

The Philosophy of Freedom

An Open Forum for Single Taxers.

MARY'S LITTLE LOT,
Mary had a little lot—
The soil was very poor;
But still she kept it all the same,
And struggled to get more.
She kept the lot until one day
The people settled down—
Where a wilderness had been
Grew up a thriving town.
Then Mary rented out her lot—
(She would not sell, you know)—
And waited patiently about
For prices still to grow.
They grew, as population came,
And Mary raised the rent.
With common food and raiment now,
She could not be content;
She built her up a mansion fine—
Had bric-a-brac galore—
And every time the prices rose,
She raised the rent some more.
"What makes the lot keep Mary so?"
The starving people cry—
"Why, Mary keeps the lot, you know,"
The wealthy would reply.
And so each one of you might be—
"Wealthy, refined and wise"—
If you had only hogged some land
And held it for the rise.
MARY C. HUDSON.

Every permanent improvement of the soil, every railway and road, every bettering of the general condition of society, every facility given for production, every stimulus supplied to consumption, raises (ground) rent. The landowner sleeps, but thrives.—Thorold Rogers, Political Economy.

Would it pay to own land without using it, if it were fairly taxed?

THE FARMER AND THE SINGLE TAX.

In The Independent of January 14, the associate editor, commenting on Dr. Barnes' letter, says: "Under present conditions the farmer gets a bare living out of his current production, and but little more; but the unearned increment—rise in land values—does give the land-owning farmer something more than a bare living in the course of say thirty years. This unearned increment, single taxers propose to take away from the farmer—and their representations of what he will get in return are generally so vague as to fail to convert the average farmer to the single tax proposition."

As the farmer not only feeds all mankind, but also furnishes the raw material for a great many manufactures, farming is a necessary occupation; and the community must offer sufficient inducements to farmers to attract enough men to that calling to supply the wants of all. If wages are low and opportunities to labor scarce in other lines of industry, smaller inducements will be required to attract men to engage in farming than if wages are high and opportunities to labor plentiful. If wages are high and all who are able and willing to work employed, there will be a much greater demand for farm produce than at present, and people will pay enough for farm products to attract enough men to farming to supply the demand. Is it not clear that a condition of general prosperity, and high wages is what the farmer needs?

What inducements are offered to farmers at present? According to Mr. De France he "gets a bare living out of his current production," he also gets what his labor adds to the value of his farm in the way of improvements of any kind, such as fences, buildings, live stock, orchards, etc. He also gets the "unearned increment"—the rise in land values—caused by improved roads, schools, increase of population, or any other improvement made by other people and not on his land. Now under present conditions the hope of getting this unearned increment is often the strongest inducement offered to engage in farming and it is the most unsatisfactory inducement offered, it is immoral; for it gives him what is rightfully the property of the community, to which the individual has no right, and it gives him the power to oppress his brother, man, a power that no individual should possess. The government takes a part of this unearned increment at present; and single taxers propose that this tax be gradually increased until there is little or no unearned increment left, and in this way they will take away one inducement to engage in farming.

But what about the other inducements? Under present conditions the

government taxes personal property and improvements, which discourages all improvements that do not produce revenue. Single taxers propose abolishing these taxes entirely; and this inducement would in many cases compensate for the loss of the unearned increment. The single tax would raise wages, for by taking the taxes off the products of labor more wealth would be produced, and consequently there would be a greater demand for labor. Increasing the tax on land values would also increase wages as land would be much cheaper and more men could employ themselves, and although more laborers could find employment working for wages, fewer would be compelled to seek it in that way.

Under these conditions could farmers fail to be prosperous? It is true that they would have to pay high wages to their help; but would they continue to supply the increased demands of the community unless they shared in the general prosperity? Such a question scarcely requires an answer.

If farmers were not prosperous under such conditions some of the unfortunate farmers would soon be looking for employment in other callings; but with an increased demand for farm products they would be required at their old occupation and prices of farm products would have to rise enough to make the farmers as prosperous as those following other occupations. As long as the "unearned" increment is one the principal inducements to engage in farming the other inducements will not be very large, farmers must give that (the unearned increment) up if they would have better conditions, and I hope I have shown that the farmer can claim his share of the general prosperity that will prevail under the single tax.
JAS. S. PATON.

THE POWER OF PUBLIC OPINION.

Editor Independent: In your note to Tom Bawden's article in issue of January 21 you interpose the United States supreme court as an obstacle to economic justice. This objection, if good, applies equally to every plank in the populist platform, especially to government ownership of railroads. To the free coinage of silver that court might say that all contracts since 1873 have been made upon a gold basis and free silver coinage would change an implied contract and confiscate property of creditors and security holders.

The objection, however, is not good. The United States supreme court and most state supreme court decisions are more political than legal, following the trend of public opinion of the day or of the party in power. Soon after Chief Justice Horton of the Kansas supreme court had concurred in the court's opinion holding the prohibitory amendment constitutional, in 1881, he said the decision was not made on legal grounds nor could have been, but was dictated by political exigencies.

