

If educators of the South, representatives of both races, can meet and confer together for the good of the schools, why may not statesmen do as much for the country in the Capitol at Washington?



It is true that in the main the race question at the South must be settled by the white people of that section; but it is to their interest, as well as to that of the blacks, that the adjustment should be satisfactory to both races and be completed as soon as possible.

The refusal to accord to the Negro equal civil and political rights means the indefinite postponement of a settlement, with meanwhile all the present evils intensified. The leaders of public opinion in the South must choose between prolonged race antagonisms and the doing of equal and exact justice. With proper election machinery only good can come from universal suffrage.

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EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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During all the time of my wanderings in California, Oregon and Washington, going over 7,000 miles in an auto and taking nearly a year and a half to do it in, I had a wish to give my impressions of things as I saw them, but felt that partial, brief, superficial investigation is of little value. Now, however, that I have acquainted myself with the whole situation from Vancouver to Tiajuana, I have reached conclusions that to me seem to be warranted by the facts.



The real estate boosting element is absolutely in control everywhere south of the Canadian line. The Singletaxers are the only men who see what this means. All the other reform elements (Socialists included) are blind to the situation. With the great majority a "boosting" campaign is the sheet anchor. Reform is something to talk about. "Boosting" is something to work at.

In California the Singletaxers are in a hopeless minority. In Washington they are beginning to put up a good fight, but their hold on the mass of the people is a slender one. In Oregon they have made considerable headway, are well led and are putting up a splendid fight; but so far as I can judge the odds are heavy against them. The speculative element they can never win, the workers (farmers and laborers) are yet far from being won, and the most discouraging factor in the problem of winning them is the present condition of mind of the producing classes.



From Canada to Mexico I found the same con-

dition everywhere. There is a bitter feeling of resentment among the workers which appalls me. No man can know its intensity unless he live among them as I have done. To them there are but two classes—"grafters" and "workers." In their code every man who has acquired property or means is a "grafter" and every man who has not is a "victim." They have no confidence in the future, nor in the institutions under which they live; they look on courts and judges as instruments to record and enforce injustice.

Again and again I met with unpleasant evidence that because I went about in an auto and did not work for my living, I was looked on by the workers as an enemy and was the object of personal hatred. I frequented one industrial establishment for months and became acquainted with all the men. After a long talk with one of these on one occasion he said: "Well, you are about the whitest grafter I ever met." I pointed out to him that as he knew nothing of my history it was scarcely fair to class me as a grafter. He answered: "Why, course I know you're a grafter; no man ken git enough in this country by workin' to buy an auto and run 'round in it right along as you do; they is only one way to do it—grafting."

To these men there is only one way to remedy things, and that is by a resort to force.

They hesitate to take the initiative. But that will not be left to them to do. The real estate boosting element will begin the trouble. Everywhere they seem ready for a crusade against the workers who care to assert their rights. The I. W. W. ("I won't work," as the boosters stigmatize them) are just now the special object of their aversion. But they hate every worker who is not willing to pay an ever-increasing price for a fraction of a subdivision indefinitely subdivided. They call him a "knocker" and boldly say he should be driven out of town. And they are ready on occasion with shotgun and revolver to tackle the job. See the news items from San Diego.

I am convinced that a serious situation confronts the Pacific States, and this is the view of some of the ablest Singletaxers I have met, even in Oregon, where progress toward a peaceable solution is most marked.



The people are not informing themselves on the tariff or the land question; they do not look to either of the old political parties for a way out. They realize that they have been duped and fooled by both parties; that there must come a change. But how? I have heard old men say—one I recall; a veteran of the Civil war and a man of much more than average intelligence: "We will try the Democrats, and if they don't straighten things out we will do as they are doing in Mexico."

I am convinced that we are entering on momentous times and it is by no means clear how things will go. No half way measures will allay the prevailing spirit of unrest. Drastic measures of tariff reform are no longer a question of policy or expediency, but an absolute necessity of the situation as the first step. Singletax the next. If neither is done the situation is one of very great danger.

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