

men to the earth. He was an all-round man, a man of heart as well as mind, with emotions balanced by judgment and reason spurred on by affection.

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HARMON'S CANDIDACY.

Quite often the questions that come to us for answers do not seem to warrant editorial treatment, whether for lack of timeliness or other cause, and we answer them by private letter. But here is one which nearly every reader of *The Public* may well be asking just now. It is from Idaho. "I would take it," says the writer, "that you are for Wilson for Democratic nominee for the Presidency; but out here in Idaho, Governor Harmon of Ohio is being strongly urged, and some of our democratic Democrats place him in the Progressive column. They say that Tom L. Johnson understood Mr. Harmon's position and was satisfied with it; and I have received a pamphlet which makes it appear that the Progressives of Cleveland endorse Governor Harmon. We are very anxious to have Idaho on the right side in the convention." Thereupon comes the question as to Governor Harmon's availability for democratic Democrats.

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Before answering that highly important question, let us state that our correspondent is mistaken in supposing that *The Public* is committed to Governor Wilson. It is not committed to anybody. We believe that Governor Wilson is a democratic Democrat, that he is "on the square" and courageous, that he has all the best qualifications for the Democratic candidacy and for the American Presidency, and that at the present time he is far in the lead of all competitors both for nomination and election. But the people are making history fast these days, and many changes may occur between now and nomination time. So much for *The Public*. It is different with men in active politics who are confronted already with the necessity for making a choice. They must decide soon. They cannot wait as we can, until the convention meets. There is danger in their waiting too long. Also in deciding upon the basis of personal or local preferences. If the national convention opens with pledged delegations for many candidates, the one dangerous candidate of great present strength, or his "dark horse" double, may win the nomination through the divided opposition. This brings us to Governor Harmon.

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Tom L. Johnson *did* understand Governor Harmon's position; he he was *not* satisfied with it.

There are probably few men of Presidential size with whom Tom L. Johnson would have been less satisfied for the Democratic candidate than with Mr. Harmon. Harmon is a reactionary, and has been such throughout the whole period of the struggle between democracy and plutocracy within the Democratic party. It is not merely that he opposed Bryan in 1896. Many democratic Democrats did that, upon the erroneous supposition that they were only opposing what they regarded as a financial heresy and a financial heretic. They did not realize that "free silver" was but the accidental and temporary shibboleth of democracy in that fight, and that the "gold standard" was the same for plutocracy. Governor Harmon did not understand this, as Grover Cleveland did. And, like Cleveland, his opposition to Bryan was only nominally for the latter's "free silverism;" it was really for the democratic spirit which Bryan's leadership represented. In other words, Governor Harmon was then, as he is yet, a reactionary Democrat such as Grover Cleveland was. Throughout Tom L. Johnson's democratic struggle in Ohio, Mr. Harmon tried to thwart his democratic policies, and often did thwart them, by co-operating with the worst "machine" elements of the Democratic party in that State.

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In all probability Governor Harmon is supported, and will be supported, by leading Ohio Democrats—democratic Democrats. But let no one outside of Ohio be fooled thereby. No man in responsible, practical politics can do exactly as he wishes at all times; and one of the things such a man can never do except in emergencies is what democratic Democrats of Ohio must do in order to oppose Harmon. They must defy the instructions of their own party convention. By a familiar political trick, Governor Harmon's workers secured for him the Presidential nomination of his State convention when he ran for re-election as Governor. In view of that fact no recommendation of Harmon by any Ohio Democrat can be taken safely at face value. Nor ought it to be taken even if there were no coercion. Though Democrats who would want Grover Cleveland for President again if they could get him are quite right in supporting Judson Harmon, nobody else would be. Harmon is the candidate of Pierpont Morgan's group, the candidate for whom the "machines" have had "the tip" from Wall Street. Large sums of money furnished by the interests have been spent and are being spent to secure his nomination; and not by legitimate appeals to public opinion, but through the "gum-shoe" meth-

ods of "machine" bosses in the different States. To such an extent has this kind of campaigning for Mr. Harmon gone on, that any Democratic committeeman outside of Ohio who advocates his nomination should be regarded with suspicion. Governor Harmon is the one Presidential possibility up to the present time, except Mr. Taft, of whom it can be said that any democratic Democrat who votes for him, either at primary or in convention or at the election, votes squarely against his own professed convictions.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

HENRY GEORGE, JR.'S, SPEAKING TOUR.