The theory of our government, national and state, is that the will of the people is the supreme law. This theory can fail to work out in practice—as it often does—only when the mass of the people have no will; when they neither know nor care enough to intelligently and forcibly express themselves. This public apathy on public questions is often lamentable and dangerous and is usually the result of insufficient knowledge upon which to base an opinion.

Partisanship is the bane of good public opinion and the remedy for partisanship is the effective ballot. It is also the remedy for political indifference and corruption, for men will vote when they know their ballot will be effective and not wasted on a defeated candidate or in piling up a useless majority.

You ask single taxers to keep down to earth, yet we think we are the most practical of all men, knowing just what we want and how to get it, something no other school of reform can so truly say.

When the people are intelligent enough to demand the single tax no supreme court dare oppose them.
W. H. T. WAKEFIELD.

The Best Seed Corn

Hogue's Yellow Dent was the highest scoring of all the corn shown at Lincoln in January, 1904, which was six times as large as any other corn show held in Nebraska; in fact, it has never been beaten in a corn show where the score card was used. In

the experiment conducted by the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture and Corn Improvers' association in the year of 1902 and 1903, of 19 standard varieties, Hogue's Yellow Dent made the best average yield of any, showing it to be adapted to Nebraska soil and climate. For circular or samples address R. Hogue, Crete, Neb.

"The Sure Hatch in Alaska"

Minto, Yukon, Jan. 7, 1904.—Seattle Produce Co., Eugene, Ore.—Gentlemen: Enclosed please find eighteen dollars (\$18) for another 150-egg size incubator. Please send it as soon as possible as I want to set it in the forepart of March. The one you sent me last fall is all right and I want to set two in March, or sooner, if the hens begin to lay. I will want some more later. I enclose 20 cents for exchange of Canadian greenbacks. On my first hatch I got 85 per cent and have not got less than 95 per cent since that time. Ship the machine to Mrs. John Fussell, Minto, Yukon, care of Mr. Wheeler, Royal Mail service, White Horse.

The Wabash Railroad, St. Louis

The only line with its own station at main entrance of World's fair grounds. Special rates south on the first and third Tuesday each month.

The Wabash runs on its own rails from Omaha, Kansas City, Des Moines, Council Bluffs, St. Louis and Chicago to Detroit, Toledo, Niagara Falls and Buffalo with through connections beyond.

All agents can route you via the Wabash R. R. For descriptive World's Fair matter and all other information address,
HARRY E. MOORES,
G. A. P. D., Omaha, Neb.

Blacksmith Shop Wanted

A thoroughly competent blacksmith, 12 years' experience, desires to purchase a blacksmith shop or blacksmith shop and carpenter shop combined. Will pay cash if price and location are satisfactory. Address John Bye, 827 No. 16th st., Lincoln, Neb.

Particular attention is called to the page advertisement of Hayden Bros. in this issue. The Hayden Bros. store is by far the largest in the state and The Independent desires that readers as far as possible send their mail order to that store. The goods will be found entirely satisfactory and the prices much lower than elsewhere. Please 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, 1105 O st., Lincoln, Neb.

Southern Lands

Are remarkably cheap, especially in Arkansas and Louisiana. They are especially adapted for fruit raising, and all grains thrive in this section. The Missouri Pacific will run Home-seekers' Excursions to Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas on January 19, February 2 and 16, at one fare plus \$2 for the round trip. For descriptive pamphlets, time tables, etc., address city office, S. W. Cor. 12th and O sts.

F. D. CORNELL, P. & T. A.

Mammoth Jack For Sale

I have for sale a full blooded Mammoth Jack, weight 950 pounds 8 years old. Excellent build, heavy bones, splendid action, guaranteed breeder. Also, 6 of his get—3 yearlings and 3 colts.

William P. Killen,

324 Omaha Nat'l Bank B'ld'g., Omaha, Nebraska.

CANCER CURED

WITH SOOTHING, BALMY OILS
Cancer, Tumor, Catarrh, Piles, Fistula, Ulcers, Eczema and all Skin and Womb Diseases. Write for Illustrated Book. Sent free. Address
DR. BYE, Cor. 9th & Broadway, Kansas City, Mo

W. C. Pugh, Huntingdon, Tenn.: "I answer to the name pop and am proud of it. Like Tom Watson, I am on board to stay."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ILLINOIS CENTRAL R. R.

DIRECT TO HAVANA

Via Illinois Central R. R. to New Orleans and the weekly Southern Pacific S. S. "Louisiana" to Havana. Leave Chicago and Cincinnati Friday morning, leave St. Louis and Louisville Friday noon, arrive New Orleans Saturday 10:00 a. m., leave Saturday 2:00 p. m., arriving at Havana Monday morning. Round-trip and one-way through tickets at unusually low rates. Free Illinois Central R. R. Illustrated Folder on Cuba, giving all particulars on application.

