

## The Philosophy of Freedom

An Open Forum for Single Taxers

### THE PARAMOUNT QUESTION.

Editor Independent: I see you put the money question paramount to all other questions. I did, too, until I learned of the single tax. I was a greenbacker since Seymour ran on a greenback platform, and am yet a greenbacker. I have studied the money question to the point of profundity, but I know that all reforms in government like all discoveries in the sciences and inventions of labor-saving machinery accrues to the landlord and does not benefit the producer of wealth. All structures to be durable, whether material or social, must be foundationed on the earth. I care not what social structure you build, if built in the air, it may be blown down by the first adverse wind. All social structures must begin on the land to be durable and of benefit to the masses. The land question must be the first plank in any platform to succeed. All platforms have been castles in the air and all governments a failure because not foundationed on the earth for all.

Money is not so essential as life, liberty and the equal pursuit of happiness, which cannot be without free access to land.

Money is not a real necessity. Commerce would go on, but not so well, even without money. Money is more of a function than a substance. As Herbert Spencer shows, in order to understand sociology, one must understand biology. Society is a body politic in more than a metaphorical sense. Society has every organ and function that an animal organism has, and I have searched in vain to find an organ or function in an animal organism corresponding to money. Money is a convenient counter of wealth and facilitates the barter of wealth, but it is not wealth nor is it absolutely necessary to the production of wealth.

Money is an excrescence growing on the body politic like the mistletoe on the oak which the Druids worshiped as we do the greenback. It is like worms in children till they pass the age of adolescence. We are in our transition stage of evolution, through our worm age or money age, but will slough it off soon. But land will always be a prime necessity.

Money has been erroneously called the blood of a nation. Money circulates and so does blood—but there the simile ends. Blood is wealth—it is carried by our arteries, our rivers, lakes, and railroads, and deposited to build up broken down tissue and develop muscle and strength. Money is not deposited as wealth is.

Money simply represents wealth and is not wealth. A piece of gold or silver is not wealth while it is used as money. If the wealth in a gold piece was utilized for a ring or a watch case it would cease to be money. The two values, the real and representative, do not co-exist in a piece of gold. One or the other is in abeyance or annihilated. While a piece of gold is money it has no value. Then how foolishly wasteful it is to make money of so valuable a commodity as gold or silver. A twenty dollar gold coin cost twenty dollars in labor fifty years ago, and the interest on the labor at 5 per cent amounts to fifty dollars, which added to its original cost makes seventy dollars a twenty dollar gold coin has cost the people when a piece of paper would have performed the function of exchanging wealth as well.

Men speak of money as a measure or standard of value as though there could be a standard or measure of value. Values vary, like any other emotion. Value depends on desire, and desires vary with people which makes commerce. There can be no more a standard or measure of value than there can of love, hate, beauty or any other emotion.

A man was tossing an onion in his hand playfully in Dawson and a bystander asked him what he would take for it. He answered that he would not sell it—he brought it from his mother's garden. "I will give you five dollars in gold for it," said the would-be purchaser. "No, I will not sell it," said the owner. The bystander casually remarked that he would not give so much for it, but he had a sick friend who longed for an onion. "Take it and give it to your sick friend," said the owner, and would take no money for it. Now, which was the standard of value, the onion, the gold or the sympathy for the sick?

So long as we have money, the government should issue it all to make it uniform, and take it out of corporations' clutches. But let us settle the land question and the money question

will settle itself. Most business is done without money anyhow, but no business is done but on land.

A good platform would be: One tax (on land values), one money (of paper), one brotherhood of the race; free land, free trade and free men. Any party taking the above for a platform could win. There would be a clear-cut difference in principle between it and all other parties. There has not been a difference, but a mere distinction, in per cent of perdy between the two old parties. Both want gold and silver, both want a tariff, both want war when it suits them, both pay pensions to soldiers to encourage butchery, and there has been no difference on principle between them.

With a president nominated on a S. T. platform, men can enter the campaign with enthusiasm and demonstrate every plank in the platform. The people can see it, and the people are honest and want a change. The platform would simplify government and eliminate many laws and officers. We are too much governed. "That people least governed is best governed," said Jefferson. And Spencer said: "The freest form of government is only the least objectionable form." The great aim of the people should be to abolish government as far as possible instead of complicating it with more laws. Simply abolish taxes, abolish tariffs, abolish wars, standing armies and navies, abolish pensions and chaplains—encourage peace, homes, and the production of wealth. Abolish poverty by giving all equal access to land upon which all can make wealth. Repudiate our national debt. I did not make it and my name was forged to the bonds.

J. C. BARNES.

Hindsboro, Ill.

