

The SINGLE TAX

THE ORGAN OF THE SCOTTISH LAND RESTORATION UNION.

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With this issue the *Single Tax* completes its first 12 months existence. We send greetings to all subscribers and friends. Our work has been considerably lightened during the year by the support and encouragement we have received, and our success has far and away exceeded our highest expectations. We have succeeded in no small way, both in bringing into line old friends and making new converts. The Scottish Land Restoration Union is a power to be reckoned with in the political and social reform circles of Scotland. We have endeavoured to serve the cause of the Single Tax and to be true to its principles. As an agency to the complete destruction of land monopoly and the opening up of the natural opportunities to employment it is making headway with all reformers. But the Gospel has still to be preached, and we appeal to all land restorers to continue to assist us in every legitimate way during the coming year, to place this monthly messenger of ours—the *Single Tax*—into the hands of all democrats.

JOHN SMITH'S REPLY TO "MERRIE ENGLAND," BY J. W. S. CALLIE, EDITOR *Financial Reform Almanac*.—This is a thorough criticism of *Clarion* socialism by a Single Taxer. It exposes in a most unmerciful and convincing way the shallowness of the arguments and quack remedies advanced by "Nunquam," in the guise of economics. It is also a defence of the Liberal Programme, and every reformer should secure a copy. Price Sixpence. Post free from *Single Tax* Office, 45 Montrose Street, Glasgow. Henry George says of Mr. Callie's effort:—

"I congratulate you upon the little book which seems to me excellent. Socialism is so vague and contradictory that it cannot stand argument. Its very vagueness commends it to men who will not or cannot take the trouble to think, but in the long run the men who do think will win if the discussion is only kept up."

Mr. Stead predicts the downfall of the Liberal Party at next election, because they are going to tax land values shilling by shilling until the whole unearned increment is taken for public purposes, which he calls confiscation. Perhaps it is confiscation; but that is no reason why the landlords should continue as confiscators of the unearned increment. And our opinion is that the Liberal Party are more likely to be defeated if they don't put a period soon to this same confiscation. Let us hope Mr. Stead is correct for once and that the Liberal Party will risk a fall on such a genuine and practical reform as the Taxation of Land Values.

HENRY GEORGE.—"I have seen the whole problem of labour's degradation worked out in practical life before my own eyes. Thirty years ago, sir, labour in California was comparatively

free, because land was comparatively free there. Labour was then paid according to its production and not according to the lowest standard of living among the labourers as now. It was then worth what it produced and it was paid accordingly.

"Labourers being free to go upon the virgin soil and build their homes and establish their own industries, and being able there to comfortably feed and clothe their families, and to educate their children in the standard branches of useful learning, were not obliged to remain in the labour market when it offered less favourable conditions. Then California was labour's 'Promised Land.' Then California was the last rampart from which the boasted and really glorious 'Standard of American Labour' has been permitted to float.

"Then there were in our land no tramps, few paupers, and no surplus labour in enforced idleness.

"Then sparseness of population and the consequent lack of social advantages, imposed the only hardships that were known. What wonder that those who knew the freedom and the happiness of those conditions yearn for their return.

"I saw the change of social conditions come. I saw the shadow of land monopoly steal over and encompass our Golden State. I saw a few hundred men become the absolute owners and masters of her great material resources, that were manifestly intended by their Creator to furnish homes and subsistence to 40,000,000 people. I saw an empire of her best and richest land pass by Act of Congress under the dominion of a single, soulless corporation. I saw the gates of natural independence in home industry closed against American labour."

The Deer Forests Commission have reported that nearly 1½ million acres of land are available for crofter uses. The Tories and their defenders were wont to say there was no land in the Highlands fit for cultivation, and favoured emigration schemes involving enormous sums of money for this purpose. They have dropped this no land assertion, and now want to know where the money is to come from to assist the crofter and cottar back upon the available land just discovered. Verily the ways of these defenders of privilege and land monopoly are beyond our common understanding; but they are being found out. "The mills of the Gods grind slowly but they grind exceeding small."

THE SINGLE TAX IN JAPAN.

SHIBAKU, TOKYO, JAPAN, Feb. 20, 1895.

To the *Single Tax* Clubs of the World! Greetings:

The undersigned have devoted such time and funds as they could command to the advancement of the Single Tax cause in Japan. In many respects conditions here are favourable to a propaganda of this kind. More than half the area of Japan is yet government land. Besides this, nearly every village has its commons, which should be surveyed and leased, the rent being divided; besides this, the subject of taxation is now prominently before the people. We want to do what we can to enlighten the thinking people on the two subjects of the Single Tax and proportional representation. "The Story of My Dictatorship," fitted to oriental conditions, is ready for the printers. Single Tax stamps, printed in short pithy sentences, are now in use. Lectures

and newspaper articles have been doing their work.

To this we would like to add the distribution of the *Single Tax Courier*. Its fresh news, coming week by week, would do more than most anything else to help the cause along. There are hundreds of people here who can read English, and the papers do not object to publishing Single Tax matter. It only costs one-half sen to mail a paper, which in American money is only one-fourth of a cent. Our request is that every Single Tax Club subscribe for one copy of the *Single Tax Courier* through the National Committee, thus helping the committee and the paper, and doing great things for the cause here in Japan.

We can think of nothing that will go farther in the cause we all love.

We make no appeal for money, but the papers would be so much to the work here and cost you so little there! Single Taxers in England and Australia could send us their home Single Tax papers. We make occasional reports through the *Single Tax Courier* and could do the same in other papers if encouraged by these subscriptions.

Yours for Equity,

CHAS. E. GARST,
S. Jo.

Address 26 Fukidecho, Shibaku, Tokyo, Japan.

Henry George has just finished a highly successful lecturing tour in Canada. In reply to an interviewer he said the Single Tax theory has a steady growth in the United States, particularly in the Southern and Western States. "Time is all that is required," he continued, "and as the years roll on it is very gratifying to observe the growth of public opinion on this subject. Intelligent opinion the world over appears gradually to be assimilating the Single Tax Theory, and at no distant date, I believe, we will see the practical application of the tenets of the Single Tax theory."

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY.

By L. H. B.

The speeches made and the programme adopted at the Annual Conference of the above Party, which was held during the past month, betray both the strength and the weaknesses of of this latest factor in the political arena. However small their numbers, however inconsiderable the funds at their command, however weak their faith in freedom, however misplaced their manifest confidence in the advantages of restriction and coercion, however unconvincing their arguments on matters of detail, and however undemocratic their methods of organization, yet can it not be denied that this young, active, and enthusiastic party is doing much work that should recommend itself to every earnest reformer. In the first place, they are certainly arousing amongst the toilers a keen and wholesome interest in political questions, and are spreading amongst them the knowledge that their well-being is largely determined by the political and social institutions under which they live. And of all political work this is perhaps the most needed at the present time. What though many of the views they hold and

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