

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."

Theological evasions of social and economic issues are largely responsible for warped public opinion and the delay of essential reforms. In the end, the churches themselves suffer in the loss of the respect of the more virile amongst the masses. Would it not be better to face with intelligence and honesty of purpose the charge levelled by George against our fundamental social maladjustment?

"Our primary social adjustment, says George, is a denial of justice. In allowing one man to own the land on which and from which other men must live, we have made them his bondsmen in a degree which increases as material progress goes on. This is the subtle alchemy that in ways they do not realize is extracting from the masses in every civilized country the fruits of their weary toil; that is instituting a harder and more hopeless slavery in place of that which has been destroyed; that is bringing political despotism out of political freedom, and must soon transmute democratic institutions into anarchy."

"It is this that turns the blessings of material progress into a curse. It is this that crowds human beings into noisome cellars and squalid tenement houses; that fills prisons and brothels; that goads men with want and consumes them with greed; that robs women of the grace and beauty of perfect womanhood; that takes from little children the joy and innocence of life's morning.

"Civilization so based cannot continue. The eternal laws of the universe forbid it."

Nearly forty years have elapsed since George wrote the above. Can it be affirmed that the Christian churches, as a whole, have awakened to the reality and gravity of his indictment?

Juvenile Delinquency and the "Cause"

THAT there is much juvenile delinquency in the world, as well as adult delinquency, is admitted. It is admitted, too, that for both some remedy must be found. The only trouble appears to be that the authorities and "experts" are not agreed on the remedy.

There is a Juvenile Protective Association in Chicago. It has recently printed as the result of its investigation a little pamphlet now before us, entitled, "Junk Dealing and Juvenile Delinquency."

The junk business has attained, it will be of interest to our readers to know, immense proportions, aggregating something like two billions annually. In Chicago the business has been compelled to pay heavy taxes, or license fees, in one case amounting to \$1,000. Laws forbidding the purchase of junk from minors have been passed, and heavy penalties imposed for their violation. Many junk dealers have been found operating without licenses.

It has been found that the purchase of junk by dealers from minors is a contributing cause of juvenile delinquency. The boys go in search of lead pipe, milk bottles and the refuse to be found in alleys, and some are tempted to more

serious depredations to secure stuff salable to the junk dealer.

A "study" of 100 boys engaged in selling junk to dealers is presented. Of these sixty-seven per cent. admitted securing their salvage from sources that necessitated stealing in order to get it. Thirty-three per cent. therefore ought to have been immune from any "study" at all—they are apparently normal boys, perhaps a little more industrious than the average and eager to earn a few pennies. Their field of operation are city dumps, meat markets and stock yards.

The "study" of these boys showed how they used the proceeds derived from the sale of junk. 62 went to the "movies," 47 bought candy, 16 showed a liking for ice cream. Only 16 went in for tobacco, and only one confessed to a liking for draw poker. One, evidently a captain of industry in embryo, utilized his profits to establish a junk business of his own. It was shown that every one of the hundred boys patronized the "movies" at some time and forty-six went to vaudeville shows.

It was found that 52 of the boys left school at 14, and that 48 left school to begin work. The school record of only six of the boys was "very poor," that of 54 was "poor," while 17 were "good," and only one "excellent." We find that the total of one hundred boys are exceeded in this count, but that need not interest us. The point that occurs to us is that the school record of these youngsters, while not reassuring, is far from hopeless. Perhaps a record of any other one hundred boys from families of the same social strata would disclose a school record not greatly superior.

Now we come to the really vital part of this "study," that which concerns the wages of the fathers, which ranged from \$6.25 to \$40.00 per week, the average wage for 75 being \$18.30. The annual income of at least 25 per cent. of these families, the Report admits, "falls below what is required to maintain a condition of physical fitness, to say nothing of proper cultural advantages." 25 per cent. of the heads of the families were natives of this country.

This kind of "social study" has a fearful fascination for a certain order of mind which never looks below the surface. When O. J. Milliken, Superintendent of Chicago and Cook County School for Boys, says, "Properly regulate the junking business and moral delinquency of boys will disappear," he is talking nonsense, and a very dangerous kind of nonsense. For juvenile delinquency is an effect, and the selling of junk to dealers by these unfortunate children is due to the deeper causes that make delinquents of both adults and juveniles. When we read the report of the Juvenile Court of St. Louis, Mo., that fifteen per cent. of juvenile delinquency is caused by this practice, we wonder what can be assigned as the cause of the delinquency of the remaining 85 per cent., which according to Mr. Milliken will disappear along with the fifteen per cent. when the business of junk dealing is "properly regulated."

Of course, it is a problem of poverty and not of junk dealing at all. The incomes of these families are, for the most part, miserably insufficient. These kiddies are acting in