

vantage which this farmer derives from the greater fertility of his land would be increased through unfair taxation. For, after payment of the tax by both, his net product would be more than twice as great as that of his neighbor, though it was only twice as great before payment of tax.

Consequently the difference in the capital value of these two lots of land would also be increased by this method of taxation, a result not consonant with the objects of the single tax as I understand it, nor with any conception of justice.

MAX HIRSCH.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

CONCERNING EDUCATION—THE SUBMERGED TENTH.

Philadelphia, Jan. 16.—An educational tremor, a quiver of intellectual excitement, ran through the staid Quaker city on the 13th, and the next morning the papers rejoiced in another periodic awakening to civic duty. The Academy of Music was filled with three thousand people who listened for two hours to a series of strong, direct appeals for the establishment of a better school system.

The remarks were timely and to the point. In the first place it appeared that nearly a thousand children were waiting patiently on the doorstep of the Philadelphia school system for a chance to get into schools; that more than three thousand children were attending school in rented buildings and nearly fifteen thousand children were on part time—getting half an education; that for 14 children who were in the elementary schools, there was one in the high schools; and that the school buildings were unsatisfactory and the school teachers overloaded with students. Particular attention was drawn to a slaughter house, alias stable, alias school house, recently secured for educational purposes.

In the second place it appears that these conditions were not typically American, but were distinctively Philadelphian. Of ten leading cities in the United States, Philadelphia stood tenth in the proportion of children in the upper grades; ninth in the value of school property per pupil; and well down the list in items of school expenditure, and number of pupils per teacher. Not only were the Philadelphia schools defective, but they came very near being most defective. Philadelphia formed the educational submerged tenth.

And the remedy? More money for the schools—four million dollars now, and more soon to follow! A decent seat, in a decent school, for every child! God speed, City of Brotherly Love; the journey is long but the purpose is noble. It cannot but lead to ultimate success.

SCOTT NEARING.

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It is the action of an uninstructed person to reproach others for his own misfortunes; of one entering upon instruction, to reproach himself; and of one perfectly instructed, to reproach neither others nor himself.—Epictetus.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

THE FIRST REFORM.

Berkeley, Cal., Dec. 31.—When President Cleveland issued his tariff reform message, Henry George, in common with many others, hailed it, not without reason, as the herald of a great movement which of its own momentum would quickly develop and lead to greater things, and thought that from tariff reform an advance would be made to free trade and that eventually the culmination would be found in the taxation of land values. Before his death, however, he witnessed the tariff reform agitation adroitly diverted, lose its force by diffusion, and practically cease to exist as an issue.

So it must and will ever be, as long as the people leave the governing power to their so-called representatives. By war or other opportune incidents of the times, a reform movement can be too easily diverted and stifled before it has accomplished any practical results. It is and will be very difficult to accomplish much in the way of economic reform until a greater measure of political freedom is achieved. The mere vote for representatives does not constitute political liberty; it is but a step towards it. Not until the people can control both legislation and their servants the legislators, will political freedom be established. As long as desired legislation can be blocked by an individual or a number of representatives, as by the Speaker of the House, or by the Senate in the United States, or by the House of Lords in Great Britain, reformers will be beating their heads against a stone wall instead of uniting to remove the wall. Even President Roosevelt appealed to and urged Congress in vain for child labor legislation and direct election of Senators. He was coolly ignored and snubbed by his own party in Congress.

What is the lesson to reformers? Surely this:—"The people must rule," by direct legislation, and not relegate their power to any party or so-called representatives. Even were representatives anxious to ascertain and carry out the will of their constituents, the present system would be quite inadequate and clumsy. Where there are several issues the voter has often to choose the most important issue, and vote for the candidate or party that represents his views on that one issue, regardless of the attitude on other issues. In 1900 a voter opposed to both the occupation of the Philippines and to free silver, had to sacrifice his views on one issue and vote for the Presidential candidate or party representing his views on the other issue, instead of being able to record his vote on both issues separately, as he would under direct legislation.

The quickest and surest way to economic reform is to first secure political freedom. Let all reformers unite to establish a "government of, by and for the people" by means of direct legislation. When that is once established, as it can be very quickly if reformers would unite, it will be comparatively easy to secure other reforms. For one vote for any other reform, ten can be secured for direct legislation. The one reform on which all reformers are likely to coalesce is direct legislation, as it is the