

Mrs. Roosevelt.

The (St. Louis) Mirror (Wm. Marlon Reedy), October 24.—By what singular gift does Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt manage, whenever she does come by force of circumstances into the limelight, to escape being made the subject and object of slushy newspaper twaddle? She does not appear to be in the least afraid of the glare of publicity when occasion calls for her to step, however briefly, out of her private capacity. She accepts her place, and does her work, but without a particle of an eye for "the situation." She came to Chicago to her wounded husband and took charge with an efficiency and easeful mastery that came with admirably cooling effect upon a condition which threatened to become hectic, if not hysterical. Yet she tempted no scribbler to make copy of her for the avid millions. She was "all there," as the saying is, and her coming exercised a highly palpable influence upon the picture. Everybody felt it at once—even in the newspaper dispatches. There it was, so big, I suppose, that it defied writing about. And so and such this lady has been always since her husband has occupied his conspicuous place in public life. She is almost as withdrawn as he is protruded upon the public gaze; and yet we feel somehow that she is so not because she is a nonentity, but because she fits so perfectly in the scenes in which she plays her part, that she is so superbly harmonious in her functioning that she is inconspicuous to a public only capable of apprehending flamboyancies and the gaucheries of those who get notice because they seek it. Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt is a remarkable woman in her supreme ability to escape remark.

**Land.**

Collier's Weekly, October 26.—Before the community reaches a final settlement of the monopoly problem, it will have to include a radical change in methods of taxation, and this will include a great change in the view of public and private rights in land and in what lies in the earth. Any unearned increment, whatever its nature, fails to suit the modern conscience, and ultimately it is likely to go.

**Singletax Demonstrations.**

The Christian Science Monitor, Oct. 4.—For many years the foes of the tax on land values found in the farmer a willing and a useful ally. He had been taught, and he was ready to believe, that the Singletax was aimed directly against his class, and that in practical operation it would remove from the banker, the manufacturer, the merchant, the owner of rentable property and securities, an equitable share of the burden of taxation, and place it, in addition to that already there, upon his own shoulders. It is not going too far to say that lack of correct knowledge in the agricultural districts regarding the Henry George system is, to a very large degree, responsible for the slowness of its adoption in all parts of the world. The experience of the farmers of the young and enterprising province of Alberta, western Canada, will go far, however, toward removing the prejudices against the land tax that still exist among rural landowners. It has been demon-

strated there that the tax on land values is a benefit to the farmer. His tax is reduced rather than increased. . . . There is no inducement in Alberta any longer to hold land merely for speculative purposes. It must be improved or become as great a drain upon the resources of the owner as it was formerly a drag upon the resources of the community. The Alberta farmers have had demonstrated to their entire satisfaction the wisdom and justice and practicability of the Singletax, and they are becoming more and more attached to it and enthusiastic in advocating its adoption throughout the Dominion.

**Larger Lessons of the Campaign-Fund Scandal.**

The Boston Common (ind.), August 31.—If the money of privilege-seeking interests is not to finance our politics, the public must foot the bills directly. This means the free use of public school and other public buildings containing assembly halls for purposes of political and other civic discussion; the publication by the State of election bulletins carrying to every voter necessary information about candidacies, platforms and measures; and the assumption by the public of other necessary campaign costs, with stringent penalties for private expenditure except as the law may authorize and audit. It would be well, also, if the voting should be done in the school houses, as is now done, with economy, in a few cities. It would help to emphasize the intimate connection between successful democracy and free public instruction. The public newspaper is likewise needed, to guarantee that private interest shall not choke the news channels.

**Equality of Opportunity.**

The Christian Science Monitor, Sept. 24.—It makes little difference, as a matter of fact, whether the non-resident realty owner of New York, or of any other part of the country, maintains his establishment abroad or in some other part of the United States; and it makes very little difference whether the owner of New York realty in New York or in any other city of the country is a non-resident or a stay-at-home. What makes a difference is that the American system of taxation permits and encourages accumulations of tremendous fortunes by those who are doing absolutely nothing to earn them beyond clinging to their holdings. New York land is not the only land that is making millionaires and multimillionaires automatically. The enhancement of values in all the cities, due to the intelligence and energy and enterprise of tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands and millions of workers, calls for as much attention as the enhancement of values on Manhattan island. The mass everywhere is working for the few; the few are being enriched without effort and without especial merit. It would be as nonsensical, however, to blame the beneficiaries as the victims of this system. It is the system itself that demands reprehension and calls for reform, and to be effective the latter must apparently come through equitable taxation. In a sense much larger than is generally recognized now, equal taxation means equality of opportunity and a square deal for all.