

economic devil who must be chained while we enjoy the millenium. Until some other system is devised for supplying revenues for carrying on the federal government, we need not make comparisons between the republican tweedledum and the democratic tweedledee. Whether the producer of wealth is robbed by one or the other makes little difference to the victim. That he is robbed and injured by either is sufficient to justify his complaint. One may theorize as to which is the lesser evil—but either places an undue burden upon the weak.

"Take land values for public revenues," says the single taxer; "that will stop the robbery. You populists make a great fuss over the money question and the highway question; but these amount to very little. No doubt your argument is good as far as it goes, but you don't get down to bedrock. Land is the basis of all wealth. As population increases, land values increase; the tendency is also that values of commodities decrease. Therefore, take land values for public revenues."

What the single taxer is trying to show was once a "nice, fresh corpse;" but it has been wrapped up in so much mummery that it means nothing at all, as stated. Pressure of population causes an increased demand for desirable locations—an increase in the struggle to secure possession of these locations. The estimated quantity of the force of demand for a given portion of the earth's surplus at a given time, is the value of that portion. Stated in terms of money it is its price.

But how "take land values" for revenues? Shall they be delivered to the tax collector wrapped in tin foil? Shall we use a van to haul them to the public treasury? Can they be separated from the land with pick and shovel, like coal?

"Foolish questions," retorts the single taxer; "that is merely an elliptical statement. Good conversationalists, like good chess players never play the game clear down to the checkmate or draw. They leave something for inference. Why, these land values would be delivered in money, of course."

In money! Weren't, you dear single taxer, the man who said a moment ago that we populists lay too much stress upon the money question? Yet, after all, you can't pay your single tax without first securing that negligible quantity—money!

Let us examine your philosophy in the light of present day facts. Land may be subjected to a variety of uses and its value will depend upon the struggle to secure its possession for those uses. A is in possession of a gold mine; B, a farm; C, a lot in Manhattan, upon which stands a sky-scraper; D, a lot and building at Irvington, whereat is produced a popular ten-cent magazine; E, a lot and building at Brockton, used in the production of shoes.

The United States "revenues," in the last analysis, do not consist of gold or silver disks stamped with certain letters and figures; or pieces of silk-ribbed paper printed in certain designs; but in the services of men and women, and in commodities to be used by these men and women in performing their respective duties. The same is true of the "revenues" of smaller taxing jurisdictions.

Except, perhaps, in some chemical experiments, the United States has no real need for A's product. It may need oats or corn from B, to feed its army horses. C's office building produces no tangible thing which government may use. It is not likely to need any of D's publications. But E may supply the army with shoes.

Let us now assume that the annual rental value of each parcel of land is \$10,000. What happens? A alone can have his product endowed with power to pay the tax. He can deliver to the United States mint approximately

232,000 grains of fine gold and have it stamped, free of cost, with certain letters and figures, into, say 500 double eagles, and with these pay his ground rent.

But B, C, D and E must each hunt up A—or his successor—and make terms with him before they can secure the all-powerful thing which will discharge their respective obligations to the taxing power. B may have 20,000 bushels of corn which is needed badly by the United States army—but it is powerless to cancel the government claim for ground rent; he must make terms with A or his successor. C and his tenants produce no tangible thing—but they must sell their services always with an eye to securing A's product. E has "revenues" the government needs—but, like A, he must "go 'round Robin Hood's barn" in order to pay his ground rent.

I am not unmindful of the fact that there are other forms of "money" besides gold; but I restrict the statement in order to make the principle clear. Every occupier of land on earth today is compelled to exchange his product or services for something else, before he can cancel a tax levy charged against him—save and except alone the occupier of gold-producing land. Is this in harmony with the maxim, "Equal Rights to All, Special Privileges to None?"

Hardly. And the single tax would not abolish this injustice.

