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THE FAIRHOPE EXAMPLE

Practical Application of the Single Tax.

"Oh, that is all very well in theory, but would it work?" is the loop-hole of escape for those people who do not want to believe a man who makes use of that expression is usually like the old lady in the story. She said that she was "open to conviction, but she would like to see this man who could convert her public house into a hotel."

"If a thing is 'sound' in theory it must work. Things that are 'sound' in theory, but don't work out, are not sound in theory. There is a flaw in them somewhere."

Single Taxers have been "theorizing" for a long time, at least, so many people tell us, but they have never done anything "practical." To those good people who very much resemble the old lady, I would point to the Fairhope example.

Eight years ago a colony was founded in Alabama, on Mobile Bay, a short distance from Mobile. They had to raise money enough to buy the land outright. For this purpose subscriptions were collected, and a joint stock company known as the Fairhope Industrial Association was formed, selling shares at \$100 each, on which no dividends are ever payable. Every shareholder has a vote in the affairs of the association, whether a real shareholder or not. All the residents are not shareholders, and all the shareholders are not residents.

On the land bought a Single Tax colony was started. Leases are granted for 99 years, with the rent fixed annually by the Executive Council or Board of Directors. That is all the tax a resident has to pay. He erects his own improvements, and uses the land as he pleases, provided his use of it is "not physically or morally offensive to a majority of the residents." His lease is transferable, and may be broken by the association only when the land is needed for public purpose, and the occupant must be compensated for the improvements.

When the county assessor comes round and makes his assessments, the association pays them. In this way the residents are taxed only on the land occupied, and the whole rent of that is taken in taxes annually. This is the Single Tax theory applied.

Today the colony is flourishing. It contains farms and town sites. It has a wharf of its own, and a steamer. "The Fairhope," runs to Mobile. The money to buy "The Fairhope" was borrowed. The Daily Register, Mobile's oldest and most influential paper, in speaking of the colony, says:

"Fairhope, the Single Tax colony in Baldwin County, and facing Mobile Bay, has continued in 1901 the progress that distinguished its earlier years. The seventh anniversary of the founding of the colony was recently celebrated, and the Fairhope Courier tells us that there have been in the year thirteen buildings erected, not counting barns and minor structures; and a net gain of twenty-two families, while the previously existing houses have been enlarged and in many other ways improved. Considering the fact that Baldwin County is a fair average of South Alabama country, and that neighboring settlements are not growing as rapidly as Fairhope is, the success of the colony must be attributed to the 'peculiar land policy' followed by the colonists. The experimental stage has been passed; it is to be presumed that there are none of the original settlers who stay there now because of the enthusiasm with which they came to the new locality. They stay because it profits them; and new settlers come because they see that the organizers have prospered. Fairhope is one of the strongest arguments offered in support of the practicality of the Single Tax theory."

The business of the association is conducted by a resident, secretary, trustees and an Executive Council of five members.

The initiative and referendum are in practical application. There are public bath houses and a public library, and also a cemetery. All these are free to residents. A monthly paper, the Fairhope Courier, is also published.

The colony is an example of the application of a theory, and has so prospered that they are now raising money to buy the adjoining land and extend the colony.

This is the greatest drawback to their extension. They must buy the adjoining land, and that takes a great deal of money, all of which has to be raised by subscription. The ground rents paid to the association by the residents is used to pay the taxes on improvements imposed by the county, and in running the association.

The colony is no longer an experiment. It is a fact, and all it needs is extending. Nothing succeeds like success, and the little Single Tax colony on Mobile Bay stands as an example for all the world of the practicability of the doctrines of Henry George.

WALTER H. ROEBUCK.

A TONSORIAL QUESTION.

From the Chicago Record Herald.

A question of jurisdiction between two trades widely divergent from each other has arisen, and may require some fine splitting of hairs in its solution. The Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of America have chartered a union of eight-foot shavers at the stock yards, and now that all the work of getting an organization on a solid basis has been accomplished, the barbers step in and claim jurisdiction. Just what this craft claims the new union cannot be learned, but the reason will be told today to Walter Mathis, a member of the State Board of Arbitration, who has volunteered to settle the vexed question. John Flaresch, president of the Packing Trades Council, and organizer of the Pigs' Post Shavers' Union, claims that the barbers' contention is far-fetched, because no soap is used in shaving pigs' feet.

