

and yet we hug to our bosoms the old economical delusions, traditions and institutions of a bygone age, and we cannot make the grade—it is too steep, every day getting steeper, and our great machine is slowing down. We will have to abandon the machine, or property in rent, in land value. The two things are wholly incompatible. We are trying to mix in one vast cauldron a perfect hell's brew consisting of the old and the new, the ancient and the modern, the aristocratic and the democratic. You can see it in a picture of a Roman Catholic cardinal blessing a flying machine. It cannot be done on the scale we are attempting with either success, peace or profit. We have come to the fork in the road. We must soon take our choice. Leaving things to chance is fatuous. Guessing is worthless. Hoping is of no avail. We must put our institutions under the microscope and examine them as they have never been examined before. It is our only hope for the future.

## Mayor McNair

IT will be heartening to friends of the movement everywhere to learn of the election of a Single Tax democrat to the mayoralty of Pittsburgh. It is significant that the Single Tax was made an issue in the campaign, though as far as the newspapers are concerned the greater publicity along that line was adverse to McNair's candidacy, the *Post-Gazette* interviewing everybody who was opposed to the Single Tax and the Pittsburgh graded tax, while ignoring anything of a favorable nature, including Mr. McNair's refutation of the principal contentions. The *Pittsburgh Press* published two speeches of Mr. McNair's and the *Sun Telegraph* published an editorial in defence of the graded tax plan. It was principally through the *Gazette's* cartoons that the Single Tax and Henry George became prominent features of the campaign.

The *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* pretended or actually did consult the astrologers of the city, three of whom predicted McNair's election and one—Madame Arlene—a democratic landslide!

Mr. McNair spoke in Italian before an Italian audience and the *Post Gazette* made this comment:

"He took away the credit that Henry George once had for originating that theory and handed it over wholesale to Gaetano Filangieri, who rates as the Blackstone of the Italian courts. And he slipped Ben Franklin credit for bringing the theory to Pennsylvania."

Mr. McNair's majority over Herron was nearly 28,000 and the Republicans do not know how it all happened. The effort of the Republicans to erect a Single Tax bug-a-boo was without effect.

Some of the credit of the victory is due to former Mayor Magee, nominated by the Republicans and placed on the McNair ticket after the withdrawal of George E. Evans,

president of the Henry George Foundation, to whom therefore some of the credit for the victory must go.

The *Pittsburgh Press* said:

"Great credit for this action goes to Mr. Evans, who made possible these happy circumstances by sacrificing his own personal ambitions. He performed an act of distinct service not only to his own party, but to the people of Pittsburgh as a whole."

The *Press* thus summed up its conclusions of the victory:

"Pittsburgh has sounded a warning to all Pennsylvania So has Philadelphia.

The state's two greatest cities have become INDEPENDENT. They are placing men and issues above party labels. They have broken the shackles of the bosses.

The people have learned that they can win. And they are not going to forget it.

They demand decent government in the public interest. They demand that fat profits on public contracts be preserved for the people, rather than for political henchmen. They demand that the alliance between government and crime end. They demand, above all, that political parties be responsive to public desires, instead of the selfish interests of political bosses."

The victory carried in all the members of the McNair council ticket, William A. Magee, John M. Huston, Thomas J. Gallagher, John J. Kane, and Walter R. Demmler, (Single Taxer).

It was a great victory over a corrupt machine and credit is pretty evenly divided between Republicans like Magee, the slashing blows delivered by McNair, and the aroused civic spirit of the people.

Immediately on the announcement of his victory McNair in company with Joseph F. Guffey, Roosevelt leader for Pennsylvania, left for Washington to interview President Roosevelt.

## Taxes and Monopoly— How They Work

IN 1864 the government required a one cent stamp to be placed upon every box of matches. In 1865 the revenue from this source was one million dollars. Owing to the tax several large firms retired or failed.

In 1872 the French government desiring an additional source of revenue determined to extract it from their matches. They therefore let to a single great company the sole right of making them for twenty years, and agreed to buy up all the old factories and furnish the company with new ones. In return the company was to pay a fixed rent of \$3,200,000. It was furthermore stipulated that the price of the matches should not be raised, but the company treated this as a dead letter. The matches were so bad that they hardly lit and the peasants instead of buying them used a match of home manufacture steeped in sulphur. Great trouble and expense have been incurred by the state. The company has been despotic and unable to fulfill its obligations; a proposition has been made and rejected by the part of the government to reduce the rent one half, and the probability is that the lease will expire before the time agreed upon.

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