

upon force and fraud. But he said this in his youthful days, and it will be remembered that he afterwards recanted—just as Galileo did under somewhat different compulsion, though the stubborn nature of the heretic could not forego the ejaculation, *E pur si muove*. No matter whether land titles are founded, as Spencer declared, upon force and fraud, we are prepared to defend them with all the powers of the government, legislatures, law courts, and standing armies.

Mrs. Keels is right—let her press her claim. We hope she succeeds. Her title is as good as the Astors—every bit.

#### WHO "OWNS" THESE SUBTERRANEAN RIVERS?

One Silas W. Titus, who has long entertained the theory of subterranean rivers and the possibility of making their waters available for the city's supply, has made a practical demonstration of his theory in the town of Jennico, L. I. Air is forced down one pipe by which water is forced up another. Titus believes that there is a practically unlimited supply of water under Long Island from a river that has its source in Connecticut.

This is all very well, but surely somebody owns these subterranean rivers? The title deeds to land extend—was it not Daniel Webster who said it?—high as heaven and deep as hell. These rivers are not as deep as the latter place, and thus are well within even the practically undisputed boundary of a title deed. It would be an assault upon the rights of property not for a moment to be countenanced to assume that the owners of these underground rivers are not entitled to every penny they can make out of them. And really to object to it is to object to the ownership of the fruits of one's industry. To those who regard with envy the industrious accumulation of subterranean rivers by those who have improved their opportunities, it may be said: "Go you, too, and earn enough to buy an underground river."

#### THE WHITE LIES OF TAX DODGERS.

Hon. Seth Low, former Mayor of New York, having discovered that he had through inadvertence neglected to pay taxes for the last three years on a mortgage for \$400,000 sent the Comptroller a check for \$27,897.26. This was printed in the newspapers as a matter highly creditable to Mr. Low—as of course it was.

But the *World* cannot see why it should cause a sensation. "Why should any man's conscience permit him to defraud the government when it would not permit him to defraud an individual to whom he owed money. But it does and in thousands of cases, too, while perjury is added to the other offense."

The question that the *World* asks can be easily answered. It is because such taxes are felt to be offences against the individual's right. It matters not how this primary perception of justice is dulled by custom—instinctively it asserts itself. Lying, false swearing, and legal evasion by more genteel methods, are the protection which the individual siezes upon for immunity from society that attempts in its corporate capacity to rob him of what is justly his. It is the national consequence of social folly—of the violation of a just right of property, and the habitual dishonesty that seeks to evade such taxation does not really belong to those sins that merit the severest condemnation. In regarding it as mere minor infringement of morals these tax dodgers are more than half right.

#### HONORS TO HON. GEORGE FOWLDS.

At a meeting in Auckland, New Zealand, to welcome Mr. Geo. Fowlds home from his visit to this country, at which the Mayor of Auckland presided, and distinguished dignitaries occupied seats upon the platform, Mr. Fowlds took occasion to refer to certain criticisms that had been made of his appointment as Commissioner of Education, in which allusions had been made to his Single Tax beliefs:

"Some writers in the newspapers had been greatly concerned about his conscience and his principles. They had held that it would be impossible for him to join the Ministry without sacrifice of principle. He might say that he had abandoned no principle that he had ever professed, and he was not aware that the experience of Ministerial office had very seriously modified any of the opinions that he held ten days ago. But when anyone tried to raise objection to him on the ground of one political principle that he held, they showed themselves entirely unacquainted with the Cabinet system of Government which existed in New Zealand and in the British dominions. Mr. Mitchelson had given two illustrations of gentlemen holding strong opinions on given subjects being Ministers without trying to impress them on the people. Another instance was that of Mr. Arthur J. Balfour, who had for many years been a strong advocate of bi-metallism. He had held the position of Premier of Great Britain, but had introduced no measure to secure bi-metallism. For himself, he perfectly recognized in joining the present Ministry that his colleagues were not Single Taxers, and the policy of the Government would not be the Single Tax. He saw no reason, agreeing with his colleagues, as he did on many great and important subjects, why he should withhold himself from the service of the country merely because they would not go as far in one particular direction as he deemed desirable. In that

spirit he had joined the Government. He recognized that they were not going where he wanted to go, but they were going to do a great deal for the good of the people of New Zealand, and he was going to give them the best help he could. He had no intention to surreptitiously advance the principle he held. He believed that principal was too large to be benefitted by any such attempt."

