

sations. So inconsequential would be Senator Tillman's wickedness in laying lawful plans to get in a lawful way eight quarter-sections of land—1,280 acres—for \$4,000 or \$5,000 to be paid to the government, out of millions of acres recovered for the whole people, even if he had laid those plans; so puny would have been Senator Tillman's lie in saying he had not done so, even if he had lied,—so petty would these offenses have been in comparison with the enormous land steal he was attacking in the general interest, even if the offenses had been committed, that the President's accusations could not have risen above the dignity of an attempt to "draw a red herring across the trail," as the Irish proverb puts it. But when it appears, as it surely does appear, that there were no wicked plans on Tillman's part, nor any lie at all from his lips, what can be said? Isn't the inference strong, that Mr. Roosevelt must be in great need of material for diverting public attention from the land-grabbing corporations to which his political indebtedness is heavy? We repeat, therefore, that fair minded men who read President Roosevelt's accusations and Senator Tillman's answer, will sympathize with the Senator and pity the President.

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#### Care of the Body.

A distinguished clergyman is reported as severely condemning the Emanuel movement by preaching that "the church of Jesus Christ" is mistaking its function "when it becomes a hospital for physical repairs." But didn't its Founder engage pretty exclusively in that kind of repairing? While it is quite true that care of the body for the sake of the body is overdone, and for its own sake may not be worth the doing at all, the conclusion is hardly avoidable that the care of the body as an instrument for its spiritual occupant is of the very first concern.

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#### THE PRESIDENT'S SALARY.

Senator Jonathan Bourne, of Oregon, justifies his bill to double the President's salary, making it \$100,000 a year, by comparing the present salary with the much greater salaries paid to some corporation presidents. He thinks that the President of the United States, "the biggest corporation in the world, is certainly as big in the business of government as a railroad president." He lays aside all mere "sentiment," and views the matter as a "business" proposition.

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The senator is ludicrously unconscious of the

fact that a consideration of the problem from a purely business standpoint would lead to the very opposite of what he proposes.

There is no *business* need of increasing the President's salary.

One year's salary of the President is enough to support him in comfort for the remainder of his life, leaving the rest of the salary for his four-year term—namely, \$150,000—for defraying his private expenses while in office. But there is no reason why he should spend even one-half of his four years' salary of \$200,000 while in office.

Furthermore (still viewing the matter from the *business* standpoint), no candidate for the Presidency has ever even so much as hinted a wish for an advance in salary. In fact, the honor of the office would induce the best and most capable of men gladly to undertake the administration even at a great reduction of the present salary. Nobody will deny that. Then what *business* reason is there for an increase?

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Senator Bourne further says that the stress of the official life is so great as to shorten the life of the victim.

But, having disclaimed all regard for "sentiment" in the discussion, why mention this? The "business" argument would be: The shorter his life, the less money will serve his future needs.

The fact is that Senator Bourne's argument is purely sentimental, from beginning to end.

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Comparing the salary of the President of the United States with that of a great private corporation president is even worse than sentimental—it is an affront to the intelligence of the country.

Social equity is outraged by the salaries paid to corporation officials. The power of the corporations to pay such fabulous salaries comes from a practice of public exploitation, stupendous in magnitude, intolerably oppressive; a practice of public exploitation that has been for years past the theme of righteous denunciation by all honest and right-thinking statesmen; a denunciation in which the present incumbent of the Presidential office has taken a leading part.

And the country expects Mr. Taft, the President-elect, to continue the struggle to direct the power of government as a curb to the menacing power of the great corporations. Indeed, the very same newspaper that gives Mr. Bourne's speech contains the statement of a corporation

magnate that his corporation ought of right to be subjected to government control.

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I repeat, it is an affront to the intelligence of the country to belittle the salary of the President of the United States by comparing it with the salary of corporation officials. The proper object for comparison would be the average income of the voters who elect the President to his high office; and it would appear that the present salary of the President is something over fifty times that of the average citizen! There, Mr. Senator Bourne, is the *business* argument.

