

a Socialist as well. That would have made of him an intellectual monster such as the world has not yet seen.

**T**HE discontinuance of the *Freeman* is announced. The last number will appear on March 5th. We regret its suspension. It will be missed for its admirable discussion of the Single Tax, its discriminating literary criticism, and its "English undefiled." But it deliberately courted the fate that has finally overtaken it. Ill-natured and censorious, it repelled those who would have been glad to welcome a journal of its independent and fearless character.

## The National Commonwealth Land Party Convention

**W**HATEVER may be the final outcome of the action taken by the Commonwealth Land Party Convention in disassociating the movement for Land Restoration—the real Henry George Doctrine—from other movements for tax exemptions, tax reductions, tax reforms, et al, it is certain that it clarifies our aims and lifts the standard out of the hands of those who, intentionally or otherwise, through ignorance or fear, or honestly from motives of mistaken expediency, would minimize the message.

We have no quarrel with those who are at work reforming our tax system in the direction of the goal that Henry George aimed at. But it is not our fight. If this process is hurried sufficiently it may save our civilization. We may not indeed get what we are after all at once. But we will get it sooner and more completely by openly avowing what we are striving for.

The trouble has been hitherto that all offers of compromise have come from Single Taxers—never from the other side. And this is inevitable since our attitude has been one of compromise. We have approached the powers "in forma pauperis," and we have got what beggars always get—crumbs, and usually not even those.

That day is forever ended. The party has done a great service to the cause which future historians of the movement writing of this period will note. Those who for reasons of necessity or predilection of one sort or another have not joined the party, will yet acknowledge the signal service it has rendered to the cause at this time.

And the advertising publicity is certain to be enormous. The metropolitan papers which have hardly mentioned the Single Tax in the last few years, featured the convention in notable headlines. The *New York Times* printed the salient parts of the platform; no paper here failed to give the two days convention adequate notice. News dispatches of the event appeared in every important paper of the country. A great news agency supplying material to over 600 western papers will feature the candidate's portrait with an account of his life and work. The local papers of Newark where Mr. Wallace lives gave long interviews with the candidate.

When the committee of notification visits Mr. Wallace his speech of acceptance will be radioed. Arrangements are under way to have this event reproduced on the screen in the moving picture theatres of the country.

And in addition to all this the executive committee of the party will print at once a half million copies of the platform to be placed in the hands of every newspaper editor, legislator, and file leader of opinion in the United States.

The opponents of the party must be prejudiced indeed not to realize that this wide and useful publicity can not be attained by any other method than independent political party action.

## A Tornado in a Teapot

**C**AT-A-CORNER from Cooper Union in New York City stands a monument which has received more votes as the most inartistic statue in the United States than any other within our ken. Having visited Statuary Hall in the Capitol and seen many soldiers' and sailors' memorials, we are doubtful whether it really deserves this bad preeminence. Many lines of surface cars pass the monument and the story goes that all the new motor men stop instinctively on coming near the statue, because they mistake the eloquent gesture of the bronze effigy as indicating a desire to board the car.

But the hero who is thus commemorated was a man of mark forty years ago, a Democrat in the days when the Democratic party professed opinions which made it distinguishable to the naked eye from its titular opponent. In those days it was possible to tell from policies themselves whether they were launched by Republicans or Democrats, something no longer possible. Samuel Sullivan Cox was a Congressman, an Ambassador, a free trader and the champion of the letter carriers. To the latter fact he owes the monument. He was moreover something of a wit, which seriously impeded his political preferment. His sense of humor was too acute for him to take the political hierarchy seriously. No one is more uncomfortable than an orthodox politician in the presence of a humorist. Though Cox never reached those pinnacles of fame to which his substantial qualifications entitled him, he said some things apt enough to be permanent contributions to our political criticism. For instance he made one statement in an argument for tax reduction which might be inscribed on the walls of all legislatures. "It is as easy to run a powder mill in hell as to keep an honest government with a surplus in the Treasury."

This was a primitive utterance which bears on its face all the marks of a simpler age, but it contains the germ of an idea now capable of universal application. As long as we maintain a system by which, in a quiet legal way, federal officers can turn over to individuals or corporations franchises or titles to land, which will enrich the recipients to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars, is