

SPECIAL ARTICLES.

FREEDOM'S BATTLE.

Twenty-five years ago the bearing of the American workman was very different from that we notice in him today.

The American workman earned good wages, lived well, worked whenever he pleased and no boss felt inclined to dictate terms to him.

The workingman, less sagacious, harked carelessly in the warm beams of general prosperity, unsuspecting the treachery of fate.

What did not the sublime attitude of that boy promise of great and noble in his march!

That triumphal epoch for Labor, however, was of short duration. The monopolists for whose interests the economic net was being woven played one of their games, and 1873 was upon us.

Soon, however, in his efforts to resume an erect attitude and recover his place in the economic realm, he felt a weight hampering his moves, and heard a noise like the rattling of chains.

"What does that mean?" he inquires, in alarmed surprise. "Am I fettered, I a free-born American?"

Another clatter of the chain startles him; "I am in free America," he resumes with an air of defiance on his face, "and I will soon emphasize this fact at the ballot box."

In the month of August, 1893, another clap of financial thundering threw the working class prostrate, helpless and starving.

Had not workmen been blinded by political superstitions, they had long ago known that Labor is gagged and enslaved.

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stolen horse contends that he has vested rights in the animal for which he paid hard-earned cash.

Vested rights are a humbug. There are no rights but natural rights, or at least equal rights. There are no laws but natural laws.

With the single-tax in operation the desolation of country life would be removed. All the land would soon be put to good use.

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CHAPTER 25, H. F. 30, GENERAL LAWS OF 1893. AN ACT DECLARING IT A MISDEMEANOR ON THE PART OF EMPLOYERS TO REQUIRE AS A CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT THE SURRENDER OF ANY RIGHT OF CITIZENSHIP.

SECTION 1. Any person or partnership carrying on any trade or business in this state, and any corporation chartered under general or special laws, foreign or domestic, and exercising public or private franchises therein, are hereby forbidden from requiring or demanding of any servant or employee, on any condition whatsoever, the surrender in writing or by parole, or the abandonment, or any agreement to abandon any lawful right or privilege of citizenship, public or private, political or social, moral or religious, or whose exercise or enjoyment is guaranteed by any law of the United States.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage. Approved March 3, 1893.

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contended that the act violated the fourteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States in that the employer and employee are not equally protected.

It is believed that the Soo will appeal. This is a valuable present, a memorable past, and an uncertain future.

LINES.

Swing inward, O gates of the future, Swing outward, ye doors of the past, For the soul of the people is moving, And rising from slumber at last:

THE EARTH FOR THE LIVING.

Now we are reaching the issue. Where will we find you? Does money and the love of money own you?

There is no doubt that the political and economic system under which the country has labored the past thirty or forty years has resulted, and is resulting, in making the poor poorer, and the rich more offensively and more unfairly rich.

A law to break up all very large estates at the owner's death—not to take away from any living man anything which he has got—will do this. A law to effect a better distribution of the country's wealth; not to prevent any man from accumulating during his lifetime all that he can see fit.

A POLITICAL pointer—the nose of the candidate. A MAN is nearer a woman's ideal than a woman is.

WHEN love fills the heart, the pockets may go empty. DEATH is a graveyard, and in it our errors are buried.

WHEN you borrow trouble you will confer a favor by not returning it. THE free-lunch counter is playing to standing room only in these times.

A POLITICAL SYMPOSIAC.

BY F. A. MYERS.

A.—Mr. B., what do you regard as the characteristic difference of the two leading parties of today?

B.—Not to answer you abruptly or smartly, but, nevertheless conveying more meaning and truth in few words than I almost dare to confess, I may say that the characteristic difference of the two great parties at this time is simply opposition—that and little else.

A.—I humbly beg to enter an opinion slightly at variance to yours. If General Von Moltke was correct in his view that wars are necessary to sound morality and healthy human progress, then our political campaigns, wherein is a hot contest of ideas with much of human passion and excessive opinions, are an escape valve which, amid the smoke and dust and shouts of excited men, permit the sifting of the chaff from the truth, and fix some questions with a definiteness and certainty not to be mistaken.

B.—You might add, friend A., that fogginess, which is proof against progress and is illiberal and dull, aids in this lamentable result in no small degree.

A.—Yes, just so. But, it argues a deplorable social grade of the people that reform should play so prominent part in the elections.

