

the site-appropriator, for he gets the value of the city's site, a value that grows as the city grows though he himself be a dawdler or an absentee. The latter method is called "the single tax," and Outwest declares emphatically against it.

+

This declaration is made in Outwest for April, in the course of a review of young George's popular book, "The Menace of Privilege." The reviewer does not come very well equipped to his task; for he thinks of economic rent as "the entire value of product beyond the cost of labor and capital employed in producing it," whereas economic rent has no relation to the value of product, the same quantity and quality of product commanding the same price in the same market whether produced from land of high or of low economic rent. But this blunder may be passed over as only academic, and attention be turned to Outwest's elaborate effort to show that the value of a site or location cannot be disentangled from the value of its improvements. To show this, particular instances are marshalled. All are exceptional, in comparison with the great body of land and its improvement; yet the most baffling of them is not beyond the reach of fair approximation. Shall all attempt at fairness in distinguishing between the value of the improver's work and that of the forestaller's monopoly be abandoned because forsooth the difference cannot be measured to a penny?

+

The gist of the matter is this: There is such a thing as land value, and such another thing as improvement value. Land value depends upon natural fertility or natural mineral deposits and upon social growth, rising as these rise and falling as these fall; but improvement values depend, with only slight and unimportant variations, upon individual industry, rising with its efficiency and falling with its inefficiency. Obviously, therefore, the latter values are the natural wages of individual workers, whereas the former are the natural income of the co-operative whole or community. Whether an exact apportionment can be made or not is away from the point. Justice is satisfied if a fair approximation be made; and no one in his senses will deny the possibility of this, whether by the single tax or by some other method. Though it were true that in some instances, even in all, we might not be able to draw the line exactly between "mine" and "thine" on the one hand and "ours" on the other, that is no reason for not trying to draw it at all. Suppose we can not get for com-

mon use precisely all the common income, is this any reason for pouring most of that income into private pockets and then confiscating individual earnings to make up the deficit in the common exchequer?

+ +

The San Francisco Star.

Readers of The Public will be pained to learn of the utter destruction by earthquake and fire of the property of the San Francisco Star. For twenty years and more the Star has been a beacon light of genuine democracy in California. Its editor, James H. Barry, is not only a thorough Jeffersonian democrat, but his thought strikes true and the full courage of his convictions has never failed him. The history of his paper is part of the best history of his city and State. It is not merely sympathy for James H. Barry that moves us to speak in these terms of his loss, keenly sympathetic though we are; it is a realization keener still of the loss that genuine democracy would suffer should the San Francisco Star be buried in the ruins of the city whose best ideals it has so faithfully and courageously voiced.

+ +

Dr. Gaffney and Hamlin Russell.

These two men of New Jersey, who have recently died, both citizens of Newark and co-workers each in his own way as disciples of Henry George, had achieved reputations extending beyond their city and State. Hamlin Russell, an old newspaper man, was the founder and publisher of Russell's Convention Dates. At one time he was railway editor of the St. Louis Republic and later of the Cincinnati Inquirer. A personal friend of Henry George, he was one of the honorary pallbearers at George's funeral. Dr. Matthew T. Gaffney, a physician of large practice in Newark, was well known as a consistent Roman Catholic who in boyhood became and until his death remained an indefatigable supporter of the economic doctrines preached by Father McGlynn. At the time of his death he was secretary-treasurer of the New Jersey Single Tax League. The last appearance in public of Dr. Gaffney and Mr. Russell was together at the New Jersey Democratic conference (p. 8) on the 20th of March. Both are described as men of strong convictions, tenacious purpose and high moral courage.

+ + +

Miss Kulcher: Of course, Mr. Freschmann, you are quite familiar with Greek.

Mr. Freschmann: Oh, yes, indeed. I know Greek the minute I see it, the letters are so funny looking, you know.—Philadelphia Press.