

\$200 valuation would be 20%. The simpler plan would be to keep the valuation at \$1,000 by capitalizing the rate of the tax at 5%.—A. G. HUIE, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

WHERE ARE THE NINE?

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

And Jesus answering said, "Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?"
—BIBLE.

The story of the ten lepers, relieved of a loathsome disease and the return of but one of them to give thanks to God for his deliverance, is a story that might be repeated many times in the history of world reform.

Human society has ever been afflicted with the leprosy of unjust conditions. From history's pages we can learn of the lives and preachments of various saviors and reformers, who have been successful in cleansing the minds of some of their hearers, but have they not also asked, where are the nine? when confronted by the very few who return to give thanks and service. Where the "one" has returned giving thanks and proffering service, have not the "nine" generally been forgetful of the benefits received, and gone back to the pest holes of selfish desire or easy beds of indifference? They cease to care for their uncleansed brothers and sisters, who sit in darkness and amid the dangers of infection.

For 30 years there has been preached a doctrine of salvation for society. A remedy has been offered which will absolutely cure the leprous growths from which society suffers.

This remedy is a simple easy one like the remedy given by the ancient prophet to the man of war, and, like it again, at first rejected because of its simplicity.

Our diseased society merely wants a bath in the waters of justice and equal opportunity, but how often has the appeal been answered by saying, are not the laws which repress vice and give unlimited chance for the display of almsgiving much better than your remedy, that would disturb the equanimity of our contented

privileged classes, and that would place on the pedestal of honor the true dignity of Labor.

Since this remedy has been given to the world hundreds of thousands of people have heard of its simplicity and practicability. Tens of thousands throughout the world have heard, understood, and believed in its efficacy, but how many of them have returned to give thanks and to glorify the cause of Justice by praying, striving, and doing, for the establishment of God's Kingdom on Earth?

Is it not evident that the "one" who did return to give thanks had, as it were, a vision of a Heaven on earth? Did he not reason that if this Great Physician could cure him of his uncleanness, He could also cure others, and he would devote his life to bringing others to the great Healer.

This is the spirit which should animate the Single Taxer. The knowledge of the Single Tax has relieved him from the blind diseased state in which he formerly stumbled, while deliriously calling on the false Gods of repression and expediency, then why should he not now, cleansed and pure, devote his life to bringing his brothers into the presence and understanding of the only plan that will heal and bless society?

Let us look over the world to-day. We can see the wage worker working hand in hand with the millionaire employer. We can see the Christian, the Jew, and the unbeliever, coming together in a close bond of friendship for the holy cause of freedom and opportunity. These are the few, who have returned after their deliverance to glorify God by preaching His Fatherhood, and the possibility of the brotherhood of man.

But where are the nine? If you tell me that these few are the only converts made by the earnest labor of consecrated souls who for 30 years have labored for the Single Tax, I cannot believe it. I feel sure that behind the scenes of the World's stage, sealed in the cozy corners of contented homes, in the pulpit, the political arena, the commercial bodies, in the Young Men's societies, there are many whose minds have been "cleansed" They have just as much reason for returning and for giving thanks

(perhaps more) than the one who did return in thankfulness and the desire to serve, but desire for wealth and advancement, with a fear of being called a crank or visionary, often deters them from exhibiting a sense of gratitude, but more often they refuse to give thanks and service because they profess to believe that this reform is for the future, and while all men have a right to life, liberty, land, and the pursuit of happiness, the time is not ripe for any display of force or self sacrifice. To all such followers of the example set by the "nine," let me say they are mistaken. Already, in various parts of the world, land value taxation is being discussed, and it only requires "a pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether," to manufacture a sentiment that will make the heretofore muddled brains of the politician and statesman become clarified, and they will hasten to uphold or denounce our remedy. It matters little which of these two positions they may take; indifference is what we should fear.

Again I ask, "Where are the nine?" If there be any within reach of this appeal, let me implore them to throw away the graceless ingratitude of the nine "lepers," stop deluding yourselves that peace can be maintained, while deadly implacable war is the enforced attitude of the great forces engaged in production. Discard the cold indifference and the false idea of security and come back with the song of thanksgiving, and with the resolve to bring your friends, your shopmates, your brothers and sisters into the great healing atmosphere of the economic gospel whose light has been revealed to you.

This work may become hard and exacting, you may often feel discouraged at the ignorance or indifference of the mentally diseased creatures you seek to benefit, but I can promise that from all this you will be able to rise with a renewed assurance in the goodness and greatness of God or Nature, and a firmer belief in the higher nature of man, and with abiding faith in the lasting ties of brotherhood—when just conditions are established.

This belief and hope will make you glory in the work. No matter how much you do for the advancement of our glorious

cause, the only sighs you will utter will be sighs of regret that you were not able to do more, and when that day comes, which must come to us all, the "glazing eye," may not hide from you the vision of an embryo world, where want and poverty are fast disappearing, where peace and happiness have taken up their residence, where the "lepers," children of unjust conditions, are replaced by strong, healthy men, born of independence and opportunity, in a society safe from the winds and storms of Anarchy, and founded on the enduring rock of Justice.—OLIVER Mc-KNIGHT.

LABOR PAYS FOR ALL.

If money is bookkeeping then it never can pay for anything in the true sense, but labor pays for everything. If labor pays for everything it pays as it goes along, the labor of the present, never the labor of the future. It then follows that all taxes are self-paying. By this I do not mean that bridges, roads and public buildings build themselves, that armies, navies, policemen and judges feed and clothe themselves, or that taxes are not a burden. Taxes, being paid by labor, are a burden or a blessing exactly in the proportion that labor is a burden or a blessing. But the fiscal system, the system of finance and taxation, in proportion as it is good or bad, civilized or barbaric, scientific or crude and chaotic, has very much to do with making taxes a burden or a blessing.

With the institution of the right system of finance and the right system of taxation, there exists the potentiality of practically abolishing poverty, and producing in the life time of one generation, a value in wealth and improvements greater than the value of all the gold and silver mined.—From a lecture by WM. B. DU BOIS, of Bayonne, N. J., on Money, reported in the Bayonne Times.

MR. P. A. PARKER, Single Taxer of Volanta, Alabama, has been appointed tax commissioner by the Governor for Baldwin County.