

values would be actual gainers. . . . The earth and all its riches belong to those who own the land, and wherever there is a surplus of wealth beyond the actual needs of the producers, it belongs, and sooner or later finds its way, to the land owners. . . . It may, or may not, take many hundred years yet to expunge the institution of private property in land, but, nonetheless, it is the only thing that will avail to bring about industrial peace and plenty.

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Our Taxation Abuses.

The (Pittsburg) Spectator (ind.), Jan. 20.—The plan is worthy and insistent—to wipe out the agricultural and rural classification of taxation on city property. As it now stands the large residence estates of rich citizens and the open land of speculators are rated little higher than farm lands, while manufacturing sites get the other limit. If the Chamber of Commerce can get the abolishment of this abuse through the legislature, they will have the thanks of 99 per cent of the people. They will also help to restore manufacturing activity in our needful city.

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The Next Step in Great Britain.

(London) Land Values (l. v. taxation), January—It is not disputed that this attack on land monopoly brought the Liberal party into the affections of the people, and it will be a bad day for Liberalism if its leaders are tempted to forget that the fruits of this policy are not yet to hand. In the local rating of land values the Government have the power, all that is wanted is the will, fully to redeem the promises held out to the country by their radical land reform policy. Leaders of the Tory party in Parliament favor the local rating of land values; the Tory party in the country is honeycombed with men who are for it; and the unattached man has already indicated his allegiance to the party which, in the words of Sir Edward Grey, "first masters that question—the taxation of land values—which first makes it its own, which can show that it is really capable of dealing with it, and is really prepared to deal with it, and is not going to let itself be hampered by vested interests for exercising its intelligence upon it freely."

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Fundamental Democracy in Massachusetts.

The Boston Common (ind.), Jan. 14.—The movement in Massachusetts toward fundamental democracy, toward equality of privileges and opportunities before the law, has received new life and hope from the inaugural message of Governor Foss. What among average citizens had been only a sense of injustice he put into specific expression, thus creating an inevitable issue. Frankly, why should not the people of Massachusetts govern themselves? . . . Why need a self-respecting people avow incapacity by pleading the necessity of a privileged class to protect them against themselves? . . . The time has come for New England to view open-mindedly the improvement in government which has come in progressive Western States along with or resulting from Direct Nominations, the Initi-

ative, the Referendum and the Recall; and to consider how much longer a habit of mind inhospitable to new ideas can suffice to shut the same benefit out of the States of the North Atlantic seaboard. The majority for Foss was a token of protest which he seeks to guide into constructive channels. The protest exists and the force of it is growing. It will not abate because complacent provincialism does not like to take it seriously.

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Cure for Disemployment.

(London) Land Values (l. v. taxation), January—It is Mr. Ure's conviction, and it is ours, that while a system of insurance may be a cure for evils arising out of unemployment, the problem itself can best be dealt with by opening up the land. As Mr. Ure says, one of the main remedies for unemployment lies in opening up the land, free and unrestricted, and that the all essential preliminary to effecting free access to the land is by the taxation of land values. This will cheapen land, and bring it into the market. It will render land accessible to the people, and will do more than any other measure to give great encouragement and stimulus to the industries of the country.

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Oregon's Best Asset.

The (Portland), Oregon Daily Journal (ind.), Jan. 11.—Along with the others, Woodrow Wilson, now appearing as one of the most brilliant statesmen of his time, has come out with an emphatic indorsement of the Oregon plan of government. It is the latest in a long line of accentuated approval. In the past ten days, from State capitals here and there throughout the country, have come plaudits for the system Oregon people have created. Everywhere, the system has been heralded as a model fit for copying. It has been the Governors of great commonwealths who have given it sanction. It has been to the assembled legislators of great States that the commendatory utterances have been made. It has been in appeals to these legislators to adopt the plan that these Governors have spoken. . . . Was ever a State so phenomenally commended and so favorably proclaimed? Was ever a State so widely heralded and so emphatically indorsed by so many men in high station? Are we not all glad that we prevented the Assembly from depriving us of our splendid system of government, a system that the past few days have shown us to be our best public asset?

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Of a truth it is fortunate that our liberties have been handed down to us by our forefathers, if for no other reason than that nothing in the world can be so battered up as an heirloom and still look respectable. Several of our liberties are to that degree worse for wear we should scarcely wish to have them about, only for the flavor of antiquity which clings to them; and they are liberties, too, of such importance that if they were banished altogether we should perhaps cease to be known as a free country, and by that leave the many foreigners who now visit our shores out of a pardonable curiosity, with little or nothing to allure them hither.—Puck.