

LIVE QUESTIONS.

A Series of Articles Contributed by Advanced Thinkers.

NATURAL TAXATION IN DELAWARE. The proposition to remit all taxes on buildings and improvements, goods, chattels, occupations, imports and other subjects and raise all necessary revenues exclusively on land values—in other words, the single tax doctrine—has grown to such proportions in the past few months that it is fast taking on the appearance of a national movement.

Only as recently as June of last year the doctrine was practically a philosophical speculation. Today it is an open issue in many sections of the country and in Delaware is the political plat-



JOHN J. McCANN.

form of thousands of the people. When it is remembered that the entire voting population of Delaware scarcely reaches 40,000 and that of these probably one-half are either active members of the various single tax leagues of the state or quiet sympathizers with and believers in the principle, the full force of the progress there made can be fairly realized.

It being known to the friends of the cause that the constitution of Delaware permitted taxes to be levied on such properties and in such proportion as the legislature should from time to time determine, the more active among them proposed to make an open fight for the adoption of the new system in that state. The idea was caught up by their friends throughout the country and liberal contributions began to come in. At that time the enterprise was looked on with contempt and derision. Today the old parties are warily measuring its strength and recognize the fact that a far-reaching principle is involved in the contest.

And what is the real basis for all this enthusiasm? What is the reason for the new departure? Is it that its advocates shall gain some special advantage over their fellow citizens under the new order? Is it a movement of bondholders or importers, money owners, manufacturers or traders in goods, for the purpose of shifting the burden of their own shoulders on to the shoulders of others?

The very simplicity and naturalness of the single tax doctrine in these days of voluminous, perplexing and bewildering policies are the features which redeem it from all suspicion of selfishness and enshrine it in the affections of so many of its advocates. It is more than fiscal. It is a moral reform with a fiscal name.

The single tax is so called because it proposes to abolish all other forms of taxation and to raise all public revenues by assessments upon one thing, and one only, and that is the value of land. It is not a tax upon land, for that would be laid, according to area, equally upon good and poor, but is a tax upon the value of land without regard to the area or to the improvements upon it. The value of land is created wholly and absolutely by the community, and not by the owner or by any other person. Therefore, we say, "Let the community take what the community creates and use it for the community and leave to the individual what the individual produces for his individual enjoyment."

Suppose two men land on an island through which runs a ravine. Suppose that on one side of the ravine the land will produce 200—not 300 bushels of wheat per acre or 200 head of cattle or \$200, but 200 units of value per year. The land on the other side, equal in area, will produce, with the same application of labor, only 100 per year. The first place will have what single tax men call an "uneared increment," a "rental value," of 100 per year, because there are two men on the island, and both will want the same piece, for land never has any value until at least two men want it. Which will get the better piece? The stronger man. And so it is that all land titles the world over are based upon force, because every man wants the best piece, and we have as yet not had the wit to devise and operate a "single tax" to remedy the evil. These men go to work, and they agree that they will pay every year 10 per cent of their product into what they call the public treasury to make roads, bridges and other common improvements. At the end of the year the first man pays into the treasury 20 and retains 80, and the other man pays in 10 and retains 90. And so it is, year after year, that the first man gets richer than the other, although he works no harder nor more intelligently—that is, the wealth of the island is "inadequately distributed."

If the poorer man objects, the other replies: "I pay more taxes than you. What have you to complain of? You are a disturber of the peace." The poorer man sees that his richer neighbor does apparently pay more taxes, and so he submits patiently to an injustice because he cannot fathom it. But all the while the rich man is becoming richer and the other man relatively poorer, and it is beyond the power of either to correct the difficulty, if he would, so long as the fundamental wrong exists.

But now suppose that these two men

when they landed, being just and desiring neither to take the advantage of the other, had agreed between themselves that whoever took the better piece of land should pay into the public treasury annually the rental value of 100 for common purposes and that the other man should pay no tax. At the end of the first year and of all subsequent years each would have 100 of private property as the result of equal effort and 50 from the public treasury for common improvements and benefits. This is the single tax principle. The object of the Delaware campaign is to apply this principle to correct a fundamental wrong, so that the inalienable rights to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" may not continue to be violated. According to this principle, it will cost a man as much to hold valuable land out of use as if it were put to the best use.

Will the logical outcome of the new policy justify the hopes that are based upon it? Certainly the idle lot or land owner will not be benefited. On the contrary, his occupation will be gone. It will not pay to hold his property unused, as at present, waiting for the boom that will never come again. It will not avail to raise the price, for the annual value made by the community will be justly taken for the use of the community. The application of the principle will compel the owner of unused lands to put them to a good use or let others use them.

