

The Philosophy of Freedom

An Open Forum for Single Taxers

IT'S THE RENT.

Suppose you plant a garden, and then reckon what it's earning. You at first will feel unusually—nay, wondrously content; But, alas, your smiles are fleeting—soon, soon your anger's burning. When you find you pay the landlord all the profit with the Rent!

It's the Rent! It's the Rent! It breaks the back that's bent! It fills the rich man's larder, the peasant's lot makes harder, It's a tragedy in payments is the Rent, Rent, Rent!

If you take a shop and stock it, paint your name quite bold upon it; Sell goods of rarest fancy at pretty good per cent, Your takings seem prodigious (and you stand your wife a bonnet)—But they melt like snow in summer when the landlord claims his rent!

It's the Rent! It's the Rent—In your pile it makes a dent! It fills the landlord's belly, pulps the poor man into jelly, We'd be better off without it—Oh, the Rent, Rent, Rent!

Next a boarding house at Blackpool, where you hope to fleece the trippers, With schemes to slick and artful for the gulls to circumvent, But the landlord's there before you, and your diet's tea and kippers, In order that the Robber Chief may get his blessed Rent!

It's the Rent! It's the Rent! It breaks the back that's bent! It cripples honest labor, makes the poor man curse his neighbor, But the landlord thrives and fattens on his Rent, Rent, Rent!

See the widow with her children, working hard to earn a living, Seaming, gleaning, washing, charing, on an honest life intent, But she toils with pains unending, with a dark and dire misgiving, For one-third her paltry earning goes to swell the Cormorant's Rent!

It's the Rent! The thieving Rent! Tho' the widow's back is bent! While the landlord sips his honey, she has to find the money! Let us sweep away the tragedy and Nationalize the Rent!

—B. W., in Pioneer.

SPALDING TO LIGON.

Editor Independent: Mr. Ligon's question was, in effect, why the landlord under the single tax system could not add the increased tax to rent and so compel the tenant to pay it.

My answer was under the presumption that he realized landlords always and everywhere charged all the rent it was possible to get and hence could not shift the tax onto the tenant.

If that were possible he would increase the rent now, regardless of whatever tax system is in force.

All economists, of every school, not only admit, but assert that a land tax is the only one that cannot be so shifted, because land is a fixed quantity and can be neither increased nor diminished by low or high taxes as human productions are, the taxes on which are invariably shifted to the user or consumer in increased prices. This Mr. Ligon must see if he buys anything at the store, from a pair of shoes to a plow or threshing machine, in increased prices from personal property taxation, tariff taxation, and monopoly taxation, including land monopoly, the prolific mother of the whole brood of lesser monopolies that are devouring the substance and threatening the liberties of this great people.

Permit me to add that if a renter, under the single tax Mr. Ligon would have no taxes whatever to pay, while if a land owner he would have to pay.

The single tax would abolish all taxation on human production and place the entire cost of government on the value of bare land regardless of any improvements in or on it by a tax on its value—not area—and this tax the land owner—as owner—could in no way escape. If both owner and user, his tax would be on the bare value of his land, leaving his improvements, buildings, fences, machinery, crops, and personal property free from taxation. The enormous benefit of this will not be seen until one realizes how land is made artificially scarce by the vast amount held out of use by speculators for higher prices than the user, either renter or purchaser, can pay and live. This feature of landlord oppression the sin-

gle tax would utterly destroy and open up for use immense tracts of land that now serve no purpose to the human race except to help hold the earth in place. This would manifestly cheapen rents and prices of land; purchase price being simply capitalized rent.

It is not because the single tax is a cunning device that we expect such benefits from it, but that it conforms to the supreme law of justice and enables us to apply that highest of all ethical principles, "Do to others as we would that others should do to us."

WM. SPALDING.

Murray, Idaho.

A MONEY SYSTEM.

Editor Independent: I desire to outline, very briefly, a monetary system which, in my opinion, harmonizes with the principles advocated by single taxers, meets the requirements urged by populists and conforms to the democratic mould of our government.

Single taxers—of which I am one—seldom concern themselves in public print with the much-mooted "money question," considering it subordinate to the greater subject of land monopoly and, monstrous as it is, deferring its solution to the time when, in an atmosphere unpolluted by special privilege, a clearer view of its natural relationship to the social organism can be obtained. But by pointing out, however crudely, how much the establishment of a correct monetary system depends upon the institution of fundamental reforms, we may succeed in diverting the energies now uselessly expended on the former into an accomplishment of the latter.

