

U.S. Votes on Rent Tax

A significant and refreshing incident occurred in the House of Representatives at Washington the other day which has thus far escaped the attention which it deserves. A social land value taxation amendment to a District of Columbia tax measure received about 25 per cent of the votes cast. The last previous vote on a similar measure was only about 3 percent favorable.

This has aroused a new interest in the subject and it is safe to predict that the Henry George plan will gain in favor steadily by compari-

son with other forms of taxation. The Georgists now in Congress are reputed to be both active and intelligent in pressing their arguments.

Ever since "Progress and Poverty" was published in 1879 critics of the plan have admitted that it was all right in theory. In later years it has been found that the system, wherever it has been used in any degree, is eminently practical.

It supplies government with the revenue which justly belongs to government, economic or ground rent which is the fruit of population, while

at the same time it abolishes and makes unnecessary the multitude of taxes, federal state and local, which now fall so heavily upon every business enterprise and which are clearly responsible for the business depression, unemployment and low wages.

Its advocates are certain that adoption of the plan will increase salaries and wages, lower rents, liberate opportunities for work, simplify government and greatly reduce its cost, in short that it will provide that genuine prosperity which is the natural heritage of all men.

—Henry Ware Allen.