

WHY?

The September number of Frank Vorth's admirable little single tax publication, "Why?", is devoted to a reproduction of Tom L. Johnson's speech in the house, January 30, 1894, in opposition to the income tax bill, which, however, he supported "under protest and as a voice of evils."

But while on this head, The Independent would like to ask the single taxers a few questions. All this talk about "taking land values for public revenues" is so vague and indefinite as to raise doubts as to the sanity of the person indulging in it, unless we accept Louis F. Post's explanation that it is an "elliptical expression."

Suppose we admit that the most equitable assessment of taxes may be made by ignoring the value of every kind of wealth produced by man's labor, and computing the taxes simply upon the value of land holdings—IN WHAT shall the taxes thus computed be paid? Not in land. Not in land values. Then what? "Oh, in money, of course," chorus the single taxers.

But that "money"—how about that? Do you intend to continue the practice of stamping "Ten Dollars" upon every 258 grains of standard gold presented at the mints, for any individual who is lucky enough to be the owner of gold, and make the coin so stamped the exclusive thing in which taxes may be paid? Or, do you intend to confer a like privilege upon each bushel of corn, or wheat, or potatoes?

As The Independent views it, it is more important to determine IN WHAT taxes shall be paid than it is to determine ON WHAT they shall be computed. So long as men are compelled to sacrifice their services and products in order to procure from some privileged favorite a small disk of his gold, upon which a paternalistic government has stamped its money symbol free of charge—and thus conferred upon that disk of gold exclusive power to cancel tax levies—so long will some men be the beneficiaries of special privileges, and other men injured thereby, no matter whether we have a single tax on land values or the present chaotic system.

When the populists proposed to loan money at a moderate rate of interest to farmers, which never went further than a tentative proposition provided some better way of relieving the distress then prevailing could not be found, the scheme was not only denounced as absurd, but anarchistic by the whole republican press. Now that the government has loaned to national bankers \$168,000,000 without interest, the same editors not only do not denounce it, but actually approve of it. Yet there are some millions of people who believe that the republican press of this country is honest and unsubsidized. While the republican party has under its control a "proletariat" like that, voting for them straight year after year, while thousands of farmers stay in their fields and shuck corn election day, we can expect nothing else than that the producers of wealth will continue to turn all of it over to the millionaires, except a bare living.

"ECONOMIC DETERMINISM"

The Weekly People (S. L. P.), New York, devotes a column editorial to showing the "cloven hoof" in ex-Senator Butler's recent interview anent the future of the people's party. Butler thought that—

"The main feature of the platform will be national ownership of the railroads, the means of carrying on commerce for which the constitution provides government control."

This, Editor De Leon vows shows that—

"The element for which, in a broad sense, ex-Senator Butler speaks is, intellectually and aspirationally, behind even the revolutionary fathers."

This, of course, is simply Editor De Leon's opinion. There is, possibly, the barest probability that Editor De Leon's opinion might be erroneous. He construes the constitutional provision giving congress the power to regulate commerce to imply—

"Not the national control of any one branch of industry, like the railroads, but the collective ownership of all the land needed on which and all the capital requisite

with which to produce and exchange wealth."

Suppose, for argument's sake, Editor De Leon's construction is correct: Wouldn't the national ownership of railroads be a step in the direction of collective ownership? If not, why not? If national ownership should be accomplished, wouldn't that go to prove that "economic determinism" compelled it? And if men sincerely believe that it is to their interests to have national ownership of the railroads, aren't they likely to do what they can to bring it about, even if great socialist editors do cast aspersions upon their intellectuality? In other words, how can one play fast and loose with the socialist doctrine of "economic determinism?"

Populists believe the public ownership of railroads would undoubtedly benefit the agriculturists of the United States. Does Mr. De Leon deny these men the right to want something that will benefit them? Is his political philosophy so altruistic that he has any right to object?

It is, of course, Mr. De Leon's undoubted right to believe everybody fools except the wage-working class he professes to represent, but is not of it. It is his undoubted right to see the "cloven hoof" in every movement which does not begin and end with Daniel De Leon. It is his undoubted right to play the wasp on any and all occasions; but when he reflects that the socialist labor party in 1902 polled less than 54,000 votes, after fourteen years of campaigning, he ought to see that something is wrong—either with his philosophy or the manner of presenting it.

When the electric trolley lines began to spread out over New York and the New England states, The Independent said that as soon as they came in competition with the steam roads they would all be gobbled up. The dailies occupied a great deal of their "valuable space" in telling how we were now going to have competition in the railroad service sure enough. Last week the New York dailies announced that the New York Central railroad is planning to establish electric trolley lines as suburban branches in the central and western part of New York state in order to save local traffic, which has been cut into heavily by the independent electric lines. There never has been and never will be any competition in the general transportation service. It is an essentially "public" service and ought to belong to the public. Every other nation on earth came to that conclusion long ago, and this nation will at last come trailing along behind all creation, take over the railroads and telegraphs and the government will own and operate them. That is the sort of "destiny" that The Independent believes in.

