

## RELATED THINGS

### CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

#### A VOTER'S MEDITATION.

For The Public.

When I rose up from the eternal sleep  
To travel Time's tollsome sand,  
I found myself in a good broad place  
With a ballot in my hand.

For some who had been in the way before  
And had toiled for eternity,  
As their sun set, all blood and sweat  
The ballot they handed me.

And by the dread of the martyr race,  
As I kneel on the bloody sand,  
I'm sworn to use the ballot right  
And to wield it for the land.

It's to breathe my prayer for the common good,  
It's to fight the fight of the clan,  
It's not to voice my special plea,  
It's to speak my word for man.

Men might from off the holy shrine  
Steal the tapers while they pray;  
Watchers might slyly take the coin  
That on a dead man's eyelids lay.

A guardsman placed at the city gates  
Might open the gates for pay;  
And a man might use the social vote  
In a faithless private way.

Oh, when I fall on eternal sleep,  
And am called to the judgment space,  
May I be able to tell to heaven and hell  
That I used my vote for the race.

JESSE S. DANCEY.



#### THE SINGLETAX AT WORK IN CANADA.

Speech of C. H. Lugin, of the Royal Tax Commission of British Columbia, at the Annual Banquet of the Henry George Association of Victoria, B. C., February 3, 1912.  
Report of the Victoria Daily Colonist of February 4, 1912.\*

Mr. Lugin stated that he would endeavor to say in a few words what they had been doing in the city and in the Province. He said that when the four members of the Tax Commission left Victoria they went to work with absolutely open minds, without any preconceived ideas at all as to what they were going to do, and the conclusions they reached were forced upon them by the knowledge of the conditions of the country, and by the knowledge of the evils and the injustice of the incidence of taxation.

\*See page 155 of this Public.

"I will confess," he proceeded, "that I was an advocate of the poll tax until I took occasion to learn how it worked, and to discuss its features. I am now absolutely in favor of its abolition—as indeed are all my colleagues."

"The same thing applies to the taxes upon improvements and personal property. We felt from our investigation of the Province that they were unjust, that they could not be fairly levied, and that it was only right that they should be removed from the statute book. And we believe this will be done by the legislature."

"In certain municipalities of the Province the idea of Singletax has prevailed. The taxes are solely upon land values. The municipalities which I have in mind are Chilliwack, Summerland, Penticton and Kelowna."

"We will take Kelowna as an example. In Kelowna the area of assessable land is about twelve square miles. It has a system that is purely and simply Singletax. There are no other taxes. That community owns its own electric light plant, and through that municipality wherever you go among the fruit farms you will find sidewalks laid down to the very doors of the farms. The country roads are lighted about as well as the city streets were before we had the cluster lights, and in every house they have electric light, while the water is laid on by a splendid system, and all these things are furnished to the people of this municipality at par cost. You will find the school houses well equipped, with their carriages in summer and the sleighs in winter, to bring the children who have to come from a distance. That is one of the municipalities in the Province that has adopted Singletax and intends to stand by it. Some others have not gone so far."

"And who are the people who live in Kelowna? They are nearly all men who have made a success of their business affairs and have gone there to live. They are not radicals or faddists. They are plain, hard-headed, business, sensible men. Whenever the question was asked: 'Do you think you will ever depart from the principles of Singletax?' the invariable reply was: 'We will never depart from it.'"

"In the rural municipalities that have adopted this system of Singletax there is no influence that can be brought to bear that could lead them to depart from it."



#### SOME OF DOBBS'S THINKS.

Reported by Jackson Biggles.

For The Public.

Dobbs came over to my flat last Sunday. Suspicion suggests that the reason he came was because my radiator was doing better work than his own. But I soon forgot the suspicion in listening to his assault on our esteemed judiciary system.

"Biggles!" he said with much asperity in his voice, "I'm stirred to the depths."

"What's done it?" I inquired as warmly as possible in the low temperature.

"It's that man Root," he replied.

"The shoemaker?" I queried.

