

IT IS NOW A YOUNG CYCLOPE.

The Portland Press in Favor of the Single Tax.

Several days ago in a communication which appeared in the EAST OREGONIAN I made this statement:

"The 'single-tax' is the coming system of taxation. I feel the breath of its presence already."

But when I wrote these words I did not imagine that the "breath" I felt then would so soon turn into a veritable "cyclone," and that it would come from the direction of the metropolis of the State. On the 12th inst. in the morning edition of the Oregonian there appeared the following article:

A SINGLE TAX.

The view of the tax question taken by Mr. R. H. Thompson of this city, finds favor with the leading men of intelligence and influence in Dakota. Already a movement is on foot for the organization of single tax clubs throughout Dakota. In Bismarck the club has many prominent men on its rolls, and reports from various portions of the territory show that thousands have joined the association that is preparing to urge this reform.

This single tax scheme must not be confounded with the Henry George plan, which is a single tax that would confiscate and destroy private property in land and make all users of realty state tenants, paying full ground rent into the public treasury. Dakota favors a single tax on real estate and the exemption of all goods, chattels, money, credits and moveable property of every description from the levies of tax gatherers. Nearly all the local and municipal taxes in England are levied on realty—land and improvements—fixed on the basis of their rental value. The English political economists argue that taxes on goods, chattels and personal property of any kind operate as a restraint on production and impair the ability of a people to develop trade and business; so English statesmen avoid every tax on the processes and working capital of industry, and aim to derive the public revenues from levies on the rental value of houses, lots and lands. The national government is supported by taxes on incomes, on the estates of deceased persons and by taxes on liquors, tobacco, tea and coffee. Personal property is almost wholly exempt, with the exception of gold and silver plate and a few other articles. The British system for local taxation is a "single" tax in a sense that Dakota understands it, but not in the sense that Henry George pleads for "a single tax." The English argue that land should contribute to the support of the government out of and in proportion to its own income. Under the American system we tax the selling value of the land. The Chicago Tribune sketches the English scheme and comments it as follows:

"Fixing the burden of realty in this manner the English endeavor to leave productive industry as free as possible from any handicap or impediment. Capital is left untaxed so that it may be used as freely as possible in reproductive industries, supplying increased employment and wages for labor, and enhancing national wealth. The practice of levying on lands and exempting capital, chattels, and goods as far as practicable, is the system adopted by the greatest commercial and manufacturing nation, and has strong reasons to support it."

Henry George would tax the owner of land literally into the earth by reducing the holder to the condition of a State tenant. He would substitute for individual ownership of land a common ownership. We quote George on this point:

"This simple device of placing all taxes on the value of land would be in effect putting up the land at auction to whoever would pay the highest rent to the State."

England's scheme of single tax is to levy on the rental value of land simply enough to raise the needed public revenue, while George, to use his own language, confiscates the whole rent, leaving to land owners the shell and taking the kernel. George would make Egyptian felahs and Hindoo ryots of all land owners.

This was very pleasant reading to "single tax" men everywhere, and when the Oregonian recommended the Thompson-Dakota idea single tax men were as much gratified as if the Oregonian had pronounced itself in favor of the Henry George idea. But greater gratification and satisfaction was in store for the "single tax" advocates. The Portland News of the 13th inst. contained the following editorial, which is a plain and very intelligent utterance in explanation of the Henry George idea of taxation:

"THE SINGLE TAX IDEA"

The Oregonian has been distinguished in its opposition to the plan of its taxation proposed by Henry George, and has lost the opportunity to denounce the ideas of that writer. And so it was a great surprise to the friends of the single-tax idea to see that paper come out yesterday morning and approve of the George theory. To be sure, the Oregonian takes care to declare that the single tax plan which Mr. Henry Thompson has explained in the columns of that paper, and which "finds favor with the Chicago Tribune and with large numbers of the leading men of intelligence and influence in Dakota," is not the George plan at all. Now, it don't make any difference what the thing is called. The single-tax rose will smell just as sweet, no matter whether called Henry George or Henry Thompson. The truth is, that single-tax advocates in Portland, taking a lesson from the Greeks before Troy, have engineered a wooden horse, packed full of Henry George dynamite, right into the bowels of the Oregonian, and that it has opened the gates of the enemy so soon, is to be credited to the very clever manner in which Mr. Thompson has preformed his part of the maneuver.

Henry George's plan of taxation is to assess for taxes only that value of real estate which has been created by society in general; and to exempt from taxation all other elements and species of property. For example, take the two lots on the opposite side of Washington street in

this city, at the east side intersection of First street. Aside from their improvements they are of the same value, and that they be placed at one hundred thousand dollars each. On one there is the handsome First National Bank building, worth one hundred thousand dollars; on the other an old tumble-down frame not worth hauling away. The street improvements may be placed at one thousand dollars each. Under Henry George's plan, the two lots would be assessed at the same value, because the whole value of the lots, excepting the buildings and the street improvements, has been created by society in mass—the people of Oregon and Portland in general. The street improvements and the bank building are the proceeds of labor, and should not be taxed.

Take another example, up in Yamhill county. Two farms in the prairie are naturally, before white settlements in Oregon, of the same value. One settler fences his farm nicely, lays the drains all over it, puts on it an elegant house and fine barns, plants fine orchards, manures the soil freely, cultivates "thoroughly," so that his farm is now worth three times that of his neighbor, who has put in his time fishing, hunting and raising a little scrub stock. When the tax gatherer would come along, Henry George would say tax these farms at the same value, for in a state of nature the land was of the same value, and if society, settlements, railroads, mills, schools and churches have made these lands now worth twenty dollars an acre, then assess them both at twenty dollars an acre; but don't punish this man who has worked hard late and early to improve his place with fences, drains, orchards, houses, and rich soil, by taxing his farm at \$60 an acre, while the fellow who would not work, and who set a bad example, and gave no encouragement to labor, and would not improve his place at all, gets off with a low tax as a reward for his laziness.

