

SINGLE TAX REVIEW

An Illustrated Quarterly Magazine of
Single Tax Progress

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PUBLISHERS NOTES.

Will our delinquent subscribers bear in mind that the REVIEW is in need of their subscriptions?

We call our readers' attention to the advertisement of the Anniversary Edition of the Works of Henry George on our back pages. The Holidays are approaching and no more desirable Christmas gift can be made than this very handsome set of books. Order of the REVIEW and receive a year's subscription with the order. Will our readers also remember that we can supply any book they may need? Instead of ordering of the publishers or of their bookseller they can aid the REVIEW by sending in their orders to us and having such orders supplied promptly. Note terms on which the Anniversary Edition can be secured and write us for further particulars.

On another page will be found an article advocating the formation of a Single Tax colony somewhere near New York. No doubt if support could be gained for such a venture it might be made to serve as a valuable object lesson. Indeed the Single Tax will demonstrate itself much more effectively where land values are high than where land values are low. Mr. Gaynor makes a forcible plea for his project, and while the obstacles seem almost insurmountable, chiefly because of the difficulty of securing desirable land at a reasonable price, the plan is worth considering.

It is suggested by one of our correspondents that a Single Tax colony be organized somewhere in Cuba. The advantages urged are that land is cheap in Cuba now, is wonderfully fertile, and that a

colony in that country formed on the Fairhope plan might prove a great center of agitation for the taxation of Cuban land values now untaxed.

We have received a handsomely printed and illustrated pamphlet on Fairhope, which is a history of that most interesting experiment, with statement of the plan, portraits of the founders, etc. It is admirably designed to attract settlers and to convert the doubting Thomas. For if partial application of the Single Tax principles under great difficulties and not very favorable conditions work such results, what may not be hoped for its full application to the broader field of human society?

THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

We are in the mild excitement of a Presidential campaign. Never before did the result seem to interest the voters so little. The desperate efforts of the Democratic party to manufacture new issues while ignoring real and existing ones, are pathetic in the extreme. But the game is the chess play of the politicians at which the people seem merely passive spectators.

It must be remembered that the REVIEW has no partisan leanings. It does not come within our province to declare for Roosevelt, Parker, or Watson. Single Taxers are divided in the support of these three nominees, and all are able to give plausible reasons for their preference. Whether these varied activities on the part of the believers in the true economic gospel are to be deplored as tending to place the movement in an equivocal position to the outside world, or whether the activity of each group tends to widen the circle of those who are brought under the influence of our teachings, is not for us to say. The Single Taxer wherever he is is a force for righteousness and a keener intelligence in the apprehension of economic and social laws. "I do not care how you vote, but I do care how you think," Mr. George was accustomed to say to his hearers, confident that if they began to think at all they would come very soon to think right. Thus it is that while unable to co-operate with any of these groups in their separate activities, and doubtful of the wisdom of the policy of all alike, we recognize that where so little that is really vital is involved, such differences do not greatly matter. We could no more expect to find Single Taxers a unit on political issues where the Single Tax is not directly involved than upon some particular canon of art or aesthetics.

A PRIMARY CAUSE OF WAR.

We are not disposed to refuse to President Roosevelt the measure of credit that is due him for the courteous assurance to the

delegates of the Peace gathering that he would himself call a convention of the Nations to deal with pending international questions in the spirit of the Hague Conference. He is to be commended, too, for his admirably chosen words on that occasion, which breathed the spirit of amity, and evidenced a latent apprehension of the value of peace.

It is to be hoped that when the second Peace Conference convenes that the delegates will deal more largely with the fundamentals of their problem than with such questions as the prohibition of dum-dum bullets and fire balloons. Such prohibitions are important as far as they go, but they do not touch the essential matters that are a perpetual menace to the peace of Europe. Russia and Japan are engaged to-day in an exhausting struggle that might have been avoided had the question in dispute been impartially considered by a Congress of Nations, and the claims of both governments reviewed in detail. For it is impossible not to sympathize with Russia in her need of an ice-free port, and this could have been accorded to her by a pact of the nations which should at the same time have assured to Japan the immunity of Korea and all the rights that are properly hers in Manchuria. It is not at all unlikely that if the spirit which gave birth to the Hague Conference had been permitted to grow, that both Japan and Russia would have accepted without resort to arms such guarantees as the governments of the nations might have extended. These guarantees would have been respected by both governments when backed by that strong public sentiment which really exists in favor of peace, and which would have allayed that irritation occasioned among the people of each country by contemplating the other in the attitude of the aggressor.

It is not, of course, to be hoped that the members of the Conference will be in the mood to consider the secret springs of war, for the diplomatic correspondence that precedes these conflicts contains no intimation of them. But nearly all wars, and most certainly all wars of conquest, have their origin in land gambling. Governments are urged to war by private interests, more or less intimately directing the secret springs of action, and playing upon the mingled motives of the impulsive and unthinking masses. These privileged interests are always there, but always in the background, rarely emerging from their concealment. These private interests are invariably those that seek concessions in the shape of landed privileges. Thus the Russian war party, whose influence with the Czar and his counsellors was the strongest and most intimate, included those who sought and received the Imperial charter under which the Yalu Timber Company was organized. It was this baleful power, and not Russia's legitimate aspirations in Manchuria, that hastened the conflict with Japan.

And again in the recent British incursion into Thibet the same secret springs of action are disclosed in an innocent looking paragraph in the ninth article of the Convention in which it is stipulated that "no foreign power shall be permitted to construct roads or railways, or erect telegraphs or open mines anywhere in Thibet." The accomplishment of this practical annexation of the mineral resources and land values in the form of railroads and telegraphs of the country, was the real purpose which sent Col. Younghusband into Thibet, and, not, as was said, because of the interests of trade and civilization. Civilization is not advanced by punitive expeditions of this kind, and trade is best encouraged by amity.

Britain's war with the South African Republics had its origin in the same sinister beginnings. "We were unfortunate in building our country over a gold mine," Kruger is reported to have said with bitterness but in truth. How true it was the British subject of the Transvaal who toils in the mines is now finding out when brought face to face with the labor of imported Chinese coolies. Again it was a chartered company organized to gamble in the natural resources of the country (and not the disabilities of the Uitlanders) that borrowing the ear of the facile colonial secretary set in motion the engines of war.

And the conclusion of the whole argument (and it would be well if the friends of peace would realize it) is that the end of war is in sight when the natural resources of every country become the inheritance of all the people and cease to be the pawns of the gambler's chess-board.

OLIVER T. TROWBRIDGE, AUTHOR
OF "BI-SOCIALISM."

Oliver T. Trowbridge, (see frontispiece) was born at North Salem, Indiana, in 1860. It happened that Warren Worth Bailey, owner and editor of the *Johnstown, Pa., Democrat*, was born about four miles from the same place. Apparently there is, or was, something about the place that kindled a love for freedom, for more staunch supporters or more stubborn defenders of liberty than these do not live. The parents of the two boys were well acquainted before and during the War of the Rebellion.

In the year 1869 the Trowbridge family moved to a farm in Champagne County, Illinois, where the boy enjoyed, or suffered, the lot common in that day to the prairie life of Central Illinois. It was in the following year, 1870, that he first noticed the sweep of emigration to the West. One covered wagon (or "prairie schooner") followed another, in a seemingly endless procession, carrying family after family to the then frontier of Kansas and other states. As these ships of the prairie crawled their slow way past his home and past thousands of acres of the most fertile soil in the United