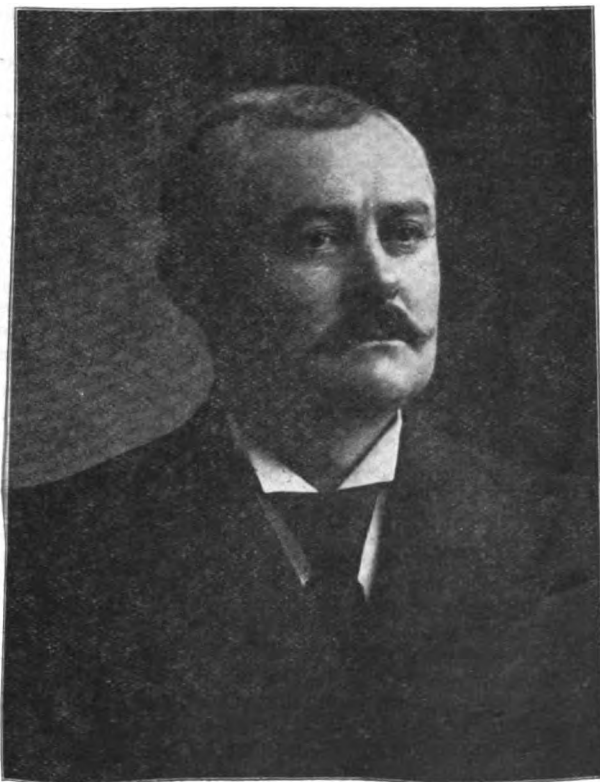


In the United States today it is being realized that for any beef trust, or other food combination, to come between the soil and the consumer is perilous to the life of the Republic. As never before, Americans are realizing the real relation of life to the land and the absolute necessity of having free access to it. To have a trust standing between the land and life, compelling a man to pay for existence on arbitrary terms, is foolish and fatal. The result of the movement against the beef trust will at least reveal more clearly the necessity of keeping life and land in close union.

Unless we are wiser than they to the south have been, we shall sometime have to face similar conditions. The time to take action against such a peril is now, in the young days of this nation. Let us therefore see that the way is kept clear, that man has free access to the soil, and that all mercenary obstacles between nature's storehouse and human life are removed. If Canada will only realize the necessity of this action and will safeguard its life by making sacred its land, it will present an object lesson to the other nations of the world that will be of tremendous value. Let this be our present task.

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JOHN MACMILLAN.



Distinguished among the men who have brought Vancouver, B. C., to the point (pp. 243, 252,

434, 470) of abolishing all taxes on real estate improvements, leaving the land in proportion to its value to bear the burden of municipal taxation, is John Macmillan. Of Scotch descent, he is of Canadian birth, and in early life for sixteen years he earned his living by the hardest kind of manual work. He was elected to the City Council of Victoria, B. C., in 1895, reelected in 1896, and after settling in Vancouver upon his return from a tour of Queensland, New South Wales and New Zealand, he was three times elected to the Vancouver City Council—in 1906, 1908 and 1909. He had succeeded, while in the Victoria Council in 1906, in reducing the tax valuations of improvements to 25 per cent, the land being valued at 100 per cent, but upon his defeat for reelection the old system of valuing improvements at 50 per cent was revived. Upon entering the Vancouver Council he joined Aldermen Macpherson, Morton and Williams in a successful effort to reduce the valuation of improvements from 50 per cent to 25 per cent, and this rate remained in force until the present year. Meanwhile he and his coadjutors had succeeded in securing a revaluation of the land of Vancouver. This made it possible to abolish all taxation on improvements, which was done last March. Mr. Macmillan has long been a disciple of Henry George.

BOOKS

MUNICIPAL MORALITY LAWS.

On the Enforcement of Law in Cities. A Reply to a Letter from Representatives of The Federation of Churches. By Brand Whitlock, Mayor of Toledo.

Although this is a public document, and no price is charged for printed copies, the demand for it is likely to be so great as to make it reasonable, we should suppose, that persons sending to its author for copies should accompany their requests with modest contributions to the necessary expense fund for printing.

A book in character, it is an open letter in form, and a 27-page pamphlet in shape. It is the first instance, so far as we know, of a thorough-going essay from an all-round competent source on the subject of morality laws and their enforcement in cities. Although Toledo is the immediate object of the essay, it fits perfectly to every other city.

The occasion for this publication was, as indicated in the title, a formal presentation to Mayor Whitlock by representatives of the Federation of Churches in Toledo, of a statement of their views regarding the importance and methods of enforcing morality laws in their city. Mayor Whitlock reserved his reply for purposes of careful consideration, and this valuable little book is the result.

The sincerity of the men who waited upon the