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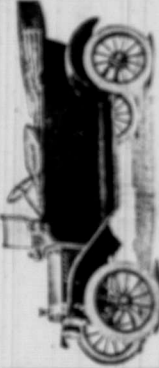
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ANDREW GRAHAM, Pomeroy P.O., Man.

for the taxation of war profits is certain.

That there will be a debate in the House on the question of Free Wheat has been made certain by a notice given by J. G. Turfiff just as I close my letter. The member for Assiniboia will move: "That, in the opinion of this House, in order to secure to the farmers and people of Canada the advantages of the American market for wheat, wheat products and potatoes, steps should be taken at once to put these articles on the free list in the Canadian tariff."

It looks as tho at least one interesting debate has already been provided for.

A MARK TWAIN JOKE

"I enjoyed your sermon this morning very much," said Mark Twain to a clergyman of his acquaintance. "I welcomed it like an old friend. I have, you know, a book at home containing every word of it."

"You have not," said the preacher. "I have. Indeed," returned the humorist.

"Well, send that book to me. I'd like to see it."

"You shall," Mark Twain replied.

And he sent the next morning an unabridged dictionary to the minister.

SINGLE TAX AND THE FARMER

Speaking at a political meeting in Ohio, Tom L. Johnson, the great preacher of Democracy, who was mayor of Cleveland at the time, was asked if he favored placing taxes on land. Mr. Johnson replied:

"A tax on land would be an unjust and iniquitous system, but a tax on land values would be the most just and blessed system that the world has ever known. Farmers are great owners of land, but not of land values. We have land in our cities that sells at the rate of five million dollars per acre—any of you farmers got land as valuable as that? In New York City there is land that sells for fifteen million dollars per acre. I will tell of a little talk I had one day with Congressman Pierson, of Tuscarawas County, when we were in Washington together. Pierson was a farmer, and he said to me one day: 'Tom, I cannot go your Single Tax as it would be a hardship on the farmers, and they already have more than their share of the burden of taxation.'

"I said: 'Look here, Pierson, if I thought the Single Tax would increase the farmers' burden, I would not stand for it for one minute. In fact, if I did not know it would be the greatest blessing to the farmers and the workmen in the city, I never would advocate it again. I can show you that the Single Tax will lighten the farmers' burden as compared with the present method. Let me ask you some questions—to see if we can't get at the facts in the matter. How much, Mr. Pierson, of the present tax-burden do you think the farmer bears?'

"'Well,' he answered, 'the farmers constitute over half the population of the United States, and I should say that they pay at least 60 per cent. of all taxes.'

"'Very well, let's call it 50 per cent. to be safe.'

"'No, no,' said Mr. Pierson, 'that is too low, they pay more than 60 per cent.—rather than less.'

"'All right, but to be safe let's call it 50 per cent. Now, Mr. Pierson, I want you to tell me how much of the value of land the farmers of the United States have? Please take into consideration all the valuable coal lands, the iron, silver, gold, copper and other valuable mines—the water power privileges, the railroads and their terminals, including street railroads, telephones and telegraphs, for these are built on the most valuable lands; all the gas and electric lighting rights of way, built on land of great value; all the city lots, some of which are worth more than a county of farming land. I want you to take all these into consideration and then tell me how much of the land value the farmers of the United States have.'

"'Mr. Pierson said: 'Well, I should say, less than 5 per cent.' I said: 'Call it 10 per cent. to be safe.'

"'Oh, no, no; that's entirely too high; that's double.'

"'Well, we will call it 10 per cent. anyway. Now, don't you see that if all the taxes were raised by a single tax on land values, since the farmers have only 10 per cent. of those values (you say 5) their taxes would be reduced to only one-fifth of what they now are!—that instead of paying one-half the taxes as now, they would under that plan pay but one-tenth!'

"'I declare, Tom, I never looked at it in that light, and I guess you have got me.'

"'So I say to you farmers here tonight, that this Single Tax, of which I am proud to be an advocate, would be to the overburdened farmers and workmen the greatest boon, the greatest blessing, the greatest Godsend that any country ever knew.'

ALIVE WITH THE DEAD

The wounded Irish soldier was relating his adventures to the inquisitive old lady visitor.

"'After we captured th' hill, mum," he said, "we hid it for a while, but was eventually forced to retreat by th' weight av numbers."

"'And were there many dead left on the hill," she asked, anxiously. "'Dead!" he echoed. "'What, the whole hillside was simply alive with them!"

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