

## HABITS AND CUSTOMS

## Judge Hall Shows Their Influence on Opinions—Natural Law of Taxation

"We came into this world with minds ready to receive any impression. To the eyes of infancy all is new; one thing is no more wonderful than another. In whatever lies beyond common experience we assume the beliefs of those about us, and it is indeed difficult for us to disregard the accepted opinions of our times.

"The vast majority of us would as unhesitatingly believe that this earth is flat, supported by a huge turtle, in a community where that opinion prevailed, as we now believe it is a sphere circling around the sun. No theory is too false, no fable too absurd, no superstition too degrading for acceptance when it has become embedded in common belief.

"In this tendency to accept what we find, to believe what we are told, is at once good and evil. It is thus that social advance is made possible; that each generation obtains the hard won knowledge of preceding generations; and that errors and perversions thus received enslave us; that tyranny is maintained and superstition is perpetuated."

Polygamy is unnatural, yet it seems perfectly natural when it is generally accepted. Chattel slavery contravened the Declaration of Independence, yet it was regarded as right and proper where it existed. So with many other unnatural things that are accepted without question.

There are two qualities of human nature that it is well to call to the mind also. The one is the power of habit—the tendency to continue to do things in the same way; the other is the possibility of mental and moral deterioration. The effect of the first in social development is to continue habits, customs, laws and methods long after they have lost their original influences; and the effect of the other is to permit the growth of institutions and modes of thought from which the normal perceptions of men instinctively revolt.

As society advances, the disposition to continue previous social adjustments tends to grow stronger and stronger. Hence we cling to the habit of supporting the same political organization long after it has accomplished its mission and regardless of the principles advocated. The most glaring wrongs are perpetrated and sanctioned in its name, and the very idea of justice is blurred by the habitual toleration of injustice.

In this way a republican government may easily and rapidly grow into a political despotism, in which our public servants become public bosses and the masses of the people mere slaves to their caprice, and the most grievous wrongs practiced upon them will excite admiration rather than indignation.

But mental habits which make such a state of things seem natural are breaking up; superstitions and fears which prevent it's being questioned are melting away; beliefs which make the masses content with such conditions are dying out; and while everything tends to awaken a sense of natural equality under the laws to arouse the aspirations and ambitions of the whole people, to excite a keener and keener perception of the gross injustice of existing inequalities of privilege and wealth; yet, at the same time everything tends to the rapid and monstrous increase of these inequalities under our present system. Never since great estates were eating out the heart of Rome has the world seen such enormous fortunes as are now being accumulated by monopoly.

Under such conditions we are slow to appreciate the fact that the garment of laws, customs and political institutions, which each plane of civilization weaves for itself, is constantly tending to become too tight, like a boy's pants, so to speak, as civilization advances, if unaccompanied by changes in social adjustments.

To tax land values—the unearned increment, as Jefferson called it—is no mere fiscal reform; it is a conforming of the most important social adjustments to natural laws. It is the only natural system. To those who have never given thought to the matter it may seem irrelevantly presumptuous to say that it is the evident intent of the Creator that land values should be the subject of taxation. Yet to whoever does think of it, to say this will appear no more presumptuous than to say that the Creator has intended men to walk on their feet and not on their hands.

Man, in his social relations, is as much included in the creative scheme as man in his physical relations. Just as certainly as the fish was intended to swim in the water, and the bird to fly through the air, and the rabbits to burrow under the ground, was man intended to live with his fellows on

top of the ground. He is by nature a social animal. And the creative scheme must embrace the life and development of society, as truly as it embraces the life and development of the individual. Our civilization cannot carry us beyond the domain of law. Railroads, telegraphs and labor saving machinery are no more accidents than are flowers and trees.

Man is driven by his instincts and needs to form society. Society, thus formed, has certain needs and functions for which revenue is required. These needs and functions increase with social development, requiring a larger and larger revenue. Now, experience and analogy, if not the instinctive perceptions of the human mind, teach us that there is a natural way of satisfying every natural want, otherwise animal life could not exist. And if human society is included in nature, as it surely is, this must apply to social wants as well as to the wants of the individual, and there must be a natural or right method of taxation, to raise revenue to satisfy the wants of society, as there is a natural or right method to provide food and raiment to satisfy the wants of the individual.

