

vantage which this farmer derives from the greater fertility of his land would be increased through unfair taxation. For, after payment of the tax by both, his net product would be more than twice as great as that of his neighbor, though it was only twice as great before payment of tax.

Consequently the difference in the capital value of these two lots of land would also be increased by this method of taxation, a result not consonant with the objects of the single tax as I understand it, nor with any conception of justice.

MAX HIRSCH.

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## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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### CONCERNING EDUCATION—THE SUBMERGED TENTH.

Philadelphia, Jan. 16.—An educational tremor, a quiver of intellectual excitement, ran through the staid Quaker city on the 13th, and the next morning the papers rejoiced in another periodic awakening to civic duty. The Academy of Music was filled with three thousand people who listened for two hours to a series of strong, direct appeals for the establishment of a better school system.

The remarks were timely and to the point. In the first place it appeared that nearly a thousand children were waiting patiently on the doorstep of the Philadelphia school system for a chance to get into schools; that more than three thousand children were attending school in rented buildings and nearly fifteen thousand children were on part time—getting half an education; that for 14 children who were in the elementary schools, there was one in the high schools; and that the school buildings were unsatisfactory and the school teachers overloaded with students. Particular attention was drawn to a slaughter house, alias stable, alias school house, recently secured for educational purposes.

In the second place it appears that these conditions were not typically American, but were distinctively Philadelphian. Of ten leading cities in the United States, Philadelphia stood tenth in the proportion of children in the upper grades; ninth in the value of school property per pupil; and well down the list in items of school expenditure, and number of pupils per teacher. Not only were the Philadelphia schools defective, but they came very near being most defective. Philadelphia formed the educational submerged tenth.

And the remedy? More money for the schools—four million dollars now, and more soon to follow! A decent seat, in a decent school, for every child! God speed, City of Brotherly Love; the journey is long but the purpose is noble. It cannot but lead to ultimate success.

SCOTT NEARING.

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It is the action of an uninstructed person to reproach others for his own misfortunes; of one entering upon instruction, to reproach himself; and of one perfectly instructed, to reproach neither others nor himself.—Epictetus.

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## INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

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### THE FIRST REFORM.

Berkeley, Cal., Dec. 31.—When President Cleveland issued his tariff reform message, Henry George, in common with many others, hailed it, not without reason, as the herald of a great movement which of its own momentum would quickly develop and lead to greater things, and thought that from tariff reform an advance would be made to free trade and that eventually the culmination would be found in the taxation of land values. Before his death, however, he witnessed the tariff reform agitation adroitly diverted, lose its force by diffusion, and practically cease to exist as an issue.

So it must and will ever be, as long as the people leave the governing power to their so-called representatives. By war or other opportune incidents of the times, a reform movement can be too easily diverted and stifled before it has accomplished any practical results. It is and will be very difficult to accomplish much in the way of economic reform until a greater measure of political freedom is achieved. The mere vote for representatives does not constitute political liberty; it is but a step towards it. Not until the people can control both legislation and their servants the legislators, will political freedom be established. As long as desired legislation can be blocked by an individual or a number of representatives, as by the Speaker of the House, or by the Senate in the United States, or by the House of Lords in Great Britain, reformers will be beating their heads against a stone wall instead of uniting to remove the wall. Even President Roosevelt appealed to and urged Congress in vain for child labor legislation and direct election of Senators. He was coolly ignored and snubbed by his own party in Congress.

What is the lesson to reformers? Surely this:—"The people must rule," by direct legislation, and not relegate their power to any party or so-called representatives. Even were representatives anxious to ascertain and carry out the will of their constituents, the present system would be quite inadequate and clumsy. Where there are several issues the voter has often to choose the most important issue, and vote for the candidate or party that represents his views on that one issue, regardless of the attitude on other issues. In 1900 a voter opposed to both the occupation of the Philippines and to free silver, had to sacrifice his views on one issue and vote for the Presidential candidate or party representing his views on the other issue, instead of being able to record his vote on both issues separately, as he would under direct legislation.

