

the Singletax and being told that the Initiative and Referendum are bad, because the tax proposition comes up by the Initiative—and because it enables them to start legislation corrupt or politically bossed legislatures refuse to enact. Those earnest and honest men who have combined to fight the tax amendments should not burden themselves with opposition to these means of popular government, because they are sure to alienate many voters who, while having no real estate to be taxed, might be inclined to vote against the Single-tax proposition, but who would not do so if it included hostility to what they consider the greatest movement forward in the progress of genuine popular government the generation has made. As to the Singletax itself, more can be learned about it and its actual effect upon farmers and the people generally, by studying its workings where it has been tried, than by reading perfervid resolutions against it or purely theoretical arguments in its favor.



#### "Seeing the Wheels Go 'Round."

The Chicago Daily Press (Ind.), August 24.—The common, non-office-holding citizen does not stand to lose anything by reason of the Penrose-Roosevelt-Archbold controversy. He stands to win. He is learning a lot of things that ought to help cut him a fine eyetooth or two. He learns that from the Standard Oil standpoint much, very much, can be forgiven a politician so long as he is "sound on the tariff." Even the strenuous Teddy passed muster—though Archbold didn't like him—when Bliss assured him that T. R. would be "conservative on the tariff." The common citizen learns that Standard Oil is really a secret government department to which Senators and Congressmen report and from which they take orders. He learns that Standard Oil claims credit "for saving West Virginia to the Republican party in 1904." He learns that men who have been held up as models of civic virtue went to Standard Oil and came away with a fist full of \$1,000 bills to be used to persuade the common voters of the country to vote against their own interest and in the interest of Standard Oil. And as Penrose "got it" in Republican Pennsylvania, so Bailey "got it" in Democratic Texas. . . . And as Standard Oil works, so works the wool trust, tobacco, sugar, steel, beef and the rest of the trusts and railways. Millions of dollars are spent through political parties, lobbies, legislatures and secretly in newspapers to fool the people and fatten the trusts. All of which goes to show why "representative government" is so sacred and why real popular government is "dangerous." Meantime, let the quarrel go on and let the secrets of the trusts and the politicians be laid bare. It can't hurt us common folks and it may jolt some sense into us. We are seeing the wheels go 'round as we never saw them before.



Mother: "Why have you left the others? What do you want, dear?"

Little Girl: "I've come here because Ella's so agglavatin' (a pause). At least, she will be when she finds I've broken the leg off her new doll."—Punch.

## RELATED THINGS

### CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

#### THE NEIGHBOR.

For The Public.

I live across from her back yard,  
A shining, shaded, grassy sward.  
Just by the fence are hollyhocks.  
Of course the gate is closed and locks,

Yet high above the fence they bob,  
And smile with such a social nod.  
The lady never bows to me,  
And if I'm well comes not to see.

But she must be my friend, I know!  
For me she makes the flowers grow;  
Because before the blossoms come  
She leaves the town and locks her home.

FLORENCE CROSS KITCHELT.



#### "TAY PAY" ON THREE MORE SINGLE-TAX MEN OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Special Correspondence of the Chicago Tribune of  
September 1 and 8, from T. P.

O'Connor, M. P.

Alderman Raffan, the Liberal member for the Leigh division, is a curious combination. He is a Welsh Scotchman. Born over the border, he went in search of fortune, after the manner of his bold and nomadic race, outside his own country, settled down in Wales, became a newspaper proprietor, and soon became as Welsh as the Welsh themselves, forming part of their local political life and being an ardent advocate of all their ideas and aspirations. A short robust man with a penetrating and almost fierce voice, he looks the dour, determined man who brings to his cause something of the spirit of the John Knoxes of the world. There is no attempt at conciliation or concession in his speech. Straight, blunt, almost rasping, his words are like stones hurled from a Balearic sling. He has an immense influence over his constituency. I know the Leigh division well. Three times I have spoken at the three great elections on the night before the poll, and a finer audience than an audience at Leigh I do not think any Radical could ever wish. One of the peculiarities of all Lancashire constituencies, and I know most of them by personal contact, is that the women take as keen an interest in politics as the men. It is perhaps partly due to the fact that the women do so much of the hard work of the great manufacturing county. There is no more appealing figure in the labor world than the Lancashire woman. As a class bright, fair haired, rosy com-

