

## Approximate Trends in an Imaginary 1,000-Acre World

(CONTRIBUTED BY K. P. ALEXANDER)

### YEAR 1620

Population, at the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers .....	100
Number of acres used by entire population, at 10 acres per man .....	1,000
Land values at 10c per acre absorbed per year by 100 land possessors .....	\$100
Labor and capital values produced per year per man .....	\$900
Gross value of world's annual products of 100 men .....	\$100,000
Percentage of land values absorbed per year by land possessors exclusively in their land possessing function .....	1%
Percentage of total products realized annually by labor and constructively invested capital .....	99%

### YEAR 1930

Assumed population at middle of a 1,000-acre world's greatest depression .....	1,000.
Land rent directly absorbed annually from 1,000 town and farm acres, 25% .....	\$250,000
Pyramided, or uncollected, land values indirectly absorbed annually from 1,000 consumers by land possessors through every process of production and exchange, 25% .....	\$250,000
Total publicly produced land values wrongfully absorbed from labor and capital, 50% .....	\$500,000
Net value of products per annum realized by labor and constructively invested capital, 50% .....	\$500,000
Gross value of world's annual total products of labor and capital .....	\$1,000,000
Production costs reduced by invention and increased productive powers of labor .....	200%
Percentage of products annually absorbed by land possessors, with no value rendered .....	50%
Percentage of products annually realized by labor and constructively invested capital .....	50%

The indicated *trend*, not the precise figures, fairly represents the primary economic cause of all forced unemployment, and of industrial and financial depressions.

Labor and capital cannot, in comfort and safety, exist on approximately one-half of their products, while perhaps one-fourth of the population, rendering no service, absorbs approximately one-half of the value of the nation's total products.

Little Rock, Ark., Oct. 15, 1931.

## Economics Not Color

MY own strong conviction is that we put down to differences of color and race emotions of hostility or repulsion or antagonism which are really, when analyzed, the result of economic or cultural or ethical differences of standard. If British seamen and negroes fight in the slums of Cardiff or Liverpool; or if white and black labor on the Rand in South Africa find themselves in antagonism; or if Indians are harshly dealt with in Natal—to use three out of the thousands of possible illustrations—it is an economic fear of unfair competition based on a lower standard of living which is usually at the back of what looks like a clash of color.—BASIL MATTHEWS, in the *London Spectator*.

## Private Land and Public War

WE have heard so-called economists speak of "overproduction" and that it is necessary for us to have foreign markets to dispose of our surplus products in order to maintain "prosperity." Indeed, for more than a year gentlemen have been shouting, "Overproduction" is the cause of our present troubles. How is it that we have anything to be sold abroad when so many of our industrious people are in want of the necessities of life? Has the fact that men have not access to the land and other natural resources on equal terms anything to do with this accumulation of surplus products of labor?

So long as men are prevented from having access to Nature's bounty, except on the condition that they surrender to the landlord a large portion of what they earn, they are forced away from the land into some other employment they think more profitable. Thus many men, women and children are employed in the manufacture of articles they need themselves but cannot afford to buy, and as they make more than the rich can use, there arises this so-called "overproduction" of these articles—really "underconsumption."

To keep money in circulation it is necessary to induce the rich to part with some of their money, but as a well-to-do family uses but little more of the necessities of life than a poor family, unless there be great waste and extravagance, it is necessary to create artificial wants by encouraging the manufacture of all kinds of luxuries and unnecessary "gimcracks" like expensive clothes, jewelry, toys and other useless things. This finally results in an "overproduction" of these articles, so that the surplus must find an outlet in foreign markets. The production of these useless things represents an enormous economic loss to all countries engaged in their manufacture, for evidently something is wrong when in any country a few of its citizens are oversupplied with luxuries while the many are in want of the necessities of life. This system, however, is encouraged under the foolish idea that it "gives man work," while, as a matter of fact, from an economic point of view, these men might just as well be employed moving a pile of stones from one side of the road to the other, back and forth, instead of breaking the stones to make a better road. It is not work that men need, but rather that they should get what they earn for doing useful work.

As this same system of forcing men away from land and Nature's bounty goes on all over the world, surplus products of the same kind are created in other countries, and soon it becomes necessary to secure foreign markets, either by grabbing land in the shape of colonies in foreign parts, or else by securing a "sphere of influence," or "mandate."

