
INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

REORGANIZATION OF THE CHICAGO SINGLE TAX CLUB.

Chicago, February 8, 1910.

At the last meeting of the Chicago Single Tax Club it was resolved to invite all single taxers throughout Illinois to become members of the club until such time as clubs can be organized in their respective cities or towns. All persons wishing to become members of the Chicago club are requested to send in their names. Dues are 25 cents monthly, or \$3.00 per annum. Our headquarters, 508 Schiller Building, are open regularly, and visiting single taxers are welcome.

Our purpose is to increase the power of this club in carrying forward its work of spreading the light of the single tax principle, and if we establish a closer bond of co-operation a greater harvest must necessarily follow. We are in touch with the foreign and National single tax associations, and a news bulletin will be issued from time to time.

The recent Parliamentary struggle in England, precipitated by Lloyd George's attack on landlordism in the Budget, has awakened land taxationists everywhere. The war has but just begun, and if we but take advantage of the deep, swift currents of public thought on this subject, aroused everywhere by the English fight, we, too, in this great English speaking nation of ours, will be able to strike a blow for the larger liberty of the race.

GEO. A. SCHILLING.

NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article, on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Tuesday, February 15, 1910.

The New British Parliament.

John Redmond (p. 130) was re-elected chairman of the Irish Nationalist party at Dublin on the 9th. Timothy M. Healy and William O'Brien and their followers (p. 130) were not invited to participate in the meeting. Resolutions were adopted refusing representation in the party to any Nationalist who had opposed the decisions of conventions officially convened to select candidates, or who had opposed the official candidates; and none of the anti-Redmonites recently elected to Parliament will be admitted to the party without a special vote. At a banquet of the United Irish League held on the evening of the same day, Mr. Redmond announced it to be the policy of his

party to subordinate every issue to the question of Irish Home Rule, and the first step toward that was the abolition of the veto power of the House of Lords. His party was prepared to vote for the Budget, provided the question of the veto was promptly dealt with. Three radical Liberal journals, the Nation, the Daily News and the Morning Leader, sent the following joint telegram to Mr. Redmond:

Congratulations to you on your magnificent stand. The whole fighting force of Liberalism is behind you.

In a statement given out by Mr. Redmond on the 12th, he said:

The position of the Irish party in this crisis admits of no possibility of misconception. We put Home Rule before every other consideration. That has always been and remains our unalterable policy. The restriction of the Lords' veto is an essential condition precedent to the passage of the Home Rule bill. Therefore we have decided, after carefully reviewing all possible alternatives, that the House of Lords' vote must be dealt with before the Budget is. To pass the Budget and then attempt to deal with the Lords' veto would be to court failure.

The Labor party recognizes its close affiliation with the Liberals, according to the Associated Press dispatches. Keir Hardie is reported to have predicted in a speech at Mountain Ash, Wales, on the 14th, that there would be no general election for two years owing to the impoverished condition of the money chests of all the parties. He believed, he declared, that the bill relating to the veto of the House of Lords and the Budget would be put through Parliament side by side, and said that, whatever course the Government took, the Labor party would support it.

+

The plans of the suffragettes (p. 130), according to the Manchester Guardian of January 28, include the introduction into the next Parliament of a private member's bill, aimed to remove the political disability of sex. "By this means," Miss Christabel Pankhurst is quoted as saying in "Votes for Women," "a two-fold object will be served. In the first place, we secure that woman suffrage shall be discussed by the House of Commons at the very beginning of the new Parliament; and in the second place, that the issue shall be raised in the manner we desire—namely, in the distinct and separate form uncomplicated by association with any other franchise proposal. The Women's Enfranchisement Bill fulfills this condition by providing simply and solely that women possessing the qualifications which for the time being entitle men to vote shall be placed upon the Parliamentary register."