Any and every sort of tax is, in the last analysis, an "income" tax, because it must be paid out of the income of some person. The great question first is: Upon what basis shall we calculate what each shall pay? And, secondly, in what specific thing shall the tax be delivered to the taxing power?

I believe that as every human being must occupy some portion of the earth's surface, the fairest way is to calculate the tax upon the value of that portion each occupies. In other words, I am heartily in accord with the "nice, fresh corpse," of the single tax—but care nothing for its mummies. Secondly, that government should give to each person performing for it any service or delivering to it any necessary commodity, a certificate showing the quantity of value of such service or commodity, which certificate should be good in the hands of any bearer in full cancellation of an equivalent amount of economic rent or land tax. Upon what substance that certificate shall be stamped or printed, I care not. Let it be gold, if need be. But let government buy, in the open market, at lowest market price, whatever gold is necessary for this purpose, just as it must buy oats for its army horses or timber and steel for its warships. It would not take many years for the people to see the immense economic waste in buying gold for a purpose better subserved by silk-ribbed paper.

There are practical difficulties in the way of solving the transportation question according to the strict single tax philosophy; but these can not be discussed here at this time. What I have endeavored to make clear is this: The single tax and a scientific money system must go hand in hand to accomplish justice.

CHAS. Q. DE FRANCE.  
New York City, N. Y.

**BRIBE-TAKING LAW-MAKERS**

**They Commit Perjury in Pennsylvania as Well as in Nebraska**

The Arena Magazine, 5 Copley Square, Boston, is doing heroic work in assaulting the bribe taking, pass grabbing lawmakers who are infesting the legislatures of the various states. These scum of the earth, who tack "Honorable" before their names because some railroad corporation pays their election expenses and sends them to the state capitals to make laws in the interest of the corporations, get a scoring in this magazine. They are the spawn of corruption, foul excrescences on the body politic, the sneak thieves of the twentieth century.

The amazing revelation made by Rudolph Blankenburg in his paper in the April Arena on "Law-Makers Who Shame the Republic," naturally suggests the question whether the solons at Harrisburg are not clearly in the wrong place. Indeed, a few more such revelations as the great civic leader of Pennsylvania makes in the current number of the Arena may lead to a change of residence for more than one called statesman. In his discussion Mr. Blankenburg publishes a number of facsimiles of passes issued by the Pennsylvania Railroad company, some of them as late as 1905, to legislators and other public servants. He then cites the prohibition of the constitution of Pennsylvania, which distinctly forbids all transportation companies from issuing passes to any persons not their employes. Then he addresses

himself to the recreant legislators in the following impressive language:

"You, legislators, who accept and travel on these passes have taken a solemn oath of office (Art. VII, Sect. 1.) . . . that I will not knowingly receive, directly or indirectly, any money or other valuable thing for the performance or non-performance of any act or duty pertaining to my office, other than the compensation allowed by law."

"Your pass represents money; if it was not made a free gift to you, you would have to pay 'cash fares,' therefore, every time you travel on your pass you are presented by the Pennsylvania Railroad with as many dollars and cents as the distance traversed calls for from regular travelers.

"Do you, or do you not, violate your oath of office? If justice was aggressive instead of slumbering, deserved punishment would be inflicted upon you. You would, as ordered by the constitution, be found guilty of perjury and be forever disqualified from holding any office of trust or profit within this commonwealth."

It would be difficult to realize the value to America at the present time, when the people are awakening to the grave perils arising from corruption of their servants by the great public service corporations and privileged interests, operating largely through party machines, of these papers by Mr. Blankenburg which are monthly appearing in the Arena.

