

BIBLE POINTS WAY FOR WAGE SLAVES' ESCAPE—SHELDON

Noted Kansas Writer and Lecturer Declares Ignorance and Greed Only Cause Men to Oppose Single Tax.

Declaring the Bible teaches single tax as a principle of justice and asserting that the adoption of the proposed taxation system would result in greater production at lessened cost and would give thousands an opportunity to earn a livelihood where the right is denied them now, Dr. Charles Sheldon, of Topeka, Kan., noted lecturer and writer on social betterment, made a plea for the adoption of the single tax in Oregon last night shortly before his departure for Salem.

"Single tax in Oregon would bring about greater prosperity in this state, would open the gates to thousands of tillable acres now shut tight by the big land speculators and would benefit the people as a whole. It is the well being of the whole that we in justice must look out for," he said.

"The proposed system of taxation would break up large private holdings, would puncture fictitious values and bring land down to its real value and its real valuation for taxation. This would mean lessened burdens for the poor and a division of taxes among the wealthier class of landholders who can and should bear the burdens in ratio to their holdings and ability to pay.

Ignorance Causes Opposition.
"Many men oppose single tax because they do not understand it, and mark my words, greedy land hogs are doing their best to keep men from studying it," continued Mr. Sheldon.

"They realize that single tax would kill their monopoly and annihilate speculation in land."
"Many other men oppose it because they own small tracts of land, homes or farms, which they, through lack of knowledge, fear would be taxed so high that they could not hold them. Such a fear is baseless. Single tax would reduce the cost of production, if it were universally adopted throughout the United States, and would open the way for hundreds of thousands of wage slaves to escape their thralldom and become their own masters, because they could return to the soil, something that is not possible to the majority because a few have cornered the earth, and inflated its value for unearned profit.

"We are dependent first and last on the earth and it should not be owned by a few. It belongs to all the children of God. And all opposition to the proposed tax that would make way for such an opportunity at the last analysis, is based on greed—the desire to have more than one's just share. Humankind is the most important thing in the world, and the individual should at all times be subservient to the general good.

England Has Made Mistake.
"Great Britain is a shining example of a country without a land tax. Thousands on thousands of idle acres are given over to hunting grounds for the rich, while in London, and other great cities nearby, are hordes of starving people who are denied the right to the soil and the living it would give them. The landlords won't sell. The small man must rent the land. He is denied the right to buy the tool with which to earn a livelihood. Could a greater injustice exist?"

"As a result England is compelled to import most of the food consumed by her people. It is not a pretty picture when one considers the fact that one selfish landlord, through the operation of unjust laws, can allow broad tracts to stand unimproved as a hunting preserve while his fellow man starves.

"But there is hope ahead. Recently Henry Lloyd George, chancellor of the exchequer, inaugurated legislation bringing about a tax on this land which has never been taxed for centuries."

Speaking in reference to the present system of taxation in the United States, Dr. Sheldon declared it to be "illegitimate, unfair," and something that puts a premium on dishonesty. He said:

"Taxation is one of the most vex-

NEW MATINEE IDOL AT THE BAKER



Baker Moore.

Baker Moore, the young juvenile man of the Baker Players, who seems to have usurped the place of matinee idol so long occupied by Donald Bowles in this city, has the best role of his season so far this week in "The Spendthrift" and the delightful love scenes between him and Alice Patek are just the kind that appeal to the feminine portion of the audience. Mr. Moore is young, good looking and a most excellent actor and much prefers to stand upon his reputation as the latter rather than that of a matinee idol, which, however, seems to follow him wherever he appears. "The Spendthrift" is one of the most interesting of the modern plays presented by the Baker Players this season, telling a strong story of a frivolous, irresponsible young wife whose extravagances finally bring them to bankruptcy, and it contains a lesson that strikes right at the evil that besets many homes, in a greater or less degree today. It will continue all week with matinees today and Saturday.

ing questions of all time. The present taxation laws are eminently unfair, and I believe that a large proportion of taxpayers are single taxers in secret—that is, they practice it by hiding from the assessor their wealth as represented by stocks and bonds, jewelry and kindred things.

Escape of Mand.
"In Oregon, I dare say, the records will disclose similar instances as the Illinois tax lists show. Not long ago an inquiry was made regarding the personal lists submitted by millionaires residing on Michigan avenue in Chicago. The lists showed that not one of those millionaires owned such a thing as a gold watch or a painting. In Kansas a brakeman on a great railroad listed household articles to three times the value listed by the general manager of the same line. These illustrations simply serve to show that the whole system is gigantic fraud. Men, honest in everything else, will lie straight from the shoulder when it comes to taxes.

"The land, however, is in plain sight. It cannot be hidden. It is the one thing from which all wealth springs. A tax on it, on public utility franchises, and on natural resource things belonging to the people—and necessary for their comfort and well being, as one of the Oregon's taxation measures proposes, will not allow of injustice, in my opinion. It means a fairer distribution of the burden of governmental expenses, and the ultimate enforcement of pure justice. I trust progressive Oregon will not overlook an opportunity that, I firmly believe, will work for her greater development and the prosperity of her people."

