

## The Philosophy of Freedom

An Open Forum for Single Taxers

Editor Independent. In The Independent of May 12 I saw a short article by the associate editor in which he claimed that single taxers were not agreed upon the money question, and considered it of a secondary importance. I think it is true that single taxers give that impression that they are somewhat indifferent to what has always been considered the most important question of legislation. That there will always be some medium of exchange is not doubted by any one. The great work of the single taxer is to remove superstition from all forms of legislation. We want a scientific form of government, in which the minds of the men composing the same will be the ruling power.

Money so far has been based upon superstition. Gold is supposed to have a value that is entirely independent of law, being placed in the world by the Creator for the purpose of being used as money.

This superstition has been made use of for many ages to rob people of the result of their toil. And, as far as we can see, the work is likely to go on for many ages to come. The populists have done a noble work, in showing how the people have been robbed by the different forms of legislation upon the money question. But it is sometimes difficult to tell whether the true populist regards the idea of money that now exists, as a superstition or not. It would do some good no doubt to attack the superstitions that now exist directly, and show the people what it costs to maintain them. But the single taxer feels that no permanent good can be done, until we start out on a scientific basis, giving every one an equal chance to stand upon the earth without paying tribute to any one. Every nation in the world today is paying tribute to a class that are supposed to have gold, which is considered to be the only form of honest money. It is not only true of nations, but all other forms of government are forced to do the same, showing how thoroughly the imaginary, and superstitious ideas of the past, still cling to the minds of the people. Every town borrows money, paying interest on the same, so that a large portion of the taxes raised go for interest or tribute just as we have a mind to call it. Is it not an easy matter to see the absurdity of any form of government borrowing money? But while superstition is the basis of thought, we must expect all forms of argument, and all kinds of legislation, except what is just and true. Mr. Cleveland may talk like an idiot, but his talk is not different from the popular idea.

So as a single taxer, I cannot hope for any reform that will be anywise permanent, until superstition ceases to be the basis of thought. Legislation upon the money question may change the methods of getting a tribute from the people, but tribute must exist while superstition lasts. Let us then settle the question of "Who owns the earth?" For that is the basis upon which all other questions rest, and until that is settled, no other question is of much value to the public.

R. H. DEBECK.

Woodfords, Ill.

### The Redemption of Politics.

Cincinnati, O., May 22, 1904.—Mr. Herbert S. Bigelow, pastor of the Vine Street Congregational church, in speaking of the duty of men entering the political arena, said:

Political science is the highest education that can be given to the human mind. These are the words of one of England's most famous preachers,

For over sixty years Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup has been used by mothers for their children while teething. Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of cutting teeth? If so, send at once and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children Teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers, there is no mistake about it. It cures diarrhoea, regulates the stomach and bowels, cures wind colic, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething is pleasant to the taste and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price, 25 cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup."

Frederick W. Robertson. They will hardly be appreciated by that large class of citizens who thank the Lord daily that they are not as the politicians.

In the dictionaries, the politician, like the statesman, is a man versed in the science of government. In common usage, however, he is the man who seeks the place of the statesman without the statesman's qualifications. The aim of the statesman is to promote great public policies. The politician aims to further that policy which will most surely promote him. With the statesman, principle always will be first. The politician cares nothing for principle. He will pipe any time to which the people will dance.

It may be useless to try to redeem the word "politician." Perhaps we shall have to let it stand for the name of the man who exalts a self-seeking policy above right principle, who regards peace and power, not as the possible incidents of a life of public service, but as ends to be sought and won at all hazard to public good or to private honor.

The young man who thinks more of success than of being right; who cares more for the praise of others than for his own manhood; who allies himself with the party which holds out to him the greatest hope of power; who is willing to be a moral nonentity if only the world will throw to him the sop of undeserved recognition; who will silence the voice of conscience within him in order that he may hear the empty plaudits of the crowd; who, for the baubles of fame or fortune, is willing to put his neck to the yoke and forewear his independence to think and speak as a man among men—is there any deeper shame than this degradation of the soul, is there any greater tragedy than such a career pursuing its way through compromise and insincerity and ending in slavery and defeat?

It is the solemn duty of the young men of today to enter politics, but not to become politicians. America needs men in public life, who, like Cromwell's soldiers, put some conscience into their politics; men who have an understanding of public questions, who see how much human misery is caused by the practice of false theories of political economy, and who, for the sake of humanity, will throw themselves into the work of instructing the public mind and improving government.

Give us an army of men determined to seize and use the political tools which lie at hand to put an end to the wrongs which breed poverty in the sight of plenty and cause the slums of misery and degradation to mock the triumph of civilization, give us an army of such men and we'll write the history of another French revolution, a revolution which shall not be written in blood nor so soon forgotten in dreams of empire; by arguments and voice we'll storm the strongholds of economic ignorance and political greed. This will be the character of the crusades of the twentieth century. The church can call men to no holier mission.

### A Prospective Vanguard.

Editor Independent: I enclose \$1 for your populist enrollment fund. I am not a populist now and I hope that the democratic party will continue true to its 1896 and 1900 platforms. If it does not, then I will seek enlistment in your vanguard; but fearing that we will have no home in the old party, I use this as a new investment.

I consider that, even if the reorganizers do not gain absolute control of the democratic organization, your organization being weak, will not scare the majority of delegates enough but what they may compromise. But being stronger, the reform delegates to St. Louis can use your organization as a club over the recreant ones.

