

most discouraging feature of the whole situation, is the fact that workingmen seem to think that the whole trouble is merely political instead of economic, and that a mere change of governors, or perhaps of political parties, would have enabled them to win their strike, and would have averted the calamities which have befallen the state. The truth is that the now dominant element in the Democratic party of Colorado is as plutocratic as is the Republican party, and that nothing short of fundamental economic changes can preserve Democratic institutions, and prevent even more serious military and labor troubles than have yet occurred. Let us hope that rational and conservative councils will prevail, and that the way out, the open door—EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY—will be entered, to the end that a government of, for and by the people may not perish from the earth.



THE SINGLE TAX AS A PEACE MEASURE.

(For the Review.)

By JANE DEARBORN MILLS.

Many persons believe that labor never will come into its economic rights without a total upheaval of all things, with more or less of bloody strife accompanying. No doubt there are great numbers of our citizens who keep their faces turned away from all reforms, because they are convinced that nothing radical can be accomplished in any gradual and peaceful way; and they decide, perhaps unconsciously, that after us shall be the deluge, if keeping their ears stopped and their eyes blindfolded can bring about a long enough delay.

These are not necessarily ignorant, weak or wicked persons. They dread the suffering for family, self and for the country; they dread the stopping of all progress in the higher things of life while readjustment is proceeding; and they believe that nothing adequate has been found, as yet, to substitute for the present ungainly and disorder-producing system, later on, there may be—must be, some discovery of a better way. So it seems wise to them to shut their eyes and make the best of things that are.

The reason that so many of such people live unknowing of the Single Tax is no more their fault than it is our deficiency. The simple fact is that Single Taxers have not found the methods which will give to this large class of people an insight into our great truth as a peace measure. So far, it has been put forth rather as a war measure—that is, the main work has been that of tearing down established customs. Not that this has been done belligerently, but the purpose of very many of the addresses, lectures, and the written articles has been to show, first, how corrupt, inherently, the present system is, and secondly, how simple and how pure the Single Tax would be when once established. Between the two, however, a great gulf yawns, and one hearing about it for the first time immediately supposes that to pass over that gulf no path can be found except the bloody bridge of war. The question, "How get from here to there?" has always received less attention than any other phase of the whole subject.

"First get your principle established" is the natural motto of the reformer. But is it necessary in establishing a principle to let go entirely—or more truly, largely, of the connection between it and the things we live in and must live in till the other is established? That is—if it is wise to go and live on the hither border of the gulf, is not the question how to get there as vital as the knowledge that the other country is the happier abiding place?

The whole Single Tax is a Peace Measure, and the answer to "How to

get there" its Commander-in-Chief. We Single Taxers know that there is no necessity for war in order to bring about the change which would place economics on a basis just to all. We have only to convince others of this, and the thing is done. There are thousands who want to see it, and who are held back really because we do not consider the largeness of the question, "How can it be done?"

The need of a Peace Branch of Single Tax work is forcibly borne in upon one's mind when listening to a certain kind of lecture addressed to working people. On one occasion, during the last Winter, a gifted orator was using all his powerful talent in picturing how every monetary act, under our present system, from buying a loaf of bread to carrying on the large affairs of life, was necessarily an act of oppression to the wage-earner. The glowing pictures that he drew of workmen staggering under the burdens bound upon them must have aroused the heart of every hearer. How must the many in the audience who were burden bearers have felt, under the sense of personal injury added to that of general injustice? Must they not have longed to break their bonds and turn and rend their oppressors? And if, at that moment, they could have been freed, would they have stopped to reason how they might establish justice to all, with injury to none? By no means. The reasoning must come before the breaking of the bonds, if we would have the new ready in their hands to take the place of the old by peaceful measures.

Not the laborers alone, but the capitalist as well, needs to know of means which may bring a peaceful solution of the difficulty. Although he may not be convinced, as long as things go fairly well with him, that any change is best, his familiarity with a method which some believe to be the remedy would serve him and the world well, when the inevitable crisis comes. And as much effort made to spread abroad the knowledge of how the change may be brought about, as to acquaint the world with the remedy itself, might prove, when the hour comes, the greatest of blessings.

The Single Tax as a Peace Measure might be worked up into a large topic, perhaps, for every subject grows in numbers of ideas contained in it, as it is studied. The old story is applicable here of the Professor, dying, of whom a friend asked, "Do you not regret that your life has been spent on the study of Greek?" "Yes," whispered the dying man, "I wish I had spent it all upon the dative case." So any phase of truth grows larger and larger by study, and so it might prove with this phase of the Single Tax. It might prove, then, to be the key which would unlock the understandings of those many good people whom now we are always wondering about—trying to find a cause for their blindness. The cause, is, without doubt, that they see no hope but in war, and this they shrink from and determine to put off as long as possible.

Some Single Taxers are members also of Peace Societies, and doubtless, ways might open to them for getting in a word, in meetings and the periodicals of the Peace movement, as to the Single Tax as a Peace Measure. Lectures might be given on this subject, or some phase of it, it always being borne in mind how to get there peaceably is to be kept prominently in view. Peace Committees might be formed in every Single Tax Society, who should carry on a Peace Department of the work. And doubtless this, our "dative case" of Single Tax, might well engage the life-devotion of those members who have the special talent for such work.



Nut for our Socialist friends.—The expropriation of the mass of the people from the soil forms the basis of the capitalist mode of production.—*Karl Marx.*