The Independent has had a good deal to say to farmers about their interest in the supreme court, but railroad employes are equally interested in turning over the supreme court for the next four years to railroad domination. When any one of them gets injured, and their occupation is very dangerous, that court will write a decision depriving them of the benefits of a verdict obtained in the district courts before a jury, or in case of their death, their widows and orphans will be told that by the supreme court they can get no relief. That court, with Judge Barnes on it, will work "the contributory negligence of the fellow servant" for all there is in it.

The Point of View

Once a knight in search of quarrel—that being knighthood's point of view—

Met another knightly brother, caracoling through the dew,

Straightway they began to wrangle o'er the color of a shield;

Whether it were white or yellow—neither would his color yield.

Swords to angry words succeeding soon had led to tragedy,

When another knight appearing—knighthood then was flowering free—

Him they asked to judge between them: his decision, unappealed,

Favored both the gold and silver—'twas a bimetallic shield!

Solomon-excelling judgment, to escape an aw'ward plight,

When between two angry swordsmen to decide that both are right!

But this shield, this cause of quarrel, what about its double hue?

Oh! 'twas but a trick of vision, following the point of view!

—Hunter MacColloch, in The Reader for October.

A Silver Certificate

Editor Independent: Inclosed find a silver certificate for one dollar that is not in the treasury for redemption, but

if you think that it will answer the purpose to pay for four postal cards for subscribers sent me some time ago, let it square the account. I have sent them for some of my friends.

C. J. JACKSON, Bilton, Tex.

There are several thousands of families who have acquired the habit of buying all their dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes from Fred Schmidt & Bro. It is a money-saving habit—a habit that it would pay you to acquire. Hundreds buy by mail every week. Begin now by sending a trial order. See ad. on another page and kindly mention The Independent when you write.

Farmers, Attention!

Do you wish to sell your farm? If so, send full description, lowest price and best terms. Or, if you wish to buy a farm, ranch or Lincoln home, write to or call on Williams & Bratt, 1106 O st., Lincoln, Neb.

Farm For Sale

76 acres, located one mile from center of Beatrice; lays well; is of superior quality. Six-room cottage, fine lawn, large barn, young orchard, etc. Price, \$6,000; part on time if desired. Would trade for larger farm. Must be of good quality, improved and well located. Call on or address M. F. Reynolds, Beatrice, Neb.

Blacksmith Shop Wanted

A thoroughly competent blacksmith, 12 years' experience, desires to find a suitable location for a general blacksmith shop. Would buy a shop already established. If price and location are satisfactory. For particulars address Blacksmith, care The Independent, Lincoln, Neb.

Your Troubles

Readers of The Independent who have troubles—physical troubles—illness of any kind or character, should write to Drs. Searles and Searles of this city giving a full description of the trouble. It is folly to suffer from a disease that continues to weaken the system, sap the energy and eventually claims your life when you can get treatment from specialists who will cure you in a short time. Many cases can be successfully treated by mail. These doctors conduct all their own correspondence and preserve it strictly private and confidential. All private letters they answer personally with a pen and thus avoid the possibility of information getting out through the carelessness of a confidential stenographer. Tell your troubles to Drs. Searles and Searles, P. O. box 224, Lincoln, Neb., and you will never have occasion to regret it.

Choice Farms.

- A70—160 acres, Saunders Co., \$9,000. A66—250 acres, Saunders Co., \$10,250. A65—120 acres, Saunders Co., \$6,000. A64—320 acres, Webster Co., \$10,000. A57—150 acres, Lancaster Co., \$8,000. A58—480 acres, Knox Co., \$6,720. A61—320 acres, Red Willow Co., \$3,200. A56—134 acres, Lancaster Co., \$8,040. A55—160 acres, Nance Co., \$6,400. A56—1,440 acres, Valley Co., \$12,500. A42—640 acres, Knox Co., \$19,200. A46—360 acres, Red Willow Co., \$2,500. A48—160 acres, Red Willow Co., \$2,000. A37—480 acres, Harlan Co., \$7,000. A38—320 acres, Harlan Co., \$6,400. A30—320 acres, Nuckolls Co., \$12,000. A31—160 acres, Franklin Co., \$2,480. A33—320 acres, Franklin Co., \$16,000. A34—640 acres, Franklin Co., \$7,000. A24—640 acres, Buffalo Co., \$10,880. A25—160 acres, Red Willow Co., \$1,600. A29—320 acres, Harlan Co., \$4,800. A26—160 acres, Harlan Co., \$4,800. A11—320 acres, Harlan Co., \$7,000. A 8—143 acres, Fillmore Co., \$7,000. A 7—320 acres, Fillmore Co., \$14,000. 1066—320 acres, Red Willow, \$3,700. 1065—514 acres, Red Willow, \$5,654. 735—500 acres, Douglas Co., \$35,000. 734—1280 acres, Lancaster, \$38,400. 118—320 acres, Lancaster, \$16,000. 633—200 acres, Lancaster, \$13,000. 27H—2,411 acres deeded land at \$12.50 per acre; also lease to 640 acres school land that runs 22 years at annual rental of \$63. All in the Republican River valley, 2 miles from shipping point; splendid alfalfa and sugar beet land. Watered by seven wells, springs and the Republican river; 700 acres under cultivation; 25 acres of fine timber; wheat on this land this year yielded 44 bushels per acre. Several sets of improvements. Will divide into three tracts if desired, but it is a gold mine for the man who can handle it. Write Weber & Farris, Lincoln, Neb., for full information about any of this land.