With you, I realize that the populist party cannot live if our friends triumph at St. Louis. Yet I am not enough tied to the old party name to shed a tear or breathe a sigh in leaving it, should Belmont, et al., control. I bore the stigma of populist while in my minority, during Cleveland's administration, and if I cannot be a democrat, believing in government money, government transportation income tax, direct legislation, etc., then I will not be a democrat at all.

E. W. FERGUSON, Jr.

Hartington, Neb.

Hayden Bros. are liberal patrons of The Independent. Send them a trial order. See ad. in this issue.

### Of International Fame

On a busy corner in the still busier city of Chicago, where thousands of people—Chicago people, with an eye and thought for naught but their own affairs, pass and repass every day, stands a building, not an imposing, but a substantial roomy edifice, the name of which is perhaps more widely known in all quarters of the globe than that of any other structure upon the entire American continent. People pass it by without giving it a glance of the eye, but countless thousands of eyes in all parts of the world are daily turned toward it and countless thoughts are centered upon it and that which it produces and offers to the world.



It is the Vitae-Ore Building, the building from which the remedy which gives it its name is offered to the public, the remedy—the natural mineral Ore—which has astounded the people of five continents by its remarkable and almost miraculous cures and brought happiness, comfort, peace and contentment to thousands of homes which had been torn and ravished by the scourges of sickness and disease. It was built by, with and for Vitae-Ore. Each brick and stone represents a satisfied customer; each tile in the floors and stairway a patient cured, who satisfied, paid his money for the treatment. From a humble beginning in a room in a cottage occupied by Mr. Theo. Noel, its discoverer, the Vitae-Ore enterprise has grown to such proportions as to occupy a building 50x75 feet, three floors high, a total floor space of 18,750 feet, used solely, entirely and exclusively in placing this remedy before the public, not counting the buildings owned and occupied by the Theo. Noel Company, proprietors of the discovery, in Toronto, Ont., and London, Eng., for the carrying on of the Vitae-Ore enterprise in Canada and Great Britain.

All this is a standing monument to the wonderful merit of this still more wonderful remedy, which is today offered to the readers of this paper in the magnificent, full-page announcement which readers will find upon the back cover of this issue, a monument that testifies in a stronger language than anything that could be said with ink and white paper. The Theo. Noel Company offers a package on thirty days' trial, so that all who suffer, all who need it, may test it without risk or possibility of loss. It cures, the patient is satisfied and pays for it, and the Vitae-Ore enterprise grows and grows and spreads its leaves like a green bay tree.

### Rudge & Guenzel

Rudge & Guenzel have one of the most handsome and best equipped business blocks in the west. The process of construction began with the remodeling of the Putnam block at the corner of Eleventh and O streets and ended with the completion of the new block facing Eleventh street. The latter is constructed of Milwaukee pressed brick and consists of four stories and a basement. An abundance of light and handsome furnishings adds greatly to the beauty of the Rudge & Guenzel building. The building is heated by steam. The fixtures are of the finest west of Chicago and the interior is finished in golden oak.

The display of goods and the convenient arrangement for the comfort of shoppers are features of the store. Rest rooms and parlors are arranged and furnished, leaving out nothing that can be desired on the part of the patrons and out-of-town visitors.

Electric freight and passenger elevators have been constructed. On the first floor facing O street are the general offices of the firm. On the same floor in the Eleventh street part of the building are the sales rooms of the hardware department, which has a large storeroom in the basement. One-half of the second floor is devoted to carpets and the other half to furniture and draperies. The display of carpets, rugs and draperies is unsurpassed by any stock west of Chicago. Both the third and fourth floors are given entirely to furniture.

This building was completed January 1, at an expense of \$75,000, and is the largest and most modern building in the city. We are safe in saying it is the largest house furnishing establishment in the west.

The floor space is 100 feet by 142 feet, and covers two acres. The store

fixtures are the most modern and up-to-date that can be had and everything will be done to make it convenient to customers.

The mail order department is one of the most important features of this store. Starting with a few hundred customers in 1900, the catalogue circulation for 1904 exceeds 30,000, and in addition several special catalogues are used to cover special lines.

Covering Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, the Dakotas, the entire mid-west, and in many instances shipping as far as California, has widely advertised the peculiar methods of this store.

They pay the freight charges on certain amounts, guarantee safe delivery and any unsatisfactory article may be returned at the firm's expense, making buying by mail absolutely safe.

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Beautifully illustrated Catalogue, showing all the newest designs, mailed free on request.



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Hundreds of finished monuments can be seen on our floors at any time.

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1468 O St., Lincoln, Neb.

Please Mention The Independent

## The Hotel Walton

1516 O STREET.

The best and most convenient low priced house in the city. Rates \$1 per day and up.

In the District Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska

Nellie Ransler, Plaintiff, vs. Frank Ransler, defendant.

To Frank Ransler non-resident defendant:

You are hereby notified that on the 17th day of May, 1904, Nellie Ransler filed a petition against you in the district court of Lancaster county, Nebraska, the object and prayer of which is to obtain a divorce from you on the grounds that you have willfully deserted and abandoned the plaintiff without just cause, for the term of more than two years last past, and that while you are able and capable of providing suitable maintenance for plaintiff, you have for more than three years last past, grossly, wantonly and cruelly refused and neglected so to do. Plaintiff also prays that she may be restored to her maiden name of Nellie Morgan.

You are required to answer said petition on or before Monday, June 13, 1904.

NELLIE RANSLER, Plaintiff.

By J. C. McNeerney, her Attorney.

I, Henthorn, Benton county, Ark.:

"I take The Independent and Kearney (Neb.) New Era-Standard. Also read two socialist papers; but the more I read them the further I get from socialism. As advocated by most of them now, I can't go it. Populism is the salt of the earth and good enough for me."