

MATTERS IN THE PUBLIC EYE.

JOHN STARK'S COLUMN OF CAUSTIC COMMENT.

Matters of Public Interest and a Socialist Sees Them.

Calm yourself my poor palpitating patriot—Old Glory is still safe among the stars, for our Secretary of State has gone half way around the earth to attend the funeral of a foreigner, so our beloved free institutions of our dear country are safe also. Oh, the glory of it reminds me of the time when the daughter of the president had the flattering offering to grace the bazaar of a Goon; yes "Princess Alice" as she was fondly called by the "royalty hating Americans," actually had a chance to mate up with a negro. How the proud American Citizen swelled up his narrow chest 'till it nearly burst with patriotism! All join in and sing "the land of the free and the home of the brave."

You have all heard of the cradle of liberty down Massachusetts way, yes and Paul Revere. Also the minute men of action, Concord and Lexington. Many times have the halls of Congress re-echoed with thrilling echo by her statesmen of the glorious achievements of the commonwealth. But a hush has fallen on one grand achievement as far as her statesmen are concerned; one act of fame is not screamed at us just now.

Let me read you something out of Senate document 870—"from a study of the table of earnings it is very apparent that in many occupations, if the father of the family has not at least one child old enough to go to work it becomes necessary for the wife to enter the mill to supplement the earnings of the husband in order to maintain the family."

The economic condition of the head of the family in one of the power paid occupations, with two or three children so young so young as to necessitate the mother remaining at home to care for them, is one of extreme hardship." Now my prosperity shouting friend, what have you to say to a condition of that sort? I wish my knowledge of the English were not so limited; perhaps I could tell you what I think of it. That's where I fall down. Now to the question, what do you propose to do about it? Tinker with the tariff some way or wait for that learned commission; elect the senators by a direct vote of the people by and bye; sing the hound dog song; build a few more battleships; strengthen our army; swat the rum demon, or don't you give a damn because they are not our own flesh and blood?

Here is what I say:—Let us stop such a condition; to hell with the stability of our banking system, let us rescue the children of men, give to the babies the care that nature intends and no one but a mother can supply. Are not the children to be the future citizens; are they not to be the men and women when we are dust; is it our only care to raise hogs? If so Congress is the place to send them. Have we no higher aims than cash dividends? Then I say it is time to tear old glory from the mast head of the ship of state! If that be treason make the most of it!

I should like to read you a lot more out of the report, but here is one relative to housing: "As a matter of fact two or three houses occupy so fully the lots on which they stand that there is not room to place a garbage can on the same lot with the house."

What a fine playground for the children of the useful workers of the United States. Let me ask you to send for the report, it is free, Senate Document 870, 62d., Congress 2d. session, and read it.

I see they have one of those periodical moral spasms in Portland, after spying about for a long time they find out in a semi-official way what anyone could guess by going through the city on a gallop, if he had ever lived in a city and had gone about without blenders.

It is possible you did not read the report in the Oregonian, but in short it is something like this: The police are protecting vice, the disorderly houses are owned by our best people. And now what? Oh just go the same childish route of reform and soon a new sensation will spring up and then it will be forgotten, but for heaven's sake don't study the cause or you will destroy prosperity and some of our kid gloved gentry will have to go to work, and wouldn't that be awful?

Oh yes New York is now in the middle of a cow because a gambler got killed supposedly by the arrangement of the police because he was going to "peach on the coppers." The police are good at arresting when they find a couple of newsboys "shooting craps" for pennies but the big gamblers pay hush money. There is however a gambling den in New York no policeman will be able to bleed for hush money, nor even the governor of the state would try to stop it. That gang of crooks are the makers of this government of ours. They establish the price you get and the price you pay in a general way, in fact have complete control over our means of existence, but you never hear of anyone getting excited about them, oh no, they are our best people, for they bleed us to the limit.

