the "so-called Single Tax in Vancouver and Victoria," showing that he knows that the system there experimented with was only Single Tax in name. He suggests that what Manitoba needs is to *broaden* the basis of taxation. As the land value tax system would apply to the whole area of the Province, we wonder how far he would extend it into the Pacific or over adjacent territory.

Professor Adams, of Yale, does something more than make assertions; he dignifies the subject by argument. He makes the following assertions, whose value we leave to our readers to decide.

1. The Single Tax has been *vigorously* championed for more than a century, during which time taxes have become steadily more diversified.
2. Time proves there are several sound theories of taxation—not only one sound theory. (Illustrations are not offered.)
3. Single Taxers admit this by approving inheritance and income taxes.
4. Progressive income taxes based on ability to pay are more serviceable than Single Tax proposals based on a half truth.
5. Concedes that there is justification for heavier taxation of land than improvements.
6. Makes the point that since the war there has been an unearned increment in buildings due to increased cost of producing new buildings, therefore any attempt to exempt them would merely result in giving owner increased profit.
7. Why penalize the investor in land more than in building. He often makes no more profit than the other man.

Such are the contributions to the solution of the social problem made by the Big Three—Columbia, Harvard and Yale. "Having eyes to see, they see not; and having ears to hear they hear not," and having brains to understand—but this is making an assumption which we do not feel justified in following to its presumptive conclusion.

A few more extracts from the report will throw some light on the frame of mind of its compiler. It says, solemnly, "Our investigation of the principles involved in the Single Tax theory has convinced us that it is impossible to properly value land without having regard to the buildings upon it .....When a house is erected surely the site and building are one. (At this point one expects someone to say 'Whom God hath joined, let no man set asunder.' But no one did, perhaps, because he did not think of it.) "

It is gratifying in the discussion of so dry a subject to find an author capable of perpetuating the following and doing it quite seriously. Referring to Vancouver, the report says: "*When land was soaring, fortunes being made daily in land speculations*, and general prosperity reigned throughout the West, the Single Tax publications and supporters were boasting far and wide of the success of the theories of Henry George in Western Canada. All went well until 1912, when prosperity began to wane and the *chilling frosts* of a *monetary* stringency began to be felt. Then taxation again became a *burning* question."

Further on there is a reference to the "few years Single Tax nightmare of Vancouver and Victoria," and later on to the "Single Tax bogie in Victoria." Alas, not one redeeming feature does the author find. The summing up is in the words of Professor Plehn, of California, who finds private property in land the very root of civilization and the Single Tax the sum of all iniquities. One can almost observe the tear in his eye and the break in his voice when he says; "It taxes the poor man's land and exempts the rich man's personal property, mansions, skyscrapers and factories. It is not based on income or any other good general measure of ability to pay. It exempts nearly all monopolies and trusts. It discriminates against the small home owners, mostly the working men."

O, Universities! What idiocies are perpetuated in your names! After reading these dicta one is tempted to exclaim "Quos vult perdere Deus, priusquam obfuscat."

Part 2 of the report concludes with the figures of the Oregon and California referenda and the malediction is by DeYoung's San Francisco *Chronicle*, which describes the Single Tax proposition as "shockingly wicked and absurd."

There are other matters of interest in the report to which we would wish to advert did space permit. The commission finally recommends taxation of land at full value and improvements at two-thirds of their value and that value of land and improvements be made in separate columns. It urges business, income, special franchise and license taxes. The taxation of rural land to be on value of land only, but in village areas tax must be much as in towns previously set forth. Church exemption to be limited to building and land on which it stands, which, however, may be sold for arrears of taxes due on non-exempt portion of site.

Europe's Malady

THE New York *Commercial* recently published a new and up-to-date map of Europe which is the most frightful thing I have looked upon for many a day, when the significance of the new boundaries is considered. These are not like our own State boundaries, mere delimitations of legal jurisdictions and administrative areas, but are barriers against the economic co-operation of these nations, new and old, and as such are obstacles to the economic recovery of the continent.

That Europe is far from peace and is sick unto death is the dictum of all. Political and economic doctors alike are at their wit's end to effect a cure. A sign of hope appears in the summary of economic conditions and one of the prescriptions offered recently by the Supreme Allied Economic Council. It is the first truly radical (as distinguished from the false "radicalism" that occupies the stage and disgraces the true) utterance we have seen from any International body of responsible men, for it declares that the

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embargoes and excessive tariffs that run with these boundaries "will most seriously hamper if they do not entirely prevent the restoration of economic prosperity."

