

The Philosophy of Freedom

An Open Forum for Single Taxers

The first issue of the Canadian Single Taxer appeared yesterday, and it is a credible little eight-page affair, new and typographically neat. Its appearance is due to the fact that the single tax movement has made such an advance in Canada generally and in Toronto in particular, that the time has come when a single tax paper is essential to maintain the ground we have already won. It will be the official organ of the Canadian single taxers.—Toronto World.

THE SUBMERGED TENTH.

A Charitable Person had a great house, the cellar of which was flooded with water, so that his servants, who lived there, were in misery.

Every day, therefore, knowing that dampness caused malaria, the Person dried them off, and dosed them with quinia. When some of the servants objected, he called the Board of Health, which "treated" them by force.

A few of the neighbors would occasionally ball out pailfuls of water. "See," said they, "now we are relieving poverty." One man of large philanthropy contracted for a pump, at which he worked both day and night, so that he broke down his health. The water he had pumped out soaked back again through the lower walls.

Now there was a spring, which was intended to supply the house with water; but it had been diverted from its course, so that there was no water in the pipes, but only in the cellar.

The Benevolent Person said, "God made these people poor, that he might arouse in me divine compassion." His wife said, "Oh, how good you are! Besides, if there were not such poor, who would carry up water for us?" His son said, "Yes, but let me turn the spring back into its course, so that the water will flow into all the pipes, and we will stop this wretchedness."

The Charitable Person answered: "I am not familiar with your theories of springs, but experience teaches me that there is no cure-all."

His daughter, who was a sweet girl-graduate, said, "To understand the needs of people, one needs to live among them." Therefore, she made a college settlement in the cellar. After six months' residence among the poor, she said what the lower classes chiefly needed was a boat.—From Bolton Hall's "Things As They Are."

CRITICISES WILSHIRE.

Editor Independent: In your Karl Marx Edition there is an article by Wilshire on Chamberlain's program in England about which I would like to make a few remarks.

Mr. Wilshire's statement of facts are mainly correct with the following exceptions: Free trade is not dead. Chamberlain has not declared for protection. It is not true that England will ultimately come to protection. For the present agitation emanates from the privileged classes to try and head off the taxation of land values to which the liberals' party is pledged.

Nations do not trade with each other either for racial or economic or any other reasons. All trade is between individuals. England is not the dumping ground for industrial nations. Though she does levy tribute in the shape of rent and interest on most other countries. The great American trusts do not menace England. Though they do menace the United States.

It is not necessary to get a job to get money. A privilege is more productive of money than a job. A corner lot in the business part of Chicago or New York pays better than a dozen laborers' jobs. There is not too much wealth produced in the United States, or anywhere else. It is not true that men want work instead of wealth. It is the full product of their labor that they want. Balfour has not committed himself to any change in the British tariff (*). With these trifling exceptions most of his

other facts are near enough to the truth to escape criticism.

It would take up too much space to criticize his deduction in detail, but the statement that there is too much wealth and that a protective tariff by hindering production is beneficial to the laborer who wants a job, is certainly a novel defense of protection. I would suggest as a better means of supplying not only jobs, but the wealth necessary to maintain those out of work, and at the same time keeping down the surplus wealth, that they should be organized into bands of robbers and should systematically take, say, 50 per cent of the wealth from the factories, the farmers, the coal dealers and other producers. In this way employment would always be furnished those out of productive labor and reduce the supply of goods which Mr. Wilshire says is excessive. If only the very large accumulation of goods were liable to this toll it would not bear upon the small producer or consumer as does the tariff. A well organized fleet of pirate vessels might be also used as a substitute for a tariff. It would tend to discourage international trade and also give employment to a large number of persons who would in this way help to keep down overproduction. If this should offend against Mr. Wilshire's idea of morality, though as a matter of fact there is no difference in robbery by government and robbery by individual, what is the matter with a large standing army and a big navy? Both these are good institutions for keeping down the surplus wealth and then they may be used in time of need to keep the people from upsetting the present system whereby those who own the earth charge their fellows for living on it and grow fat on the proceeds.

ALAN C. THOMPSON,
259 King st. West, Toronto, Can.
(*). This letter was written prior to Balfour's recent speech.—Ed. Ind.

SECRETARY SHAW

Reader of The Independent Criticizes the Editor for Attacks on Secretary of Treasury

Editor Independent: I am a constant reader of your valuable paper and in the main agree with you in your political views; but I am inclined to criticize you rather severely for your attacks on Secretary Shaw. Let me relate a few facts:

I believe careful observers will agree with me that a year ago this month (in October, 1902) the period of rising prices reached a climax and the inevitable reaction began. The enormous inflation of industrial stocks had gone to the limit. Any more pressure and the bubble must burst with disastrous consequences, both to stock gamblers and legitimate business men. The situation was similar to that preceding the crash of 1893.

But Secretary Shaw is a resourceful man. He had no intention of doing as was done by the Cleveland administration—sitting like a bump on a log while the whole business structure of the nation should be torn down by the financial hurricane. He knew he could ease the inevitable fall by throwing the entire United States treasury under. Instead of complacently watching the business of the United States go down the toboggan of lowering prices at ever-increasing speed which must spell universal ruin if not checked, Secretary Shaw has not hesitated to throw from time to time millions of dollars of national revenues under the sliding vehicle, thus checking its speed—in a word, letting it reach the bottom without a crash.

But, you say, he has violated the law. Yes without doubt. But necessity knows no law. A strict technical observance of the laws would mean that right now we would be in the midst of a worse panic than that of 1893. I should not be surprised to know that part or all of that \$150,000,000 gold reserve has been surreptitiously and illegally loaned to the banks. It might even be that part of the gold trust funds (backing gold certificates) has gone the same way. But what of it? Of course, it is a technical violation of law but if it has saved the country from business ruin then thanks to Shaw the law violator it is the business of government to neglect such minor details and the work of kindness—and if this cannot be done without violating written statutes necessarily violates the violation.