OCEAN STEAMSHIPS FROM NEW ORLEANS

Ocean steamship sailings from New Orleans for Mexico, Panama, Central and South America, West Indies and Europe concisely set forth in a special folder issued by the Illinois Central R. R. Send for a copy.

MEXICO Tour of all Mexico via Illinois Central R. R., under escort of Ben Campbell, General Manager the American Tourist Association, Quincy Building, 113 Adams St., Chicago, leaves Chicago January 26. Select clientele. Limited. All exclusive privileges, independent travel. Special Pullman Vestibule Train, Drawing Rooms, Compartments, Library and Music Room, with the largest dining car in the world, and the famous Open Top Observation Car, Chillum. Special Baggage Car. Tickets include all expenses everywhere.

CALIFORNIA Special Tours of Mexico and California via the Illinois Central and New Orleans under the auspices of Raymond & Whitcomb, will leave Chicago Friday, Feb. 12, and St. Louis Saturday, Feb. 13, 1904, for Mexico and California via New Orleans, including a stop-over for the Mardi Gras; also from Chicago Friday, March 4th, and St. Louis Saturday, March 5th, for California, via the Illinois Central and New Orleans. Entire trips made in special private vestibule trains of finest Pullmans, with dining car service. Fascinating trips, complete in every detail.

ILLINOIS CENTRAL WEEKLY EXCURSIONS TO CALIFORNIA. Excursion Cars through to Los Angeles and San Francisco as follows: Via New Orleans and the Southern Route every Wednesday from Chicago; every Tuesday from Cincinnati. Via Omaha and the Scenic Route every Wednesday from Chicago.

MARDI GRAS This occurs at New Orleans on February 16, 1904. For its excursion rates will be in effect to New Orleans on specific dates which your local ticket agent will be able to advise you.

NEW ORLEANS A delightfully unique city for the tourist to visit. Winter tourist rates now in effect. Double daily service and fast steam heated vestibule trains with through sleeping cars, buffet-library-smoking car service and all meals en route in dining cars. Ask for an illustrated book on New Orleans.

GULF-PORT, MISS. The Great Southern Hotel, at Gulfport, Miss., on the Mexican Gulf Coast, has 250 rooms single or en suite, with or without bath. Steam heat, electric light, hot and cold running water, and telephone in every room. Reached via Memphis and the Illinois Central's fast morning trains, carrying sleeping and buffet-library cars, with a single change, on same train en route to Memphis, into through sleeping car to Gulfport. Send for illustrated folder describing Gulfport and the hotel.

FLORIDA Through "Dixie Flyer" Sleeping Car Lines St. Louis to Jacksonville and Chicago to Nashville, the latter connecting en route with through Jacksonville car from St. Louis, Route via Nashville, Chattanooga and Atlanta.

HOT SPRINGS, ARK. Car between Chicago and Hot Springs carried on the Central's fast Pullman vestibule "Limited" train. Send for book describing this most interesting of health and pleasure resorts.

Full Particulars concerning all of the above can be had of agents of the Illinois Central, or by addressing the nearest of the undersigned representatives of the "Central" A. E. HANSON, G. P. A., Chicago, Ill. J. F. MERRY, A. G. P. A., Dubuque, Iowa.

Annual Statement of the Herman Bros. Co.

of the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County Nebraska, at the Close of Business

November 30, 1903

LIABILITIES:	
Capital Stock paid in	\$177,000 00
Notes and bills payable	94,890 49
Sinking fund	763 22
Undivided profits	10,082 44
	\$282,526 15

JOBGING HOUSE:

Mdse. on hand, cash value	\$112,541 80
Bills and accounts receivable	116,500 00
Furniture, Fixtures, Tools, sample trunks, etc.	2,650 00
	\$231,691 80

FACTORY:

Mdse. on hand	\$ 24,891 31
Machinery, Fixtures, Tools, etc.	4,315 12
	\$29,207 4

BEATRICE STORE:

Mdse. on hand Dec 31, 1903	\$14,828 99
Fixtures, etc.	1,000 00
Bills receivable	650 00
Cash on hand	677 38
Less taxes & bills owing	\$ 276 00
	\$ 401 38

Investment Dec. 31, 1903. \$ 16,880 28

Remitted to Herman Bros. Co. in

December. \$ 6,600 00

Less Mdse. received in December. \$ 853 98

\$ 5,746 64

Loss estimated profits in Dec. 700 00

\$ 5,046 64

Investment November 30, 1903. \$ 31,926 99

\$282,526 15

State of California) ss.

Los Angeles County)

Adolph Herman, President of Herman Brothers Company, being duly sworn says that the above and foregoing is a true and correct statement of the resources and liabilities of Herman Brothers Company at the close of business November 30th, 1903.

ADOLPH HERMAN,

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 14th day of January, 1904.

N. A. Alspach,

Notary Public.

Commission expires July 23d, 1905.

MAJORITY OF DIRECTORS.

Adolph Herman,

Charles Herman,

Fredrick Herman.