

mostly under ground. And, in the meantime, the most useful work that can be done, in which the whole world is co-operating with a more than German efficiency, is that of making fewer and better Germans, so that the world may be made safe for pacificism, and for the women and children who are to come after us.—EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW.

FROM JACKSON H. RALSTON

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

Will you kindly permit a brief dissent from some of the positions apparently taken by the SINGLE TAX REVIEW?

The wisest thing, in my judgment, that the Fels Fund Commission ever did, was to assist, when the opportunity existed, the movement for the Initiative and Referendum. The little money it spent in this direction was a very direct aid to getting the Single Tax as a living issue in a number of States. If today there are active campaigns for some form of the Single Tax in Michigan, Missouri and California, it is because the door was opened through the Initiative. In Maryland it has so happened that without this reform we may proceed, and some other States, doubtless, are in like case. Any criticism of money spent to aid the Initiative is quite erroneous.

It seems that each generation must learn for itself the error of particular methods of procedure. Those who thirty-one years ago looked to the adoption of the Single Tax through an independent party and espoused the United Labor Party, learned at that time the error of their ways. The committee which, so far as the national organization was concerned, had charge of the Delaware campaign in 1895 and 1896, profiting from the experience of the United Labor Party, did their utmost to prevent the inauguration of a third party movement in Delaware. They lost out because of the impetuosity of the local leaders, and from that time to the present no appreciable Single Tax progress has been made in that State. If there had been no third party movement, I have little doubt that the Single Tax would have prevailed in Delaware many years ago.

The necessary brevity of this letter prevents a discussion of the many reasons why the third party movement is doomed to failure, but an enumeration of them would, perhaps, not convince those of a different opinion. The regretful feature of it all is that failure will retard the cause they are seeking to advance.

The SINGLE TAX REVIEW does not enumerate Maryland as among the States where any real Single Tax work is being performed, but the fact remains that the Single Taxers of Maryland have made concrete advances of real moment within the past few years. Two years ago the legislature passed an act by virtue of which municipalities were placed upon the same plane with the State and county authorities in so far as the classification of property and partial or total exemption of improvements and personal property was concerned. Already one-half dozen towns, for the most part in the neighborhood of Washington, have partially, or to the utmost, availed themselves of this right, and, in several instances, by a popular vote, usually about 3 to 1, in favor of the Single Tax.

Before long, and by this I mean two or three years at the outside, we may expect these municipalities will be so numerous that an attempt may be made, and successfully, to put the more important matter (in Maryland) of county taxation upon a like basis. Maryland already has the only towns in the country on a Single Tax basis, and this fact should not be forgotten by the SINGLE TAX REVIEW.

Washington, D. C.

JACKSON H. RALSTON.

REPLY

In our editorial in which we criticized the expenditure of Single Tax money by the Fels Fund Commission—a sum amounting in nine years to nearly half a million dollars—we did not specifically refer to what had been contributed to the Initiative and Referendum movement. Our criticism expressed at the time to contributions to this cause was not based on opposition to the Initiative and Referendum *per se*, but to the fact that Single Tax money was needed for Single Tax work, and the Initiative and Referendum appeared to be doing very well without our help. Twelve States were at this period in the enjoyment of this right, and others were wheeling into line. So it seemed to us—and

today Single Taxers generally will endorse the position we took at the time—that Single Taxers, and such money as they had to contribute, should be exclusively devoted to their own cause.

Judge Ralston should be better able to state what actually occurred in Delaware, as he was one of the leading spirits in that memorable campaign. There were several contributory causes for the failure of the Single Tax party campaign in that State. One of these was that it presented itself to the people of Delaware as an invasion of their State and was therefore resented by local pride. But primarily the failure of the party movement in Delaware was due to the old vice of Single Taxers in following after will-o-the-wisps, which in this case were the Democratic Party, Bryan and the Free Coinage of Silver, which alliance split the party into two factions, disrupted the movement and alienated Republicans and gold Democrats from support of the Single Tax.

Yet in spite of this, ten per cent. of the voters of Delaware cast their votes for the Single Tax—a result which could it be approximated in the coming election in this State would be hailed as a real victory for the Single Tax, furnishing a good ground for future contests. Certainly it would not be considered as a failure of Single Tax Party activity.

As this movement proceeds we are certain to be told that Single Tax party methods have been tried and failed. The truth is, they have been tried and have succeeded. Single Tax party activity has been abandoned, not because its futility has been proven, but because other considerations, and in some cases temptations too strong to resist, have led its leaders to desert this method for others which have promised more, or better, or immediate results. These results not having materialized it is now up to the Single Taxers of the country to revert to the older and tried methods.

The Single Tax is a political question. It must come through political action. It must be borne to the forefront by men and women who have no other aim than the triumph of our principles, and who in the work they propose to do know neither friend nor foe. This is the day of the great awakening. Again is lifted the standard raised by our great leader, Henry George, in three campaigns, borne aloft in Delaware by that little heroic group of fighters, and raised by devoted hands this year in the distant State of California. With kindness but with firmness, may we not say to the old leaders: "Your methods have been tried and have largely failed; we are through with all counsels of caution and timidity; help us if you can, but if you cannot, then stand aside and hold your peace while we march on. For again the standard is lifted!"—EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW.

AFRAID OF OFFENDING

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

It seems to me that the Single Tax movement is too much in the hands of intellectuals who are very much afraid of offending the feelings of the landlords. When the fight is carried home to them, and a spade is called a spade, and the landlords, instead of sleeping, get out in the open and fight the Single Tax, then I will think the Single Tax is moving. San Antonio, Texas.

M. W. CONNOR.

SINGLE TAX YEAR BOOK IN CAPE TOWN

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

Permit me to congratulate you on the contents and appearance of your January-February number. Enclosed is subscription.

I obtained a copy of the YEAR BOOK via London and must compliment you on its production too. A new Land Values League has just been started in Cape Town and we find the contents of this book most useful.

Cape Town, Africa.

CHAS. H. LAMB.

WHAT A SOLDIER THINKS OF THE NEW AWAKENING

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

The new form and new policy of the SINGLE TAX REVIEW reflects the great movement of Single Taxers the world over from thought to action. Now that all peoples are beginning to realize that Kaiserism, special privilege and monopoly are supported principally by the control of land by the few, in every country men will spring up to preach and put into effect the democratic doctrine of the Single Tax.