Washington, D. C.

As Alaska's resources are treated at Washington, so may the treatment of the natural resources of Canada be modified. In this and many other ways I found western Canada in close sympathy with our western States. The political situation, shaped by underlying economic forces, pit the radical West against the conservative East in both countries. The prairie Provinces stand with the western States for radical tariff reduction, breaking out with increasing frequency into open Freetrade sentiment.

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In Canada the western farmers are perhaps the most radical of all the citizens. They have no taxes on their improvements and are taxed mainly on ground values. Yet in spite of that the great farmers' organization, the Grain Growers' Association, sent a delegation to Ottawa during the recent reciprocity struggle to encourage the Premier, Sir Wilfred Laurier, to pass the tariff treaty with the United States, assuring him that should the Government suffer any material loss of revenue in the customs as a consequence they, the farmers, would gladly submit to a compensatory land-value tax.

This incident is a pretty strong answer to the question as to what the farmers will say when the Singletax is proposed to them. And again the same question is answered in the editorial or other columns of the farmers' official organ, The Grain Growers' Guide, published at Winnipeg and edited with much ability by Mr. G. F. Chipman. That organ openly, flatly and powerfully advocates the taxation of land values and the abolition of every other tax laid for revenue purposes.

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I commenced my Canadian speaking tour at Winnipeg. This was part of my engagement under the management of Mr. F. H. Monroe of The Henry George Lecture Association. I had spoken on the way at Minneapolis, Milwaukee and several other points.

Mayor Seidel, the official head of the Socialist party in Milwaukee, attended one of my lectures and made a friendly little after-speech without committing himself to the Singletax. But Mr. City Clerk

Thompson, an official Socialist, at my second Milwaukee lecture announced himself a believer in the principle of taxing land values exclusively. He furthermore announced that that policy would be adopted by the city administration as soon as the Socialists could move out the incumbent of the tax assessor's office next January and move into his place a Socialist. The said incumbent, Mr. Frank B. Shutz, was present and a breezy time followed. He is a thorough-going Singletax man and has made material steps toward the application of the Singletax, considering the difficulties in the way. But besides being a Singletax man, he is chairman of the Democratic State Committee; and there lies the rub with the city administration. Milwaukee is the home of my colleague in Congress, Mr. Victor Berger. He was not at home, else he surely would have participated in the discussions following the lectures, as he has openly avowed himself for the transferring of taxation from the products of labor to land values.

But as to Winnipeg: I had fine audiences both in numbers and mental quality. They proved to me that the business world and the community generally had been thoroughly roused by the wonderful budget fight of Lloyd George in Great Britain and by the remarkable example of the city of Vancouver in exempting the fruits of industry from taxation. In fact, running straight west from Winnipeg I found a chain of cities, under these two powerful influences, shaking off improvement taxes, personal property taxes, license taxes, and poll taxes; and preparing to increase ground value taxes.

This latter step, however, will be taken only at the expense of a very hard struggle; for land speculation is rampant throughout western Canada. Everybody who can is speculating. The case of Medicine Hat amounts to almost a tragedy. It is a town of six or seven thousand people, at a point of the Canadian Pacific line just where the prairie begins to roll into hills in approaching the Rocky Mountains. It has fine water and an apparent abundance of natural gas. The town officials and business men had induced an American corporation to establish clay product works there by giving free two acres of land, and free or at small cost, natural gas and water. It also agreed to an exemption from all taxation for a term of years. A much larger and more liberal offer was made to the Canadian Pacific railroad to induce it to establish repair car shops there. These shops were expected to employ 2,000 men which, taken with their families, would mean an increase of 10,000 persons and hence more than double the town's population.

As time went the prospect of the shops looked like a certainty. Everybody thought that this was merely the beginning of an amazingly great and rapid growth. Every one, therefore, foresaw a quick rise in the value of land. Everyone speculated. Hilltop and flat country bare of a tree or a bush was staked out in city lots five miles beyond the last house of the town. People took their little savings from banks and others borrowed money to make first payments on installment purchases of land inflated to the skies by this wind of expectancy. I spoke to a mighty slender audience there before the sword fell. My voice was a voice in the wilderness of speculation. Three days later I reached Calgary,