

To the Editor:

It was sixty years ago that I became interested in social problems. I had read *Looking Backward* by Bellamy, and thought something could be done toward realizing his dream of a better world. I organized a Nationalist Club in Kansas City, but soon after came across a copy of Henry George's *Standard* on a newsstand and was immediately sure that I had found the right philosophy of political economy.

For want of a better name we spoke of ourselves as being in the "single-tax movement," but that name stands for the ideal aimed at of repealing all taxes upon the products of labor, leaving only the tax upon ground rent, determined by the site value of land. In those days this legitimate source of public revenue would have supplied all expenses of government — local, state and federal. Indeed, many of our people, including Thomas G. Shearman, called themselves "limited single-taxers" believing that only a part of the available ground rent would be needed.

If the Henry George philosophy, including international free trade, had been adopted, there is every reason to believe that the subsequent international wars would not have taken place; but their enormous expense has been responsible for greatly increased taxation and many additional kinds of taxes. Most unfortunate of all of these was the graduated income tax of 1921 which violated the sanctity of private property confiscating it through the same philosophy and methods used by highwaymen.

Henry George was not discouraged by the slow progress of his philosophy, which is based upon justice and common sense, and we should not be.

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