Then will come the day looked forward to by the single taxers, when industry need neither idle nor beg, when the man out of a job will be a curiosity and the one in want a rarity. Then "overproduction" and "underconsumption" will not be subjects for serious consideration, for, with a more equitable distribution of the bounties of nature to her children, want and the fear of want would vanish. The helpless class, "out of work, able and willing," would no longer exist. If there will be fewer millionaires, for each millionaire less there will be hundreds more comfortable and better citizens. There may not be so many party managers and bosses with barrels and boodle, but there will be fewer railroads fattening on the people's birthright, fewer trusts, corporations and combinations feeding on the land privileges accorded them by a credulous and impecunious people, and there will be no lords or barons or dukes of foreign governments to fence out Americans from America.

It is the undertaxing of land values and the overtaxing of the works of man that have made man and his works cheap and land dear. The single tax proposes to simply reverse the policy and make human lives and the achievements of industry precious, as they should be, and the barren deserts of the city and wastes of the country worthless, as they are, until occupied and used.

Viewing the far-reaching effects of this movement in this sordid time, one can but think that there is in the single tax that precious talisman, the "touch of nature that makes the whole world kin."

JOHN J. McCANN.

PROBLEM OF THE UNEMPLOYED.

Inhuman and Oppressive Tax on the Poorest and Most Defenseless Class in Society.

From the best information obtainable during the three years 1870, 1871 and 1872 there were an average of 1,000,000 men idle.

And in speaking of the idle, or unemployed, I mean those who are willing and able to work when there is an opportunity, but being unable to procure work are in a state of enforced idleness.

This 1,000,000 men at \$2 per day, boarding themselves, would have earned \$2,000,000 a day, \$600,000,000 a year, or in the three years \$1,800,000,000.

Take the next period from 1873 to 1878, inclusive—seven years. This period includes the panic year of 1873, yet I have averaged the seven years on the basis of 2,000,000 idle. At \$2 a day there is a loss of \$4,000,000 a day, \$1,200,000,000 a year, or \$8,400,000,000 in the seven years.

The next period, from 1880 to 1890, inclusive, the times were better, and we find that 1,000,000 is about an average of idle or unemployed.

One million of men at \$2 a day equals \$2,000,000 per day, \$600,000,000 a year, or \$6,000,000,000 for 11 years.

Now, take the last four years, from 1891 to 1894, inclusive. Here we find the number of the unemployed vastly increased. Many estimate the number at 4,000,000, but to be within bound I have placed it at 3,000,000. From this we find a loss of \$6,000,000 a day, \$1,800,000,000 a year, or \$7,200,000,000 for the four years.

To recapitulate the losses to society from this source alone we find a grand total during these 24 years, from 1870 to 1894, inclusive, of \$24,000,000,000.

This is a loss to the world that makes gains for no one, but these poor people have been compelled to endure it so that the wealthy, who control the volume of money, may exploit other millions from a more fortunate class.

The statesmanship of a nation that will fasten a public policy producing such results cannot and ought not command the respect of mankind.

Such a public policy is not only heartless and cruel to the last degree, but it is so unjust that it becomes robbery. The laboring class have but one thing to sell, and that is their power to labor. If they are robbed of this by a vicious financial system, they are made beggars, and the whole people are made poorer by the lack of what might have been produced.

If any one is in doubt as to the cause of this tremendous loss and waste, let him study the finance question.

Our medium of exchange consists of \$1,000,000,000 of money and \$4,000,000,000 of bank credit. Change these proportions to \$2,500,000,000 of money and \$2,500,000,000 of bank credit, and you will hear no more of the unemployed or of financial panics.

J. B. FOLLETT.

A Non-Puncturable Bicycle Tire.

A young man named Shaffer, of Coatesville, Pa., claims to have made a fortune by his inventive genius, but is holding out for more cash. He claims to have at last found what bicycle manufacturers have been searching for many years—a tire which will not puncture and which is so simple that no time is lost in the work of repair. The principle of the invention he does not divulge. It is said that he has received an offer of \$65,000 in cash for his invention from the Remington Fire Arms Company, but that he has refused the sum offered. He is holding out for \$300,000.

Weakness and Headache.

Dudley, Pa., May 6, 1896. "In 1892 I was afflicted with the grip and after I got better I was very weak and had headache. I saw Hood's Sarsaparilla advertised and thought I would try it, and it did me so much good, that we always keep it in the house since that time." Mrs. Laura Stuller.

