

We now have absolute free trade with both. In one year our trade with the Philippines has doubled, and within a short time our trade with Porto Rico has increased nearly fifteen times. Apparently, no one in the United States is injured by the change, while many must have been benefited. We have always heard that the proof of the pudding is in the eating. How much more freedom could we give to our trade with benefit to the nation?

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Canadian Land Value Taxation.

The Grand Rapids (Mich.) News (ind.), June 24.—Lawson Purdy, head of the New York city tax department, was right in his Detroit assertion that Canada "has made more progress in taxation reform during the last ten years than Michigan has made in its whole history." And he was also right in declaring that the chief obstacles to tax reform in this State are the Constitutional restrictions that fetter free legislative action, thus blocking taxation experiments on progressive lines. What Mr. Purdy says in regard to Michigan, however, is equally true of every State in the Union, except Oregon, which only recently adopted an amendment permitting county option in taxation.

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In the Right Direction.

The Lake Charles (La.) Daily American-Press (ind.), July 1.—Representative Garland Dupre has introduced a bill in the House which, if adopted, will increase the wealth of the United States a hundredfold more than all of our ventures in island buying and canal building. It provides for the reclamation of the eighty million acres of land along the Mississippi river by the Federal government. The American-Press is not aware of the details of the bill, nor how it is proposed that the landowners benefited shall repay the government for the work done, but the principle is correct. Homes for millions of people and wealth in billions of dollars can be created by the improvement of this body of the richest land in the world that lies in the heart of the country.

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Congressman George's Singletax Speech.

Grand Rapids (Mich.) Press, June 19.—When Henry George's exposition of single tax contained in his book, "Progress and Poverty," was given to the world in 1879 it hardly gained serious consideration. Last week his son, Representative Henry George of New York, was given a respectful hearing in Congress while he advocated the absolute abolition of the tariff, even for revenue purposes, and called for the installation of single tax on land values to take the place of the income thus lost. One test of the interest with which a speech is received in Congress is to be found in the Congressional Record. If it is printed in solid paragraphs with no interruptions or questions by other members recorded it is likely that it excited little comment. If it is broken up with interrogations and interruptions it is shown that the other Congressmen at least were interested. In this instance Mr. George had to stop at least a score of times and either amplify or explain his remarks.

To one familiar with the Singletax theory there is little new in the address except the manner in which the son applies the father's doctrine to distinctively modern problems like the conservation of natural resources, control of coal lands, waterpower sites, railroads, steamship lines, etc. In reply to questions he went into details as to the manner in which he would face the conditions created by modern industry, the basis of his contention being that all monopoly is first made possible by a monopoly of land. . . . Not the least interesting part of his speech was his recital of how the theory is being applied in part in the taxation systems of western Canada, Australia and other countries. In Vancouver, B. C., for instance, it has been accepted to the extent of exempting property improvements from assessment and fixing the rate on land alone. No country, however, that has a tariff can be said to have the Singletax. The manner in which Mr. George conducted the debate proves that he is well fitted to defend his father's theory.

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A Dying Iniquity.

Collier's (ind.), July 8.—Protection will some day be tested and found wanting. When that day comes, protection will go quickly. However necessary it may be as a temporary necessity, to stimulate manufactures and make an agricultural country self-sufficient, protection as a permanent institution is morally unjustifiable. Like the social evil, it may be impossible to abolish it for the present, it may be necessary to temporize and accept expedients; but every man who is honest with himself ought nevertheless to preserve his true vision as to its fundamental quality. Protection takes money out of the pockets of one class of people and puts into the pockets of another class, without any equivalent in service. No community can watch this go on, under warrant of law, for any great length, without losing its finer sense of discrimination as to the distinction between mine and thine. Protection is morally devitalizing to all whom it affects, most of all to its beneficiaries.

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Madero's Problem.

New York Times (ind.), July 4.—How much wiser it would be for the Government to do nothing more to open the waste lands than to tax them. Land taxes in Mexico have been trifling. The Diaz Government never cared to increase them, but Madero could do nothing better or wiser. Probably he will not, however, as the idea of Government purchase seems more popular. It is strange that the freer the people become the more they encourage governmental paternalism. Madero, it will be seen, has his hands full of new problems, which, however, are new only to Mexico, where the republican form of government has hitherto been the mask of an autocracy. The rest of us have been contending long with all these problems, and not very satisfactorily, we must admit. Mexico, in its new estate, is not worse off than the rest of the world.

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The (St. Louis) Mirror (Wm. Marion Reedy). July 6.—In the reconstitution of conditions in Mex-