

The Philosophy of Freedom

An Open Forum for Single Taxers

PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRACY.

Editor Independent: How far can democrats go towards socialism? Reformers must unite before they can either enact just or repeal unjust laws; and we can only unite to work for the reforms that we all believe in; and that are the most popular. Those who believe in reforms that are not popular, should continue their work of propaganda; but they should not try to force unpopular ideas into the platform of a reform party.

Even socialists and single taxers can work together for a long time on these lines, for there are several reforms advocated by socialists that are democratic; and perhaps by the time we arrive at what now appears to be the parting of the way, we will find that there is a road we can travel together still farther. Socialists advocate some measures that are contrary to democratic principles, and of course democrats cannot help them to carry those measures; but evolution is at work in democracy as elsewhere; and although principles are eternal, better ways are continually being discovered for carrying them out.

Socialists have high ideals, but they don't see how some of them can be realized without interfering with the liberty of individuals, and democrats are not likely to consent to any measures that will interfere with what they consider the natural and inalienable rights of man; but it is possible that democracy may find ways of reaching the highest ideals of the socialist without interfering with those rights.

It is the duty of a democratic government to carry out the will of the majority; but the majority must respect the rights of individuals. Individuals have a right to the products of their own labor, and a right to engage in production in any way they please that does not interfere with the equal rights of others; they may either labor independently, or co-operate, and when a majority decides that the government should engage in production, why not?

It is not necessary to tax all the people to carry on the government industries, and it is not necessary to interfere with the rights of those who prefer to carry on business in their own way.

New Zealand is trying some experi-

ments that I consider democratic. The government borrows money in England at a low rate of interest, and lends it to settlers at a small advance to cover expenses connected with negotiating the loans. This is probably the most popular reform they have tried, as it brought down the general rate of interest; and if the government would issue the money instead of borrowing it (as some of them advocate) it would be a still greater benefit to the people, as the interest in that case would increase the revenues of the colony. They build and operate the railways, and try to make about 5 per cent on the capital invested, but as the railways are built with borrowed money, it takes most of the profits to pay the interest. They bought a coal mine in 1901 and operate it on the same principle, and the principle might be applied to all other industries.

If all men have a right to life, they have a right to an opportunity to make a living, and no man should have the power to deprive others of the opportunity. It should be the first duty of government to see that all have an opportunity to earn at least the necessities of life. All civilized governments attempt to relieve the destitute through charitable institutions; but how much better it would be to give all an opportunity to earn a living. I believe that one of the provinces of Australia is attempting to do this. It has passed a law that all who cannot find employment at seven shillings per day, from private parties, must be employed by the state at that figure. If that is true, and if the colony is able to carry out the plan successfully, it will be the most important step taken for some time towards settling the labor problem.

The single taxers are the vanguard of democracy; they not only see that all men have a right to the use of enough land to live and work upon, but they see that by taxing land values and removing the burdens of taxation from the products of labor, that that right can be secured to all.

But capital is also necessary, and a great many of them do not see that the interests of capitalists are opposed to the interests of laborers, and that even without special privileges the capitalist is in a position to claim more than his just share. Many of them, however, do see it, and Ernest Crosby in the January number of the Single Tax Review writes: "The last fallacy I have to consider is the trite saying that 'the interests of capital and labor are one.' . . . Capital and labor are in fact partners up to a certain point. Partners' interests are identical in their relations to all the rest of the world, but when they sit down to divide their profits, their interests are absolutely hostile, and every dollar added to the pile of one is subtracted from the pile of the other."

If reformers would try to minimize their differences instead of trying to keep as far apart as possible, (as many of them do) they would accomplish far more than they are doing; but although we are not moving as fast as some of us would wish, and although democracy has lost some skirmishes lately; it is strengthening its position, and extending its outworks, and we have no cause to fear what the future has in store.

JAS. S. PATON.

Riverside, Cal.