### FAIRHOPE.

THE COLONY FAST RECOVERING FROM THE EFFECTS OF THE STORM—NEW STEAMER NOW RUNNING BETWEEN FAIRHOPE AND MOBILE—FAIRHOPE GATHERING STRAWBERRIES IN DECEMBER.

The later months of the closing year have been quite eventful at Fairhope. Our town suffered severely in the great storm which swept the gulf coast on September 27th. Twenty-five houses were blown from their foundations and more or less severely wrecked in Colony land alone. Our large town hall was completely wrecked; the school-house, 24 x 74, carried eight feet from its foundations, trees innumerable torn up by the roots or broken off, fences leveled and crops beaten into the ground. Most serious to the Colony was the wrecking of the larger part of the long wharf—1800 feet long, where land the boats which are our means of communication with the balance of the world. Distressing as the damage was, it called forth an exhibition of neighborly kindness and helpfulness which was most cheering. Within a couple of weeks every dwelling had been put back upon its foundations and restored to habitability by volunteer crews.

A new wharf, much better in every way than the old one, is approaching completion, and is now in use. The work when completed as planned, will have cost in the neighborhood of \$3750, and of the nearly \$3000 already subscribed and paid in, by far the larger part has been secured locally.

Christmas 1906 was a glad day, not alone for the usual Christmas cheer, but for the christening of the new steamer "Fairhope" which went into regular service between Fairhope and Mobile, the next day. The new steamer is quite an improvement over the illfated vessel of the same name which was burned in November, 1905. She is 24 feet longer, has two decks instead of one, and has a splendid iron hull. She was formerly the United States quarantine steamer "Wm. H. Welch," was purchased by the Fairhope Improvement Co., of which R. F. Powell is president and manager, and many other well known Single Taxers are stockholders, and has entirely new upper works built upon her by Fairhope workmen. She is a staunch and handsome vessel 108 feet long and capable of good speed.

The Colony has this year been compelled to sue some of its lessees, who refused to pay their rents, and won prompt judgments

in the sums asked for both in the Justice and Circuit Courts.

Twenty one dwellings have been built on Colony land in 1906, including some of the best improvements in the town. Thirty five transfers of leases—(only six representing a parting with interest at Fairhope) and 18 new applications for land granted testify to an active demand for and movement of property.

We had a very pleasant visit recently from C. F. Nesbit, of Washington, D. C. One family arrived recently from Conneaut, O.

Winter visitors are coming in freely.

Mr. Jefferson picked a number of ripe strawberries in the latter part of December.

Five new families have moved to Fairhope in the last few months from the surrounding country.

Radishes, lettuce, onions, turnips, and mustard "greens" are now growing in our gardens.

The thermometer has been to 20 degrees two mornings this winter, but the weather is now so mild that doors are open without fires even in the evenings.

We hope to see many of our Single Tax friends here during the winter.

We are always open for inspection.

E. B. GASTON.

The Johnstown (Pa.) *Democrat* suggests to the Democrats of Massachusetts that they might with honor to themselves nominate William Lloyd Garrison for Governor. Mr. Garrison says in commenting upon Mr. Bailey's suggestion:

"Aside from the fact that, as far as politics go, I am regarded as sentimentally impracticable, my convictions regarding the oaths of office, which bind one to courses I should individually abhor, forever place me outside that pale. I am an agitator, pure and simple, having faith in the power of the spoken word, which makes and unmakes the petty rulers of the hour."

Henry George, Jr.'s special articles from Japan now appearing in the *Sunday World* exhibit those same admirable qualities as an acute and discriminating observer which characterize all his journalistic work.

The Land question is the greatest of all questions, as it affects every man in the Kingdom whether he live in town or country, and is the solution of the problem of poverty and unemployment. The first, and greatest, duty of every Democrat is to agitate for Land Law Reform.—*Reynolds Newspaper*, Aug. 12.

The *Encyclopedia Britannica*, Ninth Edition, page 743 (attention to which is called by the *Chicago Public*), shows that Shakespeare opposed the enclosure of the common lands. This ought to induce Tolstoy to take a more favorable view of his poetry!