

Oregon & California.....	3,500,000	acres.
Atlantic & Pacific.....	42,000,000	"
Southern Pacific.....	9,520,000	"
Stockton & Copperopolis.....	320,000	"
Oregon Central.....	1,200,000	"
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To R. R. Corporations direct.....	137,386,366	"
To R. R. Corporations in States.....	62,001,122	"
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Total to railroads.....	199,387,488	"

Enough land given by Congress as a free gift to the railroads to make 1,246,171 farms of 160 acres each. Or put it in another form, it is an amount greater by 10,810 square miles than is contained in the six New England States, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky!

To the land grants to railroads must be added the grants for canals, river improvements and educational purposes, so that the account stands:

To railroads.....	199,387,366	acres.
For canals.....	4,405,986	"
For river improvements (estimated).....	700,000	"
For educational purposes.....	77,493,162	"
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Total amount.....	281,986,514	"

The amount of land thus given away is greater by nearly 30,000 square miles than the combined area of all the States east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio rivers.

Of the lands granted for educational purposes, it may be said that had they been retained by the States and their usufruct applied for the benefit of the institutions of learning for which they were intended, they would have served a most beneficent purpose, but those lands have largely passed into the hands of speculators and private owners, the colleges receiving only a moiety of their values.

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## A SINGLE TAX MONEY SYSTEM.

(For the Review.)

By S. TIDEMAN.

Money and governments are necessary adjuncts of civilized life. The necessity for each is consequent on the division of labor. Consequent on government are land values and—taxes.

Between the Land Values Taxing system and the money problem is a close logical connection. Reduced to their last analysis as working proposi-

tions, the Single Tax fiscal system includes the rational money—a Single Money system, too—or rather, the two merge into one. In passing, it may be stated that throughout this article the word Single Tax should be understood to mean The Single Tax unlimited—the ultimate desideratum.

At present moneys are of two kinds (and more varieties). 1st. Interest bearing bonds, whose functions are two fold: to save monopolies from taxation, and to bring their owners a revenue at public cost, even when stowed away idle in safety vaults. These are for the wealthy. 2nd: Common money for common people, whose business it is to pay taxes. This complicated arrangement, though ingenious, will not fit into the Single Tax system. Then, what will?

The requirements for an ideal system are the same as those of scientific engineering—and scientific taxation—that at the smallest possible cost it shall combine safety and simplicity with perfect fulfillment of its functions, including that of self adjustment to any reasonably anticipated variation in the duty imposed on it.

Smallest possible cost excludes interest bearing bonds. It will also exclude the present practice of placing gold and silver in large amounts into holes in the ground in Washington and other places at public expense as fast as the metals are dug out of holes in Colorado and elsewhere, preventing them from serving any useful purpose whatever to man. Clearly the money system of the future must release all this buried wealth to serve industry.

But should not gold and silver be used as money? Yes, perhaps. The practice will be harmless and perhaps useful if at the user's own cost. The government's business with the precious metals as money should be that of coiner, public weigher and measurer, for the guarantying of quality and quantity. With this, the metallic "standard of value," barter money, may well be expected to continue in circulation so long as any one cares for it. The accepted idea of its necessity will ultimately crumble for want of a foundation and the practice in due time die out. Under the Single Tax system the only real and operative standard of value, no matter what the money, will be the natural and true one, labor.

When land value becomes recognized as the rightful and only true revenue of the government, paper money, if used, will be on solid base. Economic rent must then sustain the government's currency obligation. That paper money, now a well established institution, will come to be used to such extent as this foundation will safely carry the value of it, may well be taken for granted. Beyond this limit its volume cannot expand. The Single Tax will take care of that, by removing the surplus. Economic rent, the social product of industry, is the surplus which trade must always yield up. Money, a measure of values and a tool for the facilitating of exchanges, spreads out into the general trade from the government's disbursements in payment for service. All wealth comes from land. And as the movement of money is in opposite direction to that of the wealth or service for which it exchanges, its ultimate destiny is rent. Its legitimate mission is then fulfilled, and the Single Tax

returns to it the treasury. With this course assured the value of government paper currency can not depreciate because its volume can not swell beyond the needs of trade and its redemption will be part of its function. Between the public disbursements and collection of the tax by the outflow of money to the trade and the orderly draining off of the surplus, both proceeding with equal regularity, the value of the government's currency and its adequate supply for general business become equally constant.