Hood's Pills cure all liver ills.

It takes the average woman from three to ten minutes to say good-bye when she sees a friend off at a railway station. If the train waited longer, she could use half an hour. No matter whether it is raining, hailing, blowing, freezing or snowing, she thinks it her duty to stand at the car window and talk to her friend till the train is half a mile away from the station. Men say good-bye and wait in the dry till the train pulls out.

"As if a brick were lying in my stomach" is the description by a dyspeptic of his feeling after eating.

This is one of the commonest symptoms of indigestion. If you have it, take Shaker Digestive Cordial.

Not only this symptom, but all the symptoms of indigestion are cured by Shaker Digestive Cordial.

So many medicines to cure this one disorder. Only one that can be called successful, because only one that acts in a simple, natural, and yet scientific way. Shaker Digestive Cordial.

Purely vegetable, and containing no dangerous ingredients, Shaker Digestive Cordial tones up, strengthens, and restores to health all the digestive organs.

Sold by druggists, price 10 cents to \$1.00 a bottle.

School Directors to Qualify.

An Act was passed by the last Legislature and approved by the Governor June 25, 1895, giving power to the directors holding over to qualify the new members by oath or affirmation, and are authorized to certify the same to the proper authorities.

Biliousness

Is caused by torpid liver, which prevents digestion and permits food to ferment and putrify in the stomach. Then follow dizziness, headache,

Hood's Pills

insomnia, nervousness, and, if not relieved, bilious fever or blood poisoning. Hood's Pills stimulate the stomach, rouse the liver, cure headache, dizziness, constipation, etc. 25 cents. Sold by all druggists. The only Pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Beautiful Lady

May or may not be the meaning of the word *belladonna*. But many women know (and others are daily learning) how excellent a thing for aches and pains in any part of the body is JOHNSON'S BELLADONNA PLASTER. It is fine, smooth, elegant, and full of quick and kindly healing. Try one and we shall not need to advertise them any more—not for you at least. On the face cloth of the genuine see the bright Red Cross.

JOHNSON & JOHNSON, Manufacturing Chemists, New York.



That's why they enjoy their COFFEE. Any grocer can tell you why customers keep coming back for SEELEG'S.

Advertisement for Ely's Cream Balm for Catarrh. The text describes the balm's effectiveness for various ailments like nasal catarrh, sore throat, and colds. It includes an illustration of the product packaging.

Advertisement for Scott's Emulsion. The text states it is above all other things, the remedy for sickly, wasted children. It nourishes and builds them up when ordinary foods absolutely fail. Includes a small illustration of a man carrying a large fish on his back.

Advertisement for Alexander Brothers & Co. Dealers in Cigars, Tobacco, Candies, Fruits and Nuts. Sole agents for Henry Maillard's Fine Candies and Penny Goods a Specialty. Also agents for F. F. Adams & Co's Fine Cut Chewing Tobacco.

Advertisement for W. W. Watts, Iron Street, Bloomsburg, Pa. The text offers stoves, tinware, roofing, spouting, and general job work. It emphasizes low prices and good work.

Advertisement for Dr. M. Salm, featuring a portrait of the doctor and illustrations of an eye and ear. The text describes his successful treatment of various chronic diseases and offers a free consultation.

Advertisement for Burt's Acme Brown Oil. The text describes it as a safe and effective remedy for various ailments, including rheumatism and general weakness. It includes a large illustration of the product bottle.

Advertisement for Fine PHOTOGRAPHS and CRAYONS at McKillip Bros., Bloomsburg. The text claims they are the best and the cheapest.

Table titled 'THE MARKETS. BLOOMSBURG MARKETS.' listing various commodities and their prices. Items include Butter, Eggs, Lard, Ham, Pork, Beef, Wheat, Oats, Rye, etc.

Advertisement for 'Bring the Babies.' Instantaneous Process Used. The text describes a service for taking high-quality photographs of children.

Advertisement for Exchange Hotel, Bloomsburg, Pa. The text describes the hotel's amenities, including large and convenient sample rooms.

Advertisement for The Leading Conservatory of America, featuring Carl Faletto, Director. The text describes the conservatory's offerings in music and art.

Advertisement for Burt's Acme Brown Oil, repeating the text from the middle advertisement and emphasizing its safety and effectiveness.

Advertisement for 'WANTED-A MAN' and 'GET YOUR JOB PRINTING DONE AT THE COLUMBIAN OFFICE.' The text offers services for job printing and provides contact information.