

to attain its goal.—EDWARD GATES, Chicago, Ill.

natural opportunities are not monopolized, the rate is high.—A. FREELAND.

FROM A. FREELAND.

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

Mr. Bolton Hall's objection to the principle of confining the Single Tax to the selling price of land seems sound.

Even in the United Kingdom, where the land is commonly measured in terms of its annual rent, there is danger of abandonment of that correct policy for the more precarious one of taxation of selling price.

Mr. Hall's position in regard to the effect of Single Tax on interest also seems to be well taken.

Today scarcely any man is so poor that he cannot command the primary tools—axe, saw, hammer, spade, shovel, fork, rake, etc.—practically the only tools used by his great-grandfather.

Surely under Single Tax almost anyone could command the ordinary implements of husbandry and horses and other needed stock, vehicles, etc.; also some of the other improved tools, etc.

In the larger business enterprises wouldn't it be perfectly natural for labor to co-operate and thus command the entire product—those possessing and exercising executive ability receiving the larger returns due to capacity for management?

If these propositions are correct, wouldn't the time come when many would be able and willing to lend and few would care to borrow—as is somewhat the case in New Zealand?

Then wouldn't the commercial rate of interest fall—as in New Zealand?

Wouldn't the returns due to the use of capital, as distinguished from the returns to toolless labor, (what we might call economic rent) be merged in the wages or income of labor?

This would in no way affect the economic rent of land. That would still be regulated by the "law of rent," as formulated by Ricardo.

Henry George drew his inference of higher interest rate under Single Tax from the fact that in new countries, where

H. D. WAGNON.

(See portrait.)

Hamilton D. Wagon was born near Salem, Oregon, in 1854. His parents came from Indiana the year before. As his name indicates his ancestors were German, originally settling in Virginia. He is a man above the usual height, of powerful frame and benevolent countenance. When quite a young man he worked in saw mills and on the farms of Oregon and knows all the old families up and down the State.

He went to California about 1874 and tried mining and prospecting, settling in San Francisco about 1876. Here he became interested in two things, insurance as a means of earning a living, and the land question from coming in contact with Henry George, and in those two things he has been interested ever since.

The Wagon family consists of H. D., Sr., and wife, H. H., Jr., and Miss Mabel. Both his children are Single Taxers and he says that both his grandchildren shall enjoy its blessings. He came back to Oregon in 1892 and has traveled all over the State in connection with his business, and as a promotor of manufacturing and other enterprises. Coming in contact with the professional and commercial classes his work has been peculiarly effective, for he never hesitates to avow his principles, and in the course of business transactions to point out a happy incident or adorn a local instance with a Single Tax application.

Anywhere in Oregon that the people of a town see a tall strong man with a big black hat coming down the street and shaking hands with the citizens they say, "here comes Single Tax Wagon. There must have been a fire around here, or else there is a Single Tax meeting to be pulled off." He has repeatedly gone to a hotel register and

written no name but "Single Taxer, Portland, Oregon" and everybody would know that "Wagnon is in town again."

In 1907 he was elected president of the Oregon Tax Reform League, rustled the money to finance the placing of a partial Single Tax measure on the ballot and for the literary campaign that was made. The measure was not adopted, but where the campaign was made by a few men and women able to make it the vote was large.

At present he is the Single Tax Independent candidate for assessor for Multnomah county (Portland) and his name was written on the democratic primary ballot often enough to give him the nomination of the party by a clear majority. He is not making a campaign for the office but the principle, and if elected it will be the spontaneous act of the people. There is no bluff, bluster, or display about the campaign, and the usual political "leg-pulling" is absent.

In the present campaign for the graduated Single Tax now opening up so hotly he is a very powerful factor, and his counsel is sought and heeded. A thousand more Wagnons are needed in Oregon.

AKRON, OHIO.

The Akron Single Tax League is not a new organization, but it has of late greatly increased its membership, and is attracting attention by its propaganda work. The president of the League is Albert C. Hollaway, a prominent attorney, and Wm. F. Potting is secretary. The league meets every alternate Tuesday in the Arcade Block, and it has lately established a Friday luncheon at the Windsor Hotel and we expect to secure a good speaker for a short address. The two affairs already held were very successful in point of attendance and interest.

Judge Samuel G. Rogers delivered the first address and Judge Charles R. Grant editor of the *Times* the second. At the evening meeting last month, Mr. Hosea Paul of Cleveland, delivered his address

on "Taxation and Social Progress." Mr. Paul was a farmer resident of Akron and was able to point out the benefit that the Single Tax would be to a growing city like Akron, especially in putting a stop to wild and riotous land speculation, which almost inevitably uses up all the spare cash of a community and finally brings about a panic. Such inflated values also prevent the normal and regular development of the city and drive people out into the suburbs ahead of street cars, sewers, etc.

NEWS—FOREIGN.

QUEENSLAND.

Our State is in the throes of as near to a general strike as it is possible to get. In the phrases of the strikers, "trade is paralyzed and the whole sea-board of Queensland from Cape York to Tweed heads is held up." All this because the Autocrat who rules the Brisbane Tram system (and who happens to be a Yankee) has issued a mandate that his employees must not wear Union Badges—all the rest is sympathy with them. I shall not be surprised to hear that the men have gone back to work on Monday without their badges, though they put up a splendid fight, and their cause is righteous. I hope it will teach them that *general strikes* are impossible—that freedom is not that way—that the only hope of a strike is when it is supported by those working; then the strikers may in some cases win a victory. The Queensland *Worker*, the organ of the Labor Party, is printing "Adam Blacks letters to his Son."—E. I. S. HARDING, Charters Towers, Queensland.

GERMANY—EISENACH.

Dr. F. Kuhner writes the REVIEW from Eisenach:

"The Thuringia branch of the German Bodenreform League is leading in number of members as well as in number of sections. In the two years since it sprang into existence an immense deal of work has been done. The leaders went up and down the mountainous country, holding conferences