

thies and activities of his successor, all genuine public sorrow over King Edward's death may well be swallowed up in the invigorating remembrance of his having except in name turned his accidental kingship into one of the higher types of Twentieth Century manhood.

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How to Make a Great City of a Small Village.

An instance illustrating the natural effect of the recent abolition of taxes on improvements in Vancouver, British Columbia, is vouched for as absolutely true by the Everett (Washington) Tribune of April 27. It seems well worth retelling just as the Everett Tribune has told it:

An Everett citizen who owns lots on Hewitt avenue had intended to improve his property by the erection of a brick building; but he has changed his mind and gives the following reason for so doing: "I own business lots in Vancouver, B. C., and received the following response to an inquiry which I made:

Vancouver, B. C., April 20, '10.

Dear Sir:—Replying to your favor of the 18th inst. we beg to say that your information is correct. There is no tax on building or personal property in this city. Total tax for 1909 was 22 mills. Yours truly, ALLAN BROS., 509 Pender Street.

"The above information decided the matter for me. The building I had planned for Hewitt avenue will be erected in Vancouver, B. C., where improvements are exempt from taxation. In that city I will be compelled to pay no more nor less than the man who holds idle lots on either side of me. I would rather have built in Everett, but didn't like the prospect of paying an annual fine on the cost of my investment. So I am adapting myself to our system, which makes it more profitable to hold land idle and escape taxation than to use it. Some one has said that our system of taxation enables land owners to 'sleep and thrive.' I propose to build in Vancouver and sleep in Everett."

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La Follette Misquoted.

Three weeks ago (p. 365) we made the following quotation in our News Narrative, from Senator La Follette's speech in the Senate on the 12th of April:

The mask is off. Mr. Mellen, Mr. Byrnes, and others of their kind are but hired megaphones through which a beefy, red-faced, thick-necked, financial bully, drunk with wealth and power, bawls his orders to stock markets, directors, courts, governments and nations. We have been listening to Mr. Morgan.

The quotation was taken from current telegraphic dispatches. They had either been poorly made at Washington or badly edited in the daily newspaper offices,—probably the former, for the report in different newspapers was the same. Our attention is now called by La Follette's Magazine, to the official report of the speech at page 4707 of the Congressional Record. It appears that

Senator La Follette, in the course of his remarks on some of the Taft legislation, dwelt at length upon railroad conditions in New England, and, as bearing upon these conditions, read to the Senate, for what it might be worth, an editorial which had been printed in the Commercial Bulletin of Boston, of February 19. Near the middle of that editorial is the language quoted above. It was Gov. Guild's language (he being the editor of the Commercial Bulletin), and not Senator La Follette's.

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Land Value Taxation in Great Britain.

We are informed that at a recent conference of the Independent Labour Party of Great Britain the following resolution was adopted, and that it is being widely circulated among and adopted by different British organizations and meetings:

That this conference of the Independent Labour Party, recognizing the intimate connection between the use of land and the employment of labor, pledges itself to attack land monopoly, which is responsible for depriving labor of access to land, and with a view to this end, they call for a heavy tax on the value of land which is held out of use.

Many worse things might be done in the United States and Canada, than promoting the frequent and extensive adoption of the substance of that resolution. It is a declaration of social need and purpose which might well be made by a great number and variety of organizations and meetings—political, industrial, social, religious and educational—regardless of party or denomination, or anything else but concern for good citizenship and just government.

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William Kent for Congress from California.

Newspaper dispatches from San Francisco report the candidacy for the Republican nomination for Congress from the second California district, of William Kent, formerly of Chicago but now of Kentfield, California. Mr. Kent was in the thick of the fight in Chicago against the gray wolf pack fifteen years ago, and as one of the incidents of that fight he served efficiently in the City Council. He is a Republican of the Abraham Lincoln type—a democratic Republican. If Congressman McKinlay, the present member from the second California district, is the representative of the Interests that the news dispatches describe him as being, Mr. Kent is the very kind of person to put into his place in Congress. A man of right convictions, he also has the political intelligence and the moral courage without which even the best convictions may cut but a sorry

figure in public affairs. In the campaign for nomination, Mr. Kent will doubtless have to encounter the opposition of the railroad ring, brutal or wily or both as circumstances require, and upon winning at the primaries he will be confronted by the same opposition at the election. It is earnestly to be hoped, therefore, that every democratic Republican in his district will vigorously support his candidacy at the primaries, and that upon his nomination every democratic Democrat there will join the democratic Republicans in making his election to Congress sure. Although the district is said to be strongly Republican, there is no telling what the Interests might try to make it if the party nominates such a man as Mr. Kent, whose convictions they fear and whose fighting qualities they do not despise.

