

the city of St. John, N. B., the Mayor, Mr. Frink, and Ald. Potts have been advocating the single tax system in the Council, and Mr. A. M. Belding, editor of the Daily Telegraph, is a thoroughly posted single taxer. In Nova Scotia Mr. Robert Magregor, member of the Legislative Assembly for Pictou County, will introduce a bill during the coming year similar to the Fripp bill in Ontario.

There is no doubt whatever that the people of Ontario are better informed on the principles of the single tax than those of any other part of the Dominion, but owing to peculiar local conditions it is impossible to say exactly where the next advance will be made. Less than a year before Vancouver removed the final 25% assessment on improvements, a man from that city wrote quite hopelessly of the lack of interest there, and the unlikelihood of any further progress being made. This Dominion is a big place, and there are many workers working in a quiet way.

A. B. FARMER.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

SUNSHINE VALUES IN LOS ANGELES.

Los Angeles.

California rejoices in "eternal sunshine," which its real estate speculators seldom fail to mention, especially in Los Angeles.

Here is an associate fact not generally known: Broadway, Spring, and Main streets are the aristocratic, middle-class and plebeian streets of the city respectively. For probably a mile they run parallel to each other through the heart of the business section, nearly (but not quite) north and south, flanked on both sides by the tallest buildings in the city, except for spots held "for a rise," with one and two-story buildings on them to keep taxes down.

Ordinarily mornings here are cool, or even chilly; but the afternoons are warm or hot. Before the brick canons were erected it was six of one and half-dozen of the other as to which side of Broadway was warmer or cooler during the day. But when the high walls began to rise it made a great difference. In the chill of the morning, the eastern sunshine mildly tempered the western side of this artistocratic thoroughfare. Then, in the afternoon, during the heat of the day, the declining sun cast its hot rays on the east side of the street, driving the people over to the west side for the shade of the buildings. Thus the combinations of buildings and sun accentuated the chill of the morning and intensified the heat of the afternoon on the east side of this main artery of commerce; while on the west side it modified and equalized the "climate" and made it the more attractive. Consequence: More people travel on the west side during the day than on the east side. Super-consequence: Much higher land-value on the west side than on the east side.

I am told on good authority that from First to Eighth streets, there is a virtual agreement among the "land-owning" class to not rent anything on the ground floor of the east side of Broadway for less than \$25 per front foot; while on the west side it is \$30 per front foot—20 per cent more for the difference in sunshine on the two sides of the street. The

managers of the "Trustee Company," a large real estate holding corporation, tell me that a scientific analysis of land-values, which form the basis of their investments, takes into consideration this sunshine-value in all their calculations.

The principle that operates on Broadway, also operates on the middle-class Spring street and on plebeian Main street. One little place on the east side of Broadway near Fifth street pays \$800 per month for about 14 feet front and 40 feet deep. This is approximately 5 per cent on \$16,000 per month (or, \$192,000 per annum) for one sixty-fifth of an acre; or, 5 per cent per annum on \$1,235,000 per acre—and this in Los Angeles. Who said anything about "rack-renting in Ireland"?

EDMUND NORTON.

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THE FULL-POWER BALLOT.

Warren, Pa.

On the one hand the ballot may have little power to voice the will of the voter. It can do nothing at all except say "Yes" to what has already been done by a despot or an oligarchy, and so be shrewdly designed to increase the power of monarch or aristocracy. But on the other hand, the ballot may take sovereignty from monarchs and power from ruling classes, and give it to its rightful owners, the people. The greater the power of the ballot, the nearer the rule of the people. A full-power ballot would give the greatest possible opportunity to wise and unselfish leaders, and make the unscrupulous no longer dangerous.

He who honestly fears the full-power ballot fears the people, and is more monarchist than democrat. He has never looked deeply enough into the principles of popular government to perceive the rock on which it rests. It is easy for him to point to corrupt electorates, himself ignorant of what has made them so. It is easy for him to draw conclusions from what he sees on the surface, knowing little and considering less of what is beneath. Such men are not qualified to distinguish effects from causes.

But the real enemy of the race is he who dishonestly fears the full-power ballot; for he fears government by the people because he does not want government for the people. In his heart he opposes government by consent and will uphold government by force, whenever opportunity lets him dare to do it. He would be a despot if he could, and he will be an oligarch when he can. With chance and ability he becomes a usurper. Until born again, such as he stand for government by a ruling class, government that feeds and fattens on the governed, government in which they are or hope to be of the few that are privileged to plunder.

ASHER GEO. BEECHER.

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Here is an explanation of the famous initiative, referendum, and recall about which we are hearing so much these days. Mr. Man goes home and announces that he is going down town after supper to meet a man. That's the initiative. The lady of the house says: "Are you?" in that ascending voice, which seems to walk over the tops of his nerves. That's the referendum. Then Mr. Man sits down and reads his paper. That's the recall.—Rockford (Ill.) Star.