

The attempts of governments, now gaining headway, to recover land values by means of taxation, are in the direction of justice and not against justice. This will the more clearly appear the more the subject is discussed.

Nor do they tend to "destroy the basis of property and society," as beneficiaries of the "unearned increment" of land assume—not of just property, nor of democratic society. If persisted in and extended they will save democratic society by eliminating the essential virus of all privilege, and make property secure by basing property rights upon usefulness instead of exploitation.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

THE RECALL VINDICATED.

San Diego, Cal., Mar. 6, 1910.

There are timid, well meaning persons who are afraid that so radical a measure as the recall will not "make good."

"The recall," they say, "looks well on paper, but the common people cannot safely be trusted to use so dangerous an instrument in practical political affairs."

The answer is: "The proof of the pudding is in the eating."

The recall has shown its power for civic betterment in different parts of the country on at least five different occasions.

It has been found that the recall works in two ways: by threat of use, and by use.

In Des Moines, Iowa, last year the threat of its use caused the city council to appoint a police marshal who had the confidence of the people. This achievement so pleased United States Senator R. M. La Follette that he aptly generalized upon it in his Magazine by saying: "The recall has a better moral effect on politicians than a religious revival."

At the election of a United States senator the threat of the use of the recall upon the Republican legislature of Oregon caused that body to keep their ante-election pledges, and George E. Chamberlain, a Democrat, was elected in consequence thereof.

In Los Angeles, Cal., the threat of the recall's use upon the city council caused that body to rescind their vote giving away three miles of river bed worth one million dollars.

This California city has made actual use of the recall twice in its history: at one time to remove an alderman who had voted to give a machine Republican newspaper the city printing at a figure \$15,000 above that bid by other journals; and at another time—being as yet the most notable event of the kind in the history of our nation—to remove their mayor who had been making unfit appointments to office, and was otherwise unworthy. The removal last March of so important an official as a mayor caused much excitement in Los Angeles, and awakened much general interest and comment throughout the country. In the Public of April 30, 1909, under title of "The Recall in Action," was given an account of the exciting scenes attending the re-

moval from office of Mayor Harper, and of the election of Hon. George Alexander as mayor to serve the unexpired term of the deposed official. This term expired with the year 1909, and Mr. Alexander, having proved such an efficient officer during the previous nine months, was re-elected for a two-years' term in November last by a largely increased majority as compared with his vote in the spring—his success, together with the choice at the same election of a reform board of aldermen, being generally regarded as a triumph for good government and being the cause of great rejoicing.

Men like President A. L. Lowell, of Harvard, would have said, as he did, "The discussion of such reforms is conducted mainly in the air"—"hot air," I presume he meant; but the earnest, intelligent men of Los Angeles, were determined that they should be free from the domination of corporation control—control which was obtained, as often is the case in our large cities, by a combination of big business with the vice of the city, and effected by the political boss; and their charter, which happily had direct legislation and the recall in its provisions, was the means through which their hard-earned freedom after many years of struggle was at last secured.

In the article in the Public of last April, previously referred to, Mayor Alexander was spoken of as being "a retired business man, about 70 years old, an ex-Union soldier, a Methodist, a Knight Templar, and for eight years County Commissioner. Familiarly he is known as 'Honest Uncle George.'" This officer, who has become such a notable vindication of the wisdom of the use of the recall, has proven himself not only honest but intelligent and efficient. He has administered the affairs of his office with absolute impartiality. He has made most excellent selections in his appointments, causing the office to seek the man, and not the man the office. He has abolished several useless offices, and by publicity aided the city in purchasing public building sites, thus causing material and appreciated savings in the public expenditures.

JAMES P. CADMAN.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

THE RETURNING ELBAITE.

Chicago, Mar. 10, 1910.

I wish to express dissent from the general approval and enthusiasm now being manifested toward Theodore Roosevelt. I believe that this enthusiasm is conclusive evidence of our lack of maturity. Mr. Roosevelt is a man of force and shrewdness, and is a great advertiser. He is the most megaphonic individual since Napoleon Bonaparte. But he is a man who is obsessed with a desire to kill. And, if it were not for public opinion, it wouldn't make much difference to him whether he exercised this savage instinct by slaying Spaniards or lions.

