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Seattle's Singletax Campaign.

As the municipal election in Seattle approaches—it comes off on the 5th of March—the fight over the Singletax proposals gets hotter. Multiplying evidences of fear for the result by the privileged interests of that city are significant of even more than a possibility of another municipal victory for the Singletax. Two proposed amendments to the city charter are to be voted on. One provides for a progressive shifting of taxes over a period of years from improvement values to land values; the other provides for immediate abolition of all taxes except on land values. So imminent to the land speculators of Seattle does their danger seem, that they are making the newspapers ring again with their outcries. Letters to the editor, real estate advertisements, editorials, and plenty of them, all go to tell the story of a great local fight—one which, no matter how the approaching election turns out, spells *doom* for land speculation.



That land speculation is doomed by the Singletax movement, and in the interest of land us, is virtually confessed. Read this paragraph from the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, the leading daily newspaper of that part of the State of Washington:

One of the leading real estate dealers, explaining the difficulty in finding a market for unimproved property in Seattle, says that the regrade districts

have been almost entirely tabooed by investors, owing not only to the heavy financial burdens imposed upon the property by reason of the cost of the improvements, but by the threat of the passage of the Singletax amendments to the city charter. Already this threat, it seems, has caused a serious financial injury to a considerable class of people, who have borne a heavy tax burden without serious complaint, while without income from their taxable property to aid them in doing so.

To the "P. I." that seems a typical case. We suppose it is; we hope it is. Seattle Singletaxers should welcome the confession. Even the *bare expectation* of the Singletax is here confessed to be producing the beneficent effect which its adversaries "of mart and college" have been contending that it would not produce though in full operation.



What is that effect? That investors are made shy "by the threat of the passage of the Singletax amendments." What kind of investors? Investors in unimproved land, of course, for the above quotation notes "the difficulty in finding a market for *unimproved* property in Seattle." Why the difficulty in finding a market for that kind of property—vacant building lots? The same quotation confesses that it is because the price has fallen. "Already this threat," says the "P.-I.," "has caused a serious financial injury," etc., etc. That is, the land speculators cannot get the profits on their land monopoly which they expected to get. And the Singletax—a mere "threat" of Singletax—has done it. "Good for the Singletax!" is what every workingman, every home owner, every builder, every storekeeper, every other producer in the city of Seattle ought to say, and if wise will say by his vote on the 5th of March. Since the Singletax would exempt improvements from taxation, and would squeeze the "water" out of the price of places to improve upon, the Singletax amendments would surely bring prosperity to the *improvers* of Seattle. And isn't it improvers that Seattle wants to make prosperous?



Seattle may defeat this amendment. We can hardly think the intelligent industrial population of that progressive city will be so easily fooled by land speculation interests, but they may be. If they are, however, sadly will they rue the day. For above the Canadian line Vancouver is going ahead with a stride, under the fostering influence of the Singletax in operation there; and Vancouver will apply it more instead of less. To the south of Seattle, Oregon is about to vote for the

Singletax in her counties, and Portland is almost certain in consequence to follow Vancouver's example. There will then be two large cities, one a little to the north of Seattle and the other a little to the south, in which improvements are not taxed. What effect on the flow of *productive* capital will that have, think you? With two such competitors, both of them exempting all industry, all production, all homes from taxation, Seattle will have little left for it, if she defeats the Singletax amendment, but to change her vote or "dry up and blow away." *Productive capital* will not go to Seattle to be taxed to death, if it can go to Vancouver and Portland and be *tax free*. Under those circumstances, the only kind of investments Seattle could attract would be those that do no city any good. They would be investments not in the production of desirable property that isn't there now, but in boosting the prices of a kind of property (the site of the city) which has always been there and can't get away. Even these blighting investments wouldn't long continue going to Seattle; the turning away of productive capital from Seattle to Vancouver and Portland would make even the site of Seattle a drug in the market.



"Ten Men for Nine Jobs."

There are at all times in Chicago 100,000 men who want employment but can't find it. So says the official report of the free employment commission of Illinois filed at Springfield last week. Yet idleness is explained by laziness, poverty by unthrift, labor tyranny in conserving jobs by crafty labor leaders, and labor dynamiting by wanton wickedness. "What fools these mortals be," to be sure; these mortals who, when their own hearths are heated and their own bellies filled, think the whole world warmed and fed.



The Movement Toward Canada.

Now and then are heard hysterical demands that the migration of Americans to the farm lands of western Canada be checked. But why check it? And if there is a Why, what then about the How? Conditions in Canada attract some American people more strongly than conditions in the United States; else Americans would not migrate. If we would hold our population, we must do more than bewail the departure of those that are now leaving, and we must propose something less vague than "checking" them. Why not ask how it comes that Canada has a greater appeal for certain Americans than America has? American citizens