(Where several things are vital necessities, it is quite a matter of taste which shall be regarded as THE necessity. Men are just as necessary as land; sunlight is just as necessary; fire is necessary; SOME government is necessary—and some revenues are necessary.

Now, the fact is, until we make a radical change in our revenue laws, which include the coining of money, the single tax—as many single taxers present it—is lame. Dr. Barnes believes that to abolish all taking of revenues except economic rent, would settle the money question. Would it? If so, how?

How would the economic rent be paid? Could the government use, and would it accept, a piece of land or a piece of land value as revenue? Dr. Barnes' own definition of value shows how ridiculous such a thought is. "Emotions" do not pay officers' salaries. Then how would the rent be paid? Under our present system the rent-payer would be obliged to seek the owner of a disk of gold, duly stamped by the government, and sacrifice some portion of the products of his labor applied to the land in exchange for the disk; and then present the disk to the tax collector. How would the abolition of customs duties render it unnecessary to make terms with the gold gambler?

If each occupier of a piece of land could pay his economic rent with a portion of the things he produces for sale, then Dr. Barnes' contention would be correct; but to make that possible the money question would have to be settled that way. It makes little difference upon what taxes are levied; so long as the taxes themselves must be paid in a particular thing, which no one can produce for himself, yet is made as a gift to the owner of gold bullion, just so long will the money question be the most important subdivision of the question of taxation.

Dr. Barnes makes no distinction between "money" and "coin" or coined money. "Money," the system of accounting, is almost indispensable to exchange—but "coin" is not. Yet "coin," as the system has evolved, is an absolute necessity in paying taxes and cancelling court judgments. "Coin" may not be blood. Suppose we liken it to gall. It has its place in the human economy and there is no substitute for it. It is not blood—but the blood needs it.—Associate Editor.)

### Trade Balances

Editor Independent: I commend to your notice an article of mine entitled "What Becomes of Our Trade Balances?" in the July-September issue of the Sewanee Review (published by the University of the South). It is an enlargement of a previous article in the (New York) Bankers' Magazine, July, 1902.

The article aims to solve one of the most important financial and economic problems of the day; namely, why it is that instead of getting any cash from abroad in payment for our great exports of merchandise, we have to borrow immense sums from foreign bankers to avert panics in the stock and money markets. (The New York Evening Post, October 11, 1902, estimates these foreign borrowings at the enormous sum of \$500,000,000.)

In support of my views of this matter I have cited the reports of foreign dealings in our stocks on the New York stock exchange for the years 1893, and 1898 to 1902, which have never before been given to the public.

The reports for 1893 will certainly surprise those who remember that for the past ten years it has been claimed that the panic of that year was caused by the return of stocks by foreign investors who had become alarmed over our silver policy. In his article on this subject in the Yale Review, November, 1900, Mr. N. T. Bacon says: "The heaviest losses of English investors were made in the panic of 1893, which was immensely aggravated by their dumping all manner of securities on the New York stock exchange for anything they would bring."

Mr. Bacon is considered the highest authority on this subject and his later article in the New York Times, January 15, 1902, has been quoted approvingly by leading Wall street press agents. But the above statement proves that he knows very little about the matter. The reports show that in 1893 the purchases of stocks for foreign account on the stock exchange exceeded the sales in eleven months out of the twelve. The net excess of purchases for the whole year amounted to over 800,000 shares.

I trust that you may find the article sufficiently interesting to repay perusal.

W. H. ALLEN.  
348 Reid ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

## Buy a FARM That Will Pay

you 50 to 80 per cent annually. Rented will pay you from 20 to 30 per cent annually.

A sure crop every year, and the brightest prospect of doubling your investment in two years or less. These farms are located in the Box Elder valley, northern Colorado.

There are six million dollars invested in sugar beet factories in this valley. Farms are paying enormously, as they have a sure crop and a big one every year, ample water supply, 14 reservoirs, and more than enough. We are selling farms in this valley at \$50 and \$60 per acre, and several have been rented during the past year at \$10 per acre cash rent, paying 20 per cent on the investment. Four miles down the valley from where these farms are located farms are selling at \$150 to \$200 per acre. Twenty miles further south in the valley, farms are selling at from \$200 to \$250 per acre, paying on this valuation annually 20 per cent. Land that we are offering is equally as valuable when fully developed and improved as the farms that are selling at \$250 per acre.

The crops this year will run about as follows:

Alfalfa, 6 to 8 tons per acre.  
Wheat, 45 to 65 bushels per acre.  
Sugar beets, 20 to 30 tons per acre.  
Oats, 50 to 110 bushels per acre.  
Barley, 65 to 130 bushels per acre.

We have yet about 4,000 acres of this land to sell with perpetual water right and are of the opinion that anyone purchasing a farm in this valley will double his money within one year. We will certainly have all this land sold soon.

