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FREELAND, SEPTEMBER 19, 1898.

Governor Hastings is good at making bluffs. He says he is going to carefully consider the recommendation of the Pardon Board to release Bardsley, and will not hurry it through. The governor might as well finish the job at once and give the thief his liberty. He promised a Philadelphia clique before he became governor that Bardsley would be pardoned when he reached the executive chair, and the "consideration" which he will bestow upon the case is all moonshine. Hastings dare not be a man and refuse that pardon.

The present circulation of the New York Journal, the leading silver daily in the east, is larger than the combined circulation of all the Philadelphia dailies, with one exception. This exception is the Evening News, the only silver daily in Philadelphia (and a convert from Republicanism by the way), which has now a circulation of 210,000 copies, 30,000 more than any gold standard paper in the greatest Republican stronghold in the United States. This enormous increase in the circulation of the leading free-silver newspaper in very fair proof of the popularity of the Democratic side of the issue. Country papers which advocate Bryan's election also report increasing circulations.

By the way, has any body heard who really was to blame for the mine horror at the Twin shaft at Pittston? Will the learned commissioners sent thither by the governor enlighten the public on that point? It seems to us that somebody ought to be vindicated somehow. We all know that the operators were not at fault. When was it proved that any operator was responsible for any thing of the kind? And the inspector, against whom public feeling at the time ran high, is he not to be exonerated? Censure the pillars for allowing themselves to be robbed, or attribute it to the rats that burrowed in the yielding earth, but for goodness' sake put the responsibility somewhere.—*Philo. Inquirer.*

Tuesday brought the returns from the state election in Arkansas, and the vote which the Southern farmers polled is indicative of what the farmers of the country intend doing next November. Arkansas has been a rock-ribbed Democratic state for years, but on Monday it caudle itself by electing the Democratic candidate for governor by 65,000 majority—almost double the largest majority ever given a Democrat in that state. The result in Arkansas, however, is nothing to brag about. Every Democrat there knew the ticket was a winner and many therefore failed to vote. But wait until the so-called doubtful states are heard from? Then we will hear of majorities such as will make the silent man of Canton sorry that he swallowed his principle at Master Hanna's command.

E. Q. Norton's article on "A Badly Taxed Town" emphasizes the need of improving in our present methods of raising public moneys. The situation is unsatisfactory to all ratepayers and should receive some kind of judicious remedy. Our first difficulty is that we do not get adequate returns for the money paid out. There are various leaks. Public work cost more than the amount and quality of private work. We have too much low machinery and too many sets of officials. A simplified form of raising the required revenue, one that would be just to the holder of land and to the community at large, is needed. The incoming legislators should give the matter their attention and make an effort to enact a more equitable system of taxing property than the present cumbersome and unsatisfactory method.

There is one fact worthy of note in this campaign, and it is this: There is not one labor leader, not one official organ of any labor organization, nor any newspaper supported by the laboring element, in all the United States, supporting the Republican candidate, Labor, for once in its history, is united from Maine to California and from the Lakes to the Gulf and Mark Hanna's gold has not yet been found strong enough to tempt one of its leaders nor one of its newspapers to desert in this great battle. Not a solitary man whose past record shows him to be an all-time year-round friend of workmen asks you to vote against Bryan. Labor's demands have been incorporated in the Chicago platform, and its standard-bearer gives his solemn promise that he will endeavor to carry out that platform. To the everlasting credit of the workers of America, it can be said in the years to come, that so far no traitor in labor's ranks has been found.

## LIVE QUESTIONS.

A Series of Articles Contributed by  
Advanced Thinkers.

### A BADLY TAXED TOWN.

There is no need to give the name of the town. Its history of taxation differs but little from that of many other places. Geographically well located, it has many natural advantages, and under conditions of real freedom such as it might enjoy it would continuously double its business annually. It has an ideally perfect climate, fine shipping facilities both by water (rivers and ocean) and by railroad; coal, iron, lime rock, building and other stone; forests of wood of all kinds, and to the productions of a semitropical soil and climate there are immediately accessible all the productions of the tropics. A place so situated ought to grow in wealth and population. Yet the same condition of things prevails as exists all over the civilized world today, and from the same cause, a bad system of taxation.

### Tax Upon Tax.

Situated in a state whose indebtedness, interest bearing, is \$12,000,000 and increasing \$3,000,000 more each year, the town's share of which is added to its own local and county tax, that alone would be a burden large enough to weigh down all enterprises. In addition to this, however, there is a port tax, and the various taxes enumerated as follows: Federal, state, county, city, old port tax and special (which is added on a percentage of all the other taxes). In addition to the above there is required of one doing business a location tax or license, the internal revenue taxes required of certain lines of business (and so far as possible shifted by them on to consumers); also their proportion of tariff taxes (shifted on to consumers as far as possible) and several small taxes, such as water rates and street sprinkling. Functions that the municipality now undertakes to perform, and for which it should be held good, are either not done at all or so poorly done that many business houses and private residences are obliged to supplement them with private watchmen, street cleaning, contributions to public institutions, charitable and reformatory, together with frequent calls for donations in aid of various so-called public improvements.