In the limits of this article but a brief allusion to the restrictions that are choking the economic life of Europe are possible, or indeed necessary, for they are mere types, representative of those duplicated in varying forms on all the boundaries.

The new States of the Austro-Hungarian Empire are each seeking to use such economic resources as they possess to gain the trade whip-hand of the others. Austria, most unfortunate of the lot, permits no imports from countries not part of the old Empire save by special license, the granting of which is dependent on the judgment of the Minister of Finance at Vienna. Her neighbors are chary about permitting exports to Austria, for she is "slow pay," having little to export in return. The Central Division of the Czecho-Slovakian Finance Department fixes the rates of exchange and controls foreign credits. The Austrian Finance Department controls terms of payment for imports as well as exchange rates.

Greece requires importers to deposit 20 per cent. of purchase price of imports in local banks, sworn statements that the goods will be used exclusively in Greece, and deposit is not refunded until customs certificate is shown and the transaction checked off. A lapse of six months forfeits the deposit. Failure to deposit prevents banks from remitting, and open credit and consignment dealings are thus prevented.

Bulgaria requires the value of all goods imported to be deposited with the Bulgarian National Bank in the name of the exporter or consignor of the goods. The money is sequestered for a period of ten months to a year, the bank paying 4 per cent. for it, or, if converted into Treasury bonds, 5½ per cent. The money may be released earlier if needed for the purchase of Bulgarian products.

Belgium has rescinded import licenses save in case of German products which might seriously compete with Belgian products. Switzerland controls imports of fuel, and as her rate of exchange is favorable to imports from all her neighbors is considering a higher tariff on many products. Great Britain herself was saved from the evils of a wholesale system of license restictions by a Court decision that the "Orders in Council" on which they were based could not operate in peace time, save as to war goods. To this fact, more than to any other, may be attributed Great Britain's more rapid recovery from the full effects of the war.

I have said little about tariffs, for in detail it is impossible to say much. The British *Board of Trade Journal* from week to week devotes whole pages to information as to the import and export duties imposed by the various commercial and financial authorities of the Continental countries, as well as the "executive orders" by which exchanges are shackled. It is a wonder that any trade at all can be done. An army of men who might be engaged in the production which all declare to be necessary for the world's salvation, must be unproductively engaged in "regulating" the exchange of the small amount of goods which are actually produced. That much "illicit" trade is going on which cannot be intercepted is really fortunate, for otherwise almost total strangulation of trade would ensue.

It is not probable that Europe can enjoy anything like the prosperity which America has enjoyed until some power capable of enforcing the decrees that no nation shall levy import duties on goods in international trade, just as the United States Constitution prohibits the imposition of interstate tariffs.

The break-up of interstate trade that would follow the setting up of a net work of interstate tariffs in this country is precisely the break-up that has followed the erection of tariffs between the old States of the Austro-Hungarian and the Russian Empires.

Were Europe free from this pestiferous strangling of trade, she could, in the course of comparatively few years, equal or surpass any prosperity that the United States has ever known, and, like our States, she would have nothing to fight about.

STEPHEN BELL.

Words to Be Recalled At This Time

I HAVE had a growing conviction for many years that making a fiscal reform of our cause would do for it what tack hammer methods did for the free trade movement. After twenty years of hair splitting and indirect floundering we find that we shall have to return to Henry George's methods after all. His clear statement of the subject and the matchless literature he gave the world is a rich legacy that all his followers should take full advantage of. But the very boldness, the honesty of purpose, the firmness of resolution, the dauntless courage with which he challenged a system that had long been looked upon as wise and natural —it was this that won the loyalty of an army of followers and proved a fortress of strength whose walls could not be broken. (Applause.)

George said that we should supplement the zeal of the propagandist by the skill of the politician; but in the same connection he said that "The advocates of a great principle should know no thought of compromise."

I have been criticized for saying that the leaders of the Movement were long on politics and short on the zeal of the propagandist. When I explain what I mean by that statement you will know why so many of us are for the "Great Adventure." Twenty years ago when Henry George ran for Mayor of New York, Frank Stephens and Arthur Stephenson headed a delegation of over twenty speakers from Philadelphia. We went to New York and all talked straight radical Single Tax. We were counseled by some of our Single Taxers, who fancied that the mantle of political wisdom had fallen about them—we were counseled not to talk the land for the people but to talk New York politics.

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