"Money" is but an attribute of government, an organ of the national body whose proper functions are properly performed only when that body is in a state of health. This we know is not the case with our government today, and any attempt to graft upon it a sound limb would result in death or disease to the limb without improvement to the body.

Public service is the cause of money. Were all governmental services to be performed gratis we would not need "money"—hence its only function is the payment of public servants.

The need admitted, however, we must next ascertain how it is to be met. Evidently this can be done only by a levy upon the wealth of the citizen, but in what proportion?

It is axiomatic that "taxes should be levied in direct proportion to the benefits received," and it is maintained by single taxers, without successful refutation, that the benefits of government are exactly measured by the rental values of land.

Here, then, is the foundation of a monetary system. The rest is detail. The counties being the smallest assessing divisions of the state become the unit. Their land values are ascertained and reported to the state, which, in turn, reports the whole amount within its border to the nation. "Money" is then issued for this amount and returned to the states which distribute it proportionately among the counties, where it is paid out for public services. State appropriations would be met by a levy against the funds of the county in proportion to their land value assessments, and national appropriations would be levied against the states in proportion to the entire land value assessments of the counties of the state.

Primarily this "money" would be simply a public order against the beneficiaries of government for a certain amount of wealth owing the holder for services rendered. Of no "intrinsic" value, it should nevertheless be standardized by a fixed relation to some form of wealth bearing a uniform relation to all other forms of wealth, and made "legal tender" by being stamped "Receivable by the government in lieu of" whatever quantity or quality of the standard it represented.

A study of the application and effects of this plan, in minute detail, will demonstrate to any careful thinker how thoroughly it conforms to the requirements of a just and natural government. E. O. BAILEY, Central City, Colo.

The Catechism of Hope

Teach me another song
Than that of discontent;
The heart dissatisfied
Has quite its birthright spent.

Teach me a litany

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Unmingled with despair,
Bring me a glimpse of paradise,
Upon the wings of prayer.

Teach me sweet charity
Unmixed with policy;
For giving is a virtue when
The heart gives cheerfully.

Teach me the creed of deeds;
Teach me to smile at pain;
Make me one of the brotherhood;
Learn me to love. Amen.

WM. FELTER.
Blue Mound, Kas.

This is a Good Way to Do

Omaha, Neb., Oct. 24, 1903.—J. L. Mable, Secretary Trans-Mississippi Mutual Fire Association, Omaha, Neb.—Dear Sir: Through your city manager, Henry Ehrenpfort, I acknowledge receipt of check for the sum of three thousand (\$3,000.00) dollars, being amount in full of settlement for loss on my dwelling and household furniture.

I wish to thank you for the prompt manner in which the adjustment and payment was made.

In case of loss by fire many think it necessary to bring suit in order to collect from the insurance company, but I can say if they are insured in the Trans-Mississippi they will receive fair treatment for large or small losses.

It is my policy to patronize home institutions, and if there is anything I can do or say to aid the company, believe me, I am at your service.

Yours very truly,
J. W. STONE, Supt.
Bemis Omaha Bag Co.

This company writes all classes of farm business against loss or damage by fire, lightning or wind storm.

The Best Is In Nebraska

The Security Mutual Life Insurance company continues to grow. It wrote \$144,000 of new business in October and has written so far this year \$1,200,000, which is a large gain over the business of last year.

Nebraska has a low death rate as compared with eastern states. A Nebraska company can loan its reserves on as good securities as eastern companies and can get a better rate of interest. For these reasons a policy in the Security Mutual should be and is a better investment than a policy in an eastern company. A policy in any old line eastern company is good—a policy in the Security Mutual is just as good and must be more profitable.

The laws of Nebraska are a guarantee that the interests of policyholders will be protected. No other state has so good a law. No eastern state has a law that requires the companies to deposit their reserves with the state. The Nebraska law does require it. It also requires the state auditor to see to it that any company organized under the law complies with its provisions. There is no good reason why a citizen of Nebraska should send his money east to pay for life insurance when he can keep it at home where it will be a benefit to him and his neighbors.

