

What prevents the brighter and broader minded amongst realty owners and operators from boldly advocating a constructive policy of cheap fares based on a special realty assessment limited in its application as contribution to subway maintenance and operating expenses?

It would be profitable as well as immensely popular.

The Regulator of Wages

THE regulator of wages is the vacant lot. The factor that determines wages is the cheapness or dearness of land—in other words, the terms on which the worker can obtain access to it.

He can combine with his fellow workers to enforce his demand for higher wages, but this is a mere expedient, and unusually a futile expedient. But the vacant lot, the unused mine, the unemployed farm, are his opportunity. Here is the power that determines wages; in the complexity of modern production, though it looms larger, the elements are as simple as these. All can be resolved into Man and Land. The regulator of wages, let us repeat, is the vacant lot—many different kinds of vacant lots, all included in the term “natural resources.”

The Cleveland Building Trades Council has discovered the real cause which will make any reasonable strike successful. It has hit upon the cause which, logically and in its final analysis, would render all strikes unnecessary—but that is another story.

We quote the statement issued by the Council from the Cleveland *Plaindealer*:

“Among many interesting suggestions is one that organized labor lease two 1,000 acre farms, one on the East Side and the other on the West Side, and that they be turned into co-operative farms to provide sustenance for men, who, for instance, might be out on strike as the result this open shop fight.

“The land could be plowed and divided up and the produce sold in the city on a co-operative basis, while there would be nothing to prevent either temporary or permanent homes being put up on the lots.”

Why Not Keep Babies Alive

In the *News Bulletin* of December 10th under the heading “Sheppard-Towner Bill” occurs the following, “that of the 22,000 city babies studied by the Bureau in seven cities more than three-fifths were born into families where the father’s earnings were below the amount necessary to provide the bare necessities of life.” Why not strive for an economic condition in which the father’s would get all they produced, thereby making it possible to feed the 13,200 underfed babies? And why bring babies into the world when the father cannot get enough of the wealth he produces to support his children?

GEORGE LLOYD in *The Woman Citizen*.

WITH building restrictions, monopoly, and taxed labor, wonder is there are any houses at all! —H. M. H.

The Need of Education in Economics

THE Single Tax movement meets with opposition from various commercial and political interests, for several reasons. Support is not to be expected from those who have reason to fear that an economic system which equalizes opportunities for all, would abrogate special privileges or advantages they wish to retain. The strength of the movement lies in the fact that it is wholly economic and cannot be made to serve any special interest whatever. Its most active supporters cannot expect any material, personal benefit in return for their efforts. Eventually, as the principles become more widely understood, some individual workers may be elected to administrative offices in government; but the near prospects are not such as to encourage such expectations. Some deeper, more worthy purpose must be their inspiration.

Whether the principles set forth by Henry George in *Progress and Poverty* shall gain large popular acceptance and support depends primarily upon a clear understanding of their economic and social effects. In other words, the propaganda of the Single Tax party must be essentially of an educational character. If ever it tends to branch out and diffuse into distinctly class arguments and sophistries, such as characterize ordinary political campaigns, it will deservedly fail.

The principles of Single Tax are right, without qualification or doubt. Stated some centuries ago, in simpler form but essentially the same, they have not been controverted. Many writers and speakers have undertaken to offset them by disproving something quite different with much elaboration and detail—a means often effective, in beclouding clear issues. In connection with the organized educational work upon which Single Taxers rely for gaining popular favor and finally political victory, it is desirable to learn what is the attitude of university authorities and teachers of economics concerning the value and practicability of the Henry George principles of land taxation and use and whether the Single Tax movement is furthered or hindered by the teaching of economics in college classes.

One of the notable results of such teaching seems to be to impress students with imperfect, even grossly distorted ideas of those principles and their proper application. Why should this be so? One of the great purposes of educational institutions should be the teaching of the truth as revealed to the clearest thought and experience of the day. Surely the prestige and influence of such institutions should not work in opposition to essentially educational efforts having the same purpose in view, unless it is clearly evident that those efforts are wrongly directed. It is a fair presumption, however, that the subject of Single Tax does not receive in our colleges such adequate treatment as its importance and rapid growth in adherents deserves. It may be questioned whether Professors of Economics

generally understood the subject well enough to deal properly with it before advanced students. If not their work might well be supplemented by engaging special lecturers. At present, there is reason to believe, such lecturers, even when their services are gratuitously offered, as part of the organized plan of education, are not desired by some of our larger institutions.

