

The first essential change in government: Levy no taxes and collect the ground rent for public purposes.

THE PROBE

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LOCAL GREENFIELD

Mrs. George Leach and Mrs. Lee Strickler of Harrisburg, Pa., visited their sister, Mrs. John Bashiest, 618 Monteiro St., the other day.

Vote against every item in the bond issue. The land owners of Pittsburgh still collect and keep over thirty million dollars of public money and it is nothing short of criminal to issue bonds.

1776 YEAR STUFF

By CONSERVATUS

Shaw's dictum that every man over 40 is a scoundrel was formerly laughed at. It is no longer laughed at; it is believed.

"What's that flag for?" shouted the impassioned orator at the school exercises, pointing dramatically to the decoration and pausing for effect.

"Please, sir, to hide the dirt on the wall," piped up a little girl on the front bench.

Spies, informers, government agents and the like are the spawn of despotism.

Edmund Burke 120 years ago spoke of English workingmen as "the swinish multitude." Every member of the present British cabinet thinks the same of the working classes, but they do not dare to say so. There's Progress for you!

The child mind that is interested in details of German atrocities thinks they are a new thing in the world. Doubtless German newspapers thrilled the childmind of Germany with tales of how our conscripted American Indians scalped wounded German soldiers.

If peace could be gained by slaughtering men the world had never lost it.

Judas betrayed only one man and is execrated by the whole world. What should be the punishment of a ruler who led his party into the enemy's camp and betrayed not one man but millions?

Every man in public office is a public servant. How lovely!

We are told that in times past people worshipped animals. "Times past," did you say? Why bless your simple soul, in this 20th century and in the fierce light of Democracy (such as 'tis) let an ass be elevated to the highest office and millions will level their shins at his shrine.

Where the people are the greatest dupes of the politician, there the delusion is strongest that the people rule.

The vast financial gains to be made out of war, the docility of the people and our form of government which lends itself so easily to military exploits, all make for war as a continuous performance.

The ease with which the Interests sprung the war surprised and delighted them. The feebleness of the opposition to conscription emboldened them to pass the espionage act, since which time their insolence is boundless.

Putting a man in high office we give him a megaphone and his voice reaches the ears of all the people. Those with the longest ears mistake his voice for the voice of God.

From 1782 to 1917 the American people (negroes excepted) were comparatively free and gradually attaining greater freedom. All that they can hope for now is an occasional benevolent despot.

COMMENTS

By NOREN

One of the curses of war is the omnipresence of the bully and the busybody.

And a certain idealist statesman traded human liberty for a mess of pottage and gave the pottage to England.

The big three succeeded in making the world unsafe for democracy and I guess that's what they set out to do.

After royalty's secret treaties have been ratified to the last detail President Wilson may take up the question of relief for the poor, who are in prison for opinion's sake.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

ROBT. M. ERSKINE

Real Estate and Insurance
Phone Hazel 17-R 115 Greenfield Ave.

EAT RUDOLPH'S

Home Dressed MEAT
IT'S THE BEST YOU CAN BUY

LOST—Gold pendant with opal and pearls. Finder will receive reward by returning it to 4242 Winterburn Street.

Suppose the worst: Wilson vs. Penrose. If no third choice, I, a Democrat, would choose Penrose, if for no other reason than that 26 Broadway is nearer home than Lombard Street.

The deportation of I. W. W. agitators shows that the department of Labor is the agency responsible for the presence of the "post" in apostasy. —K.

I have an idea that the Democratic (?) Administration put all these pacifists and other liberty loving people in the penitentiaries so they would not bother the profiteers during the time the President had to be in Europe.

Dear Mr. President: I am for doubling your salary, if you don't come home.

It is whispered in Democratic circles that A. Mitchell Palmer is being groomed as that party's nominee for president. Palmer is a tory reactionary from toryville. He is said to have President Wilson's support and that alone would be enough to damn him beyond hope. I do hope he will not be nominated, but if he is it will be my delight as a Democrat to vote him back for a long stay at his home town, toryville.

We can blame it on Col. House. He was a poor adviser.

White flour is unfit for food. And when you see bread advertised on bill boards it is a sure sign it is horribly poor bread or it wouldn't be so hard to sell.

Weekly Price List

Read this list carefully, prices revised every week.

PAY NO MORE

Store opens at 8, closes at 6
Except Saturdays.

Mosquito Netting, 15c yd.