The value of land—the unearned increment of land values—only arises as in the integration of society the need for some public or common revenue begins to be felt. It increases as the development of society goes on, and larger and larger revenues are therefore required. Taxation of land values does not lessen the individual incentive to production and accumulation, as do other methods of taxation; on the contrary, it leaves perfect freedom to productive forces and prevents restrictions upon production from arising. It does not foster monopolies and cause unjust inequalities in the distribution of wealth, as do other taxes; on the contrary, it has the effect of breaking down monopoly and equalizing the distribution of wealth. It does not beget the evasion, corruption and dishonesty that flow from other systems, and can be collected with greater certainty and economy than any other tax. In short, it conforms to every economic and moral requirement. As justice gives to the individual what he produces by his mind or his muscle, then what can be more in accordance with that principle of justice than that the unearned increment of land values, which is not created by individual effort, but arises from the existence and growth of society, should be taken by society for social needs?

This is the natural law of taxation or rent: "As individuals come together in communities and society grows, integrating more and more its individual members, and making general interests and general conditions of more and more relative importance, there arises, over and above the value which individuals can create for themselves, a value which is created by the community as a whole and which, attaching to land, becomes tangible, definite and capable of computation and appropriation. As society grows, so grows this value which springs from and represents in tangible form what society as a whole contributes to production, as distinguished from what is contributed by individual exertion. By virtue of natural law in those aspects which it is the purpose of the science we call political economy to discover, as it is the purpose of the sciences which we call chemistry and astronomy to discover other aspects of natural law—all social advance necessarily contributes to the increase of this common value; to the growth of this common fund."

Here is a provision made by natural law for the increasing needs of social growth; here is an adaptation of nature by virtue of which the natural progress of society is a progress toward equality, not toward inequality; a centripetal force tending to unity, growing out of and ever balancing a centrifugal force tending to diversity. Here is a fund belonging to society as a whole from which, without the degradation of alms, private or public, provision can be made for the weak, the helpless, the aged; from which provision can be made for the common wants of all as a matter of common right to each.

And, when we consider the phenomenon of the natural law of taxation, it reveals to us one of those beautiful and beneficent adaptations in which more than in anything else the human mind recognizes evidences of mind infinitely greater and catches glimpses of the Master Workman.

But by permitting individuals to appropriate this fund—the unearned increment—which nature plainly intended for the use of all—for the use of society, we throw the children's bread to the dogs of greed and lust; we produce a primary inequality which gives rise in every direction to other tendencies to inequality; and from this perversion of the good gifts

## Groceries

Special May Combination /  
We Pay the Freight

We will deliver the following \$10.00 combination to any town in the state of Nebraska, freight prepaid by us, any time during the month of May, 1903. Reference: First National Bank or The Independent.

50 lbs Best Granulated Sugar.....	\$1.00
20 lbs Choice Prunes, New Crop.....	.50
25 Bars Good Laundry Soap.....	1.00
2 lbs High Grade Japan Tea.....	1.00
10 lbs Gilt Edge Coffee.....	2.00
6 lbs Fancy Bright Apricots.....	.75
4 lbs Fancy 4 Crown Large Raisins.....	.50
3 cans Beatrice Corn.....	.25
3 1/2 lb cans Tomatoes.....	.25
6 lbs Fancy Head Rice.....	.50
1 Can 16 oz. Cream of Tartar Baking Powder.....	.25
3 Pkgs. 10c Soda.....	.25
3 Pkgs 10 Corn Starch.....	.25
3 Pkgs 10c Gloss Starch.....	.25
1 lb Pure Black Pepper.....	.25
1 Bottle Lemon Extract.....	.10
1 Bottle Vanilla Extract.....	.10
2 Doz. Clothes Pins.....	.05
3 cans early June Peas.....	.25

All the above for.....\$10.00

Orders for customers outside of the state of Nebraska add 75c to pay part of freight.

Branch & Miller Co.

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Lincoln, Neb.

What we Advertise we Do.

of the Creator, from this ignoring and defying of His social laws there arise in the very heart of our civilization those horrible and monstrous things that betoken social putrefaction.

As we have made, and are still making, enormous advances on material lines, it becomes necessary that we commensurately advance on moral lines. Civilization as it progresses requires a higher conscience, a keener sense of justice, a warmer brotherhood, a wider, loftier, truer public spirit. Failing these, civilization must pass into destruction. It cannot be maintained on the ethics of savagery.

The social and political problems that confront us are darker than they realize who have not given thought to them; yet their solution is a mere matter of the adjustment of social forces. Man masters material nature by studying her laws, and in conditions and powers that seemed most forbidding, has already found his richest storehouses and most powerful servants. Although we have but begun to systematize our knowledge of physical nature, it is evident that she will refuse us no desire if we but seek its gratification in accordance with her laws.