I recently heard a man of sixty-

six years say he needed to look for a job shoveling on the grade. Think of a man of two generations working at an occupation which taxes the energy of men in their prime of life. I protest against an economic system so cruel, so unjust. This man is sober and industrious, yet the fear of want is upon him at a time of life when he should be cared for, not as an act of charity but justice, humanity. An old age pension bill was introduced in congress by Berger, the lone Socialist, Did the Demo-Rep congress pass it? Not yet. Now here is what strikes me as queer. This same man will not vote for Socialism, though Socialist proposes to look after him. That shows the result of wrong habits of thought. He will vote for capitalism which rewards him with the fear of want after so many years of useful toil. No doubt if the bill became law the grannies in the supreme court would pronounce it unconstitutional. Well, if they do, we will need to take a day off and attend to that court's affairs, and perhaps look after the constitution and see what is the matter, for "I do not think God's word will fail apart because we tear a parchment more or less."

Not long ago the loan shark was up for a word spanking, but you never yet saw a city put a stop to the extortion of your Uncle. Yet it is a simple matter to do so. Do you know how? If not here is the way. Let the city loan its credit at a rate just high enough to protect against loss and Isaac's occupation will be gone. But that will not be done. You know it is constitutional to be skinned.

JOHN F. STARK.

MUST OWN THEM.

Only Means to Break up Trust Rule is to Rule Trusts.

Editor Courier:

In your issue of September 6, in a comment on an item from the Sheridan Sun on the advanced price of shoes, you state:

Leather is not on the free list—just hides. If leather and shoes were on the free list there would be some competition for the shoe trust to go up against. But with a leather trust, a tanners' trust and a shoe trust, poor old hides don't cut much figure.

Now doesn't it occur to you that the only real remedy is for the government to run these trusts?

Some months ago you quoted a talk from Chauncey M. Depew in which he said it would not lower the price of living if we had absolute free trade, for the trusts were powerful enough to control the foreign products and fix their prices.

Competition will never solve the trust problem, for the trusts have solved competition by preventing it.

The only solution is for the government to own the trusts—to own and control the outputs of necessities. Lowering tariff duties won't do it.

W. W. MYERS.

LOOK AT THE FACTS.

400,000 Farmers Rush to Single Tax Canada Each Year.

Editor Courier:

George Hieinbotham seems to be worrying over the increased assessment of land values in Edmonton, Canada. Of course it is increasing George. Land values increase as population increases. The only question is who is to get the increase, the speculators or the public till?

Now in Edmonton the city has grown from less than 5,000 a very few years ago to over 50,000 today. Naturally the privilege of doing business and living in a city is worth more, and land values continue to go up about \$1,500, every time the population increases by natural process or the incoming of any person.

The fact that these land values continue to increase with population is a complete knockout, George, to your claim that any single tax measure will destroy land values. You can't destroy them except by driving away or destroying the people. They are a people value, in fact, and the people create them. Last year this town issued building permits of over \$15,500,000. If Oregon City issued that much in building permits, don't you believe that the land values would go up some George?

All your doleful misgivings about what would happen if Oregon follows British Columbia and Alberta are not carried out by the facts, old man. You are dead off. The farmers are rushing into Canada at the rate of 100,000 a year, and they are more than satisfied with the method of taxation that does not tax their labor products. Don't squirm so and just open your eyes and you will see that there are no aligators in the swimming hole of the single tax. The other boys are in, more going in, and when you jump in, as sooner or later you will, you will holler, as they do, "Come on in; the water's fine!" You could not drive those big lusty boys, Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, New Zealand, New South Wales and many others out of that swimming hole, George, with a hickory club. If California jumps in next February "We-uns" will have to slide after her, and if "We-uns" go in first California will slide after us.

Bub the dust out of your eyes that Standard Oil Shields has flung in them and don't be skeered of no aligators.

Alfred D. Cridge.

PLAIN OREGONIAN MISSTATEMENTS

UNTRUE AND MISLEADING ARGUMENTS.

W. W. Myers Calls Attention to Unfair Oregonian Editorial.

Editor Courier:

The following editorial appears in Sunday's Oregonian. Will you kindly reprint same, with my comments:

Emil Seidel, Socialist candidate for Vice-President and former mayor of Milwaukee, is responsible for the following succinct definitions of American political parties and what they stand for:

"The Republican party stands for things as they are; it wants no change. "The Democratic party stands for any old thing; it wants the offices.