JEFFERSONIAN REPUBLICANS

Some Hot Comments From the Ex-Lieutenant Governor of Kansas

The editorial correspondence from New York has interested a great many people and none more so than the old workers in the populist party. Among the correspondence on that subject is the following sly letter from ex-Lieutenant Governor Percy Daniels of Kansas, dated at Girard, Kas., February 28, 1904:

Editor Independent: You have been down east, seen the elephant, shaken hands with the octopus, conferred with the demi-gods, flirted with the ladies and got home with a whole scalp. I congratulate you.

I notice in your letter of the 15th your reference to social conditions and moral theories, especially with reference to the gay "400" (unclean birds, as Henry Waterson calls them). It recalls the Seely Dinner, the ethical (?) (as well as some other) aspects of which Dr. Rainford took occasion to criticize.

I referred to those incidents in an

article seven years ago, and I enclose the sheets containing the reference to it and also the petition to the legislature which my argument that contains the allusion was written to support.

The reformers seem to be in search of a name. If they would adopt the humane and patriotic theory and principles of Thomas Jefferson for progressive taxation on wealth, and especially on the combinations of the great pirates, they might reasonably call themselves Jeffersonian Republicans. I enclose a book sheet (p. 123) giving a quotation from Jefferson's writings in support of the proposition. This I discussed at some length in a little pamphlet, entitled "The Free Coinage of American Labor Into Honest Dollars," I sent to your assistant a few days ago. Yours truly,

PERCY DANIELS.

The pamphlet that accompanied the above letter is entitled "The Conquering March of Capital," or "Man vs. Mammon," and although written some years ago is even more applicable to present conditions than to those of the times in which it was first given to the public. It is full of what newspaper men call "hot stuff." The following extracts are taken from it:

"These ill-gotten piles of capital will be attacked either by the leveling forces of disorder, or by the mild and peaceful process of readjustment by taxation. One or the other of these is just as inevitable as the freaks of the north wind; or the tireless surge of the waves at Point Judith. Today we have the opportunity to adopt and enact the peaceable process. Tomorrow that chance will be gone. Then the deluge.

"A readjustment is coming. Fear it, deplore it or welcome it as we may, it is inevitable. Increasing turbulence and disorder are but the harvest from increasing injustice and suffering. Philosophers who are delving among the cobwebs of the past, can see it; and those who are building castles for the future, will, if they are wise, include in their calculations this inevitable readjustment of opportunities, of conditions, of burdens and blessings, unless they are willing to admit a race degeneracy which they share.

"The industrial armies of the nation are gathering between the hosts of Pharaoh and the Red sea. They are a multitude in numbers, but puny in defensive force because disorganized. The day is past when the waters will divide to let them escape. They have the weapons of their own salvation, and they must organize and turn on their pursuers or go into indefinite bondage. The flesh pots of Egypt, with their savors and allurements, may tempt and seduce some weaklings who cower before these hosts and fear the alternative. If in that way we lose a corporal's guard for asserting our rights and demanding their recognition, in offering labor a certain opportunity for relief and independence, beyond the reach of plutocracy's mandate or artillery, we will swap every wavering squad for an 'iron-sides' division.

"Then will the antics of the plutocrats—
Their wallowing and wobbling with Wall street—
"Their dancing and dallying with the Delilas of the demi-monde—
"Their truckling to the tawdry thieves of the 'tenderloins'—
"And all their siren's songs of sophistry, become a side-show and a farce.

"Then, too, will be revived and re-enacted for the law-abiding lambs of labor, and the lawless lords of lucre, two of the fundamental principles of Judaism and Christianity, the two greatest axioms of human rights: For the first, "In the sweat of thy brow shall thou" (always have opportunity to) "eat thy bread."

"This feeling is not confined to the ranks of any one party. Take from either of the great political parties this class, and there would be nothing left but a skeleton of wire-pullers, and the few who live by plundering the many. The day of reckoning spoken of by the Century Magazine fourteen years ago—presumably by Dr. Holland—is evidently coming on the invitation of the wronged millions. It said:

"But the day is soon to come when plain men will clearly see that no one can get with clean hands, in an ordinary lifetime, one hundred million dollars—that such an enormous pile so suddenly collected must be loot, not profit. That will be a day of reckoning, indeed, for the robbers and for the judges and legislators and the public teachers who have been their accomplices. Meantime the fact must be kept in mind that we have among us a class of men who, in their rapacity, are bent on enriching themselves by forcibly seizing the property of their neighbors, and that they

have learned how to use, for this purpose, the organized force of the state."

