

that such changes in the law may be made that an edition large enough to satisfy all demands may be printed and that the maps may be sold at cost." They fix—subject of course to correction as experience may suggest—the true value of every foot of the area of Greater New York. As may be inferred they are not a mere official "stunt" to brag about. They are a graphic result of three years of progressive administration, still incomplete, during which real estate valuations have been brought into conformity to the requirements of the tax law, and the value of improvements has been distinguished in mass and in detail from the value of land. The single achievement of approximately securing full value valuations as the law requires, is enough in itself to distinguish any tax official responsible for accomplishing it. The work of distinguishing approximately, for one of the largest cities of the world, the value of building sites from the value of buildings, and laying the foundation for making this distinction annually and perfecting it in detail, thereby minimizing discriminations in taxation, should command, as it evidently does, the grateful approval of every honorable property owner in New York and every thoughtful tax reformer and student of taxation everywhere.

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The Nicaraguan Affair.

The real motive for the drastic kind of intervention the United States is making in the local affairs of Nicaragua (p. 1209) has not yet become public. Everything about the subject is a mystery except that the execution by the Nicaraguan authorities of the two Americans whose names figure in the controversy is not the true cause of the intervention. So much is at least fairly evident. Those two Americans were in violent revolt against the constituted authorities of Nicaragua, and were condemned to death pursuant to Nicaraguan law. While the death penalty is barbarous, it is not regarded as barbarous by the law of nations. If a Nicaraguan resident in the United States were to join a band of what we should call traitors, and levy war upon our constituted authorities, and a court martial were to shoot them for planting dynamite bombs where an explosion would cause death and destruction, is it likely that our government would seriously consider a complaint from Nicaragua that our President, if he refused a pardon or reprieve, had committed murder? Yet what would be the difference? Not a difference of right, but of relative might. Nicaragua would be too weak to follow up her complaint against us if she were in the right, whereas we are strong

enough to follow up ours against her though we be in the wrong. Is that a substantial difference in the eye of the law of nations? If it is, then truly the law of nations is the ass that old Bumble called the law of England. When a nation can offer no better excuse for intervention in the affairs of another than its greater power, it puts itself by that very fact in the wrong. Since Congressman Sulzer and Senator Rayner have taken the lead in backing up the Administration in its intervention in Nicaragua, we have a right to expect from them an adequate explanation; for neither is an imperialist, as are Mr. Taft and Mr. Knox. But until they speak satisfactorily, or satisfactory explanation comes from some other source, it will be the part of wise patriotism to reserve judgment on the merits of the Knox-Taft attitude toward Nicaragua. Mr. Rayner has spoken, but not satisfactorily, judging by the reports of his speech. It throws no light upon the facts. While awaiting an explanation, let us hope that the acts of the Administration are not in imitation of the Panama Republic episode, as a prelude to the adoption of a Nicaraguan canal route in consequence of the disappointment of expectations regarding the Panama route.

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Samuel Brazier.

The Massachusetts Single Tax League has lost another of its prominent members by death—Samuel Brazier, a veteran reformer who had passed his seventy-sixth year. A native of England and resident there until the last quarter of a century of his life, Mr. Brazier had already made his reputation as a temperance lecturer when the lectures and books of Henry George drew him toward the single tax and turned his devotion to this as the more fundamental reform. For some years he was secretary of the Anti-Vivisection Society; and while that most attractive Boston magazine "Government" (vol. x, pp. 167, 191, 407, 1124; vol. xi, pp. 21, 166, 764) was published he was its editor. Contributions from Mr. Brazier's pen have appeared in our columns, verse (vol. iii, pp. 218, 591; vol. v, p. 189; vol. vi, p. 138; vol. vii, pp. 366, 635, 824; vol. viii, pp. 25, 171) as well as prose (vol. vii, p. 579), and he was a frequent contributor to other publications. With William Lloyd Garrison and Louis Prang, Mr. Brazier was among the good men of Boston whose death has this year notably depleted the ranks of those who were in and of the single tax movement, not only of Boston but of the United States, in its early days.