The quickest and surest way to economic reform is to first secure political freedom. Let all reformers unite to establish a "government of, by and for the people" by means of direct legislation. When that is once established, as it can be very quickly if reformers would unite, it will be comparatively easy to secure other reforms. For one vote for any other reform, ten can be secured for direct legislation. The one reform on which all reformers are likely to coalesce is direct legislation, as it is the

door to all other reforms. That Oregon under direct legislation rejected the single tax and woman suffrage amendments is no argument against direct legislation. It is better that reforms be turned down by the people than by politicians. Under direct legislation reform becomes merely a matter of the education of the masses instead of one of overcoming political chicanery and the selfish prejudice of privilege-influenced legislators.

Direct legislation—the initiative and referendum—must be established in municipal government and extended as quickly as feasible to the State and Federal governments, as it is in Switzerland, before this Republic can become a true democracy.

Let reformers unite to "take the first step first." Their favorite reforms will not suffer, but on the contrary be expedited by this policy.

W. A. HUNTER.

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## NEWS NARRATIVE

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To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article, on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

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Week ending Tuesday, January 19, 1909.

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### Earthquake Rescues.

A boy who, with his two sisters, had been buried under the ruins of their home in Messina (p. 62) for nineteen days, wormed his way out on the 15th and showed the rescue-workers how to reach his sisters, who were brought out alive. They had been in a cellar in absolute darkness, but had found there a few onions, and wine, water and oil. The bodies of Arthur S. Cheney, the American consul at Messina, and his wife, were recovered from the ruins of the consulate on the 15th, by American sailors from the battleship Illinois (p. 35). Henry R. Chamberlain, writing under date of January 5 to the Chicago Tribune, thus describes the character and condition of the ruins of Messina, making it clearer why survivors and rescuers have encountered such enormous difficulties:

Messina, like most Sicilian and Southern Italian towns, was of tremendously solid construction. There usually was a facing of brick or stone and behind this a wall of rubble—a mixture of mortar and small stones—of enormous thickness. Three feet of this material was nothing unusual. The forces which nature brought to bear upon this construction eight days ago show in the result that the buildings might well have been made of sand in the same quantities and held together between surfaces of cardboard. This explains why the ruins of Messina make such an enormous mass. The buildings averaged four or five stories in height and the scrap heaps that remain are at least two stories

above the street level, including the material in the roadway itself. Another peculiarity struck me at once. An earthquake has usually some general direction—north and south, east and west, or between these points. Not so this convulsion. Debris fell in all directions, invariably into the street unless the front walls failed to give way in whatever direction the buildings faced. It was a vertical motion; apparently that is the most destructive. A horizontal shaking loosened everything, then a violent tossing throughout sent the whole construction to the ground. . . . I saw several dragged back from death covered with that everlasting mantle of white dust which made them look like living, moving plaster figures. Hundreds must have been literally smothered in it.

Mr. Chamberlain describes the rescue parties as crying constantly as they worked: "Is any one there? Is any one there?"

The story of Guisepppe Cutroneo, the first survivor of the earthquake to reach the United States, is very vivid. He arrived in Jersey City as a steerage passenger on the *Re d'Italia* from Palermo, on the 13th. Urged by his brother, who had come to the ship to meet him, and aided by interpreters, he was persuaded to tell his story, which is thus given in the *Chicago Inter Ocean*:

"I left my home early on the morning of the earthquake," he said, "to get a train for Milazzo. The train was to leave at 4 o'clock. At 4:15 o'clock I sat in the train. It was almost time to start. There was a great noise."

Cutroneo broke off and lifted his arms appealingly to his brother, saying: "I would like to tell, but it is foolish to say so little when it would take a greatly educated man a year to give the right idea."

"The car turned over on its side and moved up and down like a ship on the sea in a storm. Then the station building fell down on us. I thought I was killed. But I fought with everything my hands touched. Pretty soon, I found myself climbing through the window of the car. There had been nearly a hundred people with me in the train. I saw none of them.

"I got out and ran toward my home. Sometimes I found fallen houses in my way in the street. Sometimes the street was closed, and I turned and ran this way and that, looking for a way. Everywhere there were people, all crazy like myself—men, women, children; some with clothes, many with none. Almost all had cut faces or bodies, and many were crawling along on the ground with broken arms and legs, screaming.

"At last I found my house. The walls were still there. There were police guards in the street even then. I would go in. They say, 'No, you will be killed.'

"I tell them my wife, with the baby which is not yet born, she is there. My boy Florino, my boy Catonio, my little Madeline, who is barely old enough to walk—she, too, is in that house.

"They turn away the face, but they do not let me in. There are sixty other families in the house.

"For a day and a half I run up and down the