



The Western World

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THE RIGHT ACTION

It is encouraging to know that the majority of taxpayers in the local school district want to see Bandon maintain its excellent institutions, and have voted for a levy sufficient to successfully carry on the school for another year while at the same time pay off at least a small part of the back indebtedness. The school is the most important industry in the community and to reduce its efficiency through lack of support should be one of the last acts of a community, no matter how stringent the times.

It is true that times are hard and it will be difficult for some to pay their taxes next year. But these conditions are but temporary and it would be unjust to take away educational opportunities that would reflect on the young in the future for such reasons.

This is truly a time to economize, and if the present situation would have been anticipated it is possible that the Board might have been able to cut the expenses still more before the year's contracts were entered into; still it cannot be seen where more economy could have been practiced for it costs practically as much to run schools in hard times as it does when everything is booming.

It should also be borne in mind that the present financial condition of the district is not the fault of the present board nor of past boards, but the fault of the system under which the business of the district has been conducted. In fact it is the people's fault for the simple reason that each year, for a number of years, they had failed to vote sufficient millage to pay running expenses. The deficit has been accumulating, and unless the district had voted a 20 mill tax at Monday's meeting the same thing would have happened again with probably disaster in sight for the year to come.

REASON FOR EARLY SHOPPING

It is customary for everyone to talk early Christmas shopping—and then do their trading almost at the last minute. But such is human nature, and a practice that persistent advertising is changing.

The Bandonians who contemplated sending parcels to the outside though, had better do their gift shopping immediately. There is but one boat carrying parcel post between Coos county and Portland (making a trip a week), no parcel post by way of San Francisco, and also none by way of the stage lines which carry the regular mail. The Coos county parcel post service, without a single doubt, is unsatisfactory—in fact to be any more intermittent would be the same as discontinuing it. One of the Bay papers states that unless the Breakwater is put on the run the outgoing parcel post mail will have only one or two more opportunities to leave before Christmas. Get busy or your friends won't receive that package before next summer.

THE OCCUPATION TAX (Second Article)

By Samuel Wood

In an article in last week's issue of the Western World, it was not my purpose to criticize the city administration in their effort to adjust present financial conditions; neither was it my purpose to offer any suggestions as to how this should be done. I simply had a principle in view—a sane system of taxation—recognizing the fact that an expedient of some kind was necessary at this time to save the city from insolvency.

Under our present system of collecting public revenues the city as well as the individual laborer therein is reduced to the very lowest point of subsistence. To me this is a crime. The Mayor only receives \$8 per month, while the councilmen get only \$5. No self-respecting man would, for any other than the public welfare, take the cussings these men do for that measly pittance. And every employe in the city is beaten down in like manner while

Industry is taxed to the very last sou.

It is a well known fact that the city administration for a number of years back have vied with each other in keeping down expenses, especially in this true of the present administration. And they have barely held their own, and at this time, when there is a deficit as a result of the saloons going out of business, there is the necessity for some form of special tax that will supply the necessary funds.

This fund must not only be permanent but it will increase from year to year as the necessity for improvements and local government increase. This, as a matter of course, will depend upon the increase in population which we have no reason to doubt.

AND THERE WILL BE A CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN LAND VALUES.

A Practical Method
What do I propose as a practical solution of the problem of raising public revenues without hurting the industry, necessitates, as a first step, an amendment to the state constitution which will grant local option in taxation. Such an amendment, by popular initiative, was carried in 1911. But in 1913 a reactionary legislature succeeded in tricking the people out of it by another amendment with a joker in it.

Now it will be necessary for the people to do over again what they did in 1911 and look out for jokers hereafter. Then an amendment to the city charter providing for the taxation of land values for local purposes. This system of gradually removing taxation from industry and placing it on land values may grow until the state and finally the national government will tax only land values. And as the government assumes greater functions from time to time the necessity for funds will increase until ultimately the entire economic value of land will be taken into the public treasury to be used by and for the whole people.

It goes without saying that our present system of taxation is a great joke, one of these immoral jokes—the influence of which prompts men to lie and swear to it. But on the other hand I have never heard an opponent of the Single Tax say that it was immoral. I have never heard an individual say that it would not prove a mighty and permanent help to industry—that it would not tend to bring permanent prosperity.