"The Progressive party stands for "honesty" on a platform made up of stolen planks.

"The Prohibition party can only see poverty when there is a beer sign in sight.

"The Socialist party recognizes in the present system only an epoch in the development of society.

Striking and pointed, but not true. The Republican party, de-

the Socialists are being recognized; second we are putting them on the defensive; third, it makes an open misconception of the principles.

If the Oregonian would print that part of the Socialist platform wherein we defy government and resist authority, there would be some argument. Saying and proving are two things. Let me ask if there had been no Socialist agitation would we have any Socialism adopted by the Republican party or any other party?

All wealth springs from mother earth; all the reforms spring from the bottom or lower strata. If this was not the case we would need no revolution or reform. The man who is hurt is the one who cries out, not the one on top. The cry has become so loud and long, men of affairs begin to take notice. Even the terrific T. R., the monkey killer, is up in arms almost ready to take over, own and operate the public utilities. Wonderful how fast people are getting next to the dear people.

There is no one who has taken notice of the changes but who knows (beyond a bare possibility) that Roosevelt today believes that by adopting the entire Socialist platform, would elect him, he would fly to it in a moment.

Neither will we exempt Wilson or Taft, as the desire to win being so powerfully great. Besides the hope of Socialist principles. We may not win as a party but force of circumstance will compel others to adopt it.

The red flag is an international emblem of the Socialist party, not a national emblem of the Socialist party of Americans; the Stars and Stripes will still

protect others to adopt it.

Robbins and U'Ren do not depend on the way the figures work out under the present way of as-

ARGUMENTS WITH WEAK SPOTS.

O. D. ROBBINS SAYS MR. HIEINBOTHAM IS WRONG.

Shows the Inconsistencies of his Line of Arguments.

Editor Courier:

It seems from my humble viewpoint that George Hieinbotham's last letter about caps the climax for lack of logic and reason. Yes, I have been farming about all my life, but unlike a great many farmers, I have taken a considerable time to read and study as well as work, and for the last two years I have studied all sides of this tax question as presented in the books and pamphlets, newspaper discussions and personal arguments.

I have also used a pencil and paper and the assessment records, without a prejudice either way and have read impartially what is said by those paid to advocate single tax, and by those who are paid to oppose it.

Because I am a farmer, I think I can see as far into the long run as my friend, and shall do my own thinking and not let George do it.

Robbins and U'Ren do not depend on the way the figures work out under the present way of as-

it necessary to increase it to \$100 there is but one explanation, their budget has increased in that ratio as it certainly would under the old system. Go back seven years and I expect you will find as great an increase in taxes per acre in Portland. Assessments are over \$1,000,000 per acre there now and everything else is assessed there also. If the people of Edmuntion have tried the new plan seven years and still have it they must be satisfied with it.

Mr. U'Ren has proven that in 1910 Mr. Spence's and Mr. Hieinbotham's assessment at from \$12 to \$20 per acre and others in like proportion was sufficient to raise the same amount as was raised in that year and the only necessity in raising it in future years would be the necessity of raising more money, which would effect the present system of general property assessment in the same way.

Therefore, as their taxes would have been less in 1910, they would pay less in any succeeding year than they would under the present system. This may be proven by comparing the assessment of any two men, one with all improved land and the other with all unimproved land. Multiply their assessments under both systems by any figure and their taxes will bear the same ratio as before with any rate you may use.

This elementary knowledge, Mr. Hieinbotham, as I learned it when I went to school, and if you know any new kinks in figures, trot 'em out, as I am not too old to learn.

I think, however, that this proves that my mark is not far out of

the mark.

"Just as soon as that law is passed" we might not hear so much about exemptions, but if it would, as you say, be a simple land tax, the exemptions would be in effect just the same. After seven years' trial in Edmuntion we are still hearing of exemptions, even from George himself.

