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THE KEYSTONE  
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Philadelphia.

felt in the next election for city and legislature. I will do the work if you will help me. Please let me hear from you by post card."

Elbert Hubbard will have much to answer for in the great hereafter for starting that Philistine magazine fad—though it may be that he will be permitted to twang an untaxed, man-made golden harp on the golden streets of the single-tax New Jerusalem. Who knows? John B. Howarth, styling himself "Registrar," hailing from Hubbardtown, alias East Aurora, perpetrates "What's The Use?"—a periodical published at East Aurora, New York, the first of every month, for the Society for the Propagation of Decency. Annual dues to all who do not wish to become life members is 50 cents. Howarth is a disciple of Henry George, and his "Barking Up the Wrong Tree," in the April number, is a gem on the trust question. "What's The Use?" is printed on the kind of paper the agents of the beef trust use in wrapping up porterhouse steaks—30 pages and cover bearing the motto: "There is plenty of room at the top; what we want is more room at the bottom."

Better send for 25, 50, or 100 copies of the Henry George Edition. Remember we go to press next Thursday (May 14). So send your list as early as possible.

#### A BOON TO FARMERS.

Editor Independent: I am much pleased to learn that you are to open your columns to the discussion of the tax question, more especially the single tax proposition.

If farmers would discuss the question of taxation, without regard to its bearing upon party prospects, they would soon see that a proper settlement of the taxation problem would do more to make farming profitable than all other reforms besides.

When it is known by the majority of the farmers that they own less than 10 per cent of the wealth of the country and pay 50 per cent of the taxes, they will look about to find a remedy. Under the single tax, their land being the least valuable, would be taxed accordingly, thus lifting the burdens from their shoulders and putting them on the shoulders of those the best able to bear them, and who monopolize the most valuable land. This would be just and the farmers should do it without delay.

EDWARD QUINCY NORTON,  
Editor "The Standard."

Daphne, Ala.

#### THE NATURAL SYSTEM.

Editor Independent: Herewith hand you an article heretofore published in our local paper. I do so at the instance of the writer of the enclosed (Mr. Freeland) letter. I also do so because I think and truly believe, after much study, that the "George system of taxation" is the only natural system, and if once adopted will revolutionize the world, socially, politically, morally and industrially.

To your noble statesman, tender my respects. Mail a copy of your paper for one year. JOS. HALL,  
Capitan, N. M.

#### NEBRASKA FARMER ANSWERED

Mr. Clark Answers The Nebraska Farmer's Questions Ament the Single Tax

Editor Independent: Under caption, "Willing to Be Convinced," a Mr. —, a farmer who lives at —, in the state of —, has the hardihood to present some conundrums upon which he, like the Springfield Republican, in last issue of The Independent, is "willing to be convinced," (against his, and its will) and the editor of The Independent asks, "Will

some single taxer please enlighten him on these points."

Why, yes, as a single taxer I shall be pleased to answer any Mr. Brown-Smith, Jones or other real person who lives somewhere and has the courage to ask his question over his own proper signature and locates himself somewhere for identification, although the pretended dilemma of our Nebraska "Farmer" has been fully explained and his questions answered by no less a personage than Henry George himself in "Progress and Poverty," that can be had of any general book store for 50c in paper cover, or The Director of the Independent School of Political Economy by merely paying subsequent postage to the next "farmer" that is "willing to be convinced." In such case he will get the "real thing," i. e., the doctrine, logic, argument, or what else you may term it, but the "convincing" process, that is different. The "farmer" has the knot end of the rope in his own hands and stultification over a non de plume or by Mr. Blank, who lives nowhere, is so easy that, like the Springfield Republican, whose ipse dixit, ament the address of Mr. Fillebrown to the "landlords of Boston," et al., has not only been answered time and time again, ad infinitum, but fairly annihilated. Still, ever and anon he or "it," that soulless thing, the newspaper "corporation," comes back to the reading public whenever it sees the present vicious, immoral, rotten system of taxation get a hard rap such as men like Mr. Fillebrown, et al., can give it, with their doubts about the "moral feasibility," or "practicability" of the project unless present holders are fully "compensated." Shades of immoral inconsistency; stultification, stultified and self-confessed at that. Reading the "farmer's" dilemma and questions and the addenda of the article reciting the lecture of Fillebrown under caption, "Single Tax in Boston," issue of Independent, April 30, suggests the propriety of classifying such willing converts together and killing two birds with one stone, the only difficulty about it being that neither of them, after being several times killed, too dead to sin in good, sneak up out of the grave of stultification without arm or leg to stand on and swear they never were hit at all and are more "willing to be convinced" than ever.