To do this it becomes necessary to have a navy and an army, and all the money and labor spent on these is another economic waste on a still grander scale; but this method of disposing of surplus products can give no ultimate relief and will only result in a bitter commercial competi-



tion that will end in war, for with modern machinery surplus products will accumulate much faster than the foreign markets can absorb them, but until this point is reached there will be more or less of a "boom" in trade, and in consequence of which ground rents will steadily rise until finally all markets become glutted, manufactures cannot produce at a profit on account of the inflation of ground rents and the cost of raw materials produced thereby, wages are reduced, shops shut down, men are thrown out of employment, and we have the present depression, which is just the same as many that have gone before except that it is on a larger scale and the whole world is involved. Strikes and riots take place and the army is needed to preserve "law and order"—the law made and the order established by Special Privilege.

This Special Privilege, which is international in its scope and knows no flag or country, soon scents danger to itself, but instead of removing the cause of the trouble at home by removing the barriers which now prevent man from gaining access to natural resources on equal terms to all, proceeds to add fuel to the flames by securing the home market by high "protective" tariffs to keep out foreign products and thus still further to depress trade, both domestic and foreign, and to still more exploit the people of their own country.

After having secured their unjust privileges in all directions, the cry is raised, "An enemy abroad has done this, our foreign trade is in danger, the wages and standard of living of our workmen must be protected from the 'dumping' of cheap foreign-made goods into our country;" and to keep the attention of the people away from a recognition of the true remedy, this band of modern pirates, whose interests are identical in all countries and opposed to those of the producers, does not hesitate to plunge headlong into a foreign war in order to prevent necessary reforms at home, and under the cover of the excitement and confusion of war there is little wonder that the Lords of the Earth and Finance emerge from the conflict more firmly seated in the saddle than ever and more strongly entrenched and fortified in all the strategic economic positions in the world.

War is the price the world has always paid for Special Privilege, and the price it shall always pay, while the Special Privilege for which this senseless, wasteful, inhuman and bloody price is paid is the robbery of the masses and their enslavement by the private appropriation of ground rents, which belong of right in the public treasury by a law of Nature, just as true and universal in the economic world as Newton's law of gravitation is true in the physical world, and any so-called civilization that defies this law must sooner or later face the sentence "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin."

A. R.

**M**ANY a man thinks that it is his goodness which keeps him from crime, when it is only his full stomach. On half allowance he would be as ugly and knavish as anybody. Don't mistake potatoes for principles.—CARLYLE.

## A Notable Single Tax Dinner

**O**N Thursday evening, November 12, a notable dinner of New York Single Taxers was held at the Mayflower Hotel, Central Park West and 61st Street. There were 125 guests in attendance and Dr. Jacobs acted as toastmaster. The speakers were Hon. F. C. Howe, Hon. Chas. O'Connor Hennessy, Walter Fairchild, and Prof. George Mitchell, of the Economics Department of Columbia University, brother of Prof. Broadus Mitchell, of Johns Hopkins.

The programme began with the reading by Miss Mary Leubuscher, daughter of Hon. Frederic C. Leubuscher, of the Henry George Commemoration Ode by Joseph Dana Miller, which was read thirty-two years ago by James A. Herne, the distinguished actor, at the Grand Central Palace in this city. It is no mere compliment to say that Miss Leubuscher, an accomplished reader, read with the exact emphasis of sympathy and emotion this tribute to the Master. Miss Agnes deMille, granddaughter of Henry George, also read, very competently, selections from "Progress and Poverty" and "Social Problems."

The speeches were entertaining and enlightening, that of Walter Fairchild striking an unexpected note of humor that called forth many hearty laughs. Mr. Hennessy, speaking with his usual dignity and eloquence, told of his experiences in England and Denmark, and voiced a hopeful confidence in the progress of the movement. He paid a glowing tribute to Norman Thomas.

The affair was the successful culmination of the work of John Lawrence Monroe, assisted by the officers of the Schalkenbach Foundation and the Manhattan Single Tax Club. A gratifying feature of the occasion was the presence of quite a number of young people on whom the movement must depend to carry on.

## Henry George's Book Is Widely Studied

**T**HE question giving the taxpayers more and more concern is: "Why our taxes are so high and what should be done to reduce them?"

In reflecting that a tax on dogs is not so much for revenue as to suppress dogs, we must admit as well that the tax on improvements will naturally stop them or hinder them considerably. Why not do away with the tax in New Jersey on homes and factories?

Today the same question asked by the late Henry George, "Why should men and women, able to work and willing to work, be unable to find employment?" is on the lips of everyone. There could be found no better answer to this opportune subject than the tax principle advanced by Mr. George in his book "Progress and Poverty."

Much study is given in our day to the admirable principle enunciated by this man, misunderstood years ago.

—Bergen (N. J.) *Herald*.