"Close Fit" cap shape Hair nets, black, dark brown, light brown, medium brown and blond, 15c; two Nets for -----25c
"Close Fit" Hair Nets in grey, each -----25c

Fringe Hair Nets, sometimes called straight; made in France, of genuine hair; full size, 38x40, 10c; three Nets for -----25c

Hair Pins of all kinds, Bone, Celluloid and Wire.

Barrettes -----5 and 10c

Electric Curlers -----2 for 10c

Curling Tongs -----10c

Boye Hair Curlers -----4 for 5c

Silk Thread, all colors, 50 yards only, 8; two spools for -----15c

Black and White, 100 yards only -----15c

O. N. T. Machine Thread, black and white, sizes, 8 to 100, spool 6c

O. N. T. Machine Thread, in colors, spool -----6c

O. N. T. Mercerized Crochet Thread, all sizes 3 to 100, in White; ball 10c, per box of 12 balls -----\$1.00

O. N. T. Mercerized Crochet Thread in colors, No. 30, ball -----10c

O. N. T. Embroidery Cotton, long skeins, 3c; two for -----5c

Silkateen, white, black and colors 8c

Utopia four strand, white and colors -----8c

O. N. T. Pearl Cotton, No. 3 and 5, -----10c

Bias Seam Binding, lawn and cambric, black and white, all sizes, 12 yards -----20c

Ric Rac, all sizes -----10c to 19c

3 more Snap Fasteners -----19

Hooks and Eyes -----5c

Lingerie Tape, white, pink, blue -----10c

Kleimert's Dress Shields -----35c

Middy Lacers -----5c

Thimbles (silver), all sizes -----5c

All sizes of rubber and pearl buttons.

Ladies' Dressing Combs -----25c to \$1.50

Fine Combs -----19c

Needles for all makes of machines, a package of two needles for -----5c

Sewing Machine Belts, long enough for all makes of machines -----25c

COUPON

—For—

Noriton Toilet Paper

(Fine Tissue Crepe)

6 rolls for -----25c

13 rolls for -----50c

27 rolls for -----\$1.00

55 rolls for -----\$2.00

BRING BASKETS—NONE WRAPPED.

None sold at this price without Coupon. Coupon good for four days after the date of issue.



"Best Made"

R. & J. Muslin Underwaists for girls, with supporters. Highest grade made.

63c

H. B.

Anchor Brand Muslin Panty Waist for boys. It will wear.

43c

"Little Wonder" Muslin Panty Waists for girls, without supporter. A marvel at the price.43c

"Best Made" Children's Muslin Drawers, hem stitched ruffle, covered seams. 4 to 14 years.35c

"Best Made" Children's Muslin Drawers, French seams, embroidery trimmed. 2 to 12 years.38c

"Best Made" Misses' Muslin Drawers. All seams covered; embroidery trimmed; high grade goods. Sizes 14, 16, 18.59c

Black Veiling, fine mess with and without figure; high grade, yard -----25c

Fancy Aprons -----15c, 33 and 69c

Bungalow Aprons -----79c to \$2.50

Boys' Blouses, goods that will wash; each -----\$1.00

Laces and Embroideries, 5c yard up.

Curtain poles and brackets, poles 25c each, brass brackets, 50c a pair.

Boys' Knee Pants, 60c to -----\$2.25

Window Shades -----69c

Carpet Tacks, all sizes -----5c



King Fly Swatter -----9c

Princess Fly Swatter with cloth-covered edges -----10c

Box Writing Papers, Tablets, Inks, Envelopes, Pens and Pencils Glue and Mucilage.

Receipt books, Memorandum books, Book straps, Pencil boxes, etc.

HIGH GRADE INFANT'S AND CHILDREN'S WOOL GARMENTS



Infant's Knit Bands, without sleeves, wool plated, mercerized finish, the kind you have always bought, all sizes -----60c

Same as above, in all pure Australian Wool, all sizes -----75c

Fold Over Shirts, sleeves, Merino, mercerized finish, sizes one to six (up to 4 years); this Shirt is 60% wool, an unusually large percentage at this price, per garment -----95c

Same as above in all pure Australian Wool (up to 3 years) -----\$1.50



Knit Shirts, button front, sleeves, Merino, mercerized finish, 60% wool; sizes, infants to 6 years -----\$1.00