But this review is not content with unmasking evil conditions. Each issue contains two or more strongly constructive papers—papers which clearly point the way out of the present political quagmire, through methods which will secure to the people the blessings of pure and free government, without the shock of a forcible revolution. In the current issue, for example, there are two notable papers of this character. One has been prepared with great care by Wolstan R. Brown, ex-mayor of Passaic, N. J., and is entitled "Municipal Ownership and eLague Organization." Mr. Brown has filled many important municipal positions and has also been at the head of several public service corporations. He advances a plan in his paper for the practical realization of municipal ownership in a manner that would in all probability prevent lengthy and expensive litigation, and yet would secure to the people a prompt enjoyment of the blessings and benefits of the ownership and operation of their own immensely valuable utilities. The other essay deals with direct legislation as it has been successfully introduced and operated in Switzerland. The editorial department of this issue contains an extended notice of the battle which Kansas is fighting against the aggression and oppressions of the oil trust.

**Splendid Record**

The proud and independent state senate, unswayed by the railroad passes in the pockets of its members and actuated only by a desire to serve the people of the state, yesterday made this splendid record:

Killed a bill to give interurban street railways the right of eminent domain enjoyed by steam railways.

Killed a bill intended to facilitate the commerce of the state by compelling the railroads to make shipments with reasonable promptness.

Killed a bill to make railroads liable for injuries to employes regardless of whether their fellow-servants were negligent.

Marked for slaughter a bill to stand for loss of grain while in transit.

Favorably reported by a standing committee a bill repealing the maximum freight rate law.

In taking these steps the senate has the cordial support of the three heaviest taxpayers of the state, the Burlington, the Union Pacific and the Northwestern railroads, and the unqualified approval of its three most influential citizens, J. H. Ager, R. J. Clancy and R. W. McGinnis.—Lincoln News.

The most brilliant feat of our now defunct legislature was the attempt to prescribe the religion and the medicine that Nebraskans should take. They passed the bill, but the governor vetoed it. The next republican legislature will probably enact a law, requiring a man to appear before the board of dental surgeons and pass an examination before he will be allowed to pick his teeth with a wooden tooth-pick.

**Indigestion?**

**I offer all Stomach Sufferers a Full Dollar's Worth of my Remedy Free to Try**

I can afford to offer a full dollar's worth free because mine is no ordinary remedy. Ordinary remedies treat symptoms. My remedy treats the causes that produce the symptoms. Symptom treatment must be kept up forever—as long as the cause is there. My treatment may be stopped as soon as it has removed the cause, for that is always the end of trouble.

Stomach trouble is not really a sickness, but a symptom. It is a symptom that a certain set of nerves is ailing. Not the voluntary nerves that enables you to walk and talk and act—but the automatic stomach nerves over which your mind has no control.

I have no room here to explain how these tender, tiny nerves control and operate the stomach. How worry breaks them down and causes indigestion. How misuse wears them out and causes dyspepsia. How neglect may bring on kidney, heart, and other troubles through sympathy. I have no room to explain how these nerves may be reached and strengthened and vitalized and made well by a remedy I spent thirty years in perfecting—now known by Druggists everywhere as Dr. Shoop's Restorative. I have no room to explain how this remedy, by removing the cause, puts a certain end to indigestion, belching, heartburn, insomnia, nervousness, dyspepsia. All of these things are fully explained in the book I will send you when you write.

In more than a million homes my remedy is known. It has cured stomach troubles not once, but repeatedly—over and over again. Yet you may not have heard of it—or hearing may have delayed or doubted. So I make this offer to you, a stranger, that every possible excuse for doubt may be removed. Send me no money—make me no promise—take no risk. Simply write and ask. If you have not tried my remedy I will send you an order on your druggist for a full dollar bottle—not a sample but the regular bottle he keeps constantly on his shelves. The druggist will require no conditions. He will accept my order as cheerfully as though your dollar laid before him. He will send the bill to me.

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Book 5 for Men	Book 6 on Rheumatism

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**Dr. Shoop's Restorative**

A thing happened in connection with the beef trust investigation by the grand jury at Chicago that indicates that there may be some attempt to bring an indictment against it. Thomas J. Connors, Armour's general superintendent, was indicted for interfering with witnesses. He was arrested on a bench warrant and released after giving \$5,000 bail.

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