

tion such as the above, until they abandon the purely negative criticism of legislative acts and take up seriously the constructive labor of assembling economic facts and formulating on their own initiative a definite programme of fiscal procedure. The revenue system of no civilized country should be left to be the guesswork and gamble of superficial politicians or the instrument and servant of selfish interests.

The Conversion of The Johnstown Democrat

SOME few years ago the *Democrat*, of Johnstown, Pa., edited by Mr. Warren Worth Bailey, printed an editorial against the REVIEW's advocacy of an independent Single Tax party. A reply to the argument from the editor of the REVIEW was accorded space in a succeeding issue by courtesy of the editor.

Today we are glad to welcome Mr. Bailey to the ranks of the converts to Single Tax party action—for it is hard to draw any other inference from the leading editorial in the *Democrat* of July 2. Perhaps not a whole-hearted convert, maybe even a somewhat reluctant one.

The article is entitled "Gorgas for President." Major-General Gorgas, having been mentioned by some newspapers in connection with the recent Single Tax Party action, the *Democrat* says:

"One of the most interesting possibilities of the impending presidential campaign is the nomination of Maj.-Gen. William C. Gorgas for the chief magistracy of the National Single Tax Party. This possibility has been given a pungent flavor by the Conference which took place in New York a few days ago that brought together disciples of Henry George from many parts of the country."

The attitude of this editorial is a distinct *volte face* from that of some years ago when the *Democrat* almost virulently attacked the Single Tax party idea. But lots of things have happened since then. It notes that the Democratic Party is "apparently prepared to abandon its historic ground with respect to protection," and it says: "Henry George were he alive today could hardly reconcile himself to the Democratic Party on this issue."

Mr. Bailey is at last disillusioned. His disillusionment is belated, to be sure. He now sees what the REVIEW has been pointing out for two years past that the Democratic Party is almost as much of a protectionist party as the Republican. He does not yet see, perhaps, that Single Taxers have made a serious error of judgment in not proceeding on the principle that the tariff question, in comparison with the land question, was after all of minor importance, and that once the land question is solved the tariff question will solve itself.

That the conversion of Mr. Bailey is not complete, however, is apparent. There is "a rift in the lute," for he says: "An amalgamation of political interests outside the two chief parties might be brought about under the leadership of a man so widely known and so highly esteemed as

Gen. Gorgas." If Mr. Bailey has in mind a patchwork platform in which bids will be made for the support of public ownership advocates, free traders, and the friends of other real or pseudo reforms, he is reckoning without the Single Tax Party.

For the new party stands for the taking of the rentable value of land for government purposes. It has no other issue. Its platform is a one-plank platform. Its leaders care about nothing else. The party has refused to bait its platform to catch the friends of other issues. It has departed from the usual practice by according its platform to what is undisputed—namely, that, historically, all political campaigns have been fought on practically one issue. Differing from the customary practice of the old parties by refusing to include in its platform everything that everybody wants, its course accords, historically and philosophically, with the true line of political cleavage.

Mr. Bailey, having taken one advance step, may be depended upon to take another. We shall soon be able to welcome him to the ranks of the Single Tax party members. Thus, one by one, the Single Tax movement is drawing together.

Theological Evasion of Economic Issues

IN the *Watchman* for July, Mr. George McCready Price discourses upon "Democracy and Bolshevism." In order to emphasize a pessimistic picture of approaching ruin for the civilized world, he quotes Henry George:

"As Henry George so forcibly expressed it, he says, to put the right of free speech and political power into the hands of men degraded by poverty and embittered by injustice, is to conduct a blind Samson into the temple and twine his arms around the pillars of national life. And it is not merely one city or one nation that is now involved in this situation, but all cities, all nations."

Having utilized George's diagnosis of the situation, does Mr. Price give George's simple remedy for the evil? Not at all. Mr. Price does not propose to remove unmerited poverty or put an end to fiscal and economic injustice.

"The cure of public evil, he assures us, lies in the private regulation of men. If the home, the school, the press, and every other agency of true teaching, can succeed in turning back to the faith of our fathers the minds and hearts of Christendom's peoples that have been so largely led away by the devilish teachings of a false philosophy, then may the oppressive conditions which the greed of the selfish has made be removed, and then may the spirit of love and justice and self-control reign in the society of men." Then we are told:

"But if these happy results cannot be obtained, there will sweep over this world, and that shortly, a tempest of blood and terror and anguish before which the agonies of past ages will pale into insignificance."