### The Burden of the System.

To some readers there may seem to be an objection to including many of the above items in the list of taxes, but they are taxes all the same and are a burden which must be borne by the community. A just system of taxation would provide for all the above and many other items also and yet be more easily borne than the present taxes. A large number of officials are required now to do the work as it is done. There being three separate and distinct offices and sets of officers, the state and county, the city and the special. If to these are added the duties of the county commissioners when engaged on tax business, the state auditor and his clerks, the county boards of equalization, where county commissioners do not do this work and the state board of equalization (the last legislature passed an act creating additional officers to aid tax assessors in assessing property), we have an army of officials, using tons of books and stationery, and all working at a total cost which reduces the net amount of the money taken from the taxpayer to the smallest percentage before it reaches the public treasury. No sane business man would or could conduct a business where the expense was such a large percentage of the total income.

### Inequality of Assessments.

No note has yet been made of the inequality of assessments upon property, for that is common to all places. It is enough to say that there are cases where banks hold millions of dollars' worth of taxable bonds, and yet in the whole county there is returned for taxation less than \$12,000 worth, personal property in general is inequitably returned, and vacant land is far below its market value when listed, state, county and town in debt and going deeper. The tendency is to increase the rate of taxation.

### A Town Fighting Itself.

One instance of local taxation: A concern employing hundreds of hands was so heavily taxed as to force its removal beyond the city limits. The city council then extended its limits so as to take the company in (without, however, giving them the benefits of protection by fire department and police), and they then moved all their works 30 miles away, thus taking hundreds of men from the town, all of whom were renters of houses and consumers of goods. To set such an action off in a good light, it is well to relate that for months a committee of business men has been soliciting funds to make up a donation to parties who would erect and operate an enterprise which it was hoped would call more business to the town. The \$10,000 asked for by the promoters of the enterprise is an amount equal to what the taxes would be upon the property during ten years. With such a system of taxation, it is reasonable to suppose that the town can increase in wealth and population as it would under a system where neither labor nor labor products were taxed, and the whole revenue required could be raised from a single tax assessed upon the annual rental value of the land alone, requiring the fewest number of officials to assess and collect the tax and at the least cost to the taxpayers.

### STICK TO THE FARM.

The steady increase of the larger cities and the decrease of the population of the country districts is a question for serious thought. Just in proportion as people crowd together competition becomes stronger, the weak become

oppressed and degradation increases. Why do people leave the country for the cities?

First, because country life is hard. The amount of steady toil required to make farming pay is a great burden, to the young men especially. From 12 to 20 a boy passes into young manhood. This is his period of growth, dreaming, impulsiveness, and yet it is often made a period of most severe physical toil. A boy during this period should be carefully guarded from overwork and worry. In too many cases he is expected to do as much work in the field as the man of 30 and in addition the chores around the house. Now this is unjust. Many a man who will cause his young horse to pull the plow only half a day at a time will make his boy follow the plow all day. We ought to be as just to our boys as to our horses.

This hard, continuous work makes many a boy leave the farm. While the farmer is busy seeing that every one works on the farm the manipulator of grain and stock is busy in devising ways and means of getting all the profits. If one-fourth of the time of labor were utilized in study, in investigating the causes of depression and in checking the greed of speculation by intelligent discussion and voting the farmer would succeed far better than he does.

This would give greater variety to and a keener enjoyment of farm life. J. W. C. ROBERT BURNS.

A hundred years have elapsed since the death of Burns, and in 100 ways the people of Scotland, England, Ireland and America try to express their sense of what he has been and has done for the English speaking race. It would be safe to say that his best poems—now, indeed, an integral part of English literature—are in the memories and on the lips of 100 times as many men as had heard his name the day he died.

Take "Auld Lang Syne," for instance, and think that there was an hour when Robert Burns inclosed this song to Mrs. Dunlop and expressed the hope that she would not have to pay double postage because he did so. Double postage on "Auld Lang Syne!"

Naturally enough when the plowman poet, only 28 years old, went to Edinburgh on his first timid visit to a great city, he went to the herald office, or somebody took him there. Not to such an office as that of the Boston Herald, or the New York Herald, or the Chicago Herald, but to the office where, for failing memories, certain heralds preserved the coats of arms of the famous families. Happily, and probably to Burns' personal satisfaction, no name of Burns or Burnes or Burness or Burnass was found on the records or in the indexes.