Other things remaining normal, land values necessarily rise and fall with the amount of currency in circulation, or—to put it a different way—what money, trade and industry can spare, is absorbed by rent. It follows that any superfluity which, if permanent, might tend toward depreciation, will be taken up by the tax and return to the treasury, while a scarcity, with like certainty, must produce the opposite effect of reducing the inflow by reducing the assessable value of land. In short, the Single Tax on the value of land will automatically govern and maintain the general supply of money at the equilibrium necessary for free and undisturbed trade and commerce.

The money of the future, replacing all others through growing estimation of its reliable qualities, meeting all requirements as the Single Tax system gains application, stability and public understanding, will naturally come to be paper money, issued by the government for the payment of public expenses, no more and no less, and collected back as land value tax, or economic rent. Monopoly eliminated, the value of land reflects the material value of government service, is exactly equal to it, and really represents the surplus production of wealth over and above producers' earnings. Its office is to maintain the service. The issuing of money by the government to pay its cost will thus practically amount to a mode of distribution, accounting checks which certify that the receiver is entitled to so much wealth, of whatever kind and at any time he may choose, from this surplus in the general stock in payment for services rendered. This money when so exchanged—the claim being thereby canceled—automatically finds its way back to the treasury, through the land value tax, as soon as the requirements of trade releases it to the demand of rent, its mission being fulfilled. Having served all legitimate purposes, it goes back from whence it came.

The natural way for government to collect its revenue is to take its share of the produce from the public domain. By the issuance and collection of the money, considering the market as the storehouse, this becomes, in all practical essentials, accomplished, with the smallest cost and without interference with individual freedom. And here may be pointed out the true reason why the issuing of money must be considered as strictly and exclusively governmental functions, for no other body can have the right to tax. The issuing of legal money, under whatever mode and pretext, constitutes a taxing power.

Thus the Single Tax system, in attaining its perfection, will, by natural selection, make its government the sole Bank of Issue. It will, so to speak, become its own money system and its own banker, without either taking the government into the banking business or letting the banker into the government business.

That the government's revenue should be regulated by its expenditures is nothing new. It is so now. But it is done by indirect and more or less concealed methods whereby the cost to the workers, of all grades and professions, is increased beyond all possible calculation. The Single Tax on the other hand, will so regulate the government's revenue, directly consequent on its expenditures, as to effectually shut off all the parasites.

To the argument that this system will facilitate governmental profligacy the answer is, that to a free people the government is the servant. If the citizens want superfluous extravagant service in any line, they can have it. But with the Single Tax they will know the cost, will know who is paying for it and that their labor must make up for any waste. Do they desire simplicity and frugality in their public affairs, it is in their power so to order it. Taking all imaginable factors into consideration, it seems reasonable to predict that under such conditions the tendency of government will be toward practical economy. Those in public and private life alike will be materially and ethically interested in securing the best service at the lowest possible cost.

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## THE SIMPLE YET SOVEREIGN REMEDY.\*

### A Wholly New Method of Propaganda.

(For the Review)

By S. L. MOSER.

Since the revival of the international Single Tax movement, by Mr. Joseph Fels, there is demand for the study of Propaganda methods that shall be the most effective in securing the adoption of the Single Tax, with the least expenditure of time and money.

Having given some time to the study of Propaganda methods, I submit views thereon for criticisms and suggestions.

Because the adoption of the Single Tax would benefit financially a great majority of the people, I have long cherished the notion that an effective appeal might be made to these beneficiaries in such a way that the educational work might be conducted on a self-sustaining business basis. In fact, I put this theory to a partial test, in 1897-8, to support Mr. John J. McCann in his nu-

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\*In this article Mr. S. L. Moser, of St. Louis, Mo., presents a new method of propaganda. We call special attention to the care with which this plan is outlined. To us it seems entirely feasible, providing only the necessary practical knowledge is enlisted in its operation. We invite comment upon Mr. Moser's plan and we trust the Fels Fund Commission can be induced to examine it. We believe that aid can be enlisted in its support from many quarters. This will be necessary at the start, but the chief recommendation of this novel method of propaganda is that it promises to become self-supporting at an early date.—Editor *Single Tax Review*.