Henry George declares, that the just distribution of wealth, "is that which gives wealth to him who makes it, and secures wealth to him who saves it." He would exempt from taxation the farmer's houses, barns, fences, ditches, labor in clearing land, horses, cattle and all other stock, grain and personal property; the tradesman's store; the mechanic's tools, stock, and machinery; the professional man's books, instruments, house and furniture; the banker's money; the railroad's track iron, ties, bridges, grading and rolling stock, and all steamboats and ships; and the laborer's cottage, express wagon and furniture, because all these things are the proceeds of labor. But the land is the gift of the Creator of the world and its artificial value is not the work of any one man, but of society in general. And to this general fund in artificial land values, sometimes called the speculative value, and sometimes the "unearned increment," Mr. George would have the government go for its support by taxation. The land need not be confiscated to public uses, although that is now frequently done under our present system when lands are sold out for taxes; but an assessment on the "unearned increment" for less than the rental value of the naked land, would, in Mr. George's estimation, be ample for the needs of the government.

These articles coming so close together in the editorial columns of the leading daily papers of the State are significant, and it means that once the justice of the idea is established the people en masse will come out flat-footed for this simple and just system, which is now labeled by those who know the least about it, "theoretical," "visionary," "impracticable," etc.

It is only justice we single-tax men want, and in the establishment of justice we get our reward for our work. Honest men everywhere should give enough of their time to acquaint themselves with the justice of the single-tax system.

E. O. TRAMP.

NEAGLE BROS., BLACKSMITHS

Wagonmakers, Corner Main and Water Sts., Pendleton, Oregon

All kinds of Blacksmithing done in the best and prompt manner. Wagons, Buggies and hacks made to order.

WATSON & ANDERSON

General Merchandise, Adams, Oregon.

Headstones, Monuments, R. F. BEALE, Marble and Stone Contractor.

For designs and prices consult Jesse Falling, Main street, Pendleton. Estimates given on stone work.

LOST OR STOLEN. From a hitching post in Pendleton, Saturday, November 17th, a small, chunky, bay horse, with a black face, branded U O on the right thigh. Horse was saddled and bridled at the time. Ten dollars reward will be paid for his return, or information leading to his recovery by ALBERT FRISBIE, no 27 sw st Pendleton, Or.

Leezer & Kuebler, DRUGGISTS

The largest and most complete stock of Drugs, Medicines,

CHEMICALS, Toilet & Fancy Articles In Eastern Oregon. GIVE US A CALL.

Despain Block - Pendleton.

IF YOU WANT THE EARTH TAKE THE WORLD

It is almost the same thing. No Premiums; No Special Offers; No Cut Rates;

THE BEST AND BIGGEST NEWSPAPER

On The North American Continent. 12 Large Pages and 84 Long Columns. A POPULAR NOVEL

Published in and given with each issue of the weekly edition.

Beginning Aug. 1, and continuing thereafter, The World will print with each issue a complete novel by a popular author. Among the writers will be:

- Walter Besant, The Duchess, Mrs. Alexander, John S. Winler, Henry Wood, M. E. Braddon, Florence Warde, Mary Cecil Hay, Bertha M. Clay, Annie Edwards, Rhoda Edwards, F. C. Phillips, etc.

These novels will be the latest works of the best writers as they are published—the books which every one is talking about. Nothing but the very best will be admitted into the World's Stand and Library of Fiction.

This Library of Fiction Will Be Supplied to Subscribers Only.

No Extra Copies Will Be Printed. No Back Numbers Can Be Furnished and No Single Copies Will Be Sold.

If You Wish the Series Complete, SUBSCRIBE AT ONCE.

One Year (12 numbers), \$1; 6 Months (6 numbers), 50c; 3 Months (3 numbers), 25c.

Address: THE WORLD, New York.

Advertisement for Big G hair cream, mentioning A. J. STOVER, M.D., and Leezer & Kuebler, Agents, Pendleton, Or.

Advertisement for The Waste Shop, featuring a 'FREE FOR 4 MONTHS' offer and listing various household goods.

FOR SALE

Four lots and a house on the flat, near the O. R. & N. depot, centrally located, good water, good fences, for \$1000. Easy terms.

Four lots, one quarter of a block, near the Sisters' School, for \$250 cash.

CLOPTON & JACKSON Insurance Agents, PENDLETON, OREGON

Large advertisement for THE OREGONIAN & JACOBSON, featuring the 'East Oregonian Building' and 'PENDING OREGON' text.

OREGON RAILWAY AND NAVIGATION CO. COLUMBIA RIVER

Tickets To and from Portland in the United States, and Europe. Elegant Pullman Palace Car. Emigrant Sleeping Cars run through Portland to Seattle and Tacoma.

Great Rock Island

ALBERT LEA ROUTE. The direct and popular line from Portland to Chicago and the East. To St. Louis and the South. To San Antonio, Leavenworth, and Kansas City.

GREAT OVERLAND ROUTE

THE Northern Pacific RAILWAY. THE ONLY LINE THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS. Pullman Palace Sleeping Car. Magnificent Day Coaches. Rapid Emigrant Sleeping Cars.

Notary and Corporation In Pendleton. FOR ONLY FIVE DOLLARS

The usual price for seals used at parties, in Portland or the East is \$7.00, with express charges added. need a seal, send your order to us, from \$2.00 to \$5.00 thereonly. East Oregonian Pub. Co. Pendleton, Or.