

what they mean by the "interests." . . . If the Reactionary press uses the phrase "the interests of California" to mean that system of special privileges and grasping monopolies which has driven into the hands of close corporations those indispensable gifts of Nature and those methods of transportation and vending which should present and extend equal opportunities to all under benevolent government protection or drastic government ownership, then is William Kent guilty in the first degree. If "the interests of California" is to be translated into "THE Interests," then William Kent can present no adequate defense. But ordinary people who can distinguish between the two—who recognize the fact that William Kent always has been conscientious and consistent in voting against special privileges and throttling monopolies under the guise of "great public interests," have only words of commendation for the Congressional record of that same man.



### Easy Living Upon Awful Misery.

American Economic League (Cincinnati) Press Bureau, No. 256.—In New York City there is an eminently respectable organization called The Allied Real Estate Interests, which is bitterly opposing the enactment of a law cutting in half the tax rates on buildings. This measure is championed by the Committee on Congestion of Population as a means of relieving overcrowding on the East Side. The proposal is moderate enough, entirely too moderate in fact, but it is being fought as bitterly as the abolition of chattel slavery was fought by slave owners. . . . New York City is not the only place where eminently respectables are helping to slaughter the innocents. In the State of Missouri there is an organization, The Landowners' Protective Association, with headquarters in Kansas City. This association is in fact a land speculators' rather than a land owners' organization. It is now engaged in fighting a pending Constitutional Amendment that will have the effect, if adopted, of putting an end to the encouragement of baby slaughter in St. Louis, Kansas City, and other crowded cities of the State. To secure the defeat of this life-saving measure, this land speculators' organization is engaging in a strenuous campaign of lying, deceit and misrepresentation. . . . In Oregon there is a similar movement of land speculators to prevent the adoption of a land value tax measure. In Ohio some eminently respectable persons successfully fought against putting anything in the new Constitution that would make possible a change in the slaughter-encouraging tax laws of that State. In every other place where there is a live movement afoot to abolish the cause of infant mortality, eminently respectables, many of them prominent in charitable work so-called, are busily engaged in fighting for continuance of the incentive to overcrowd and slaughter.



I believe in woman suffrage for the same reason I believe in man suffrage. Woman suffrage is part of democracy, and one who believes in democracy should believe in woman suffrage. The women who create life should have power to protect life.—Tom L. Johnson.

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## RELATED THINGS

### CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

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#### RAIN AFTER DROUGHT.

All night the small feet of the rain  
Within the garden ran,  
And gentle fingers tapped the pane  
Until the dawn began.

The rill-like voices called and sung  
The slanting roof beside;  
The children of the clouds have come;  
"Awake! awake!" they cried.

"Weep no more the drooping rose  
Nor mourn the thirsting tree.  
The little children of the storm  
Have gained their liberty."

All night the small feet of the rain  
About my garden ran.  
Their rill-like voices called and cried  
Until the dawn began.

—Dora Sigerson Shorter.



#### DANIEL KIEFER.

Erand Whitlock in the *American Magazine* for  
September, 1912. Republished by Courteous  
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the *American*.

The occupation of Daniel Kiefer of Cincinnati is set down after his name in "Who's Who" as that of a political reformer. A decade or so ago it would have been printed as clothing merchant, and clothing merchants do not get into "Who's Who," unless they sell enough clothes to create a surplus that will enable them to become philanthropists. Daniel Kiefer was born and reared in Cincinnati, and in that city and in Chicago he had been successful in his business, and then an experience befell him; he read "Progress and Poverty," and after that he had a new concept of life. He had already the altruistic spirit, and that generous desire to help the outcast and the poor, which is the human basis of genuine reform. But with the new vision he had caught from Henry George, he set himself to bring to pass the adoption of the Singletax, in the operation of which he perceived the possibility of the abolition of poverty, and with the concurrent abolition of legal privilege, the dawn of real democracy. He soon discovered, however, that reform is a vocation that requires leisure, wealth and energy, and, if pursued long enough, wholly absorbs all three elements. It is a difficult, dangerous and discouraging occupation, owing to the competition of other reforms with that in hand, and to the general reluctance of a stiff-necked generation. Reform, too, has a dreadful tendency to hurt business, and

Daniel Kiefer's partners in the clothing trade complained that he talked too much of Henry George. Then he arranged his affairs as a man going on a long journey, and prepared to give all his time to his new ideal. Cincinnati was a place in which it would seem there was room for reform and one in which there was not so much competition as might be met elsewhere.

