

ing a light on his character that ought to convince every fair-minded person that Mr. Bryan was right in his demands that some other should be selected as the leader of the Democratic party in the United States Senate. This letter is a plea to the railroad companies to save the Democratic machine in Virginia from defeat by liberal donations to the campaign funds. In it he points out the danger of having agitators elected to the State legislature and promises that if the regular candidates are given support and elected they can be relied upon to be friendly to the railroad interests.

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Progressive Municipal Taxation.

Passaic (N. J.) Daily Herald (Ind.), Sept. 7.—Since taxes must be collected for the support of government, they should be levied, as far as possible in the proportion that men enjoy protection and benefit from government. . . . The man who builds a house or store, conducts a business, or who merely sells his labor and pays rent in a community, confers a benefit upon the community by his investment, enterprise or industry. He helps to make the community prosperous. The head tax fines him for being a citizen. The personal property tax and the tax on his home and buildings are penalties imposed because he has done something to aid the community and make it larger and richer. And while men of industry and enterprise are thus penalized for helping to build the community, a premium is placed upon selfishness by the system which imposes the lightest taxes upon the holder of unimproved land. The speculator who holds unimproved property for increased values gets rich without effort, and pays little to the support of the community, whose growth gives him his unearned profits, while the man of industry and enterprise, whose operations have made the unimproved property more valuable, is taxed heavily for having contributed to the prosperity of the community and the wealth of the speculator in unearned increment. This newspaper has for years advocated the adoption of the plan which would exempt personal property and improvements from taxation, abolish the head tax, and place all taxation on land values; which would encourage enterprise, and secure the city revenues from a source that would impoverish nobody. Such a plan of taxation is merely the taking back by the community in taxes from the users of the land of the added value the growth and prosperity the community has given to the land. It is putting the land into use, by making it unprofitable for individuals to hold it in unimproved condition for unearned profits. It is offering an incentive to enterprise, thrift and improvement, instead of placing a penalty on the erection of better buildings. It absolves the individual from taxation, and places the burden of governmental cost upon a uniform and impersonal basis. It makes tax shirking and swearing off of taxes well nigh impossible, and benefits the community in encouraging and forcing a growth and a better quality of improvements. The only preliminary step necessary to installing this system of taxation is to secure State legislation giving cities the power to exempt from taxes such property as they see fit.

RELATED THINGS

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PROGRESSIVE RIGHT AND OPPRESSIVE WRONG.

Michael McGovern, in Youngstown (O.) Vindicator.

Progressive Right is calling to
The people to awake,
And from their lives the gathered dust
Of backward ages shake.
It tells them to retain what's good,
And worthless things discard;
Then nature's blessings—signed by God—
Will be their just reward.

Who dreads the march of Progress? None
Who's honest fears its call;
'Tis but the man in Wrong's employ
Who fears a downward fall
From crumbling crags of Privilege
Into the depths below,
Where Justice through progressiveness
Would evil-doers throw.

Progressive Right abhors the laws
By which the past was bound
To stakes of serfdom—driven deep
In foul Oppression's ground.
'Twould have each generation make
The laws that serve it best,
And not be bound by fetters made
By despots laid at rest.

The clothes we wore in infancy
Are changed to suit old age:
We find within the book of life,
While reading page by page,
That ideas of youth don't serve
New Progress when we're old;
'Tis selfish men, alone, who'd have
Old laws to guard their gold.

The Present always something finds
To supersede the Past;
The things we think so perfect now
Will not forever last.
Tho' earth and love are always young,
And both may last for aye,
The laws that bind the living should
Be framed to suit their day.

Had Progress never prompted men
To action, there would be
A world which God might well despise
As lost to liberty,
The human race would be inert,
And backward as the brute,
Too slow to climb the highest branch
To get the ripest fruit.

Progressive Right means liberty—
It hates old selfish Wrong.
It helps the weak against the fierce
Encroachments of the strong.