Same as above, all pure Australian Wool, silk finish; up to 6 years -----\$1.25

Bird's Eye, Diaper Cloth, yard -----35c

High grade Nainsook -----35c

Extra fine Lingerie cloth, or Nainsook, yard -----50c

Dimity, yard -----25c

Toweling, part linen, yard -----27c

P. K., extra value, yard -----50c

Flannelette, pink, white, yard -----27c

Grey, extra fine grade, yard -----45c

Longcloth, yard -----30c

Lancaster Gingham, yard -----20c

Chambray Gingham, yard -----38c

Sateen, absolutely fast black, yd. -----45 and 60c

Mersey cloth, black, for lining, yard -----55c

Cambric lining, white, yard -----25c

Pillow Tubing, 42-in. -----35c

Mohawk Sheets, 81x90 -----\$1.75

Meritas brand, white Oil Cloth 1 1/4 yard wide, highest grade, yard -----45c

Turkish Towels, each -----25c and 50c

Turkish Bibs, large -----19c

Fine Face Cloths -----15c

NOREN'S

Greenfield Ave., and Winterburn St.

EXCERPT FROM A PRIVATE LETTER

"Anchorage, Alaska,
March 29th, 1919.

"We have been 'dry' up here now for a couple of years. Dry and very moral—not. Most everybody is making their own 'hooch' out of dried apples, etc. The sales of Vanilla and Lemon extract are super-abnormal. It's great stuff. Every man his own brewer."

Blessed be the Prohibitionists who made it possible to get a drink that hadn't first seen a tax gatherer.

Telegram of National Retail Dry Goods Association to Commissioner of Internal Revenue:

"As an indication of the difficulties retailers face in attempting to administer the Luxury Tax, Section 904, without specific interpretations from you, may I cite a typical experience of a merchant who has just telephoned me by long distance.

"Acting on unofficial ruling from your department that corsets are taxable as underwear, this store has collected the tax. All other stores in his city are selling corsets without collecting the tax.

"This creates intolerable conditions and unfair competition. May we have definite decision regarding corsets?"

"Also, may we again urge the importance of early issuance of all interpretations concerning taxable merchandise?"

The above shows how far our Congress will go to shield land monopoly and put ridiculous and crushing taxes on labor. Why not turn the drafting of tax bills over to the inmates of Dixmont and other institutions for the feeble minded? They couldn't draft worse ones and they might make a vast improvement over the present thing dictated by land monopoly.

The woman suffrage agitation in Washington is bearing fruit in unexpected quarters. One after another of official underlings reflecting the mental attitude of their superiors (?) have had to be sacrificed. The first to go, according to the Suffragist, was Major Sylvester, the incompetent head of the Washington police force. "The next man was Superintendent Whitaker of Occoquan Workhouse, following the suffragists' exposure of the frightful conditions for which he was responsible, and their filing of damage suits for \$400,000.00 against the officials of Occoquan and the District Commissioners." The third is Louis C. Zinkham, Superintendent of the District of Columbia jail. Zinkham conducted his jail much as a sewer, it is said, where women, rats and vermin were forced to share quarters impartially. It is to be hoped the women "pickets" will reach our silk hatted servants who used these dismissed officials for their dirty work.

Politicians whose work can not bear discussion seem to think the Tsar didn't know how to draw up and apply sedition laws.

A friend writes: " * * * I send you a clipping from *The Times*, which indicates that Socialism in the form of co-operative unions, has quite a little stock in benighted Russia. Does this not indicate that it might be quite successful under some enlightened auspices."

The *Times* story goes on to tell how the co-operative unions in Russia (we would call them co-operative societies here) refused to comply with the demands of the Bolshevik government. These societies of co-operatives, of no political character whatever, were so strong economically that they defeated the nationalization of their properties as attempted by the Bolsheviks.

We will just refuse to let our Socialist friends have it both ways. If voluntary co-operative business enterprise is Socialism, then Marxism, as the Bolsheviks see it, is not Socialism.

While many Socialists repudiate some theories of Marx, they yet attest the genuineness of their faith by identifying themselves as Marxians.

Marx is the prophet of Socialism and Socialists seem agreed that the Bolsheviks are trying to apply Marxian Socialism in its purity. They are also agreed that the forces that are trying to overthrow the Bolshevik government are trying to overthrow Socialism.

I do not believe Socialism has one basic principle, not one unchanging fundamental upon which all Socialists agree. I used to think that they all meant the same thing by their term, "Co-operative Commonwealth," but it seems not. At any rate if a voluntary co-operative society defies the socialist government of its own country, what becomes of the Co-operative Commonwealth?

