

by the organs of Senator Hanna during the recent campaign, was that he had vastly increased taxation in Cleveland. There was shrewdness in the charge, for taxes there have risen, the expenses of the city have been increased. But those who made it counted without the possibility of all the facts coming out, and this possibility has now been realized. The statements of the city auditor and the county auditor, just published, show that most of the increase was caused by the Republican machine, and that Mayor Johnson is chargeable not only with a small porportion, but that this is due to the better paving, the cleaner streets, the better lighting and other improvements in the public service which Johnson has introduced.

To be more specific the total increase of the city taxes of Cleveland for 1903 is \$520,000, of which \$402,000, fully itemized, is directly attributable to the acts of the Republican legislature and to the Republican attacks upon the city charter. The remaining \$118,000, for which the Johnson administration is responsible, is distributed as follows:

Street repaving	\$80,000
Street cleaning	20,000
Improvements in street lighting.....	10,000
Interest on sanitary notes to meet smallpox epidemics.....	10,000
City farm school, a new institution for children now sent to the workhouse	18,000
Total	\$118,000

As the county treasurer is delivering an itemized copy of this account to every tax payer with his receipt, the Hanna party in Cleveland is not likely to profit much by their shrewd references to the increase of local taxation.

A preliminary report has been published by the West Virginia tax commission in which a recommendation is made that evokes this significant editorial comment from the Wheeling Register:

All of which is substantially the old familiar single land-tax proposition, the prime advocate of which in the United States was the late Henry George, senior. Mr. George was looked upon by the laity in general as a sort of crank or socialist, and it is an

illustration of the recurrence or the growth or evolution of ideas that so able, staid and conservative a body as the West Virginia tax commission should now suggest a trial of Mr. George's pet theory.

The recommendation in question is intelligently discussed by the Register. It seems that complaints were received by the tax commission from some municipalities that building lots owned by persons able to improve them are suffered to remain without improvements, while their value steadily increases by reason of the neighboring improvements made by other persons. In consequence of these complaints the tax commission has considered the advisability of experimenting with methods aiming to do away with the inequality and injustice complained of. One method suggested is to permit any municipality, after an affirmative vote of its citizens, to exempt from assessment and taxation, generally or for a specified time, the value of any improvements upon real estate in such municipality, thus allowing all taxes to rest upon land value and stimulating improvement. In its editorial comment the Wheeling Register presents in support of this plan the argument that—

at present the owners of unimproved city lots, without taking any risk or making any effort, profit by the increase in value given entirely by the enterprise and labor of the owners of neighboring property upon which improvements are constructed; that such a lot may be so situated as to make it difficult to improve other lots unless it be improved; that to remove taxes on improvements would encourage the investment of money in them, which is now supposed largely to escape taxation, would give employment to labor and increase the values of land.

The emperor of Germany has been making another speech. This time it is to workingmen and against the Socialists. As the cable reports him he said to the workingmen:

For years they had let themselves be led by agitators and Socialists under the delusion that they must belong to the party if they wished to better their position. That was a great lie and a serious mistake. These agitators, the Emperor declared, had tried to stir up the workingmen against their employ-

ers, against other classes, and against the throne and altar, and at the same time they had most unscrupulously exploited, terrorized and enslaved them in order to strengthen their own power, not for the promotion of the welfare of the workingmen, but in order to sow hatred between the classes and disseminate cowardly slanders, from which nothing, not even the grandest quality, the honor of German manhood, remained immune. With such people the working class, as honor loving men, should have nothing more to do. Emperor William concluded with asking the deputation to send a comrade from their midst—a simple, unpretending man from the workshop—into the national parliament. Such a man would be gladly welcomed as a working representative of the German working class. The representatives of other classes would willingly work together with such representatives, however many they might be.

No doubt it would please the privileged classes greatly if the workingmen of Germany would send to parliament "simple, unpretending" men from the shops—that is, men without principles or policies—who could be fooled with royal flatteries and unconsciously bought with petty legislative favors for their class. It may be that the Socialists of Germany do not offer the best principles and policies for German labor interests, but it is certain that those they do offer are better for workingmen than those the Emperor and the landlord classes wish to impose, and would impose if the Socialists didn't make such a hue and cry. So the German emperor's speech emphatically recalls that very instructive fable of Aesop's, which we here reproduce for convenient comparison:

Once on a time, the Wolves sent an embassy to the Sheep, desiring that there might be peace between them for the time to come. "Why," said they, "should we be forever waging this deadly strife? Those wicked Dogs are the cause of all; they are incessantly barking at us and provoking us. Send them away, and there will be no longer any obstacle to our eternal friendship and peace." The silly Sheep listened, the Dogs were dismissed, and the flock thus deprived of their best protection, became an easy prey to their treacherous enemy.

In urging the old Know Nothing policy of withholding suffrage rights