He is just now returning from an exhibition that is a disgrace to civilization. And if we were an adult people instead of children, we would condemn him for his inhumanity instead of throwing up our hats to him. The expedition has been a pure exercise of butchery. The fact that it has been carried on in the name of "science" need deceive no one. Men

with selfish or evil impulses and who wish at the same time to be popular with their fellows, are never straightforward. Napoleon Bonaparte loved war and bloodshed better perhaps than any other man who ever lived, but, when he wanted a war, he never failed to make the French people believe that he and they were being attacked.

The comparison of Roosevelt with Lincoln or Washington, in either character or achievements, is desecration. Roosevelt is a mere bubble, and will have absolutely no historic existence. He is utterly selfish in everything he does, and his only achievements of any consequence have been of a negative character. Even the peace conference between Russia and Japan was a mere theatrical performance. He cares nothing for peace in itself, but he does care for the hurrahs of men. And he did what he did in this case primarily because of its effect on his popularity and because he couldn't stand it any longer to have attention so extensively diverted from himself.

He has done more in the last six months to dehumanize mankind than all the humane societies can do to counteract it in years. Boys and young men the world over have been led to look upon killing as legitimate and manly. Civilization is only a habit at best. It is much easier to drag men down than it is to lead them to a higher moral plane. The fact that Mr. Roosevelt has held one of the highest official positions in the world gives him a peculiar power for corruption.

The world is growing. Humanity is in its teens. Out of the future are certain to come beings of far higher character and understanding than we are—beings who will reverse present-day ideals and judgments, and who will recognize such bloody expeditions as Roosevelt has just been engaged in in Africa as needless and barbaric.

J. HOWARD MOORE.

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"THE WHITE MAN CAME."

Death Song of King Bombilo, of the Congo Country
as Given by Professor Bersot, of Geneva, in
"Under the Whip." Reprinted Here
from the London Labour
Leader.

We were happy.

The white man came.

I had twenty children, boys and girls; where are they?

The white man came.

We no longer have any bananas or fish or game.

The white man came.

Oh, Bombilo, where are your children?

The white man came.

My white hairs incline towards the earth, but this profaned earth where my ancestors sleep will not have my body.

The cruel white man will not have my body. I shall sleep in the big river.

I shall sleep in the big river.

The white man came.

NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article, on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Tuesday, March 15, 1910.

The Single Tax in Vancouver.

At the meeting of the City Council of Vancouver, British Columbia, on the 2d, Alderman Ramsay moved a resolution in favor of the total exemption from taxation of buildings and other improvements on land. Alderman McKechnie objected that the city had gone far enough already in this direction, in its exemption of improvements to the extent of 75 per cent. Aldermen Crowe and Whiteside supported Alderman McKechnie's objection. In support of the proposed complete exemption of improvements, Aldermen Stevens, Hepburn, McPherson and the Mayor spoke, as did the mover, Mr. Ramsay. The latter explained in answer to objectors, that it did not follow that total exemption would decrease the city revenue, but they would have to put a higher rate on land—which was quite right. It was the man who held land for speculative purposes, he said, who would have to pay. The Mayor said he had given considerable thought for a good many years to the question of exemptions from taxation. He believed in the single tax and in eliminating taxation of improvements entirely. The taxation of improvements was not equitable, he argued; for the assessor assessed one building at one value and another building at another. One man paid too high and another too low. But if they wiped out taxation on improvements they then based their taxation upon land values, which could be determined to a nicety and with no injustice to any person taxed. Another reason why they should not tax improvements was because it was taxing a man's industry. It might be said that an office building being a revenue producer, should be taxed in excess of another. But the man whose building was on the lot adjoining a large office building had the value of his real estate increased. That was the unearned increment. "We sometimes talk about bonusing manufacturers," continued the Mayor, "but no other bonus is as good to offer a manufacturer as to tell him that when he comes to the city of Vancouver all his improvements are exempt from taxation and he is on the same level as other people." Then, again, the advertising value attaching to a movement of this kind was great. Vancouver was the