

RELATED THINGS

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A VOTER'S MEDITATION.

For The Public.

When I rose up from the eternal sleep
To travel Time's tollsome sand,
I found myself in a good broad place
With a ballot in my hand.

For some who had been in the way before
And had toiled for eternity,
As their sun set, all blood and sweat
The ballot they handed me.

And by the dread of the martyr race,
As I kneel on the bloody sand,
I'm sworn to use the ballot right
And to wield it for the land.

It's to breathe my prayer for the common good,
It's to fight the fight of the clan,
It's not to voice my special plea,
It's to speak my word for man.

Men might from off the holy shrine
Steal the tapers while they pray;
Watchers might slyly take the coin
That on a dead man's eyelids lay.

A guardsman placed at the city gates
Might open the gates for pay;
And a man might use the social vote
In a faithless private way.

Oh, when I fall on eternal sleep,
And am called to the judgment space,
May I be able to tell to heaven and hell
That I used my vote for the race.

JESSE S. DANCEY.



THE SINGLETAX AT WORK IN CANADA.

Speech of C. H. Lugin, of the Royal Tax Commission of British Columbia, at the Annual Banquet of the Henry George Association of Victoria, B. C., February 3, 1912.
Report of the Victoria Daily Colonist of February 4, 1912.*

Mr. Lugin stated that he would endeavor to say in a few words what they had been doing in the city and in the Province. He said that when the four members of the Tax Commission left Victoria they went to work with absolutely open minds, without any preconceived ideas at all as to what they were going to do, and the conclusions they reached were forced upon them by the knowledge of the conditions of the country, and by the knowledge of the evils and the injustice of the incidence of taxation.

*See page 155 of this Public.

"I will confess," he proceeded, "that I was an advocate of the poll tax until I took occasion to learn how it worked, and to discuss its features. I am now absolutely in favor of its abolition—as indeed are all my colleagues."

"The same thing applies to the taxes upon improvements and personal property. We felt from our investigation of the Province that they were unjust, that they could not be fairly levied, and that it was only right that they should be removed from the statute book. And we believe this will be done by the legislature."

"In certain municipalities of the Province the idea of Singletax has prevailed. The taxes are solely upon land values. The municipalities which I have in mind are Chilliwack, Summerland, Penticton and Kelowna."

"We will take Kelowna as an example. In Kelowna the area of assessable land is about twelve square miles. It has a system that is purely and simply Singletax. There are no other taxes. That community owns its own electric light plant, and through that municipality wherever you go among the fruit farms you will find sidewalks laid down to the very doors of the farms. The country roads are lighted about as well as the city streets were before we had the cluster lights, and in every house they have electric light, while the water is laid on by a splendid system, and all these things are furnished to the people of this municipality at par cost. You will find the school houses well equipped, with their carriages in summer and the sleighs in winter, to bring the children who have to come from a distance. That is one of the municipalities in the Province that has adopted Singletax and intends to stand by it. Some others have not gone so far."

"And who are the people who live in Kelowna? They are nearly all men who have made a success of their business affairs and have gone there to live. They are not radicals or faddists. They are plain, hard-headed, business, sensible men. Whenever the question was asked: 'Do you think you will ever depart from the principles of Singletax?' the invariable reply was: 'We will never depart from it.'"

"In the rural municipalities that have adopted this system of Singletax there is no influence that can be brought to bear that could lead them to depart from it."



SOME OF DOBBS'S THINKS.

Reported by Jackson Biggles.

For The Public.

Dobbs came over to my flat last Sunday. Suspicion suggests that the reason he came was because my radiator was doing better work than his own. But I soon forgot the suspicion in listening to his assault on our esteemed judiciary system.