

salesman stranded in the hotel of a Kansas town. The drummer had seen the cat and was discussing the Single Tax with one present who believed in and knew it thoroughly. A half dozen farmers and several business and professional men were present and listened to the talk awhile, when the fat and pompous Methodist minister interrupted them by saying: "It would never do in the world; it would ruin all the farmers to have to pay all the taxes."

"But the farmers would pay under the Single Tax less than one fourth, probably but a fifth or sixth of the proportion of tax they now pay, to say nothing of their relief from monopoly extortion which is ten times greater than all their taxes," replied the local Single Taxer.

A derisive laugh by the preacher and loud haw haws by the farmers followed, and the former then said: "How do you make that out, when farmers own nearly all the land!"

"The Single Tax would not be levied on land acreage but on land values, and though farmers own half or more of the nation's area, they own only about ten per cent. of the nation's land values, and much of that is mortgaged," replied the local Single Taxer.

"Why, man alive, you are crazy; where and what are the land values aside from the farms—what do they amount to in value compared to all the farms," exclaimed he of the black coat and plug hat.

"The greatest land values are in the cities and towns, but mining lands alone are worth more than farm lands and yield a much larger net revenue," was the reply.

"I cannot believe it; why, the cities and towns really take up very little land compared to the whole. Of course some mines are quite valuable, but most of them barely pay for working," replied the preacher.

The drummer then said, "Do you not know that the land values of Chicago alone are greater than that of all the farms in Illinois, our largest and most fertile State in the Mississippi valley, and there are many other cities and hundreds of towns in the State whose land values must be considered.

The minister seemed too dazed to reply, but a farmer said, "What is land worth an acre in Chicago? Pretty high, I guess."

"What should you think it worth—give a guess," said the drummer.

"Oh, I don't know, but I suppose its awfully high, some of it a thousand or two thousand dollars an acre, I guess, or even more," the farmer said.

"Shouldn't wonder if on the best business streets it was four or five thousand," ventured the preacher.

"Why, gentlemen," said the drummer, "you couldn't buy enough for a lettuce bed, or to set a dog kennel on, for five thousand dollars without going fifteen miles from the City Hall. Land is selling every day in Chicago at from five to twenty millions per acre, or at that rate, for it is not sold by the acre, but by the foot. Now figure up how many farms you can buy for twenty millions. If two thousand each, the average price here, one acre in Chicago is worth as much as ten thousand Kansas farms, and then remember that in nearly every State is one city, or, at most, two or three cities, in which the bare land values exceed that of all the farms of the State. In Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania the bare land values of cities are twenty times the farm values; in Ohio ten times, and so on. Even in Kansas you have four or five cities in which land values exceed those of all your farms, as I find in your State Auditor's reports."

A law is not made sacred by the fact that it passes the legislature.

—*Rev. Herbert Bigelow.*

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE COLORADO SITUATION.

(For the Review.)

By EMELIUS.

As all the Single Taxers are aware, we of Colorado had a campaign. State Senator Bucklin, after his return from the Australasian Countries introduced a bill in the 13th General Assembly of this State, providing for an amendment to the State Constitution which permitted, by a process of referendum vote of a county, the people thereof to exempt from all taxation personal property and improvements on land, but neither the whole, nor any portion of the full cash value of any land franchises or rights of way could be so exempted.

This measure was passed, and with five others was submitted to the People of the State for adoption or rejection. For over a year we carried on a still campaign. Some of the friends of the cause, notably Hon. Tom Johnson, of Cleveland and others (I might say every active Single Taxer in the country was with us in money and otherwise as far as it was possible) obtained the report made by Senator Bucklin entered in Congress as a part of a report on matters of taxation of that body. Thus the report as Bucklin found affairs in New Zealand and elsewhere became a frankable document and we had over one hundred thousand copies of them printed here and sent them to the voters of the State. We obtained the list of voters by the good work of friends in the State and the friends here did the addressing.

Along with that, we also had quite a large supply of other literature, such as "Why" "The Shortest Road to the Single Tax," etc., all of which was used to the best possible advantage. The last three or four months of the campaign became anything but quiet. The lords of creation finally got on to our move and awakened from their lethargy.

They sent stories of the sure confiscation of properties belonging to non residents and thereby raised an enormous fund. With it they bribed in every way that they could, and I am sorry to say that some members of our cause were not invulnerable. One man, who had rendered good services in the early part of the campaign fell, and we found him out on the stump against us. He had written an article when he was speaking from his heart, and when he came to speak at Gunnison against us, Senator Bucklin (was in the hall and debated the question with him. The article which he had written before was read to him, and he was made to appear in his true character—that of a traitor. His influence fell, and he was called in and placed in the office of the enemy, and from that time held the menial position of a second clerk for some of the leaders of the opposition until the close of the campaign.

I will not burden your readers with the long story of work and struggle we had. Suffice to say, that the enemy got the judges and clerks of election to bring in the returns the reverse of what they were, and in other ways cook up a fraudulent return so that we were counted out. Thus ended the first battle. We then dropped back again and began to strengthen our forces and to take a new tact. We know that the election system of this State was rotten to the core, and though we worked with the Democratic party, we knew that there was bound to be a separation, which soon came. Senator Paterson and others, of the clean Democracy, left the gang and started a new movement called the Municipal Ownership Party, which took in all the reformers of every kind except the avowed State Socialist.

This campaign came on largely because the tramway, water company, and