

had no selling value at all—he surely would be better off. And when land costs nobody anything but its economic rent, and all taxes are abolished, farmers may enter into possession with the first yearly payment to the state, and there will be a new era for farming. Is the *Register* quite sure that under these conditions the farmer would not make money? There has been a boom in Iowa land values—no, there has been a drunken orgy—and the farmers of the state are suffering from it. The *Register* knows it; is it trying to conceal it?

COLORADO cattlemen appear to be suffering from much the same trouble. A study just made by the Department of Agriculture shows that the average cost per ranch among 41 ranches was \$132,409. Approximately 48 per cent. of this was in land and 36 per cent. in cattle. It was found that men operating cheap land, a good share of it on lease, have a great advantage over ranchers operating owned land. (Will the *Register* please take notice?) It was shown that some of these ranchmen were paying more interest on land per cow than the entire cost of raising a cow on other ranches. Some of these ranchers had as much as 75 per cent. of their investment tied up in high priced land.

How to Build A Bridge

JUST any bridge at all, a suspension or a cantiliver bridge. This is not any proposed plan of construction, which is a matter for the great engineering geniuses whose achievements are among the wonders of our civilization. And how startling is the contrast afforded between the efficiency displayed by the builders and those who engage them for these great works of public construction!

For before the building of a bridge can be undertaken it is necessary to determine where the revenue is to come from—that is as necessary as the steel and iron.

A bridge is now being built from Philadelphia to Camden. The bridge and the approaches will cost \$18,000,000 approximately. This will be paid for by the State of Pennsylvania, the city of Philadelphia and the State of New Jersey. Pennsylvania will pay its proportion of the cost out of taxation, and Philadelphia and New Jersey will issue bonds to pay for their share. The interest on these bonds paid in taxes will go on for many years, and so the cost of the bridge to the people of Philadelphia and New Jersey will be much greater than it really costs. *This is not the way to build a bridge.*

Sydney, Australia, is building a bridge between Sydney and the north shore of Sydney harbor at a cost of about \$25,000,000. This will be paid for partly by the railroads, the city of Sydney and the towns on the North Shore connected with Sydney by the bridge. Sydney and the towns will collect part of the unimproved land value of the benefited area to pay for this great public construction. *And that is the way to build a bridge.*

The city of New York pays \$100,000,000 annually or thereabouts, in interest charges for its public utilities. Granted that a portion of this may be necessary, which is by no means conceded, how small a portion it needs to have been had we gone about it as Sydney has. That city is on the way to recognize that landowners who benefit by public improvements should pay for them and that the cost of these may be met without a penny of interest charges and by a tax which is only a tax in form.

Is The Reform Adequate

A FRIEND of Land and Freedom, himself a convinced Georgite, has a brother who, favorably inclined toward our doctrine, cannot persuade himself of its adequacy.

Perhaps he looks and sees so much that is wrong in the world that cannot seemingly be directly affected by the application of the Georgian principle, that he is impelled to look for something else. And this something else he has not yet found.

The collection of the economic rent of land will reach directly many existing economic and social ills, but indirectly it will reach many more. It will make easier the solution of many perplexing problems, for of course there will remain other problems to be settled even after man's freedom to the use of the earth is secured.

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Looking out into the world at the economic and social relations of men it is no small wonder that the inquirer who first hears of the Henry George doctrine should without more searching inquiry regard it as inadequate. For the ills are so many and complex that he cannot at once be persuaded that this simple remedy will reach the seat of the disease. Yet we must remember that all great remedies are simple.

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Will our readers pardon an analogy? The yellow fever scourge once laid desolate entire cities. Despite precautionary measures against infection it spread mysteriously from house to house, often wiping out whole families. The origin of the scourge was at last discovered—it was the mosquito, or one species out of the three hundred or so, the *Stegomyia Calopus*. A French investigator, Beauperthuy, had indicated the origin—others had suspected or had identified the winged carrier of the dread disease.

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Yet note now the slow progress in dealing with the scourge. Note the variety of "remedies:" Elaborate precautions, burning of infected clothing, subjection of the mails to fumigation, segregation of "infected" areas, isolation of whole cities, etc., all these were tried before and even long after Beauperthuy and other investigators had made public their discoveries. Devoted martyrs to science subjected themselves to the bite of the *Stegomyia* which had fed upon some yellow fever infected patient, and died that others might live.