Every leper, says Maarten Maartens, likes his own sores best, and so it is with reformers. Each one is sure that his own reform is the one thing needed to set the old world right. Thus each one learns the patten of his own program, becomes the slave of its cliches, and spends his time decrying all others. Daniel Kiefer, however, had few illusions as to the delays and difficulties he would encounter, or the hard task it set before him, the Singletaxers, anyway, being the most opportunist of all reformers. And so he avoided extremes, partly because he has that kindly human feeling toward all men that makes the best basis for a reformer, partly because he has some of the shrewdness of the politician.

Thus having arranged his business affairs so that he might give all his time to his reform, he gives his life to it—evidence of sincerity and of faith, the kind that moves mountains and the world. He set to work in his own town. He was one of those who helped to reorganize the Democratic party in Cincinnati in 1905, and that year they overthrew the old Cox régime and elected Judge Dempsey mayor. There was a reaction afterward, of course; that was to be expected, but it was the beginning of the movement that two years ago elected Henry Hunt prosecutor of Hamilton County and, last fall, Mayor of the City. In addition to this Mr. Kiefer was manager, as it were, of the Vine Street Congregational Church, in the liberal pulpit of which Herbert Bigelow preached radical political doctrines every Sunday to large congregations of common people. It was no little task to keep an institution like that alive but Daniel Kiefer kept the church open and warm and lighted, and later on made an arrangement—he has lost none of his business ability—by which the church society disposed of its property on Vine Street, and created a fund which enables it to hold its meetings Sunday afternoons in the Grand Opera House. Bigelow calls it a "People's Church and Town Meeting Society." Kiefer calls it the "People's Forum for Free Speech."

In addition to this Daniel Kiefer has for years been carrying much of the burden—the drudgery of the finance and detail—of organizing the State of Ohio for Direct Legislation, a work that now has come to its fruition in the adoption of the Initiative and Referendum by the Constitutional Convention. He is also treasurer of the Joseph Fels Fund, and in the midst of all his other labors he finds time to direct the financial policy which has made it possible to sustain *The Public*, the radical

weekly published and edited by Louis F. Post in Chicago.

But these activities, enough to wear out any man, are all subsidiary to the great purpose Daniel Kiefer has set himself in life. His offices in the Commercial Tribune building are stacked with printed matter, and he carries on an immense correspondence all over the world. It has been estimated that every third man in those countries covered by the postal treaties receives every morning a circular letter from Daniel Kiefer, calling his attention to the philosophy of Henry George, and requesting a contribution to some one of the causes in sympathy with that philosophy, and always, in the end, pointing out the Singletax as the hope of man. He was thus in the budget fight in England. in the propaganda for taxing land values in Oregon and Canada and Australia, in the direct legislation campaign everywhere. This prodigious labor, carried on ceaselessly day and night, year in and year out, requires enormous energy, perseverance, devotion, faith. He never rests, never takes vacations, has no other interests, outside his family, and expects to carry on the work all his life. Since he is abstemious in his habits and a vegetarian, his life with such an interest and purpose to inspire it promises to be long, so that his correspondents might as well resign themselves to the inevitable and remit now. And at fifty-six, Daniel Kiefer looks out on the world, a happy and a hopeful man, giving his life to an ideal.

BRAND WHITLOCK.



## "TAY PAY" ON TWO SINGLETAX MEN OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Special Correspondence of the Chicago Tribune of September 1, from T. P. O'Connor, M. P.

Returning to the subject of Singletax which I touched on last week,\* there are two other chief figures in the group, both predestined politicians. They are F. Neilson† and E. G. Hemmerde.‡

Neilson started life in the dramatic world. He bears to this day something of that ineffaceable imprint which the dramatic profession leaves upon its members.

The face is clean shaven, as is almost invariably the case with the man of the stage, the features are pronounced and handsome, the eyes brilliant and expressive, made perhaps the more so by the pallor of the complexion from which they look out. Add that he is a tall man with a good figure and you will understand that he makes an impressive and attractive figure upon the platform.

Neilson has done an immense deal of work outside the house of commons; probably no man

\*See Public of August 30, page 835.

†See Public of September 6, page 842.

‡See Public of July 19, pages 673, 678.