A spring in the handle helps to prevent a new wrench from slipping off a nut.

STATE IS VESTED WITH TITLE TO ALL THE TIDE LANDS

Law Quoted to Show Lands Useful for Navigation Are Not Subject to Private Ownership; State Trustee.

Portland, Oct. 24.—To the Editor of The Journal.—The most exhaustive adjudication of the law of the tide lands in this country of recent date is rendered by Judge Walter Bordwell in the superior court of California, for the county of Los Angeles, July 3, 1914.

Paraphrasing the law governing the land on which flow navigable waters is "common law," that is natural law recognized by the people and government for so long a period that it has become more firmly established than statute law. It is both written and unwritten and finds its expression in the customs and commerce of the people, the manifest public needs, treaties on law bearing the authority of text books, and the decisions of the supreme courts. It is recognized by constitutions and codes, although it may be superseded at a time by statute law, but at the same time statute law is never firmly established until after long trial it becomes recognized to be common law as well.

The most of the statute law on shore lands deals with tide lands because the English law dealing with these became the heritage of the 13 states formerly English colonies, and passed from them to the other states. In the short rivers of England, there were practically no navigable waters except tide waters.

Concern Tide Flats.
The first statutes passed by the states relative thereto, concerned the disposition of tide flats. Next the needs of commerce and navigation demanded attention, and the English law concerning shore lands was extended in America to all navigable waters including rivers above the reach of the tide as well, which were of the same importance. In Oregon, it has been declared by the statute of 1874 that there are no tide lands in the Willamette river, and that act sought to convey to abutting owners the shore lands of the Willamette down to low water line. But as Judge Thayer said in "Andrews vs. Knott": They could not convey that part of the bend of the river constituting the banks any more than any other part, all of which was protected to the use of the people for navigation and commerce by the title of the state in trust for the people. And if there are no tide flats or similar land more useful for agricultural or individual use than for public use, then there are no lands there, which the state can convey.

Quotes from Decision.
I quote from Judge Bordwell's decision: "As a general proposition, tide lands which are immediately, or in the future, will be useful for navigation are not the subject of private ownership. They are held in common—the state is vested with title as trustee. The state ought not to, and can not

without violence to the purposes for which it exists, alienate into absolute private ownership such lands. That would be an infringement upon the natural rights of the individual, and therefore subversive of the purpose of organized governments. It would also be a surrender of an attribute of sovereignty, and abrogation of a vital political function. It is, therefore, forbidden."

"The state may alienate into private ownership title to tide lands which are useless for navigation. It may also do this when a greater public benefit will result."
May Grant Franchise.
"The state may grant franchises for wharves and docks for a reasonable time under proper terms and restrictions, or otherwise vest in private ownership a limited right in the use of tide lands, when the right of the general public to such use is not substantially diminished, and when navigation will thereby be aided and the public advantage subserved."
"The general statutes of the state of California have provided only for the

sale of tide lands when the same were useless for navigation and formed an integral part of a tract of swamp and overflowed lands and were reclaimable therewith."
"No statute of limitation has run against the state."
State Not Estopped.
"Such lands not being subject to adverse possession, the state is not estopped to maintain the action."
"A portion of the land being when conveyed within two miles of the incorporated city of Wilmington was excluded from sale specifically by the act of 1872."
"These tide lands are not reclaimable within the meaning of the statutes on that subject."
"Tide lands not subject to sale are not subject to lease, conferring exclusive dominion."

This was a test case brought by the state of California to try the title of certain lands conveyed by officials of the state to private parties and passing into the hands of the Southern Pacific railroad. The total amount of the lands so held about the harbor of

San Pedro is valued at \$4,000,000 or \$5,000,000. The case was appealed and is now pending in the supreme court. I would call Portland's special attention to the California act cited, specifically excluding from sale, shore lands within two miles of an incorporated town. J. B. ZIEGLER.

OCEAN-ROSEBURG ROAD WELL BOOSTED IN COOS

(Special to The Journal.)
Marshfield, Or., Oct. 24.—The plan started to bond the county for sufficient money to build a permanent road to Roseburg is meeting approval throughout the county. The Coos County Good Roads association, which was formed with this idea in view, is holding meetings in different localities and has adopted the home rule bill as best suited to the needs of the county as it does not limit the amount of bonded indebtedness. It is estimated that it will require a bond issue perhaps of \$2,000,000 to build a permanent highway

and make other road improvements desired. The association is sending out literature to other parts of the state, in hopes of helping to bring about the passage of the measure. Should this bill pass, the good roads association will take immediate steps for a big bond issue so there can be built across the mountains a road which can be traveled at all times of the year in an automobile.

The plan advocated by the organization is to build a road with a concrete foundation extending from the ocean at Coos Bay to every city in the county and east to the Douglas county line. The people of that county would then be asked to take it up and extend the road into Roseburg.

A Red Hot Debate

Single Tax vs. Anti-Single Tax. Hear the subject from both sides. Chas. H. Shields, representing anti-single tax, and W. S. U'Ren representing graduated single tax, in joint debate, Bungalow theatre, Thursday evening, October 24, at 8 o'clock. (Paid Adv.)

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