monopoly and privilege, neither of whom will do anything to lighten the burdens of the producers who by the alchemy of unjust laws are robbed of the larger part of the value of their product. Nor is there any real hope from La Follette. Though his record for forty years is open, and free from any proved charge of corruption, he, nevertheless, has not been granted the vision to see the source of all the economic evils that afflict mankind, nor the first great and sufficient remedy for them. Like so many millions of other would-be reformers, he denounces monopoly and privilege, without specifying the greatest monopoly of all, the control of the land on which all mankind must live, and out of which all wealth is produced. It is not enough that he is honest and courageous as his friends contend. More is required of him who would lead this people out of the house of bondage and set them free. He must know the right way out, and there is no evidence that La Follette has caught sight of the great truth that the way out is through the repeal of all class legislation, and the freeing of the land to all who wish to work upon it, by taking for public purposes the full economic rent of all desirable portions of the earth. As John Stuart Mill well said. "When the object is to improve the permanent condition of the people, small means do not merely accomplish small ends, they really accomplish nothing." No real and lasting reform in existing monopoly conditions can be brought about by the forces aligned behind Senator La Follette. A vote for him even as a protest against the two old political parties, is a vote wasted.

To Men and Women Who Write

ANYONE familiar with the books and magazine articles of thirty years ago will remember that a considerable percentage was devoted to the serious discussion of important social and economic problems. Following the publication and widespread circulation of Henry George's "Progress and Poverty" and "Social Problems" came various other books, such as "Looking Backward," in which an attempt was made to set forth plans for a better-ordered system of society that would abolish the strange inconsistency of vastly increased wealth production being accompanied by persistent poverty. There were magazines, such as *Arena*, devoted to the presentation of the blunders and defects of the existing social order, while other publications were opening their pages to writers who sought to mould public opinion so as to bring about the enactment of state and national legislation that would abolish monopoly and privilege, and establish harmony and justice in the industrial world. It was a period of optimism, when earnest men and women looked forward hopefully to the immediate