And that faculty of adapting means to ends which has enabled man to convert the once impassable ocean into his highway, to transport himself with a speed that leaves the shallow behind, to annihilate space in the communication of his thought, to convert the rocks into warmth and light and power and material for a thousand uses, to weigh the stars and analyze the sun, to make ice under the equator and bid flowers bloom in northern winters, will also, if he will use it, enable him to overcome social difficulties and avoid social dangers. The domain of law is not confined to physical nature. It just as certainly embraces the mental and moral universe, and social growth and social life have their laws as fixed as those of matter and motion. Would we make social life healthy and happy, we must discover those laws and seek our ends in accordance with them.

This fiscal reform is not to be secured by noise, by complaints and denunciation; by the formation of parties or the making of revolutions; but by the awakening of thought and the progress of ideas. When there is correct thought right action will follow. Power is always in the hands of the people. What oppresses the masses is their own short-sighted selfishness.

JOSEPH HALL.  
Capitan, N. M.

Another irrefutable proof that Mr. George was right is the fact that every system of aristocracy, whether ancient or modern, rests upon landlordism. A "nobleman," a duke, count or earl, without a rent roll, without a landed estate, is a nobody, can oppress none, may have to drive a hack for a living, as some are actually doing now in London. It is not the title but the grant of land conferred with it that hurts.—W. H. T. Wakefield.

Field & Andrews, Attorneys, 405 Richards Block.

## NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of College View, Nebraska, held on Saturday, May 23, 1903, the following estimate of the expenditures of the Village of College View for the fiscal year commencing May 5th, 1903, was made, to-wit:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Chairman and the Board of Trustees of the Village of College View, that the estimate of the probable amount of money necessary for all purposes to be raised in said Village of College View for the fiscal year commencing May 5th, 1903, together with the various objects and purposes of expenditure, is as follows:

1. For general purposes \$80.00.
  2. For streets and alleys \$100.00.
  3. For fire protection \$400.00.
  4. For street crossings, sidewalks and bridges \$200.00.
- Total estimated expenses for the fiscal year commencing May 5th, 1903 \$780.00.  
Total revenue of the village for the fiscal year ending May 5th, 1903, \$380.87.  
Approximate amount of funds on hand May 5th, 1903, \$350.00.

WILLIAM DYMOND,  
Chairman of Village Board.

DAVID J. WEISS,  
Village Clerk.  
Dated College View, Neb., May 6, 1903.

MEIER & MEIER, ATTORNEYS, LINCOLN NEBRASKA.

Notice to Unknown Heirs and Devises of Julia Oliver, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given to the unknown heirs and devisees of Julia Oliver, Deceased, that on the 20th day of March, 1903, an action was begun in the District Court in and for Lancaster County, Nebraska, wherein Otto William Meier is plaintiff and Fred L. Sumpter, and the Unknown Heirs of Julia Oliver, et al. are defendants, that the object of said action is to foreclose a tax lien and certificate of tax sale for the taxes for the years 1898, 1899, 1900 and 1901, on Lot numbered four (4) in Block numbered twenty-one (21) in Havelock, Lancaster County, Nebraska, and for the sale of said premises to satisfy said lien. You are required to answer the petition of the plaintiff in this action on or before the 15th day of June, 1903, or forever thereafter keep your peace.

OTTO WILLIAM MEIER,  
Plaintiff.

Fred L. Sumpter, Lawyer, Richards Bldg.,  
Lincoln, Neb.

## NOTICE

To George H. Secretst.  
Take notice that on the 23d day of April, 1903, Bertha Mark Secretst filed her petition in the District court of Lancaster county, Nebraska, against you, the object and prayer of which are to obtain a divorce from the bonds of matrimony with you on the ground that you have willfully abandoned her for more than two years last past, and on the further ground that, being of sufficient ability to provide maintenance for her, you have grossly, wantonly and cruelly refused to do so.  
You are required to answer this petition on or before the 22d day of June, 1903.  
Dated May 5th, 1903.

BERTHA MARK SECREST.

WANTED—SEVERAL INDUSTRIOUS PERSONS in each state to travel for house established eleven years and with a large capital, to call upon merchants and agents for successful and profitable line. Permanent engagement. Weekly cash salary of \$18 and all traveling expenses and hotel bills advanced in cash each week. Experience not essential. Mention reference and enclose self-addressed envelope.  
THE NATIONAL, 334 Dearborn St., Chicago.

**CASH** For your Farm, Business, Home, or property of any kind, no matter where located. If you desire a quick sale, send us description and price. Northwestern Business Agency, N 315 Bank of Commerce Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn.

Under the single tax system taxes are not paid to a landlord as rent, nor to government as a tax, but to the taxpayer himself because it relieves him of that much other forms of taxation.—W. H. T. W.