SPECIAL MARKET LETTER

FROM NYE & BUCHANAN CO., LIVE STOCK COMMISSION MERCHANTS, SO. OMAHA, NEB.

Cattle—Three days this week bring 27,000 cattle. Grass beef is in limited supply and fully steady, and corned beef also in light supply and brings strong prices. Yearling steers seem to be in better demand of late and choice kinds have sold as high as \$4.10 from first hands. Feeders, butcher stock, bulls, and stags all a shade lower. We quote choice corn-fed steers \$5.00 to \$5.35, fair to good short-fed \$4.50 to \$4.90, heavy western beef steers \$3.75 to \$4.10. Choice heavy feeders \$3.70 to \$4.00, medium \$3.40 to \$3.65, common grades down to \$2.50. Yearling steers, choice, \$3.75 to \$4.10, others \$3.25 to \$3.65. Good fat cows and heifers \$2.50 to \$2.90, stock heifers \$2.25 to \$2.60, canners \$1.50 to \$2.00; milkers and springers \$20 to \$35. Steer calves \$3 to \$4, veal \$4 to \$5; grass bulls \$2 to \$2.50. Receipts of sheep are heavy, and the market was 10 to 25c lower, but is stronger today.

Table with columns: Lambs, Common, Yearlings, Wethers, Ewes, Killers, Feeders. Values range from \$1.25 to \$4.50.

Live Stock Insurance

Why insure live stock for fire and lightning only, when you can get insurance that will cover death from any cause. Three-fourths of the money paid out for fire and lightning insurance of live stock is money wasted for the simple fact that three-fourths of the stock dies from causes other than fire and lightning, and for which such insurance is no good.

The Phoenix Mutual Live Stock Insurance Co. insures live stock against death resulting from fire, lightning, tornado, disease, or accident; in fact, from all causes where due care has been taken to save life and nothing done to endanger it. Good, reliable agents wanted in every township. For full particulars write or call on The Phoenix Mutual Live Stock Ins. Co., 216 So. 10th st., Lincoln, Neb.

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Friends of The Independent will confer a favor by sending an order for groceries to Branch & Miller Co., whose ad. appears on another page. The goods are first class and a great bargain. Send your order today. If you are not satisfied you can have your money back. Mention The Independent when you write.

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Open for settlement. Small taxes, cheap fuel, good climate, enormous crops. Lands sell at \$3.50 per acre and up, payable in ten annual installments. Why rent a farm when you can buy one for less money than you pay as rent? Thousands of U. S. settlers are going.

For full information apply to A. C. SHAW, Gen'l Agt., Pass'r Dept. Canadian Pacific R'y, 228 So. Clark street, Chicago, Ill.

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. NOR WESTERN BUSINESS AGENCY, No. 318 Bank of Commerce Bldg Minneapolis, Minn.

WANTED—Oil Agents, good, reliable, energetic men to sell our High Grade Line of Lubricating Oils, Greases, Jettins, etc. Good Farm and House Paints, White Lead, etc., either exclusively or as a side line, locally or traveling on commission. Specially to the Breathing and Farming Trade. Address The Industrial Oil & Supply Co., Cleveland, Ohio.

W. M. Morning and John J. Ledwith, Attorneys, Rooms 310-312, Richards Block

NOTICE OF SUIT

In the District Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska, Mary Elizabeth Marr, plaintiff vs. James Wesley Marr, defendant, to James Wesley Marr, non-resident defendant. You are hereby notified that your wife, Mary Elizabeth Marr, has commenced an action against you in the District Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska, to obtain an absolute divorce from you on the ground of willful desertion and abandonment on your part for more than two years last past, and also for the reason of non-support, and to obtain the custody of your two children, Elsie, Beie, Mary, and George. Ray Marr. You are required to answer the plaintiff's petition in said action on or before the 15th day of November, 1903, or the allegations herein will be taken as true and decrees rendered accordingly. MARY ELIZABETH MARR, Plaintiff. By W. M. Morning & John J. Ledwith, Attorneys.