COMPULSORY CHURCH ATTENDANCE.

There seems to me to be a painful inability in our city churches to deal with the problem of churching the tolling masses. The Christian church, however, has the power and authority to secure legislation, and we should have such laws

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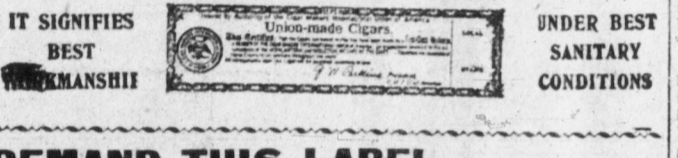
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JOHN PHILLIPS, Secretary, 78 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.

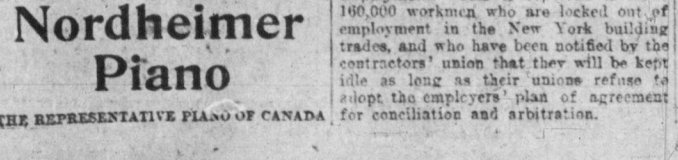
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 - Union Baking Co., 142-144 Euclid ave.
 - Gerrie Bros., 333 King st. west.
 - Dale & Harkis, cor. Woolsey & Hackney sts.
 - Borthwick Baking Co., 90 Queen W.
 - W. H. Harper, 181 Manning ave.
 - Hilton Bros., 615 Gerrard st. east.
 - R. Jose 695 Queen st. west.
 - A. W. Carrick, 172 Bay st.
 - J. D. Sleas.
 - H. Reuben, 176 York st.
 - H. F. Bothwick, 342 Queen st. east.
 - A. S. Whealey, 351 Wilton ave.
 - Peters Bros., 106 Augusta ave.
 - E. Dempsey, 465 Gerrard st. east.
 - J. E. Jeandron, 212 Carlton st.
 - Coleman Baking Co.
 - A. Luccinia, 13 Denison ave.
 - J. Regan, 1 Sullivan st.
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LABOR NOTES

Sixteen striking workmen were fined \$10 each by Judge Holden in Chicago on the 13th for violating an injunction prohibiting them from persuading men to quit the employment of an electrical company. The men had done this as "pickets." Their fines were made light because they had been advised by counsel that reasonable persuasion by "pickets" was lawful. One of the lawyers who told Judge Holden that he would continue so to advise, and who has since actually done so.

Municipalization of industry is making good progress in Italy, as evidenced by the fact that water supply has been municipalized by 151 communes, gas by 15, electric lighting 24, baths 12, wash-houses 20, slaughter-houses 171, electric trams 1, irrigation 3, special sanitary services 3, funeral transports 12, ice 4, fisheries 1, mills 1, bakeries 2, supply of chemists' drugs 2, vine nurseries 2. A bill is now before the Italian Senate to enlarge the powers of municipal bodies, among other things enabling them to undertake and control bus and cab services, telephones, street bill-posting, and the production and sale of hydraulic and electric power.

A miners' strike is in progress in Arizona over the action of mining companies with reference to the recent eight-hour labor law of the Territorial legislature. When this law went into effect on the 8th, the mining companies offered a readjustment of wages on the basis of nine hours' work for eight hours' work. The men demanded the Territorial law when that was refused a strike was ordered. Two days later the War Department ordered Federal troops to Maricopa, Arizona, where 3,000 of the strikers were said to have assumed a threatening attitude. The troops were sent at the request of the Acting Governor of the Territory. In consequence of this action by the Department the Executive Committee of the Western Federation of Miners, in session at Denver, Col., adopted resolutions on the 15th, censuring President Roosevelt. They charge that being a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, he is guilty of treason to the principles of organized labor.