+

Mr. Winston Churchill, speaking at Manchester on the 27th, according to the Manchester Guardian,

warned that a protective tariff would be followed by trusts:

He had no doubt whatever that a protective tariff would be injurious (cheers). But consider what the introduction of that system would mean to our political life. With the tariff came the trusts. He was reading in the "Times"—a newspaper which was not always favorable to them (laughter)—that in the United States two million people had banded themselves together to eat no meat for thirty days in order to break the Meat Trust. The moment they got a tariff and foreign competition was shut out the producers in this country would put their heads together and say: "We will not cut our own throats. We will charge the public what we will." They knew perfectly what tremendous powers a great trust could use and exert. They had only one great trust to fight at present, and that was the liquor trust. It was at present the only great organized industry which took part in the politics of this country; but they knew how hard it was to fight against (cheers), and they knew how it held the Tory party in the hollow of its hand. What he asked them was to consider what their position would be if instead of having one great trust they had twenty-five—if every industry had to organize to secure favors from the government by tariffs, favors which would be at the people's expense. If they ever had a great network of trusts set up in this country then they would find that the freedom of their democratic system of government would be destroyed. Elections would turn upon tariffs, and members would go to Parliament, not to defend the interests of the people, but to push the line of goods which their own local interests demanded and their local organizations dictated (hear! hear!).

+ +

The President Defends His Tariff.

Mr. Taft, speaking at the annual Lincoln day dinner of the New York Republican Club on the 12th, asserted that his administration would enforce the law against illegal business, but that it could be "counted on to enforce the law in the way best calculated to prevent a destruction of public confidence in business." In regard to the tariff (vol. xii, p. 778) he said in part:

We did revise the tariff. It is impossible to revise the tariff without awakening the active participation in the formation of the schedules of those producers whose business will be affected by a change. This is the inherent difficulty in the adoption or revision of a tariff by our representative system.

Nothing was expressly said in the platform that this revision was to be a downward revision. The implication that it was to be generally downward, however, was fairly given by the fact that those who uphold a protective tariff system defend it by the claim that after an industry has been established by shutting out foreign competition the domestic competition will lead to the reduction in price so as to make the original high tariff unnecessary.

In the new tariff there were 654 decreases, 220 increases, and 1,150 items of the dutiable list unchanged, but this did not represent the fair proportion in most of the reductions and the increases, be-

cause the duties were decreased on those articles which had a consumption value of nearly \$5,000,000,000, while they were increased on those articles which had a consumption value of less than \$1,000,000,000. Of the increases the consumption value of those affected which are of luxuries—to wit, silks, wines, liquors, perfumeries, pomades, and like articles—amounted to nearly \$600,000,000, while the increase on articles not of luxury affected but about \$800,000,000, as against decreases on about \$5,000,000,000 of consumption.

I repeat, therefore, that this was a downward revision. It was not downward with reference to silks or liquors or high priced cottons in the nature of luxuries. It was downward in respect to nearly all other articles except woolens, which were not affected at all.

Certainly it was not promised that the rates of luxuries should be reduced. The revenues were falling off, there was a deficit promised, and it was essential that the revenues should be increased. It was no violation of the promise to increase the revenues by increasing the tax on luxuries, provided there was downward revision on all other articles. . . .

I therefore venture to repeat the remark I have had occasion to make before, that the present customs law is the best customs law that ever has been passed, and it is most significant in this that it indicates on the part of the Republican party the adoption of a policy to change from an increase in duties to a reduction of them, and to effect an increase of revenues at the same time.

+ +

The Increased Cost of Living.

A measure providing for an investigation into the increased cost of living (p. 108) was passed in the United States Senate on the 9th. The measure authorizes an inquiry by a special committee of seven Senators into the general enhancement of values, covering not only food and clothing, but many other articles used in everyday life. The investigation also will cover the questions of salaries, earnings and the tariff. Not only will prices in the markets be included, but also those at the farm and the factory. John Callan O'Laughlin, writing to the Chicago Record-Herald, says that the slate of the Republican membership on the committee of investigation, as arranged by Senator Aldrich and other leaders, is as follows: Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, chairman; Senator Elkins of West Virginia, Senator McCumber of North Dakota, Senator Smoot of Utah. If any of these should decline service on the committee then Senator Crawford of South Dakota will fill the vacancy. And Mr. O'Laughlin asserts that the composition of the committee, as slated by Mr. Aldrich, assures the vindication of the tariff.

+

All over the country the question of the increased cost of living is the most prominent subject of discussion in meetings and in the columns