

much sound economic and political philosophy, once took the public into his confidence, and delivered an address on his religious convictions. The recent appearance of the latest edition of this remarkable address will serve as an excuse for comment that would have been considered out of place in the columns of *The Public* while Mr. Post was its editor. The friends who are putting out this edition of an already widely circulated pamphlet have been actuated by the thought that there may yet be friends of Mr. Post who have not seen it, or those who would like to put it in the hands of their friends. "A Non-Ecclesiastical Confession of Religious Faith" is not a proselyting sermon to convert readers to a particular creed. Neither is it for those who have already reached a satisfying religious conviction—save as it may help to explain the condition of mind of some still groping brother. It is not a plea to follow or to shun his course; but merely a statement of fact. The end of his mental wanderings, indeed, is of minor importance. The essence of its worth lies in its evident sincerity.



As Stevenson said, "To travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive." Every man or woman who has wandered through the wilderness of doubt has been glad to get in touch with a fellow wanderer; and if that fellow wanderer was a man of great discretion, sound judgment, and sterling integrity, his fellowship was all the more welcome. No man, however great he may be, can by any pronouncement set entirely at rest the doubts of an inquiring mind; but every man whose life and work and character are such as win the approval of man's better self has a beneficial influence on the development of that better self. It is in this that lies the peculiar merit of this confession of faith, for in it is laid bare the soul of a man who has proven to the world the saneness, the steadfastness, and the wholesomeness of his character. And the quaintness of his style, the disingenuousness and the simplicity, bring us at once into such complete accord with him that we follow with keen personal interest his progress from a narrow-minded sectarianism through free-thought, agnosticism, atheism, on to the simple faith that has brought him peace.



No words but his own can convey an adequate idea of the beauty, the sweetness, and the sympathetic kindness that runs throughout the address; and one catches a glimpse of a great soul

when he reads in the conclusion: "I feel once more that I am a miserable sinner; though it is when I wrong a brother or drift away from the principles of absolute right, as I perceive them, and never because I miss a prayer meeting or amuse myself on a Sunday. Once more I try to pray, but in my work rather than on my knees." And in closing his confession he says a faith that was dead has revived. "But this faith is not the old terror-fostered credulity; it is implicit confidence simply in the practicability of what is right."

S. C.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

CALIFORNIA FARMERS AND SINGLE-TAX.

Willows, Cal., Jan. 15, 1915.

I received a telegram and letter some weeks ago from the President of the Board of Directors of the newly organized Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District, asking me to come up to Shasta County, 250 miles north of San Francisco, and tell the farmers in their district of the "singletax" system of taxation that will be used under our California law in their irrigation district when their bonds are issued.

Last Wednesday I addressed a meeting of 150 farmers at Anderson. They applauded vigorously when I read to them the statement on the back of the card of the real estate firm in Modesto called the Modesto Land Co., that "In the Modesto Irrigation District, the industry of the farmer is not taxed. The farmer who builds a house and barn, plants alfalfa or sets out trees pays no more taxes than the speculator who allows weeds to grow on his land."

The same evening I talked with others to a meeting of about fifty of the leading business men at Redding, the county seat of Shasta County (about 50 miles east from the Lassen Volcano). I talked pure singletax to them, and they applauded it, too. I also told of the prosperity resulting from irrigation in other sections of California and how the singletax system of taxation used in those districts causes a subdivision of the lands, and greatly increases the population of the districts.

Thursday afternoon a meeting of farmers was held at Cottonwood, which is in the southeasterly part of the district. The chairman, President Barkuloo, told them that, as the law required the singletax system to be used in all new irrigation districts they had me come up there to explain it to them. These farmers also expressed their approval of this singletax system of taxation as applied to their lands under the irrigation laws of California.

In the evening there was a meeting of about 30 of the business men of the town of Anderson at the office of the Irrigation District. The Singletax and the results brought to other irrigation districts by it were explained to them. They showed their hearty approval of this system by the applause which they gave when I had finished my talk.

This new Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District

comprised 32,000 acres, and extends from the city of Redding, about 25 miles southerly along the Sacramento River, and includes within its boundaries the two towns from which it receives its name. One of the members of the Board of Directors, Mr. Brown, proprietor of a flour mill at Cottonwood, is an old-time Singletaxer. Mr. C. W. Barkuloo, the President of the District, is president of the Bank of Anderson.

