

why there is a scarcity of homes and why government must step in to aid in the building of homes.

Yet government could solve this problem by dissolving this ill-assorted partnership. The government alone is responsible. The landlord is the creature of government. It issued parchment or paper titles to him, and thus created a partnership that has served to obscure the obvious relation of men who supply service for service, payment for labor received, and all of whom must work for what they get. This system of paper titles has established a relationship which is abnormal, and which is responsible not merely for the scarcity of houses, but for the manifold results which destroy prosperity and sap the strength of nations.

The New York Labor Party

THE American Labor Party of Greater New York, which has made nominations for offices in this election, has put forth a platform favoring Public Ownership of Public Utilities, a Minimum Wage Law, a Standard Working Week of 44 Hours, a System of Social Insurance and Democratic Control of Industry, Commerce and Education. The party favors "a 100 per cent. tax on all incomes over \$100,000, a progressive increase in taxes on profits, unearned increments and incomes, the use of public profits from nationally owned utilities and resources, and the use of revenue derived from a system of taxation that will stimulate rather than retard production."

This is the veriest hodge-podge. No legislator could draw a bill embodying such recommendations. What are the "unearned increments and incomes" that are not included in land values? Though it is conceivable that a legislator might identify some kind of profits, "all" profits are quite beyond the ken of any power but omniscience. What are profits, anyway? The storekeeper who examines his books at the end of the month finds that after paying rent to the landlord, wages to his clerks and interest on capital (his own or borrowed), a certain sum remains for himself. This is his "profit." But it is really his wages. As he has already paid his taxes how much more does the New York Labor Party want from him? Wages being, and very properly so, a term sacred to labor, the makers of this platform would probably be highly shocked to learn that what they are proposing to tax is wages.

It is unfortunate that a party speaking in the name of labor should exhibit such an ignorance of elementary economics. They have made the mistake of following in the footsteps of the Socialists. We find here nearly all the recommendations appearing in former Socialist platforms. Very little is missing save the jargon about "capitalism" and "the Co-operative Commonwealth."

Our readers are asked to note the timid reference to the "use of revenue derived from a system of taxation on land values." The only thing that seems to appeal to these gentlemen is the "use" to which this revenue may be put. Not the faintest indication appears that they have sensed

the economic effects of such taxation in throwing open the opportunities to labor, a provision which would render the rest of their platform amiable but senile delusions.

"The American Contractor" On Our Future Building Policies

ONE of the significant signs of the times is an article on the first page of *The American Contractor*, a paper for contractors and builders, of immense circulation, entitled "What About Our Future Building Policies." It says in the opening paragraph:

"There must be a more progressive building policy in the United States if the nation is to make up the construction deficiency incident to the war within a reasonable length of time."

It continues: "There must be concessions in favor of home building and home owning in the United States. The pressure of circumstances will force these concessions in time if they do not materialize from a sane consideration of their desirability."

"Along what lines should local authorities move in their efforts to stimulate home building? Pittsburgh has answered the question in its system of taxation."

The American Contractor then reproduces an editorial in the *Christian Science Monitor* which cites the testimony of W. N. McNair, of Pittsburgh, in favor of the moderate measures that have been inaugurated in that city by which improvements are somewhat relieved of taxation and land somewhat more heavily taxed.

It then says: "If cities are to have the benefits of such policies in 1920, keen and immediate interest must be taken in them to the end that municipal legislation, where it is necessary, may be had at once, and planning for 1920 can be taken up by private interests with full knowledge of the municipal policy."

The American Contractor is on the right track, and we trust that it will see its way to pursue its advocacy of a more liberal policy for the industries to whose welfare this solid periodical is devoted.

Max Nordau for the Single Tax

THE Zionist Convention is now (Sept. 16th) in conference in Chicago. Mrs. Fels is in attendance. Mr. M. W. Norwalk is also at the conference, and will report for the REVIEW that part of the proceedings of interest to Single Taxers. He writes us that Max Nordau, the distinguished author of "Degeneration," has sent greetings to this, the 22nd U. S. Zionist Convention, in which he

(1) Bemoans the fact that 8,000,000 Jews in Russia, Poland, etc., are so disorganized and deprived of everything through "pogroms," murder and persecution that we cannot expect any concrete work from them in the rehabilitation of Palestine, but thanks God that we have 3,000,000 of Jews in America who will not only take the initiative but help their stricken brethren.

(2) He appreciates and thanks his United States brethren for their work during the war and its calamities, but wishes they would call a world congress of Jews so that there would be real representatives to speak for the nation.