"Shoemaker! Nothin'," he said spitefully. "It's the Senator. Didn't you see what he said about the Recall?"

I replied mildly, not seeking controversy at the moment. "No! I didn't see it. There was so much sporting news, I didn't get around to the police court reports yet."

"It's just what I expected of you," said he with much heat. "You ought to have an expurgated newspaper to read all the time. Here's Root predicting the fall of the Republic and the extermination of liberty, and you go on contentedly reading about Jack Johnson's new car and the hope of the white race. If people were all like you Root wouldn't have anything to talk about, and we'd carry the elections by passing round cheap cigars and bribing the nickel shows."

I tried to get excited about this remark, but the temperature prevented. "Why shouldn't Root talk about the Recall?" I queried. "It's human nature to hanker after soft jobs and stability in the same."

"Sure 'nuff," said Dobbs. "I'm not kicking about that. I'm objecting to what he said and the way he said it. Jest listen. 'The safety of American institutions depends on the independence of the judiciary. Decisions should be in accord with the laws as they are.' As Captain Cuttle remarked, 'The p'int o' that observation lies in the application on't.' What institutions does he mean? and what shall the judiciary be independent of? Shall they be independent of the people that place them in power and pay their salaries? What institutions are in danger from the Recall? Is it the institution of tariff protection? Does he mean that the institution of government by party bosses and big campaign funds and jackpots is threatened? Is it possible that the sugar trust, the Standard Oil and the Steel Corporation will lose their harbor of safety if judges are subject to Recall? I'd like to know just what was in his mind then. I'd like to have him explain how decisions can be made in accord with the laws as they are, when nobody knows what these laws are until the odd judge at the top has made the last guess at it—and then a later guess coming to change it perhaps. It's asking too much of the judges, this is. That observation isn't so wise as it looks on the surface. Then he wants us to preserve law as it is in its course of continuous change and development. How we goin' to preserve anything that is continually changing? If we can it and seal it up, development will stop."

"Sure thing!" I ventured to say. "But what's to be done about it?"

"And then," continued Dobbs, "Root insists that the preservation of order, the prevention of anarchy, and the continuance of liberty and justice depend upon us doing what can't be done, preserving a thing that is continually changing and won't be preserved."

"Well, Dobbs," I interrupted, "I'm a little in the dark about these things. The lawyers are presumed to know the law—"

"So are all the people," replied Dobbs with great heat, "and it's a rank presumption in both cases. If he knows the law, why does he say the respect for judicial decisions is based upon the idea that such decisions are different from political opinions, when nearly every court in the land has its finger in the political pie to such an extent that the people never know whether a law is valid or not, until some political judge has said that it is Constitutional or otherwise. If he knows what the law and the practice is he must have observed that a large proportion of cases before the courts, especially important cases, necessarily involve political questions, and that the demand from the people for the Recall has come from the fact that the courts have assumed legislative power, and also executive power in ordering municipalities and States to obey their injunctions and suspend the action of laws passed by the people's lawmakers."

"What are you going to do about it?" I asked in my very mildest manner.

"I'm not going to do anything about it," he replied fiercely, "except to keep on talking about it and stirring the readers of the sporting news up, until some judge puts me in jail for contempt of court."

I'm truly sorry for Dobbs. He gets het up so about things.

GEORGE V. WELLS.

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## BOOKS

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### "MY NEIGHBOR'S LANDMARK."

**My Neighbor's Landmark.** By Frederick Verinder. Published by Andrew Melrose, London, 3 York street.

There was urgent need that what Mr. Verinder has done in this little volume should be done, namely, that the Old Testament words on the land question should be brought together and intelligently edited. Let us hope that the book will have a wide reading, not only in England but in this country, and especially among clergymen.

Mr. Verinder has brought out admirably how modern are the essential principles involved in the ancient teachings, however antiquated may be the special details. As Dean Kitchin says in the preface, "he has shown that the most modern aspirations breathe in the oldest scriptures." "So,"