The editor of the Springfield Republican remarks with an air of sarcasm, nonchalance, "We are not told that the landlords present were so far impressed as to be willing to accede to this proposal." Oh, well, Mr. Editor, there are other pebbles on the beach and if you count noses you will find that on the United States beach nearly 70 per cent of the people are not landlords in any sense and under the present system of land tenure and taxation neither they nor their children or children's children may hope even to have a little home they may call their own and that this class is yearly on the increase, alarmingly so. If the truth was known, this is really the fact that sticks in the incorporated editor's craw. He knows they are mostly "electors" and only need to fully understand where they are at and what the single tax will do for them that they will so vote on this question when it comes up, nationally, (and come it will) in the near future that the "consent" of these dogs in the manger and those yet waiting and "willing to be convinced" won't cut much ice.

Truth is that I feel like ignoring such lobsters as the Springfield Republican that never get red by being cooked, while the "Nebraska Farmer" is, perhaps, worth a few shot. But there are so many answers to his dilemmic questions and inferences lying between the lines of his awful condition that we hesitate on the matter of The Independent's space. First of all, he should remember that there

are millions and millions of "other pebbles on the beach," who have toiled just as unceasingly (and under much worse conditions) as he has, lived on poor, more scanty food, so scanty that many can only enter their complaint from the "potters' field" who have worn poorer, scantier clothes than he or his have worn, none of whom can refer to this or that little 165x30 foot lot and shanty as their home. One hundred and sixty acres of land, house, barns, cattle, etc., forsooth. Why, such a home would give all of these millions of homeless brothers and sisters of yours the nightmare! They would think that a Carnegie, or Rockefeller, or Schwab, or, perhaps, God had consented to let "Mr. Baer" live there until he had kindly adjusted the "property interests and other rights" of the legion work people.

Oh, yes, we grant all you say about the hard work and privations of yourself and family all those years and you have our sympathy, provided, we can now enlist your own. But, did it ever occur to you that had the single tax been in vogue when you began life, making land free and building material plenty and cheap, clothing, etc., and all comforts of life of easy procurement, all the hardships of which you complain would have been avoided? Since you have manifested so much solicitude as to ask what dire sequence may be visited upon your unprotected offspring and wife in the event of the adoption of an honest, sensible system of taxation, let me take courage to ask you if you wish to hand down as a legacy to your children the same vicious system of land tenure and taxation that made you a veritable slave, but, in their case, because of increasing evil consequences of land tenure, as of today, will be so intensified and more prejudicial to them that it will be doubtful if they or either of them will ever be sheltered by a roof of their own.

Yes, suppose you should die, of course that would be bad for you. The single tax or any other system of taxation would not be responsible for any freak your son may take in considering the vocations of life. The professions, because of land monopoly, are as overcrowded as other lines and the single tax could not be held responsible more than other systems if your sons should abandon their mother in her decline of life, turn his or their backs upon the old home, part his hair in the middle and apply for a school or clerkship and failing these, take a place in some "union," or get a place as a "scab." After your daughters come from high school or Rockefeller college to which (so exceptionally) you are now, after so many years of privation and toil, able to send them, and failing as so many thousands do of marrying favorably, they must join the ever-increasing throng of service hunters. If under the present regime you should sell your farm and put it in a home in Lincoln, you have no assurance that the grass would be green upon your grave before some business scheme would induce a mortgage upon the city home and the disingenuousness of business management, mishap or trickery of some shrewd schemer result soon in the recently bereaved family hunting a house to rent and your children hunting employment that so many are now unable to find. The daughters might have the same experience of the three young ladies who sought employment as clerk typewriter and bookkeeper in a nearby city in Nebraska recently, as told me by a travelling salesman who resides at Lincoln and whose wife was the witness of the "crying spell" these girls had when they told of their experience in applying for these various positions.