So the sultan of Serendib voyages to the farthest west to find, as the oracle bade him, the shirt of a happy man. He had to go to Connaught, where he surprised Pat, happily dancing on the green in the last hours of a fair. The sultan seized Pat and ordered his clothes pulled off, that he might take and wear the shirt, as his orders had bidden him. And, alas, Paddy had not a shirt to his back.

So Robert Burns went to find the armorial bearings of his ancestors. And so far as the herald's office knew he had no ancestors. Certainly they had not coats of arms.

## JEDDO NEWS.

A special meeting of the Bryan and Sewall Club was called by the president for last evening for the purpose of choosing a delegation of twelve to represent the club at the meeting of the Bryan and Sewall Club, of Hazleton, this evening.

The attendance of the pupils at the Progressive Club's night school has increased to such an extent that an additional supply of books has been ordered by the school board to meet the demand. The number of pupils now enrolled is twenty-three.

William McGettrick, of Freeland, has resigned his position in the blacksmith shop and gone to the upper end of the county, where he has secured more remunerative employment.

James Cunningham, who after spending his vacation with his parents here, has returned to St. Epiphany's college, Baltimore, Md., to resume his studies.

Peter, the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick McNelis, died on Tuesday evening. Interment will be made in St. Ann's cemetery this afternoon.

Mrs. Barney Boyle, of Japan, has been summoned to the bedside of her sister, Mrs. McGuinness, of Lattimer, who is seriously ill.

Daniel Gallagher, of Philadelphia, who has been visiting friends here for the past two weeks, will return home next Monday.

Quite a few of our young men and boys have started to attend the Mining and Mechanical Institute, of Freeland.

John McMenamin, assistant superintendent of Markle's collieries, went to Philadelphia this week.

Hugh McDyer, who had been on the sick list for the last two weeks, is able to be around again.

Miss Mary Burns, of Mauch Chunk, is spending a few weeks here with her parents.

Misses Maggie and Bella O'Gara, of Mt. Carmel, are visiting friends in town.

The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael O'Donnell is seriously ill.

Miss Maggie Boyle, of Oakdale, is visiting McAdoo friends.

The colliers will work four days this week.

## GREATEST GREAT MEN.

The greatest theologian was St. Augustine, whose body of theology at present constitutes the major part of the doctrine of the Roman Catholic church.

The leading experimental philosopher was Bacon, who deemed that the substance of all philosophy lay in testing the accuracy of the knowledge already gained.

The most learned philosophical historian was Tucke, it is estimated that a single foot-note in his "History of Civilization" must have cost five years of research.

Virgil was the greatest pastoral poet who ever lived. Standing next to Homer as a writer of epics, he nevertheless, in some passages, excelled his famous master.

The greatest of all dramatists in any age or country was Shakespeare. He excelled in every line of drama, tragedy, comedy and history, and in each was equally good.

The first and, in most respects, the greatest of all tragic poets was Aeschylus. His delineation of the tragic elements of human conduct has never been surpassed.

## FRILLS OF FASHION.

White linen lawn vests, with hemstitched tucks and frill down the front and a turn-over linen collar, are one of the novelties to wear with the coat and skirt gown.

One of the perennials of fashion is the Figaro jacket, which crops up with great regularity. This season it is very short, to display the wide folded belt, and made of oriental embroidery.

It is rumored that earrings are coming into favor again, and the duchess of York has really appeared with diamonds suspended from her ears. We are threatened, too, with the old-time bracelets and black velvet, with gold and jeweled clasps.

Red is the accepted color for golf suits, and red serge made with Norfolk jacket and skirt, finished on the edges with green leather, is very chic. Brown cloth skirts, with bright-red blouse waists, are very effective, and Russian crash is the material for hot-weather golf costumes.

## WELL TO TRY.

Rubbing irons with a little wax, to prevent sticking. Adding a pinch of salt to the white of egg in beating, to make it froth. Taking ink stains from wash goods, by rubbing with yolk of egg before washing. Peach pudding sauce of the extra juice in a can of fruit, with a little sugar and water and a few drops of almond extract; boil up and serve.

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## Bryan and Sewall

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## LIVE QUESTIONS!

"Robert Burns,"  
by  
Edward Hale.

## Thursday, - - September 17. FIRST SILVER MEETING.

Continued from First Page.  
crime would have been heartily enjoyed by the audience were it not that the results of that conference have been so terrible to the producers.

Mr. McCarthy scored the subsidized metropolitan press, and charged the editors of the great eastern newspapers with dishonesty, in language that won him great applause. He referred to the court records of Philadelphia to show that the *Times* and the *Times* had been subsidized in other campaigns, and challenged successful contradiction when he stated that they are subsidized in this campaign. He illustrated in numerous ways the disastrous effects upon labor that the present financial policy has wrought, and when he concluded he was given tremendous applause.

Before delivering his address he invited any goldite in the audience to engage in joint debate on the money issue. Although the audience was a mixed one, and the few goldites of the region were there to a man, his offer was not accepted.

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