Leo Tolstoy told the whole truth when he said: "PEOPLE DO NOT ARGUE WITH THE TEACHINGS

EPIGRAMMATICAL

A local observer says the reason some people think the city council ought to serve for nothing is because it's worth more than five dollars a month to a man to be in a position where he can get \$50 worth of public cussings gratis.

OF GEORGE (Henry George, who first taught the Single Tax), THEY SIMPLY DO NOT KNOW IT. AND IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DO OTHERWISE WITH HIS TEACHINGS, FOR HE WHO BECOMES ACQUAINTED WITH IT CANNOT BUT AGREE.

If this is true it becomes the moral duty of our local business men and newspapers to work for its accomplishment.

Since my last article appeared a number of local business and professional men have expressed themselves as having the same view that I hold in this matter. And among them are members of the city council, who have very reluctantly recommended this occupation tax, feeling as I do, that it is a crime.

A Business Proposition
This form of taxation is a business proposition for the wide-awake business man. To place land within reach of labor means an increase in production; to untax industry means greater industrial activity; and these together will bring a corresponding increase in wages. These wages are not altogether represented by time checks but in sales for farm and various individual produce. These men are consumers and when they have money the business man makes good.

Business men and farmers are among the most ardent single taxers in the world and the reason has already been stated. The tax commission of Cleveland, Ohio, composed of business men and professional men with Mr. Little president of the chamber of commerce, at its head, recommended in a recent report to Mayor Baker, that the city raise all its revenues by direct tax on land values only. These men have grown tired of toting the whole load while others pocket the values accruing therefrom.

Quite naturally, the Single Tax is bitterly opposed by so called "big business," whose success depends upon the monopolization of all valuable resources such as timber, coal, oil, mineral, water power, dockage, and valuable buildings and factory sites. This natural wealth belongs to the people collectively, and these monopolists are the boys who are going to foot the public expense in the future or get off and walk.



Scene from PRINCESS ROMANOFF at Grand, Friday, December 3d.

THE PRINCESS ROMANOFF

Princess Fedora Romanoff, beautiful as Russian women of the aristocracy are, is one of the most sprightly and wealthy of the women of Petrograd. The Prince Romanoff, whom she married awed for the old aristocrat's money, has died shortly before the story opens and left her the richest woman in the Russian capital. She plans a second marriage with Vadimer Boroff, son of the Prefect of Police, to please herself. On her return from the opera one night, an obsequious servant has just relieved Fedora from her wraps when there is a sudden summons from Vadimer's father. Her lover is ill, is all the message tells. She finds that Vadimer is fatally wounded in the back by a mysterious assailant and is dying. Certain circumstances lead to suspicions centering on Loris Ipanoff, an acquaintance of Vadimer's. She learns by a slender clue that Loris is in New York. He is an intimate of the Countess Olga Soukareff, who has been banished from Petrograd by the edict of the Czar.

Gretch, her servant, secures information concerning Loris, and the princess is convinced she is on the right track. She is a true Slav; underneath her civilization, a savage in nature and instincts. "Loris Ipanoff is a man, I am a beautiful woman," she cries, "I shall learn the inmost secrets of his heart, and Heaven help him if he killed Vadimer."

She goes to New York and meets Loris at the Countess's, where she fascinates him with her beauty. Lured on, Ipanoff becomes insanely infatuated. The Princess sets her wits to work and finds he killed Vadimer. Secret agents of the Russian government visit New York and a plan is laid to assassinate Ipanoff. Loris, tricked into an appointment, arrives. He tells Fedora that he has something to confess to her. He had been married before. But his wife proved unfaithful. He set about tracking the seducer. "I did not know where they went together at first," says Loris, "but I found out. The woman died but the man lived. Fedora, if you had been in my place, what would you have done?"

"I would have killed him, this wretch!"

"That is what I did. It was Vadimer Boroff."

Fedora, in despair, poisons herself but is saved from death. Then by an entirely unexpected and startling turn of destiny, the tragedy that appeared eminent is averted and Fedora and Loris find happiness at last. This picture will be shown at the Grand Theatre on Friday, December 3rd.

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