

sense, but events are dispelling that idea. [See current volume, pages 230, 242, 400.]

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As chairman in the Commission of the board of appraisers, Commissioner Pastoriza has added \$12,000,000 to the valuations of Houston, without increasing the values of buildings or personal property and without adding a penny's tax to a single home in the wage-workers' section of the city. So it is reported by the Galveston News, as quoted by the Fairhope Courier of July 28. In this report Mr. Pastoriza explains that—

"Inasmuch as it is the established custom or policy of this city to assess buildings and personal property at a lower valuation than land it was realized that we could secure but little increase from that source, so had to look for said increase almost wholly to land values and franchises, which are in their very nature land values." An investigation showed that there had been an especial increase in land values in the downtown district, since the last assessment was made, while the increase had been quite small in the residence sections. Mr. Pastoriza wisely began the revaluation of land in that section and carried it as far as the time at his disposal permitted. Mr. Pastoriza expressed his regret that time did not permit the completion of the work but he promised if the commissioners desired the work to be proceeded with by him to devote the next year and a half to it.

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#### The Singletax at Seattle.

News dispatches of the 1st from Seattle report action by the City Council in the direction of the Singletax, to which, according to these dispatches as published by the Kansas City Times of the 2d, "five members of the City Council are pledged." The reported action is an ordinance adopted on the 1st, which abolishes fees for building-permits. Special significance is attached to this mild application of the Singletax doctrine of removing tax burdens from industry, because, when opponents of this measure argued that consistency would demand abolition of fees for plumbing, and for electrical and other inspection, the Singletaxers in the Council promised to take such action. Following the passage of the free building-permit ordinance, a resolution was introduced and referred to committee which provides that the Council consider submitting at the next general election a charter amendment exempting building improvements on real estate in whole or in part, from all municipal taxation. [See current volume, page 604.]

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#### Something New in Labor Injunctions.

A labor injunction has been granted in Des Moines, Iowa, which looks somewhat like an adaptation of the labor-injunction idea to the service

of striking employes rather than to strike-breaking employers.

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The strike in question was started against the Des Moines City Railway company over a question involving the arbitrary discharge of a union conductor. J. R. Harrigan, general manager, imported a large body of professional strikebreakers from Chicago. As soon as they began arriving, August 2d, the strike extended from streetcar men to workers in other lines of employment. For instance, at the hotel at which 74 strikebreakers were housed, the waiters struck, and the proprietor required the strikebreakers to seek entertainment elsewhere. By the 5th the tie-up of the lines was complete, and public sentiment against the imported strikebreakers had extended far beyond the ranks of the strikers. In the Des Moines news dispatches, obviously inspired by the traction interests, it is easy to read that the violent features of the strike were due not so much, if at all, to labor warfare as to local resentment at the importation of organized rioters and riot provokers. There was little or no car service on the 5th and 6th; but late on the 6th the new kind of injunction began to operate.

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Judge De Graff, of the District Court, issued the injunction. It was based upon the company's obligations to the public and a contract between the company and its regular employes. The company had discharged a conductor, Benjamin J. Hiatt, nominally for dishonesty, but really, as the men contended, for reasons hostile to their organization and their contract. Although they offered to arbitrate the dispute, the company "had nothing to arbitrate." But the court ordered the dispute to trial, Conductor Hiatt to hold his place in the interim, and both parties to resume service, the men because they are under contract obligations to the company and the company because it is under contract obligations to the city.

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The first conductor to take out a car on the 6th, at the close of the strike, was Conductor Hiatt. Strike leaders express themselves as well satisfied with the situation. The imported strike-breakers returned at once to Chicago.

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#### The Cotton Tariff.

By an enormous majority, 202 to 91, the bill revising cotton duties passed the House on the 3d. It cuts the average of duties on manufactured cotton goods from 48 to 27 per cent ad valorem. This is the third tariff-revision measure to pass the House, the other two being the wool tariff reduction bill and the "farmers' free list" bill. [See current volume, page 803.]