The man who has a good farm in an irrigated country, and a good irrigation right, knows its value. He never sells out and goes back to the farm in the east where too much rain or too protracted drouths distress and disappoint. In any line of business, certainty is the element most desired. Farming under irrigation is the nearest approach to a sure thing yet discovered. Some question of chance enters into almost every business calculation excepting into the combination of good soil, and good water. Given these two, and a man's note is paid, his credit is established and his bank account is assured. Irrigation is simply putting enough water on the growing crops, at exactly the time most necessary; not too much and not too little. That is irrigation—nothing more and nothing less. Then, too, the silt in the water fertilizes the soil and renews it from year to year without either labor or expense. This nat-

ural fertilization, and the exact amount of moisture at the exact time brings the greatest yield of all crops, doubling and sometimes quadrupling the returns over farming in the eastern states.

Wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, sugar beets, alfalfa, fruit, all vie with each other in quantity and quality. The result is, farming by irrigation is ideal, and peace and plenty abound.

In comparing irrigation farming with rainfall farming, the Wyoming Experiment Station Bulletin on irrigation says:

"The increase from irrigation is sometimes four-fold and seldom less than double. It is estimated that if only one acre in four could be reclaimed it would still bring the product of the arid region of the United States up to the product of the balance of the country."

The clippings furnished by us speak for themselves, for they are the story of the contented and prosperous farmers of northern Colorado, whose lines have fallen in pleasant places and among whom discontent is unknown, and poverty never met with. It is probable that nowhere on earth are there as many prosperous farmers as in that section of which Fort Collins is the center.

The building of the new ditches and the cultivation of the new lands in this vicinity, together with the erection of the great sugar factory at Fort Collins, open up new opportunities and provide a place for new farmers, who have only to see and investigate to appreciate the wonderful privilege extended to them.

Which is the better investment:— buy Nebraska land at \$50 an acre and rent it at \$3 an acre or buy Colorado land at \$50 and rent it at \$10—the Nebraska farmers gets 6 per cent and the Colorado man gets 20 per cent on his investment.

EXCURSIONS EVERY WEEK.  
For excursion rates and further information apply to

**Woods INVESTMENT COMPANY**  
Office, Lincoln Hotel.  
Lincoln, Nebraska

### Property to Trade

No. 662. Ranch with 155 head of cattle, worth \$9,000, to trade for good farm. No. 714. \$4,500 equity in ranch to trade for farm. No. 659. Ranch worth \$2,000 and 25 head of cattle to trade for a farm. No. 665. Ranch worth \$4,000 to trade for farm land or income property. No. 699. Ranch worth \$10,000, rented for \$1,000 per year cash rent, to trade for farm land or good income property. No. 696. Choice stock farm worth \$8,800 to trade for good farm land. No. 720. 400-acre stock farm, improvements worth \$4,500, irrigated land, first-class in every particular, worth \$12,000; will trade for grain farm in eastern Nebraska. No. 608. Ranch worth \$3,500 and 80 head of cattle to trade for farm land. No. 611. 320-acre stock farm worth \$8,000, to trade for farm land. No. A42. 640-acre stock farm worth \$25 per acre to trade for well improved grain farm. No. A15. Ranch worth \$12,540 to trade for any good income property. No. 572½. 1,440-acre ranch and 100 head of cattle, 12 head of horses, etc., worth \$14,500, to trade for good clear land. No. A45. \$2,000 hotel to trade for land. \$36,000 equity in hotel worth \$12,000 to trade for land. No. 650. \$1,500 law library and some cash to trade for good farm land. No. 787. 3-story brick block, rented so that it pays 5 per cent on \$60,000 above all expenses, mortgaged for \$22,000, will trade equity for land. No. A83. Beautiful 5-acre tract near College View, good buildings, etc., worth \$2,500, to trade for land. No. A84. \$5,500 Lincoln residence to trade for a farm. No. 550. \$2,000 residence in Valparaiso, Neb., to trade on a good farm. No. A69. \$9,800 equity in farm in Merrick county to trade for stock of merchandise. No. 607. \$4,000 stock of marble and building worth \$2,500 to trade for good land. No. 579. A splendid building and stock of general merchandise worth \$8,000 to trade for land or city property. No. 518. Buildings and stock of hardware to trade for land and some money worth \$8,000. No. A12. Splendid two-story brick block and stock of general merchandise for trade for farm land. No. A75. Stock of clothing and dry goods worth \$25,000 and buildings worth \$12,000 to trade for good farm land. Hundreds of other properties for exchange; if you have anything to trade write; we can find what you want. Weber & Farris, Lincoln, Neb.