plexioned, like all Lancashire people, full of the joy of life, the patron of Blackpool and the Isle of Man, their gigantic palaces of amusement and of the dance, she has to start life in the hot atmosphere of the mill while she is still a girl, and often she leaves there much of the brightness of the eye and the lightness of the heart with which she begins existence. You see her later on in life when she has become the matron with her large brood of robust girls and boys, staid, serious, but yet with the remnants of her girlish light heartedness in her passionate interest in politics. How well do I remember those meetings in Leigh, crowded with women all wearing the red ribbons of the Liberal party, full of enthusiastic faith in their principles, and giving to those who defended these principles an affectionate greeting that might well move the most impassive of men. This is the kind of constituency which it is worth representing, and Alderman Raffan is to be congratulated on holding such a seat. He has to fight not only the Tory but also a Labor candidate—one of those fratricidal conflicts which every friend of progress must always deplore.

I pass from the Liberal to the Labor benches. Here opinion is divided. Ramsay Macdonald and Keir Hardie have pronounced against the Single-tax theory, I believe, but it has strong advocates in George Barnes and some other of the Labor leaders.

Henry George found some ardent friends among the Irishmen in Great Britain. One of the first was Edward McHugh, then associated with the dockers of Liverpool and one of the leaders in the great strike that took place many years ago. I may now reveal the secret that it was he who was largely responsible for that uprising among the crofters of Scotland which has wrung from Parliament so many crofter acts within the last twenty-five years. Few realized that it was the quiet, soft spoken, almost fugitive figure of the Irish agitator which set the fuse to the magazine.

Richard McGhee was a companion and fellow official of Edward McHugh in the days of the dock strike. The two men are alike and yet different. They are both Scotch by birth, but the one is a Catholic and the other a Presbyterian, and, in spite of their fervid agreement, this difference of origin reveals itself in their temperaments. The kindest hearted of men, filled with the enthusiasm of humanity, he is the fiercest of controversialists. Like McHugh, all his passions go out into politics; he has never taken a drink throughout his whole life. But unlike McHugh he is an inveterate smoker. I have been his traveling companion more than once in the devastating labors of an American tour and a better traveling companion I never knew nor could know. Travel by night was the same to him as travel by day; a journey of a thousand miles no more fearsome than a journey of a hundred. He could rise at

any hour of the morning; he could stop up till any hour of the morning, smoking, it is true, innumerable cigars, but leaving the drinking to others—the drinking, but not the talking. McGhee, though, is not a man to be frightened or even worried because a few panes of glass are sacrificed to the rowdyism of those blind tools of the landlords, the “sweaters” and office seekers, who are lending themselves to the campaign against the emancipation of Ireland, and especially of the Irish workers. At by-elections McGhee has done splendid work. When this sturdy ultra-Protestant Ulsterman comes to deal with the ridiculous fears of religious persecution, which have done such hard work for the Orangemen in British elections, everybody is made to understand how grotesque the whole cry is, how grotesque and how insincere. The man addressing them, with his fierce words, his fearless aggressiveness, his strong Scotch accent, is not the man to lend himself to an arrogant and persecuting clericalism from any church or from any creed.

One figure finally I must describe briefly in this review of the leaders of the land tax movement. The Lord Advocate cannot be counted among the Singletaxers, but he is certainly an advanced land tax reformer. Alexander Ure is one of the marvels of our times. Head of a great and laborious department, an active member of the legal profession, whose work cannot be reached by a taxicab to the law courts in London, but involves a long journey to Edinburgh; an assiduous attendant at the House of Commons, he has yet found time to attend more meetings during the last few years than any man of his time. When he speaks he does not spare himself. What is important also is that the audiences do not spare him. As with the combined lucidity and keen analysis of his splendid Scotch intellect Ure unfolds the philosophy and the economics of land reform his audiences listen spellbound. It is to them the breaking of a new dawn and a new light, and they insist on his going on and on till sometimes he has spoken for two hours at a stretch and left his audience not tired but crying for more.



## AN OPEN LETTER TO REVISERS OF CITY CHARTERS.

Ladies and Gentlemen:—

As you are investigating different charter plans with a view to recommending one for your city, I venture to address you in behalf of the plan advocated by some of the members of the American Proportional Representation League. The plan is clearly outlined in the recommendations of a group of Proportionalists who recently met at Tamworth, N. H. These recommendations are printed on page 117 of “Equity” for July, 1912. The plan is compared with the “commission plan”