It seems as though our Socialist friends had decided to call anything that comes out on top, Socialism. If they keep on they will soon be pointing to the Standard Oil Company, as a successful example of Socialism.

It is of no great moment how we co-operate. Whether we do it by the smallest individual independent unit or by partnerships or by extensive co-operative societies. We can not know which is the best method unless we first have free trade and Single Tax. The method that seems best now, when some businesses are overburdened with taxes and licenses, while others are empowered to levy tribute, may not be the best when all operate in freedom.

Grant that large, statewide units of industry gave each co-operator the largest wages in money, nails, carpets, sugar and what not. I might want to forego all that, live frugally, and watch the flowers grow in my garden.

The first essential is that every man

be free. That no power remains in any man's hand to levy tribute on his fellows.

The Single Tax provides a means to give every man freedom. Socialism draws all men into a net in which none are free.

Our Democratic Administration is degenerating to poker game tactics for sure. It succeeded in bluffing the three year navy program on Congress by such devices as secret messages, etc.

Now it is working the other end of the game by cancelling the three year program with the threat that unless the League of Armed Nations is endorsed and the treaty ratified the three year program will be adhered to. The Administration forgets there will be a showdown and that their secret tricks won't look so clever with all cards exposed.

Judging by his letter to Walsh one would naturally think Lansing was Secretary of State for England. Hail Walsh, American!

Who would ever have thought that a President of the United States should agree to treaties made by kings in secrecy. God, what have the American people done that they should bear so great a humiliation?

Wilson's Administration evidently refuses to recognize the Russian government on the ground that it is a pacifist government. That is the only possible conclusion judging from the liberal support granted the Kolchak tyranny and the hasty recognition of the cut-throat murderous band under General Mannerheim in Finland. On the other hand it may be that the President is displeased at the Russians for doing as he said, and not as he did. The President wanted "open covenants openly arrived at." The Russians published and repudiated the secret treaties entered into by their Tsar with the entente allies.

The President has since agreed to abide by these secret treaties and the United States will be a party to their enforcements. Secret covenants secretly arrived at has been accepted by President Wilson and to the Russian government who stands for open covenants he refuses recognition. I suggest the following motto for the President, "Listen not to my voice but observe my handiwork."

Art Young's pictures of men in full dress makes "Good Morning" look more like good evening.

Probably fear of spilling secret treaties keeps "Kernel" House silent.

I notice the Germania Savings Bank has changed its name. Wonder what was wrong?

"What kind of a world is it going to be? Shall we drift back to the old round of national self-interest, crooked diplomacy, 'real politik' with its gospel of blood and iron, of the exploitation of the weak by the strong, and let it all run its devious and dubious course to another inferno perhaps deeper and more fiery than this in which we are caught today? Or is there some other way? If so, what is it? These questions 'The World Tomorrow' is seeking to answer. Will you join us in the quest?"

No thanks, I will not join in a wild goose chase. Forty years ago Henry George gave a complete solution to the questions The World Tomorrow raises. If it were possible to furnish one more or fifty more complete answers to these chasers of the quest, they would succeed in getting forty years away from all of them, just as they did from George's. No mind can possibly be benefitted by reading The World Tomorrow, (or its parents, or its children—the family is large.) For while it pretends to want answers to its questions it would really be shocked and disappointed to be pinned down to one. This class of publications does not love the truth nor seek it. Their so-called quest is but a race around a circle following faithfully their own tracks, which they love.

If the good Lord blocked their way with a new set of commandments in stone, with charts and detailed directions in answer to their quest—what would they do?

They would set the tablets aside and appoint a committee of professors to measure their length and their width and to weigh them. They would endeavor to discover their origin, the composition of the stone, their probable duration under varying climatic conditions.

Learned men would discover hidden meanings and keys for complicated readings of the text backwards and by skipping certain words. And they would write books enough to fill a large house which they would call a library of catalogued learning, etc., etc.

If any one should read the plain text of the commandments and want to act thereon he would be called simple. He would be told to go read all the books in the library and to join the "quest" around the circle and follow faithfully in his own tracks. I certainly am not in love with the plute press. But a friend handed me a copy of the New York Tribune the other day. I read only the editorials and the real estate sections, yet I will confess that the observant thinking man will more quickly discover what is right and wrong and the remedy for the wrong from the New York plute press than from "The World Tomorrow," "The Dial," "The New Republic," "The Survey" and all the rest of the wishy washy brood.