SPECIAL MARKET LETTER

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

Cattle—This week opened with a decided gain over last week's close, the desirable kinds of all classes showing an advance. There has been a good demand for stockers, especially yearling steers, and they have sold as high as \$4.30 from speculators. Wednesday's market a little slow, but about steady. Receipts so far are lighter than last week.

We quote choice corn fed steers at \$5.00 to \$5.35, fair to good short-fed \$4.25 to \$4.75, western beef steers \$3 to \$4. Choice heavy feeders \$3.50 to \$3.70, medium \$3 to \$3.40, common

DRUGS

—AT—
Wholesale Prices.

One or a dozen. Same price. Add 25c for boxing and drayage outside of Lincoln.

\$1 Peruna	64c
\$1 Kilmer's Swamp Root	64c
35c Castoria (genuine)	24c
50c Syrup of Figs	39c
25c Bromo Quinine	15c
25c Alcock's Porous Plasters	15c
25c Carter's Little Liver Pills	15c
25c Mennen's Talcum Powder	15c
\$1 Coke's Dandruff Cure	79c
25c Allen's Foot Ease	19c
\$1 Bromo Seltzer	79c
\$1 Booth's Hyomei	89c
\$1 Hostetter's Bitters	79c
25c Packer's Tar Soap	19c
51 Dix Tonic Tablets	79c
50c Hostord's Acid Phos.	39c
\$1 Ayer's Hair Tonic	79c
50c Omega Oil	39c
\$1 Maltine Preparations	79c
50c Radway's Relief	39c
25c Pear's Glycerine Soap	19c
20c Pear's Unscented Soap	13c
\$1 Seven Sisters' Hair Grower	79c

LIQUORS.

\$1 Duffy's Malt Whiskey, qt.	89c
\$1 Ihler's Malt Whiskey, qt.	89c
\$1 Vine Spring Malt Whiskey, qt.	89c
\$2 Old Prentiss Rye, 1893, qt.	\$1.49
\$2 Old Prentiss Bourbon, 1893, qt.	\$1.49
\$2 Gugenheimer Rye, qt.	\$1.49
\$1.75 Old Hermitage Rye, qt.	\$1.25
\$1.75 Old Crow Bourbon, qt.	\$1.25
\$1.50 Old Time, qt.	98c

WINES.

\$2 Imported Sherry, qt.	\$1.49
\$1.50 Irondukuoit Sherry, qt.	98c
\$1.50 Irondukuoit Port, qt.	98c
\$1.50 Catawba, qt.	98c
\$1 California Wines, qt.	79c

MALTS.

25c Best Tonic	19c
25c Schlitz Tonic	19c
25c Riggs' Tonic	15c
25c Malt Nutrine	19c
25c Schenker's Tonic	15c
25c Hospital Tonic	15c

RIGGS,

The Drug Cutter.

1321 O St., Lincoln, Neb.

grades down to \$2.40. Yearling steers choice \$3.75 to \$4, others \$3.25 to \$3.70. Good fat cows and heifers \$2.70 to \$3, stock heifers \$1.90 to \$2.50, canners \$1 to \$2, milkers and springers \$20 to \$35. Steer calves \$3 to \$4, veal \$4 to \$5. Grass bulls \$1.50 to \$2.50.

Sheep—Receipts heavy, 35,000 Tuesday, a record breaker. Market 10 to 15c higher.

	Killers.	Feeders.
Lambs	\$4.25—4.50	\$3.90—4.00
Common	3.00—3.40	3.00—3.40
Yearlings	3.70—4.00	3.35—3.50
Wethers	3.25—3.50	3.10—3.30
Ewes	2.50—2.60	1.75—2.30

Hogs—Receipts light. Market declining fast. Range \$4.50 to \$4.90.

Nebraska Anti-Narcotics Law

Section 245q. That hereafter no person, firm, association, or corporation in this state, shall sell, give or furnish in any way, any tobacco in any form whatsoever, or any cigarettes or cigarette paper to any minor under eighteen years of age.

Section 245r. That any person, firm, association, or corporation violating the provisions of this act, shall, upon conviction thereof, for each and every offense be fined in a sum of not less than twenty dollars, and not more than fifty dollars, and costs of suit, or be imprisoned for not less than ten, or more than thirty days, in discretion of the court.

Issued by Nebraska Women's Christian Temperance Union.
M. B. ROBERTS,
Superintendent.

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