EDWARD HOWELL PUTNAM.

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## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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### THE SINGLE TAX IN DENMARK.

Olstykke, Denmark, Dec. 9.—The single tax movement is growing steadily in Denmark. Conferences for the winter have been arranged by the single taxers of Copenhagen, and some of these meetings, all well attended, have already been held. Our small land holders—"housemen" (vol. ix, p. 1013) we call them, are waking up and coming more and more clearly to recognize the validity of Henry George's teachings. So pronounced is this tendency that even our party politicians are unable any longer to ignore the land value tax.

P. LARSEN.

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### BRITISH POLITICS.

London, England, December 11.—I have had two interesting experiences—one a discussion on the taxation of land values at the New Reform Club.

The question at issue was not the theoretical one of the equity of the proposition,—that was assumed as granted,—but whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer will be able to make use of the principle in his forthcoming budget to fill up the gap made by a falling revenue and such new demands on his purse as the old age pensions scheme. Sir Charles Dilke was in the chair and spoke very well.

I suppose the reason the Scotch members are so keen on the subject may be sought in the fact that the distribution of land in Scotland is more outrageously unjust than in any other division of the United Kingdom. At any rate Mr. Dundas White gave a tremendously keen analysis of the difficulties attending the question—such as that of spreading the tax when several parties are interested in various degrees and ways in a piece of land, as in the case of a leasehold.

There seems to be a general agreement on the Liberal side that this is the next barrel to be tapped; but the agreement is not so complete on the point whether it shall be as a part of the budget, either as an additional tax or as a substituted tax in place of the inhabited house duty schedule of the income tax for instance, or whether the attack on the landlords should be reserved to be made the subject of a

special bill which the Lords would undoubtedly throw out—to their own destruction let us hope. Mr. John A. Hobson spoke in support of the latter course.

It is calculated that the income derived from land is not less than £120,000,000, so that a two-penny rate would raise £1,000,000.

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The second meeting I attended was at St. James' Hall, a meeting of the Women's Freedom League to welcome the "grille" prisoners on their release from Holloway. These women spoke so well I was pretty nearly brought into sympathy over their grievances.

There was, of course, much reference to the Albert Hall meeting of last Saturday which they had attempted to break up. This was a meeting of the Women's Liberal Association, called for the very purpose of advancing the cause of woman's suffrage; and Mr. Lloyd George, who is known to be a whole-hearted sympathizer, was to bring a message on the subject from the government. The women of the militant association attended, and Mr. George could not begin his speech until everyone of them had been conducted to the street—a matter of considerably over an hour.

These extraordinary women justify such mystifying conduct by saying that it is known a majority of the House and of the cabinet favor their cause, and all they ask of the Government is to start the private bill which has already received a second reading, and let it come to a vote. This seems simple enough; but the Government's answer is that the passage of any bill widening the suffrage must immediately precede a dissolution, and that it is their intention to introduce a reform bill to which, if the House chooses, an amendment giving the franchise to women can be appended, and which the Government promises not to oppose. This bill, however, must wait until the time is ripe to carry the case against the House of Lords to the country. Before that time there is much needed legislation to be attempted.

A. KENYON MAYNARD.

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### FISCAL PROGRESS IN NEW JERSEY.

Passaic, N. J., Jan. 5.—As an example of the growth of the single tax movement, this strongly Republican New Jersey city of 40,000 inhabitants may be taken. Frederick R. Low, Republican (New Idea) Mayor of the city, is a single taxer. This fact has not been generally known to the people, but the Mayor frankly admits it to those who ask him about it, and in his second annual message to the City Council he distinctly approved the direct land value tax.

Following up his message, Mayor Low sent to the Council the nomination of John Woods, a single tax advocate for many years, and usually accounted a Democrat in politics, to be assessor for the Second Ward, displacing an old school Republican who has held the office for twenty-four years and who has been conspicuously friendly to the holders of large tracts of unimproved land who have grown wealthy through the rapid development of the city.

Mayor Low, in a statement to the newspapers, explained that he thought that a change was needed