

far I think that all the union has been able to do is to fix a certain length of day and then say that all over that shall be paid for at this increased rate, so as to put a tax on it and make it expensive and discourage it. Now, I don't want anyone to work more than eight hours even at an increased rate.

What does it profit these men and women to meet year after year for such discussion? Why waste time that might more profitably be given to whist or euchre? Why not resolve the Sagamore Conference into a progressive Pinochle Party, for pinochle is a really noble and intellectual exercise compared with this sort of "sociology."

Let us suggest to members of coming Sagamore Conferences, if they are really interested in discussing anything, the following line of inquiry:

What is labor?

How does it produce wealth?

What does it produce wealth from?

What are the conditions under which it obtains access to the element from which it produces wealth?

Are there conditions of access to the element from which wealth is produced such as must result in low wages and inequitable distribution?

This offers a really profitable line of inquiry. For the world is really a serious world. There are great problems pressing upon us. It ill becomes serious minded men and women to ignore them in a conference calling itself sociological.

An Un-American Attack on the Single Tax

THE *Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide* in its issue of Jan. 26th, delivers an attack of a quite unusual kind against the Single Tax. The article bears the title, "Some Effects of Single Tax on Real Estate." The author is Frederick C. Zobel.

We pass by the time-worn attempts there made to confuse economic values so totally distinct as are those of land and the products of industry. Thirty odd years ago, outside of academic circles, such confusion might have been excusable. To-day when thousands of municipalities and some States recognize the distinction in their official valuations and assessments, making it the basis of their revenue service, ignorance of such an elementary economic fact is unpardonable. In the last issue of this REVIEW we drew attention to the Capital city of Sydney (Australia), where land values, officially recognized as being the ultimate beneficiary of social progress, alone bear the cost of municipal government, while the useful products of industry, such as buildings, commerce and professions, bear no burden at all. In another section of our present issue, we refer to similar progress in taxation recently affected in Johannesburg, (South Africa).

The effort to confuse economic values and to prolong the present unfair fiscal discrimination against the improvement and efficient use of landed property and in favor of its neglect or inefficient use, is fortunately not so successful to-day as it used to be. When the progressive real estate owner, desirous of improving his property, comes across

the prognostication that the suppression of taxes on the improvement, use and development of his property, would be, as Mr. Zobel declares, "a national calamity," he simply smiles incredulously or takes the suggestion as an insult to his intelligence.

Feeling the ineffectiveness of anachronic arguments more or less economic, Mr. Zobel seeks to reinforce these by the altogether extraordinary device of defaming our national character, or what he calls "the psychological composition of our people."

According to this detractor of our national origins, the founders of our Republic were "people eager for the millenium," "in search of the promised land," with "the inherited hunger for the ideal." With such a "psychic infection," as he terms it, "we lack poise and calm judgment;" "it is easy to win the plaudits of the mob." Etc. ad nauseam.

This calamitous psychological morass, according to Mr. Zobel, has been the lot of the American people "from the beginning and up to recent times." Recent importations, it would seem, however, have engrafted upon our deteriorated stock the vigorous growth of a superior kultur. There are hopes that we shall now be less susceptible to the "hypnotic spell of orators, preachers and demagogues." We may even be induced to retrace our steps and recant our democratic heresies. Have we not been solemnly admonished by the President of a great Prussian organization entrenched here, that our abandonment of the monarchical for a republican form of government was an error? All the progress in our history, our steady advance toward personal freedom, toward liberty in religion, education, the Press, will be laid to the charge of atavism, to our original "psychic infection." Our Washingtons, Jeffersons, Lincolns, we shall be told, were unbalanced or degenerate minds; our generous striving for a larger, truer life in our individual, social and political functions, will be derided as but the spasmodic contortions of our collective hysteria.

The article which we are noticing is typical of some of the later psychological ingredients added to our population by a promiscuous immigration. They reveal pronounced regressive instincts and present a grave problem which our native Americanism, now thoroughly aroused and alert, will have to settle once and for all, if we are to save our country for Democracy.

Mr. Zobel having spoken of our "psychic infection" we need not investigate further the source of the *moral* infection, which breathes through the charges, as ignoble as they are untrue and unjust, against the generations of men who have made this country worth living in and fighting for.

In the meantime, such interests as find comfort in this attack upon the American character and upon a great American movement, the spread of which, according to Mr. Zobel himself, is "one of the most astonishing phenomena of our times," may as well make up their minds that the American Democracy will not surrender its ideals, nor be deterred from adjusting its fiscal economic relations in harmony with the supreme law of freedom and equal justice.