The Independent would be glad to hear from Governor Daniels very often. Let him come to the convention on the Fourth of July at Springfield with a full Kansas delegation of men like unto himself, and we will set the country on fire with enthusiasm for justice and right and a determination to down the Sodomites of New York who now rule the nation.

A TEST EXPERIMENT.

Peculiar Power Possessed by a New Medicine.

Of new discoveries there is no end, but one of the most recent, most remarkable and one which will prove invaluable to thousands of people, is a discovery which it is believed will take the place of all other remedies for the cure of those common and obstinate diseases, dyspepsia and stomach troubles. This discovery is not a loudly advertised, secret patent medicine, but is a scientific combination of wholesome, perfectly harmless vegetable essences, fruit, salts, pure pepsin and bismuth.



These remedies are combined in lozenge form, pleasant to take, and will preserve their good qualities indefinitely, whereas all liquid medicines rapidly lose whatever good qualities they may have had as soon as uncorked and exposed to the air.

This preparation is called Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets, and it is claimed that one of these Tablets or lozenges will digest from 300 to 3,000 times its own weight in meat, eggs and other wholesome food. And this claim has been proven by actual experiments in the following manner. A hard-boiled egg cut into small pieces was placed in a bottle containing warm water heated to ninety-eight degrees (or blood heat); one of these Tablets was then placed in the bottle and the proper temperature maintained for three hours and a half, at the end of which time the egg was as completely digested as it would have been in a healthy stomach. This experiment was undertaken to demonstrate that what it would do in the bottle it would also do in the stomach, hence its unquestionable value in the cure of dyspepsia and weak digestion. Very few people are free from some form of indigestion, but scarcely two will have the same symptoms. Some will suffer most from distress after eating, bloating from gas in the stomach and bowels, others have acid dyspepsia or heartburn, others palpitation or headaches, sleeplessness, pains in chest and under shoulder-blades, extreme nervousness as in nervous dyspepsia, but they all have the same cause—failure to properly digest what is eaten. The stomach must have rest and assistance and Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets give it both, by digesting the food for it and in a short time it is restored to its normal action and vigor. At the same time the Tablets are so harmless that a child can take them with benefit. This new preparation has already made many astonishing cures, as for instance, the following:

"After using only one package of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets I have received such great and unexpected benefit that I wish to express my sincere gratitude. In fact, it has been six months since I took the package and I have not had one particle of distress or difficulty since. And all this in the face of the fact that the best doctors I consulted told me my case was chronic dyspepsia and absolutely incurable, as I had suffered twenty-five years. I distributed half a dozen packages among my friends here who are very anxious to try this remedy." Mrs. Sarah A. Skeel, Lynnville, Jasper Co., Mo.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets are sold by druggists everywhere at 50 cents for full-sized packages. A little book on "Stomach Diseases" mailed free by addressing F. A. Stuart Co., Marshall, Mich.

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Dr. Miles has made dropsy of the heart, liver and kidneys a specialty for many years. To introduce his marvelous new Treatments he will send a course free upon application. Hundreds of remarkable cures sent on request.

Daniel W. Gardner, of Huntington, Ind., writes: "Since taking a two months' course of your Special Treatment my wife has no sign of dropsy or heart trouble. It had not been for your medicine she would now be in her grave."

John Fuller, of Ithaca, Mich., says: "I had dropsy so bad no one thought I could live. Your Special Personal Treatment helped me so quick it seemed like a miracle. I now eat and sleep well and work every day."

Mr. H. A. Groce, of 404 Mountain St., Elgin, Ill., aged 72, was thought to be incurable from dropsy which reached to his lungs and caused smothering spells, coughs, shortness of breath. He soon reported: "Dropsy all gone." Mr. A. P. Colburn of Blessing, Ia., writes: "Dr. Miles' Treatment performed a miracle for Mrs. Colburn after her leg burst from dropsy."

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