

heads when the conclusion was driven home logically and society was invited to surrender property in land.

A little club of Henry George students met weekly in my bachelor rooms near Gramercy Park. I recall at this moment J. Kennedy Todd, Cleveland Dodge and his brother Earle, Percy Pyne, Oliver Northcote, and many others of their age and kind.

Mr. George listened always with utmost courtesy, and in his answers had a winning manner of apparently sympathizing with his interlocutor. Many were the long walks and talks we had together, particularly of a Sunday morning, and I was fortunate in being able to fortify a subsequent edition of his great book with citations from the writings of the French Physiocrats, Turgot and Quesnay.

## Robert C. Macauley Stirs Lewiston

(From the *Lewiston Journal*, Lewiston, Me.)

**R**OBERT C. MACAULEY of Philadelphia, candidate for president of the United States on the Single Tax party ticket at the last election, is in Lewiston. He came here from Boston, where he has been spending the last ten days with National Organizer Robinson, looking over the ground and meeting those who have an interest in the Single Tax proposition.

Mr. Macauley, who at present is secretary for the national committee of his party, is visiting this city for the same purpose. He is here to meet all who have a working knowledge of just what the Single Tax plan means. In this way he expects to gain new enthusiasm and ideas, and at the same time to awaken added interest in the cause in this section of New England. During his stay in Lewiston he is to talk at a number of public meetings.

A well built man of middle age, with bright, snappy eyes and a grey Van Dyke beard, Mr. Macauley has an appearance and personality that hold the attention of his hearers. And when he begins to talk in a clear cut and pleasing tone, rapidly warming to his subject, he becomes very interesting.

In an interview granted a *Journal* reporter soon after his arrival from Portland, Mr. Macauley emphasized his belief that at the present time in politics a man does not vote as he thinks is right, so much as he does according to his obligations. For instance, a man may consider that the Single Tax proposition is a clear solution to the problem of taxation. He works, however, for a company owning wild lands on which it pays few if any taxes. Is it probable that this man will oppose his company by voting for the Single Tax plan?

This idea of taxation originated in this country with Henry George, at one time a candidate for the office of Mayor of New York. He advocated the abolition of all taxes upon industry and the products of industry, and the taking, by taxation upon land values, irrespective of improvements, of the annual rental value of all those various

forms of natural opportunities embraced under the general term land. To point out the numerous reasons why this is practical is a story in itself.

The Single Tax party originated in Philadelphia about five and a half years ago, stated Mr. Macauley, not for political purposes but to advertise the proposition and to get its ideas before the people. "We do not desire to be a separate party," continued the visitor. "What we do desire is to convince the people of the practicability of the Single Tax idea, and to get one of the two greater parties to adopt it in its platform."

He went on to say that the party is fully organized and working at the present time in 21 states, being particularly strong along the Pacific Coast. "But," he added, "as I stated before, we do not measure our success by votes. It is measured by the extent to which our propaganda—our basic idea—has reached the people."

"Are there any places where this method of taxation is in effect?" asked the reporter.

"No, there are none," was the ready answer. "In British Vancouver they started ten years ago on the proposition, but they took only a part of the idea. They exempted all improvements from taxation, but did not adopt the main feature—the collection of the annual rental value of the land. Thus land values were greatly increased. In no place has the Single Tax idea been given a fair trial.

"Under the present form of taxation they tax dogs, thus decreasing the number in a community. If a person commits an assault he has to go into court and pay a fine or tax, and so on. A man builds a house and he is at once taxed a large sum. Is this proper? It works as in the case of the dogs—it cuts down the number of new buildings. It puts more of a fine upon a man to build a new house than it does to break the law. It places the builder in the same class with the criminal, one paying a fine for being a menace to the public and the other for being a benefit. Taxes as they are at present put a penalty on men's production; the more productive you are the more you pay."

He cited as an example the case of a man in an insane asylum—incurably insane. Property had been left him. While the owner is in the asylum a railroad decides to build across country, the site being along the insane man's land. This land, of course, increases in value, due to no action on the owner's part, and the person in charge of the property sells a narrow strip of it for a large sum, besides getting an increased rental from the other land along the railroad line. Thus a man incurably insane has his bank account greatly increased through no skill or effort on his part. Single Tax would prevent this, as the increased rental from the land would go to the county or town where it was located.

A PEOPLE set free from land monopoly would not tolerate government as we know it today, with our silly political campaigns!