That picture of the wealthy man retiring to a few cheap acres in the country, and leaving the farmer with many acres to pay nearly all the taxes, fails to inspire me with a desire to defeat single tax. Our comparison of the single tax and the compound tax assessment shows that farmers pay much less tax under the former, and a few wealthy men retiring would have as much effect as when you put your finger in the water and pull it out again. There would be plenty left in business to pay the taxes, someone would take his place, and his attempt to escape taxes would be futile anyhow.

The only way a wealthy man can escape taxes, direct or indirect, is through the unearned increment of land values or of kindred monopolies, such as water power, timber, etc., or through the franchise monopolies, and single tax, especially the graduated single tax, would catch him on all these things. Take the ease of Mr. Starkweather, given in the last Courier. It is not likely that he will ever retire so far into the country but that the ownership of that property will remain with his family, as there would remain a handsome income after paying the graduated tax. And that is only a small sample of such cases.

That fine automobile is mentioned again. If it is a fine one the owner paid a tax of a few hundred when he bought it, and the tax went into the hands of the workers, skilled and unskilled, who produced it and brought it to him. He will continue to pay a tax for a driver and for repairs, and in a few years will be taxed for a new one.

A good public service commission is all right, but it should be their duty and in their power to tax war powers and franchises and the graduated tax bill would so arrange it, with no more trou-

ble an expense than at present.

O. D. ROBBINS.

TIPS FOR HOME MERCHANTS.

It is all a building process. The rock is built of atoms; the tree is built of cells; the house is built of bricks; success in business is built of conquered details.

Of business—the more you know about it the more you know what there is to know about it.

If you are a good merchant the biggest investment you have is not in stock, but in the good will of your customers.

A THRIVING TOWN THAT HAS NO CITY TAX.

Silverton, Colo., Has a Novel and Effective System.

Silverton, Colo., a thriving town of nearly 3,000 people, at an altitude of over 9,000 feet, has the distinction of being one of the very few municipalities in the United States where no city tax is levied. The running expenses are paid from the income of the water and light systems, both owned and operated by the municipality, and from various licenses.

The town owns its teams, sprinklers and wagons and has recently completed and entirely paid for a handsome city hall costing \$35,000. In this building there is sufficient room for all the city offices, courtroom, assembly room and fire apparatus.

The successful operation of municipally owned public utilities in Silverton extends over a period of nine years.

For electric current the rate to very small consumers is 7½ cents net per kilowatt hour and to large consumers a little over 5 cents net. The water rates vary for different classes of users. A one family residence of four rooms pays \$8 per annum, with \$1 extra for each additional room, or the consumer may install a meter at his own expense, the rental varying from 45 cents to 10 cents per thousand gallons, with a minimum charge of \$20 per year. All water bills are subject to a 15 per cent discount if paid by the 5th day of the month.—American City.

THE VALUE OF A KICK.

It Is Good For Your Business to Know People's Opinion of It.

The best time to remedy a mistake is before it happens. And the next best time is as soon after it happens as possible.

No business house can know too much about the outside world thinks of it. The average man is slow to complain. That is why thousands of concerns are habitually back on their orders. The average man will let the grievance pass, but next time he takes his business somewhere else.

The big department stores in large cities realize the importance of knowing what possible grievances people may have against them. They put the complaint department in the most accessible places, and they make sure that the person with the kick may be able to give it while it is hot.

"Please complain when anything seems wrong," is the constant invitation to the public. "We want to treat you right, but we can't watch everything at once."

T. L. PARKS, Murryville, Ga., Route 1, is in his 73rd year, and was recently cured of a bad kidney and bladder trouble. He says himself: "I have suffered with my kidneys. My back ached and I was annoyed with bladder irregularities. The only way a wealthy man can escape taxes, direct or indirect, is through the unearned increment of land values, or of kindred monopolies, such as water power, timber, etc., or through the franchise monopolies, and single tax, especially the graduated single tax, would catch him on all these things. Take the ease of Mr. Starkweather, given in the last Courier. It is not likely that he will ever retire so far into the country but that the ownership of that property will remain with his family, as there would remain a handsome income after paying the graduated tax. And that is only a small sample of such cases.

Hall's Cataract Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the mucous surfaces of