Keir Harrie, M.P., in a recent issue of his paper, the Labor Leader, has an interesting Open Letter to John Burns. It is full of generous recognition of the part Burns has played in the cause of progress, but the dominant note is one of regret at the member for Battersea's lack of independence which the member for Battersea has latterly assumed. Harrie reminds him that the present powerful movement to secure the representation of labor in Parliament has grown up, not only without his aid, but in spite of his timely-voiced antagonism. "With your magnificent voice," says Harrie, "your rich imagination and attractive personality, you could rouse and lead a host of men no other man in public life could, and had you followed this course you might at this movement have been the greatest political force in England. Instead of which he seeks like Achilles in his tent, while the tide of victory sweeps on without him to prove that causes are greater than kings, and the hosts of the obscure who do deeds of valor unseen and unsung superior to belated heroes who crave the stimulant of glory."

On the American side of the Atlantic labor strikes are holding public attention. The most notable one is that of the hotel and restaurant waiters in Chicago. It began on the 4th in a demand for higher wages, shorter hours and recognition of the Waiters' Union, and spread by degrees through hotels, restaurants and clubs. Offers of arbitration were made by the employers' union, but the waiters refused to submit the question of unionism to arbitration. They also refused to deal with the employers' union as a body, on the ground that it is affiliated with an organization which is designed to destroy labor unions. On the 11th, stirred by charges of employing the strike leaders were trying to levy blackmail by demanding bribes to prevent strikes, the waiters' union declared a general strike. This was in full force on the 13th, many of the leading hotels being able to serve patrons only in unsatisfactory and uncertain ways. On the 17th, however, the joint board of cooks and waiters offered to recognize the employers' union and to arbitrate all differences. This offer being accepted, it was then understood that the strike would end on the 18th.

John A. Fleth, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, before the Banking and Commerce Committee of the Senate in discussing the Loughheed Bill, said:

"The principle of this bill strikes at the very heart of liberty, the right of free association. Surely labor has as much right as capital to organize, internationally as well as locally.

Trades unionism stands for better conditions in life, shorter hours of toil, and provides a protective fund for that purpose, as well as out of work, sick, old age, disability, and death insurance. Millions of dollars have been expended by trades unions for these purposes.

With international trades unions, the strike is the last resort. We favor conciliation and arbitration. Our opponents, the advocates of this bill, are themselves members of international trades organizations, with their headquarters in the United States, having travelling organizers, walking delegates and agitators. These unions of employers are known by such titles as 'National Metal Trades Association,' 'National Foundry Association,' 'Employees' Association,' etc. Lockouts are ordered and conducted by them, nor can a manufacturer who is a member of these associations, make a settlement with his own employes without permission from these Executive Committees, and settlement of disputes have been arranged between international representatives of employers' unions and international representatives of trades-unions of employes, to the mutual satisfaction of all parties concerned.

We simply point this out to show how inconsistent and untenable are the positions of our opponents. We are willing to recognize and treat with their unions, but their object is to destroy our organization, yet in numerous instances our members have been discharged for daring to do so; the Tudhope Carriage Company, of Orillia, of whom mention

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has been made before this committee, is an instance.

The present agitation against the organization of the working people of Canada and their friendly relationship with their fellow-workers of the United States and other countries, is a concerted, pre-arranged plan by the employers' unions.

If this bill should become law, the employer, not a British subject, is liable to lose the workmen of another employer to leave their employment and work for him, by reason of higher wages or shorter hours.

We are willing to submit our constitutions in refutation of the statement made by our opponents that any international officer has power or authority to order a strike. All headquarters of the international trades unions are not confined to the United States; some of them are in Great Britain, with branches in the United Kingdom, Canada, United States, Mexico, Australia and New Zealand, and other countries.

To get at the cause of the social unrest of the toilers, one must go deeper than the mere assertions of our opponents.

The application of the principle of conciliation, arbitration and mutual concession, and the recognition of the rights of others will be more powerful in bringing about harmony between the capitalist and the laborer.

Destroy the present organizations, the trades unions of the working people, and in their place will spring up the secret form of society, far more dangerous to society and a menace to the state.

As constituted to-day, any member of a trade union who violates the law is amenable to punishment, and any act of the whole is protected from any overt act by any trade union, and there is absolutely no reason for the proposed law being added to the Criminal Code.

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