I believe in saving the devil his due. Shaw will never a crash, but the nation is bound to go to the bottom. Cleveland might have done the same

thing in 1893, but proved himself a nonentity when face to face with a crisis. SAMUEL MILLER.

Washington, D. C.

(Mr. Miller has in a measure misunderstood The Independent. As a general proposition it opposes or favors measures, not men. Shaw typifies a financial system that is essentially rotten, proof of which is given by Mr. Miller himself. When The Independent scores Secretary Shaw, it is in reality an attack on the financial system he stands for. Personally, Mr. Shaw is doubtless a man of ability and

a thorough gentleman. Mr. Miller's praise of him may be merited. But what can we say of a financial system which requires officials to make technical criminals of themselves?

If it is necessary for the United States government every little while to place all its vast resources at the disposal of a set of pirates, simply to save innocent persons from business disaster, why not change the system and let the government go into the banking business in real earnest?—Associate Editor.)

Independent School of Political Economy

Director I. S. P. E.: Your answer to G. Ligon in The Independent of August 6 is all right as far as it goes, and I agree with you that a tax on buildings cannot be immediately shifted, but a tax on buildings discourages building until the increased demand for buildings enables the owner to shift the tax. JAS. S. PATON, Riverside, Cal.

ELY'S STUDIES IN THE EVOLUTION OF INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY.

Opinions as given in letters to the author and in reviews.

Extracts from letter of Dr. Arthur Newsholme, author of "Vital Statistics," of Brighton, England, dated August 4, 1903, to Dr. Richard T. Ely: "In many respects it presents ideas which to me are new and brings order out of chaos on many problems which incidentally have occupied my mind. . . . I must again thank you for your book, which is suggestive and original. If you saw my underscored copy, you would realize how much I have appreciated reading it."

Extracts from letter of Edward A. Ross, university of Nebraska, Lincoln, Neb., dated September 13, 1903, to Richard T. Ely: "I am grateful to you for causing a copy of your new book to be sent to me. It is in the highest degree meaty and interesting, and is, I think, likely to detach many economic dogmatists from their previous notions. There is nothing like the exhibition of movement, of present evolution to loosen the crust that forms over men's minds. It beats aggressive criticism every time. . . . On such topics as 'Competition,' 'Rivalry,' and 'Success,' etc., your analysis is pretty close to bed rock."

Extracts from the Manchester Guardian (England), of September 15, 1903: "The author is perhaps the best representative of a considerable class of American teachers whose professional acquisitiveness never blunts their interest in practical reforms nor leads them to settle in the lotusland of academic quietism. . . . Dr. Ely has commonly been reckoned among the 'Socialists of the Chair.' This book will relieve him of this imputation, for it contains a direct assertion of the 'needlessness of socialism on account of the strength, actual, latent, and potential, of the existing socio-economic order.'" (p. 464.)

Extract from the Literary World, of September, 1903: "Professor Ely obeys in his later thought the voice obeyed in his younger days, but it is an obedience characterized by the larger wisdom of mature years, anxious to do full justice to all sides of difficult problems and apparently opposite interests. His tone is hopeful and courageous, as it may well be when the author sees so large an acceptance of proposals which seemed radical when he made them fifteen or twenty years ago."

Extract from the Municipal Journal (London), of August 13, 1903: "As an introduction to the general study of economics the book is of decided value."

Extract from the Daily News (London), of October 12, 1903: "Professor Ely, in his outlook upon these and kindred questions, occupies a position which, this side of the Atlantic, would be called cautious, and, on the other side, advanced."

Extracts from the Montreal Gazette, of August 19, 1903: "One of the most important works of our time. . . . Professor Ely is equally on his guard against Scylla and Charybdis. While he is more practical and modern, and has his enthusiasms more under control, than Mr. Ruskin, his moral standards are quite as high and his aspirations for true reform as sincere as those of that preacher of righteousness."

Extract from the Chicago Chronicle, of September 14, 1903: "He is clear in his statements, free from dogmatism and broadly human in his sympathies. At the same time, he does not allow sentiment to override facts and he faces with courage actual conditions instead of taking the easier part of a dreamer of Utopia."

Extract from the Baltimore Sun, of

September 17, 1903: "His many books are characterized by the perfect frankness and courage with which he views present social conditions, and yet his suggestions in the way of reform are never unscientific, nor are they tinged with that element of impracticability which is so usual to earnest writers on industrial problems."

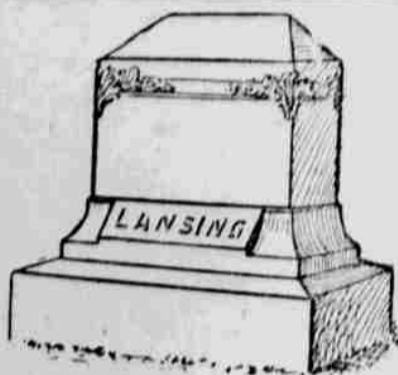
Extract from the Boston Herald, of September 19, 1903: "Professor Ely's volume is one that should be read and pondered by all who are alive to the gigantic problems of society as it exists today. His style is calm, judicial, unusually clear, and he is constantly interesting, even to the careless reader."

SOCIALIST PAMPHLETS.

Acknowledgement is hereby made of receipt, from Charles H. Kerr & Co., 56 Fifth ave., Chicago, of the following socialist pamphlets (price 5 cents each): "The Socialist Party," giving national platform, resolutions and directory of socialist locals; "The Capitalist's Union or Labor Unions; Which?"; and "Socialism and the Organized Labor Movement."

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