The places were "open," but the wages only \$3.50 to \$4.50 per week. These young ladies protested that they could not maintain themselves at that, whereupon the proprietor or "manager" suggested that if they would accept the situations they would be able to soon find some "gentleman friend" who would be glad to assist them. These things are only probable when the legacy of free land or the natural birthright of mankind is denied and our "farmer" need do but little honest reasoning to observe the truth of it. As to the change in rate of tax, if he is an average farmer the assessment would be reduced fully one-half at the start and ultimately from about 86 per cent that he is paying on the average now to about 31-4 to 7 per cent, according to value of the holding under the single tax. Single taxers do not pretend to have a string of control over the consciences of their questioners or in fact know whether they are amenable to conscience, but we do know that the single tax will make all land, agricultural, mining, etc., and town and city residence lots, practically free of access and self-

employment within hand reach of our "farmer's" sons and daughters even after he is dead, thus avoiding his solicitude for their welfare.

E. C. CLARK.

Syracuse, Neb.

#### Feels Puzzled

Editor Independent: I am at a loss to guess what kind of a man Mr. Francis Keyes of Longmeadow, Mass., may be—but in charity I suppose he is like many others, who are well-meaning men, doing the best they know; but it appears to the writer that a man who was "very much amused at reading 'God-Ordained Revenues'" could also find ample amusement in reading the Decalogue, the Golden Rule, and Sermon on the Mount. But to a man who sees the humorous side of everything, the object lesson of a great city—a Chicago or San Francisco—built on land which seventy-five years ago was not worth a cent an acre and today is worth a thousand, a million, and much of it several million dollars an acre, may amuse himself by asking for an "affidavit," this would make a splendid hit in farce or comedy, but not in economic discussion.

F. M. MARQUIS.

Milwaukee, Wis.

#### TWO POUNDS OF GOLD

Think of the thousands of men, the enormous smelting furnaces, the tons of coal, the vast amount of machinery that is occupied or consumed in the production of gold every day in the year in these United States. And yet all these agencies combined succeed in getting less than two pounds of gold a day out of the earth. When these two pounds of gold have been collected by the toil of these thousands of men, the wearing of the machinery and the consumption of coal and chemicals, of what real "use" is it to mankind. They cannot eat it, drink it, wear it, shelter themselves with it, clothe themselves with it, make tools of it, or, in fact, apply it to but few "uses." The "utility" of gold is small. When by the "fiat" of law it becomes money—is made a legal tender for debt and taxes—all men want it. But a simple piece of paper performs those functions every day in the year in every civilized government just as well as gold. Gold would not be more highly valued by mankind than paper, which, except in color, it greatly resembles, if by the "fiat" of nations it was not made a legal tender for debts and taxes. This simple truth it seems is more difficult to comprehend than the most abstruse problems in mathematics by most men. It is very strange indeed.

The extravagance in government printing can be imagined when it is known that it has printed 23,000 volumes concerning sheep. How many copies of each volume were printed is not told.

## Dr. Shoop's Rheumatic Cure

Costs Nothing If It Fails.

After 2,000 experiments, I have learned how to cure Rheumatism. Not to turn bony joints into flesh again; that is impossible. But I can cure the disease always, at any stage, and forever.

I ask for no money. Simply write me a postal and I will send you an order on your nearest druggist for six bottles Dr. Shoop's Rheumatic Cure, for every druggist keeps it. Use it for a month and, if it succeeds, the cost is only \$5.50. If it fails, I will pay the druggist myself.

I have no sam. es, because any medicine that can affect Rheumatism quickly must be drugged to the verge of danger. I use no such drugs, and it is folly to take them. You must get the disease out of the blood.

My remedy does that, even in the most difficult obstinate cases. No matter how impossible this seems to you, I know it and take the risk. I have cured tens of thousands of cases in this way, and my records show that 39 out of 40 who get six bottles pay gladly. I have learned that people in general are honest with a physician who cures them. That is all I ask. If I fail I don't expect a penny from you.

Simply write me a postal card or a letter. I will send you my book about Rheumatism, and an order for the medicine. Take it for a month, as it won't harm you anyway. If it fails, it is free, and I leave the decision with you. Address Dr. Shoop, Box 940, Racine, Wis.

Mild cases, not chronic, are often cured by one or two bottles. At all druggists.