Nevertheless, it might be, that a clear presentation of Single Tax principles before student classes would improve and clarify thinking along certain well-worn lines and advance university teaching in this branch to a par with the best economic thought. Unfortunately, no such effort can be traced to a lecture recently delivered in Goldwin Smith Hall, of Cornell University by Senator Cartwright, of California, which, as reported in the *Ithaca Journal-News*, of December 17, was of such extraordinary character as to deserve attention. Students and the public may justly presume and expect, that lectures there given shall be of educational value, certainly not wild vaporings of the uninformed. Freedom of speech is desirable, but laudation of material wealth for individuals and of the economic system that makes its accumulation "inevitable" should not be sanctioned by university authorities.

Here follow some extracts, printed in the newspaper with quotation marks;—

"There are no ruling classes in America; there are laborers with their hands and laborers with their brains and there are capitalists."

What the capitalists work with is not stated; but since hands and brains are specifically the property of others, doubtless the capitalists are like the lilies of the field that "toil not neither do they spin, yet Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

Concerning owners of great wealth: "They are necessary and they will always exist, because all men haven't the same ability in any line." This the speaker regarded as fortunate for the rest of humanity because of the "law of compensation," which forces every man to let the rest of the world profit by his abilities and which makes the men of wealth "inevitable and necessary."

This is not very clear. But in all human experience the law of compensation seems to work out differently—even when assisted by the surplus profits tax.

At one time the speaker favored a more equal distribution of wealth, but "I soon found out that I was wrong" indicates a change about. Which is, perhaps, to be attributed to further observation as follows:

"A small percentage of the people have the musical talent of the country, and a small percentage have the artistic ability, and a few have the poetic ability. So it is with financial ability; some are born with it and others are not, and only a small percentage of them have it. The law of compensation forces such exceptional men to share their gifts, however, because the measure of a man's profit is the *measure of his service to the world.*" * * * * *
"If he doesn't share his gifts he doesn't make any profits."

Then comes the astounding declaration: "The number of wealthy men is increasing, because we have more educated men."

From all this it would seem, that a numerical comparison of human abilities as demonstrated by individual wealth acquired by "educated men" shows, that a number of magnates in the world of business and finance are several million times, more able than the common run. Competition against such tremendous odds is hopeless.

ROMYN HITCHCOCK

The Pilgrim's Ter-Centenary

WHO can estimate the value of sentiment? Without sentiment, life would become a mere human beehive, a farmyard, a coral reef. The most contemptuous phrase we can apply to a human being is to say that he is a fishy-eyed blank staring materialist whose soul is wrapped up in the dollar. Sentiment attaches to material as well as to immaterial things. Plymouth Rock is a crude boulder, split into two pieces and threatening further subdivision, and yet the State of Massachusetts, exercising its right of eminent domain is spending nearly half a million dollars in clearing away the surrounding wharfs and substantial buildings in order to create a public park with winding roads, trees, shrubbery and grass plots, so as to give the common looking boulder a sentimental setting.

In consequence, Plymouth will become an extremely popular summer resort, and the town will flourish proportionately. No other town on the Eastern coast could induce the spending of such a sum of money in its borders. The one question in the minds of all the inhabitants of Plymouth is whether the tourists will really come in such numbers as to make the improvement worth while. In other words, is there enough sentiment among the population of the United States to induce them to spend the money on the trip? And how often will they come?

The inhabitants of Plymouth as a general rule are so accustomed to the sight of the Rock, that they have lost in some measure their feelings of veneration and are in the habit of calculating the financial aspect of the proceedings. One man from New Hampshire told the writer that the Rock was worth its weight in \$1000 bills. And he meant it! The owners of property in land are the most anxious for a proper appreciation of the improvement. It is the young men with visions of going to New York or Boston to make their fortunes that are of the apathetic class. Two laborers said to me. "Why spenda all-da-mon on-dabig-chunk? Well, it makes work for da poor man anyway! So, let'er go." and that seems to be the sentiment of the lower masses, of whom there are some, even in Plymouth.

EARNEST I. SOPEN,

THERE can't be idleness in luxury without idleness in poverty.
—H. M. H.