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Another Sign of a Great Tendency.

The opening of the minds of good men of whatever social class goes on apace with reference to the essential difference between ameliorative charity for the poor and that larger charity whose other name is Justice. Another instance appeared in the Cincinnati Times-Star of April 29, in the course of a report of the annual meeting of the United Jewish Charities. The president of the Cincinnati organization, Max Senior, a man of light and leading among the Jews of Cincinnati and of general popularity as well, confessed his conviction that charity of the ameliorative kind, such as charity organizations usually indulge in, offers no solution for the problem of poverty. As quoted by the Times-Star he said:

With heartbreaking regularity each year brings its crop of unfortunates. They are victims of social injustice—of a neglect by the community of its obligations. Against these fundamental conditions the charity organization is powerless. We must take part in the great movements which shall eradicate the causes of distress. I am an optimist and see the day, not far off, when charity shall cease and justice prevail.

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Quinby for Congress from Nebraska.

Laurie J. Quinby, who is known far beyond Omaha, for he edits and publishes the "Chancellor," has announced his candidacy for Congress as a democratic Democrat. His platform, which declares for the initiative, referendum and recall, for postal savings banks localized and not centralized, and against ship subsidies, makes this further explanation of his views on national questions:

I am an advocate of a just system of taxation by which government shall be supported by a tax upon

monopoly and not upon thrift; upon privilege and not upon labor; upon idleness and not upon industry; upon those avenues of wealth now monopolized by the pets of privilege, not upon the food and clothing and shelter of those whose enterprise and toll create the wealth of the world. I am an advocate of the exemption of the home and all the products of human toil from the blight of taxation. . . . I assert the proposition that commerce is the greatest civilizing power in the world, and that the removal from it of all taxes and other unnatural restrictions upon it will most contribute to the building of our merchant marine and all other enterprises. There are about sixty billions of dollars represented in the value of the land of the United States, of which not more than ten billions are owned by the farmers of this nation. The government of the United States does not tax this immense value one penny. I propose that the taxes upon the farmer and mechanic and upon the implements they use shall be repealed, and that this immense value of sixty billions of dollars be made to bear its share of the expenses of the Federal government. Such a system of taxation will do more to conserve natural resources and protect the people from all forms of extortion than will all the penal laws against land frauds upon our statute books. Further it will prevent the growth of land monopoly in the United States. I am an advocate of the natural right of every man to toll, and I assert that the labor and enterprise of this land do not depend upon any special favors granted by government, but upon freedom in the application of their skill and genius to the boundless resources of this God-blessed land. Our need is not protection or charity, but justice. I stand for commerce and peace as against hatred and war; for the shop and the factory as against the army and the bloody field; for the merchant ship rather than the destructive iron clad of the sea; for the citizen rather than the soldier; for the home as against the garrison. And I assert the proposition that good will toward all mankind is the best and safest asset of any people, and the surest impetus to the advancement of civilization.

Mr. Quinby's qualifications for champion of those truly democratic doctrines in Congress are as strong as the doctrines themselves are sound.

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The Police "Sweatbox."

Interesting indeed, as public opinion awakens to the iniquity of the police "sweatbox" (p. 363), are the indignant protests of police "sweatboxers" that there is no such thing. But it happens to be a fact that there is such a thing. It was introduced into this country by a New York superintendent of police who counted Jay Gould among his friends and died a millionaire. In all its phases, whether cruel or not, it has been and is in flagrant violation of the law. The pages of The Public for ten years are dotted with editorials denouncing it (p. 363) in connection with specific cases found in newspaper reports which quoted with approval the boastings of police of-