B.—Fifth and tenth rate politicians are as easily grown in this country as softshells or mushrooms in the most favorable climate.

A.—This is true, I am profoundly convinced, in a local as well as a national sense. However, in local politics I fear we cannot dissociate the temptation of the big salaries from the adoption of corrupt methods to obtain them.

B.—Your remarks are very obvious. While election day is a kindly prerogative and legal right given every free, intelligent American citizen, and an equality of principles and conditions granted to every voter, yet, we are sorry to say, very few practice their constitutional blessings with kingly forethought, independent of party trammels and party exactions.

A.—The purity and sacredness of the ballot-box is a theme that even the most recent past furnishes abundant matter for serious reflection and caustic comment.

B.—There is no doubt the people must arouse to their own interests, and counter-balance the interests of demagogues and party.

honest beliefs, and some hold to party doctrine from true principle and conscientious motives, but many are of this or that political faith because "father was so," or because they were "brought up that way"—bred and born in them, so to speak—or because they are soreheads or perhaps want office.

A.—Yes, true, election methods are substituted for national polity and the greatest good to the greatest number. In a word, the privileges of the voter are lost sight of entirely in the howls of the bosses, and ward-buffers, and ringleaders, and literary bureaus, and brass bands, and howling mobs, and flambeau parades, and the like.

B.—The Pacific character of the people, marvelous when we contemplate their peaceable and complete submission to the decision of the polls, even after a most exciting campaign. It is well that we do abide so quietly and orderly and intelligently by the decision of the majority. But the war of the rebellion—I speak from the standpoint of historical philosophy—is too fresh and clear a lesson of the folly of the minority kicking against the will of the majority.

A.—Demagogues, who are nothing more than political tramps and disgruntled politicians—little men at best, without principle and full of petty spite and personal or selfish motives—often defeat good men, good causes and great principles. They should be, if justice is considered, "sat down hard" using a current phrase—and spit on and rubbed out, they corral ignorant voters and vote them in solid, serried ranks—in "blocks of five." These demagogues are a perpetual menace to our free institutions.

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ANOTHER SINGLE-TAX CULY.

BY W. H. STUART.

How would security of tenure be under a single-tax regime? The devoted George, the apostle of the tax, sees in the law of rent an evidence of the Divine Will, by which is created that will increase in direct ratio the increase of population, and upon which society can draw for all the purposes of revenue.

Let us see. Take the case of a farmer took up land near a thriving village; he was to pay the increased rent in order to be able to erect suitable farm buildings and other improvements, a system of subsoil drainage, perhaps.

Or, take the case of the mechanic, the same town, took up a lot for a house, the rental value of which he felt able to build himself a pretty home, and spare time for three or four years in improvements, fences, a garden, etc.

But, alas! the government decided to erect an expensive federal building in the block, business took a rush in his direction, became valuable for business, his rent doubled and quadrupled, and he finally forced to abandon his improvement, and move his home to a part of the town, the undesirable lot to be sold from possible improvements and increase of rent.

We are not, however, concerned to consider these cases. We have seen how a community is affected by rapid increase in real estate values. The government has recently paid over \$10,000,000 for a site for a federal building in San Francisco expected to cost three or four millions.

A few weeks ago, on the occasion of "Cago day" at the Columbian Exposition, part of the exhibit was the Indian village of the present Cago. Think of the enormous gross value of the Indian village!

It is pointed out by George that it is not of tenure, not absolute ownership of the land that is required to insure the best use of it, and we are pointed to the fact that some of the most expensive buildings in London and other cities are erected on leased land.

It is urged by some apologists of the single-tax—and, by the way, the defence of theory, like the defence of orthodox religious dogma, is a favorite hobby of the parties outbidding the owners of improvements for the use of the land would be required to pay the owner the value of improvements. This plan is a clumsy way to get over a difficulty not anticipated by the author of "Progress and Poverty."

EVERY condition of life, if attended with virtue, is undisturbed and delightful; but when vice is intermixed, it renders even things that appear sumptuous and magnificent, distasteful and uneasy to the possessor.

HUMILITY is not a weak and timid quality; it must be carefully distinguished from a groveling spirit. There is such a thing as honest pride and self-respect. Though we may be servants of all, we should be servile to none.—E. H. Chapin.

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