

Single Tax Theory Being Worked Out

Fairhope, Ala., was founded for the purpose of testing some of the theories that have been suggested as proper remedies for the existing evils of our civilization.

Academic discussion and political methods had failed to bring about their adoption. The public would not commit itself to any of these untried theories, no matter how logically perfect they seemed to be or how plausibly their advocates were able to present them.

The business world refused to permit the foundation of its structure of wealth to be replaced by mere theories untried in the past and unguaranteed for the future. It must needs deal with elements upon which it could calculate by the rules that it had learned from experience. It had too much at stake to take chances.

This is the root of that conservatism which, while it hinders the world from progress, more often, perhaps, preserves it from disastrous reverses. The majority of men are not idealists or inventors. The necessities of existence compel them to be realists and imitators. Therefore the public is conservative.

Idealism and invention are individualistic manifestations. Hence it is that evils led by individual interests are evolutionary in their growth and steal upon the public insiduously, while reforms which wait for united action come generally from revolution when evils can be no longer borne.

The inventor who would profit by some new idea in machinery must needs make at least a working model of it before he can hope to interest his fellow man in his invention.

And so reasoned the promoters of Fairhope. It was thought that a community which might adopt the reform theories which they advocated and become a working model of them would do more to advance them than any amount of dogmatic teaching or political effort.

Accordingly, a company was formed and a site chosen on the eastern shore of Mobile Bay about midway between the little village of Battles and Montrose. A small tract of land was secured—140 acres at first—to which has been since added about ten times as much.

The title to this land was vested in the company which, by reason of its ownership, could dictate to those who might live upon it, the terms and conditions of its use.

No attempt was to be made to evade or circumvent the laws of the land. All of the duties which they enjoy were to be fully met but the privileges which they confer with the ownership of its lands were to be administered by the company in the interest of all its users.

The ownership of the land being made public property, Henry George's theory of the single tax was to be illustrated by the collection of a rent out of which all taxes and all public expense is borne. These public expenses consist of such local public services as the community may from time to time require the company really standing in the same relation to the people on its lands as would a local village or township government.

In the internal administration of the company's affairs, the principles of direct legislation are embodied through a full application of initiative and referendum, and equal voting

privileges are accorded to both sexes. The imperative mandate which is designed to enable an electorate to depose an officer or servant when he is no longer satisfactory is also a part of the system.

Thus the promoters of Fairhope design to demonstrate by its workings the principles of the single tax, government ownership, direct legislation and equal suffrage. Other ideas are also incidentally worked out in their experiment.

Membership in the company does not bring to its members any pecuniary reward. The item of profit is entirely eliminated. The organization has no other purpose than to promote the application of its principles for the purposes of demonstration.

Fairhope was founded about ten years ago in what was then a wilderness, with disadvantages greater than fall to the lot of ordinary communities, but it has steadily grown through them all from a population of less than a score, until today it has a village and farming community of about four hundred souls. It has business and trading facilities far in advance of most villages of its class, and a public service that is so far as the writer knows, unequalled. Its success is so marked that its projectors already claim for it the demonstration of its principles and predict for it a brilliant future.

It is my purpose to prepare for your readers a series of short articles setting forth in detail its method of dealing with each of the problems it has met and the success with which it has been attended.

My next will give in detail its method of administering the land.—J. Bel-
langee, in Farm, Stock and Home.

Strawn with Broken Hopes

The loss of the presidency was probably not an overwhelming disappointment to Judge Parker, for he could hardly have been under any serious delusion regarding his chances of success. But the way to the great office is strewn with the broken hopes and shattered ambitions of those of his predecessors who had given up their lives to the pursuit of the prize only to lose it in the end.

The list begins with John Jay, who sacrificed his prospects by negotiating an unpopular treaty with Great Britain. It ends with Thomas B. Reed, for Mr. Bryan was the leader of a forlorn hope both in 1896 and in 1900 and he accepted defeat with fortitude. While there were disappointments of aspirations early in the history of the country, the first case was that of Henry Clay, the brilliant "Harry of the West." Clay was passed over in 1840, because his membership in the Masonic order and his tariff views made him less "available" than William Henry Harrison. Four years later he secured the nomination only to be defeated by the first democratic dark horse, James K. Polk.

Webster was another leader who was sacrificed to the exigencies of the popular demand. In 1848 the whigs deserted their chiefs and went over to the military hero, Gen. Taylor, although the Massachusetts statesman according to all precedents, was entitled to the nomination. Again, in 1852, Webster lost to another soldier, Gen. Winfield Scott. In 1860 Gov. Seward of New York was the republican leader, and the logical choice of his party. But the Know-nothing element caused his defeat and made possible the nomination of Lincoln.

Salmon P. Chase was another man with a presidential ambition which was never gratified. He hoped to secure the nomination in place of Lin-

coln in 1864. Defeated at that time, he looked forward four years to the democratic convention, which rejected him and named Gov. Seymour. To avenge his defeat his daughter is reported to have induced Conkling not to fight the decision of the electoral commission awarding Louisiana's vote to Hayes. For Mr. Tilden had been the real power behind Seymour's nomination. Thus a grudge over a defeat helped to deprive the democratic candidate in 1876 of his victory. Horace Greeley succumbed in 1872 under his crushing defeat and died a few days after the election.