(3) Palestine must be extended to the widest borders in history and must include the Hauran, which is now a wild barren country which the Jews can develop, but it must be previously understood that neither the Turkish crown lands nor the rest of it must ever become individual or corporation property for speculative purposes, and while the exact "shmita" and "Jubilee" of the Mosaic and prophetic laws cannot at present be inaugurated in their integrity, we ought to establish the principles of Rivadavia of Argentina and Henry George of America."

Death of James W. Bucklin

JAMES W. BUCKLIN, one of the pioneers in Single Tax reform, died at Palo Alto, California, on July 14. His body was brought to his old home in Grand Junction, Colorado, for internment. He leaves a widow and two sons, one of whom will complete his course at Stanford University next year.

Mr. Bucklin was born near Big Rock, Ill., on Nov. 13, 1856. His father and mother were both descendants of Revolutionary soldiers. His mother's grandfather was Thomas Winch, who enlisted at the age of 53 in the Revolutionary army and spent a winter with Washington at Valley Forge.

Young Bucklin attended school at Wheaton College for two years and later entered the University of Michigan, where he graduated in 1877 with the degree of L. L. B. Mr. Bucklin served two terms in the House of Representatives of Colorado, being elected in 1880 and later in 1896. In 1895 he was appointed county attorney of Mesa County, Colorado, and held the office of city attorney of Grand Junction a number of terms.

Mr. Bucklin was, without doubt, the greatest, the most persistent and one of the most capable Single Tax leaders in the West. He was an able lawyer, and his profound knowledge of the law was brought to bear on the courts and the legislature of this State in the effort to advance the cause he had at heart. Some of the best safeguards of the people are the laws that he wrote into the statutes of this State, notably the law authorizing Colorado cities to purchase or condemn water, gas and electric works at actual cost of plant. Due to his efforts, more than almost anybody else in the State, Colorado cities have home rule charters. His report as chairman of the Revenue Commission of Colorado in 1901 was widely circulated throughout the country and his magazine articles, lectures on municipal and social problems, the result of deep study in the fundamentals of government entitle him to the undying gratitude of Single Taxers. Some of these contributions to the literature of scientific taxation and government have appeared in the *SINGLE TAX REVIEW*.

His famous fight in 1902 when he undertook to carry an

amendment to the Colorado State Constitution which would permit the Single Tax in Colorado aroused fierce opposition. The story of this campaign is told in the *SINGLE TAX YEAR BOOK*.

Mr. Bucklin presided over the Grand Junction Charter Convention in 1909 and was father of the charter, declared to be "the most democratic municipal charter ever adopted." He was first to propose the "Preferential Ballot" system in America. It was adopted in Grand Junction. Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Denver and Boulder, and many other towns accepted this electoral system. Mr. Bucklin was President of the Mesa County Bar Association for thirty years. His death is a great loss to the movement in the United States.

John B. McGauran delivered the eulogy at Mr. Bucklin's funeral. A long and close friendship had united the two, and none could be more fitted to make a just estimate of his great services to the cause of the Single Tax as well as the minor civic reforms that enlisted his energy and devotion.

The Grand Junction Daily News says this of its distinguished fellow townsman:

A most peculiar thing about the funeral of Mr. Bucklin was that the town in which he is buried was laid out by him; the streets down which the funeral proceeded were planned by this old timer; the church in which the services were held, he planned and chose the site for; he started the agitation for the bridge over which his body was carried and finally, the graveyard in which he is buried is now being conducted under the rules drawn up under his hand.

Mr. Bucklin did not live to see more than the beginnings of that revolution in Single Tax sentiment, policy and methods which he would soon have learned to regard sympathetically. His work is done, and he has left his impress on the history of the movement for the restoration of the right of mankind to the use of the earth.

Ethics of Land Auctions in 1919

UNDER the title "Real Estate is Merchandise," an advertisement in the *New York Times* of Sept. 21st announces the public auction of 471 lots of the Claflin Estate on University Heights, New York City. The terms of the announcement are typical of the contempt of our times for community rights. To the land speculator of today the traffic in public values seems as morally defensible as did the sale of the private liberty of the black man to the slave-dealer of but a few decades ago. Says the advertisement:

"Read this actual photograph of University Heights shown below as you would a book.

Note that present line of building stops short at the Claflin Estate, which, crossing University Ave., blocks northerly growth along that great artery. H. B. Claflin, the Merchant Prince, bought these 471 lots as farm lands in 1866. His family held the property for half a century.

Now, transit has come, practically girdling the property.