

tion has increased, then how much more must production increase before it will pass beyond the power of private monopoly and special privilege, to keep up with it in the matter of advancing prices?

The question presented to intellectual honesty is: Are the proponents of the spurious and absurd "economics," which totally ignores the preponderant factor of the problem (the effective power of private monopoly and special privilege)—are these proponents sincere, and do they speak as they do through ignorance? or are they insincere, and do they utter their absurdities trusting that the general ignorance will shield them from detection?

In either case it is the high duty of every man who understands, to declare the truth, to keep open the way of progress, that the toiling millions may pass on to the plains of plenty.

EDWARD HOWELL PUTNAM.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

EXPOSURE OF AN OHIO REACTIONARY.

Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 6th.

The use of the Singletax as a scarecrow with which to damage the Initiative and Referendum proposals now before the Ohio Constitutional Convention was amusingly exposed before the taxation committee of that body today.

The gentleman to take a double tilt at the I. and R. was James W. Halfhill, a lawyer of Lima, Ohio, and delegate from the County of Allen in the Convention. The man to expose the double purpose in the attack was the chairman of the committee, Edward W. Doty, a Cleveland delegate for Cuyahoga County.

Mr. Halfhill submitted a proposed amendment to the Constitution which contemplated tying the hands of both the State legislature and the people against taking ground rent by taxation. The proposal read: "The General Assembly may classify all property for the purposes of taxation; but no class of property shall be taxed for the benefit of any other class, no double taxation shall be permitted, no confiscatory rate or levy shall be legal, and the single tax on land or ground rent shall never be established."

In the course of his remarks for this curious proposal, Mr. Halfhill informed the committee that his proposal was submitted purely as a vote-getter, and that he had no intention that it should be written into the State Constitution. The idea, he said, appealed to certain persons in his own constituency and was included in his proposal purely for "local consumption." The frankness of this statement amused the other members of the Convention present, and the Chairman took advantage of the situation to draw some further reactionary teeth.

The Initiative and Referendum is the great question before the Convention. It is the question with

an emphasis on the "the," so that many of the plays by the delegates are intended solely for their reflex influence. For instance, one delegate was heard to remark that he favored the recording and printing of the debates and proceedings of the Convention for the reason that the expense would discredit the whole proceedings in the eyes of the electors. That is why he had voted for the recommendation of the printing committee. With this situation evidently in mind, the Chairman of the taxation committee pointed out to Mr. Halfhill that the Singletax is not an issue before the Convention, and is not now in force in Ohio and not likely to be for some time to come. The Chairman wanted to know of Mr. Halfhill if he could not be equally candid with regard to the Singletax clause in his proposal. Was not that also inserted for an ulterior purpose, for the purpose of heading-off the Initiative and Referendum?

To this Mr. Halfhill, with continued candor, assented.

"What do you mean by Singletax?" asked Mr. Geo. W. Harris, one of the committee men. The question caused some perplexity to the man from Allen, and afforded no little suppressed mirth to the Singletax chairman of the committee.

Mr. Halfhill fell back upon the name of Henry George, and then followed the interesting spectacle of a reactionary and self-confessed political manipulator reading with dramatic emphasis the eloquent statement of Mr. George's proposals, as found in *Progress and Poverty*.

"Sounds good," commented the Chairman as the reading concluded.

Mr. Halfhill ejaculated contemptuously: "Not to me."

"Don't you like that about abolishing poverty?" asked the Chairman.

"That shows the man was a dreamer," retorted Mr. Halfhill.

A long and animated discussion on the definition of Singletax followed, in which it was demonstrated by Mr. Harris, of Cincinnati, that the idea as drawn from the writings of Henry George is very different indeed from that in the minds of some people who oppose it.

A. W. R.



AUSTRALASIA.

Corowa, N. S. W., Australia, January 12.

The State elections held in Victoria in November made practically no alteration in the position of parties.

This was the first time that women in Victoria could vote at State elections.



In South Australia, owing to a disagreement between the State Houses of Parliament, the lower House has been dissolved, and general elections will be held.



General elections were held in New Zealand last month, and resulted in a great change in the state of parties.