Nothing is safer than hitting a

straw man. It is easier than thinking, and the poor thing can't hit back. Competition is the popular straw man today. Even Bishops are throwing fits at the straitjacketed thing they erect and label "competition." Here is how the Rt. Rev. Charles Gore, Bishop of Oxford, at St. Michael's Church, London, hands it to what he has been told is competition: "In the industrial world we found that this unrestricted competition which had been described as the setting of man free was really the enslaving of the masses of men."

Of course the Bishop found nothing of the kind. He is merely clothing in different words an old exploded socialist dogma.

The good Bishop has enough handles to his name to furnish legs and arms to a straw man all his own; but, I suppose to avoid competing with the Socialists, he co-operates with them and hits theirs. I dare say the land owners have some friend in Bishop Gore. So long as they can rack rent labor into abject poverty and lay the blame on competition and get away with it, their game is perfectly safe.

In the Bishop's own city, land monopoly reigns supreme. All over that city's business streets, monopolists draw a larger yearly income from a ten foot front of land than the highest paid mechanic gets for a year's productive toil.

So long as Bishops lay the blame for such conditions on competition between laborers instead of on land monopoly, land owners will call them great and treat them handsomely, I am sure.

I spied Good Morning on the news stand. "Gosh," says I, "that ain't no bigger than The Probe." But it was. It had sixteen pages to The Probe's four; so it wasn't so narrow an escape after all. The Probe is still the littiest and the best.

There is nothing in the record to show that there was anything Lloyd George forgot to ask for, that Woodrow Wilson forgot to grant. The Biblical, "Ask and ye shall receive" was taken literally by both.

To the editor of The Probe:

Permit me to point out to your Single Tax readers one of the many fallacies contained in the James Bann article of your issue of May 15th. Mr. Bann's assertion that "all wealth is produced by labor and belongs to the laborer," whether this statement is original with Mr. Bann or quoted by him, is incomplete and therefore misleading. Wealth is not produced by labor alone; it is produced by labor applied to land. That is to say, two factors, not one, enter into the production of wealth, namely, land and labor, and neither alone is capable of producing wealth. Mr. Bann might say that this is a mere quibble, that

everyone knows labor can produce nothing from nothing and of course anyone who wanted to understand him would know what he meant. Unfortunately this is not the case. Few, very few indeed, ever think of or consider land as being an important part in production. But even though Mr. Bann accepts the amendment that all wealth is produced by labor applied to land, it does not logically follow, as he says, that it belongs to the laborer. Only that part of the wealth so produced which is the result of his labor belongs to him. The other part belongs to those who have been excluded from the land or site which the laborer occupied and used. To those who understand the law of rent this will be perfectly clear. To those who have not a complete grasp and comprehension of this law—and Mr. Bann evidently has not—this explanation will not be understood. But it is not my purpose to teach Mr. Bann the law of Rent. It is rather to caution Single Taxers against making incomplete and illogical statements of the same kind that we have been considering. Many of us, following Mr. George blindly, have used the argument that land values "are wealth produced by the community as a whole, or by its presence," and therefore belongs to the community. This is distinctly false reasoning. The true reason is: Rent belongs to all because the earth belongs to all. Or, to use the term value in place of rent; if value attaches to anything, that value properly belongs to the owner of the thing. Further, it is not true that "because the community creates land values, therefore land values belong to the community," for all values arise in or are created by the community, and if creation were a valid basis for ownership, then the community would be the owner of everything to which value happened to attach.

C. F. SHANDREW.

Philadelphia, May 24th, 1919.

Mr. Shandrew has made further comments on objections to the Single Tax made by Mr. James Bann in The Probe of May 15, 1919, as explained by the following letter:

To the Editor of The Probe:

An Offer.

Agreeing with you that "it is time that we examine our presentation of Single Tax," I submit the following offer:

To those of your readers who find Mr. Bann's objections puzzling or who have not the time or inclination to unravel them, yet would like to have them answered I will send a type-written reply on request. I do this for the reason that a full reply to Mr. Bann takes up too much of The Probe's limited space, and for the further reason that the discussion being academic probably interests only a small number of readers.

Yours truly,

C. F. SHANDREW,

Lock Box 1413, Philadelphia.