

unfamiliar with the school of economic thought which is commonly and perhaps unfortunately known as the Single Tax. It has occurred to me that possibly if you were furnished with an article without expense, which was in every way worthy from a literary standpoint of a place in *Collier's*, perhaps you would be willing to give such an article a place in your most excellent paper. You frequently, as you have in this week's issue, referred to the abomination that is being constructed in New York, the skyscraper. Would you not think an article touching on the skyscraper from our standpoint would be of interest and value? If not this question then some other that is alive that you might suggest. I feel that our point of view to one who sees the evils of Socialism, and who at the same time believes in keeping alive individual initiative, ought to be interested in our philosophy, and I hope you will see your way clear to have us furnish an article taking up our thought.

S. A. STOCKWELL.

Mr. S. A. STOCKWELL:

My Dear Sir:

The Single Tax people are very active writers, and frequently offer us material, but thus far we have found it difficult to see any thing of special popular interest in their writings, since the death of Mr. George. Of course, in any case, it must depend on the article itself, but the subject is rather a dry one for us.

N. HAPGOOD.

Mr. NORMAN HAPGOOD,
New York City.

I am in receipt of your favor of the 14th inst. and in reply will say that I fear you are laboring under the same delusion that so many newspaper men are, that a thing has interest and influence in proportion to the noise it makes. Regretting this delusion, I remain,

S. A. STOCKWELL.

Mr. E. B. SWINNEY has issued another inspiring quarterly statement of the work of the Single Tax Information Bureau.

NEWS—FOREIGN.

GREAT BRITAIN

VALUATION BILL FOR ENGLAND TO BE INTRODUCED AT THIS SESSION—WHAT THE HOUSE OF LORDS HAS CONCEDED—THE UNITED COMMITTEE FOR THE TAXATION OF LAND VALUES MAPING OUT ITS AUTUMN CAMPAIGN.

Since our last issue a definite promise has been made by the Prime Minister, W. Asquith, that the long expected English Valuation Bill will be one of the first measures to be introduced by the government in the Autumn Session beginning October the 2nd. The exact provisions of the Bill are not known outside the cabinet, of course, but this cannot be very far different from those of the Scottish Bill originally introduced, and will provide for a general valuation of all land apart from improvements, with the probable addition of clauses for the unification and simplification of the rating machinery which at present is in a state of chaos so far as England and Wales are concerned. Whether the Bill will be pushed through all its stages in the Commons this year and presented to the tender mercies of the Gilded Chamber remains to be seen, though doubts on the point are expressed by those in a position to know what is proceeding behind the scenes. If not, then by the rules of the house, the whole process will have to be gone over again from the beginning the following or some future session. I am inclined to think that the measure will not get beyond the Commons this year.

As to the Scottish Bill, round which the fight so far has centered, it has now been printed as amended by the Lords and awaits the sanction, rejection or further amendment of the Commons when it comes back to them, as it will within the next few weeks.

The form in which it has emerged from their Lordship's hands, though not acceptable to reformers, shows that circumstances are fighting for our principles even in the most august and privileged of assemblies. This fact is significant. The

Bill as approved by the Lords provides for the separate valuation of land *as land*. It is therefore now admitted that the separate valuation is practicable—a thing which till now has always been strenuously denied by our opponents, but which they must now in future concede. It also contains a clause dealing with "land proved to be required in the public interest for building or industrial purposes and to be unreasonably withheld from use for such purposes," and then provides that "the land value shall be estimated as if such land were in use for the purposes aforesaid." So they also concede that it is worth legislating to prevent land being held against the public—a thing till now they have only scoffed at. These are important admissions to be wrung from such a body, and virtually give away the case for the opposition. The usefulness of the Bill is however altogether destroyed by the insertion of a clause rendering its adoption optional on the part of any locality or town instead of obligatory and general, as desired by the government. It is not probable that any town or county would go to the expense of the valuation unless they had the power to tax as well, and this is not given under the Bill. The Government certainly will not accept a bill with this clause, so unless the Lords give way, which is most unlikely, the Bill is dead.

The United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values has now mapped out its Autumn campaign. It will centre chiefly in the Highlands of Scotland and the middle counties of England. In the Highlands the feeling on the land question has reached fever heat owing to the Lords' rejection of the Small Holdings Bill, its mutilation of the Land Values Bill and finally the imprisonment in Edinburgh jail of ten Highlanders for the crime of cultivating and living with their families on the Island of Vatersay, in the Western Hebrides. The land of this island, like much more in the Highlands of Scotland, is practically unused, though held by the Highlanders to be capable of supporting a considerable population in comfort. Fifty families from a congested district therefore sailed over in boats, sowed

and built their cottages, with the aforesaid consequence to themselves.

Feeling throughout the Highlands runs very high, and the United Committee has decided to take advantage of it to raise the cry of "The Lords and the Land" in general and Land Values in particular.

Many meetings are being held in the outlying districts and will then be brought step by step to the great centres of population, with a view to carrying the agitation throughout the country and eventually to Westminster itself. The organization of the Campaign in the outer districts has been entrusted to Mr. Edward McHugh who covered the same district with Henry George 22 years ago. He has already arrived on the spot.

Mr. Louis Post of the *Public* has been paying this country a visit in connection with the Free Trade Congress held in London, and on this side, many, both Single Taxers and not, now count him among their friends. Receptions, where marked enthusiasm was shown, were given in his honor in London, Manchester, Bradford and Glasgow. That his visit was of necessity so short is the only regret felt by all. Owing to the constitution of the Free Trade Congress Mr. Post was unable to dwell on the vital connection between Free Trade and Free Land, but along with Mr. Jos. Fels, Mr. Franklin Pierce and others, a circular letter was written to the press and widely published, which laid emphasis on this point. It is hoped that next time Mr. Post pays us a visit he will have more time on his hands.

W. R. LESTER.

WE are glad to have our esteemed exchange, the *Boston Pilot*, deny the statement of the *Springfield Republican* that Dr. Edward McGlynn was excommunicated from the church because of his views on sociology. The *Pilot* asks the *Republican* to furnish it with the Doctor's recantation on the occasion of his reinstatement to the priesthood—"a retraction," says the *Pilot*, "that would certainly have been demanded if his opinions on social questions were the cause of his suspension."