On October 29, last, the Imperial Valley Irrigation District (which was organized in 1912), by a ten to one vote, decided to issue \$3,500,000 of bonds, and take over the works of the California Development Co. This Imperial Valley Irrigation District comprises 500,000 acres. It is probably the largest publicly-owned irrigation system in the world. It is located on the southern border line of the State of California, and takes its water out of the Colorado River in old Mexico, in a ditch or canal that runs ninety miles before it reaches American soil. This Irrigation District, like the Anderson-Cottonwood District (which is about 600 miles north of it), uses the singletax system of taxation.

There are three other Irrigation Districts in California operating under the Singletax: Oakdale, Modesto and South San Joaquin. They have a total area of about 250,000 and are located in San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties at about the center of the great Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley, which extends for about 400 miles from Redding on the north to Bakersfield in the south. Thus a total of about 750,000 acres of rich, irrigated valley land in California is now operating irrigation systems under the Singletax.

The Pitt River project in Shasta County will place about 300,000 acres under irrigation, and the Iron Canyon project will be able to deliver water to 225,000 acres in Shasta and Tehama Counties. In a few years by the development of these great projects California will have a total of 1,275,000 acres of the richest land in the world, upon which will grow oranges, lemons, figs, olives, peaches, pears, grapes, alfalfa, grains and a multitude of other products of the soil. A forty-acre farm in these irrigation districts enables a farmer to give his family every comfort, and the man who has sixty acres "under the ditch" is rich. And this in great valleys where the snow never falls and the temperature in winter rarely reaches the freezing point.

The continued extension of the Singletax in the irrigation districts of California is giving the farmers and business men in all parts of the State practical examples of the benefits that flow from a system of taxation that punishes indolence and rewards thrift.

EDWARD P. E. TROY.



POLICE DESPOTISM AND CITIZENS' RIGHTS.

New York, Jan. 18, 1915.

Some men are pugnacious, and others are pugnacious only when opposing an infringement on their rights. Samuel W. Simpson is such a man.

Judge Rosalsky of the Court of General Sessions of the City of New York, on the 16th day of October, 1914, reversed the conviction of Mr. Simpson for distributing a circular with a petition attached, and addressed to the Governor and to members of the Leg-

islature of the State. Judge Rosalsky based his decision on the ground that the law did not apply to distribution of petitions on the streets of the City of New York.

Promptly thereafter Mr. Simpson was again arrested for distributing a circular entitled "The Cause of War," and advertising the meetings of the Manhattan Singletax Club, without a petition attached. He was again convicted and an appeal was taken to the higher court. Judge Joseph L. Mulqueen decided that "The distribution of advertising circulars to people in or upon any of the streets, avenues or public places of the City of New York is not a violation of Section 408, Subdivision 5 of the Ordinances of the Corporation of the City of New York," and reversed Mr. Simpson's conviction and ordered that his fine be remitted.

The Police Commissioner of New York City was then notified by me, as Mr. Simpson's attorney, if any more arrests were made under Section 408 of the Ordinances of the Corporation of the City of New York for the distribution of circulars, handbills, leaflets or pamphlets, action would be brought against the City of New York and against the individual policeman for false imprisonment, and he was requested to instruct the police of the City of New York accordingly.

Infringements of rights must be pugnaciously fought.

HARRY WEINBERGER.



AN ARTFUL DODGER AS ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Philadelphia, Jan. 12, 1915.

Recent experiences of a taxpayer in an application to the Hon. John C. Bell, Attorney General of Pennsylvania, should be brought to public notice. The General Assembly, by Act of May 12, 1911 (P. L. 287) exempted machinery of all kinds from taxation in the second class cities, Pittsburgh and Scranton. Under the law (1844, P. L. 486, Sec. 32) machinery in all other parts of the State is taxable as real estate when owned by the owner of the real estate on which it is situated (70 Pa. 381). It has been so taxed, and is so taxed today, in other parts of the State, except in Philadelphia; there the Board of Revision of Taxes has ignored the General Assembly, the Supreme Court and the following provisions of the Constitution, viz.: Article 9, Section 1—"All taxes shall be uniform upon the same class of subjects within the territorial limits of the authority levying the tax." Also, Article I, Section 12—"No power of suspending laws shall be exercised unless by the Legislature or by its authority."

Regardless of the policy or impolicy of taxing machinery, it is impolitic and dangerous to allow an irresponsible County Board to override the Constitution, the General Assembly and the Supreme Court. Therefore on September 26, 1914, a taxpayer of Philadelphia applied to Hon. John C. Bell, Attorney General, for permission to use the name of the Commonwealth (that being a necessary form) without expense or trouble to the Commonwealth's officers in a taxpayer's suit to compel the Board of Revision of Taxes of Philadelphia to observe the law. On September 29 the Attorney General asked for authori-