Blaine was defeated for the nomination in 1876 by the cutting off of the gas from the convention hall, which thus compelled the adjournment over night and gave his opponents time to arrange a winning combination. His loss of the presidency, eight years later, due to the Burchard indiscretion, left him a broken man. The brilliant Reed hoped for the nomination in 1896, but it went to his more astute adversary. The acquisition of the Philippines alienated him from his party and finally forced his withdrawal from political life.

Theodore Roosevelt is one of the very few brilliant party leaders since the time of the Virginia dynasty whose long term of public service has been rounded out with an election to the presidency.—Kansas City Star.

The Chickasaw Government

The Chickasaw government is almost an exact replica of the administration of affairs in the state of Mississippi, the former home of the tribe. The Chickasaws proudly assert that their laws are the most perfect found among Indians. Their law-making body is called the Chickasaw legislature, and its organization is an exact pattern of the average state legislature. There is the house of representatives and the senate, with a speaker of the former and president of the latter. Martin Van B. Cheade, a veteran leader in the nation, is president of the senate. The head of the nation is Gov. Johnson, a most able man, who before the intervention of the United States would have possessed all of the powers of a governor of a state.

The Chickasaw government is separated into three divisions, the legislative, executive and judicial. The nation is divided into counties and each has its county seat. Tishomingo being the county seat of Tishomingo county. There are four judicial districts, and county, probate and supreme courts. These courts have been shorn of most of their power by the United States, but are still in existence.

Each county had its sheriff and a jail, where prisoners were kept. Executions were made by hanging on gallows, modeled after those used in the states. Murder and larceny, after a third offense, was punishable by death.

Martin V. B. Cheadle, president of the senate, says there are two political parties in the Chickasaw nation, the progressives and the nationals. The progressives oppose the policy of the government in allotting lands and are loth to give up their government. The national party, of which Mr. Cheadle is leader, believes that the nation should assist the United States government in every way in settling tribal affairs in line with its present policy. It favors the sale of all tribal property, including surplus lands, to the government, and the division of the proceeds among the Indian citizens. When asked if most of the members of the national party do not favor the policy of the republican party, Mr. Cheadle said: "We will not

desert the ship that has carried us safely over, and I believe that most of the nationals will be republicans." Mr. Cheadle says that the national party represents the majority element in the Chickasaw nation.—Kansas City Journal.

Army Transport Service

The report from Washington that congress is to do away with the army transport service, so that this business can be handed over to private owners of steamships, is of particular interest at this time, owing to the comment made on the quartermaster's service in the annual report which Secretary Taft has just given out for his department. In that report it is stated that four of the eighteen vessels belonging to the army transport service were employed in keeping up monthly sailings between San Francisco and Manila. Four other vessels were used in the inter-island service at the Philippines. Secretary Taft states that the total expenditures on account of the army transport service for the year were \$3,074,024. If from this total is deducted the cost of running the Burnside, which was used exclusively through the year as a cable ship, and the cost of running the dispatch boats Ingalls and Kanawha, the remainder, which is the real cost of the transport service, is \$2,868,809. The quartermaster-general reports that this is over \$600,000 less than the lowest rate offered by commercial lines for the same service. That advantage is to be abandoned and the army transports laid up at the government docks to rust out their lives, while Uncle Sam pays private individuals for performing transport services far more than he has been able to do this business for himself. It is often argued by those who favor shipping subsidies that one reason why we should have more vessels under the American flag is for their usefulness in time of war, either as auxiliary cruisers or for the transportation of troops. Would not even this same argument apply with even greater force in favor of a retention of the army transport service, a service that would always have a number of vessels in condition to transport troops without obliging Uncle Sam to pay any such charges as were run up against him in some cases for the purchase or hire of ships during the Spanish war?—Boston Herald.

The Largest Flower

The Rafflesia is a strange plant, says American Gardening. It grows in Sumatra and derives its name from Sir Stamford Raffles, governor of Sumatra, at one time, and his friend, Doctor Arnold, a naturalist. They were the first white men to discover the wonderful plant. It is said to be the largest and most magnificent flower in the world. It is composed of five roundish petals, each a foot across and of a brick-red color, covered with numerous irregular yellowish white swellings. The petals surround a cup nearly a foot wide, the margin of which bears the stamens.

The cup is filled with a fleshy disk, the upper surface of which is everywhere covered with projections like miniature cow's horns. The cup when free from its contents would hold about twelve pints of water. The flower weighs fifteen pounds. It is very thick, the petals being three-quarters of an inch in thickness. With its beauty one is led to expect sweetness, but its odor is that of tainted beef, and Doctor Arnold supposed that even the flies were deceived by the smell and were depositing their eggs in the thick disk, taking it for a piece of carrion.

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