

"Of Men Like Henry George"

ALL the country needs is a new and sincere body of thought in politics, coherently, distinctly, and boldly uttered by men who are sure of their ground. The power of men like Henry George seems to me to mean that; and why should not men who have sane purposes avail themselves of this thirst and enthusiasm for better, higher, more hopeful purpose in politics than either of the present moribund parties can give?—WOODROW WILSON.

[Quoted from "Life and Letters of Woodrow Wilson," by Ray Stannard Baker, Doubleday, Page & Co., and appearing on the outside cover of the new pamphlet "Statesmanship without a Philosophy," published by the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade.]

IF property is greatly enhanced in value by the location of a subway, is it unreasonable to ask that its owners pay a fair proportion of the cost of the subway?

—N. Y. Telegram.

PROFESSOR MYERS, Princeton historian, is "glad that the Interboro wishes to charge what it costs to haul a passenger." If the professor were an economist, he would instead be glad that the city wishes to charge some of the cost to others who benefit from the rides as well as the passenger.

Owners of enhanced property values, for example; or business, which gets its patronage through transit.

—N. Y. American.

CORRESPONDENCE

DAN BEARD AND MARK TWAIN

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

When "A Yankee At King Arthur's Court" first appeared I was so fascinated by Dan Beard's Single Tax and Free Trade illustrations that I bought twenty-four copies and gave them away and then cussed Webster & Co. because they refused to give me any discount on them.

As soon as I could get to New York I went to Dan Beard's studio and asked him how he came to illustrate the book as he did and told him that I had had some difficulty in finding anything in the text to justify his illustrations.

Dan said, "I don't really know myself how Mark came to select me to illustrate the book. I think it was some illustrations I had in the *Cosmopolitan* at that time which attracted his attention. He sent for me and said, "Dan, I want you to illustrate that new book of mine."

I said, "Yes? How do you want it illustrated? What points do you want brought out?"

He looked at me for about a minute without saying anything and then in that slow drawl of his, he said, "Dan, if anyone says to me, 'Mark, I want you to write a book for me,' I say, 'All right.' But if he says, 'I want the hero to do this, and to do that and I want the heroine to look like this, and I want this to happen and I want that to happen' I say, 'You don't want me to write a book. You want some damn typewriter.'" "And that," Dan Beard said, "was all of the instructions I ever got about illustrating the book. So I went

ahead and illustrated it to suit myself and when Mark saw my illustrations he seemed surprised and he always spoke about it afterward as 'That book which Dan Beard and I wrote.'"

Capon Springs, West Va.

WILL ATKINSON.

A NOTE OF OPTIMISM

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I believe that we are approaching the dawn of the realization of our hopes. The whole world is now earnestly seeking some remedy for its political and economic distress and I think will embrace this simple and clear doctrine as soon as it becomes widely understood. I think more people are interested now than ever before in finding a remedy. Progress in other parts of the world as well as in our own country indicates a revival of interest in this neglected science.

I believe a Single Tax campaign in Florida would now make progress. Releasing improvements from taxes there would give a substantial and welcome impulse to the development of my home state. Municipalities have already begun to relieve from taxation such enterprises as "community hotels." It will be easy to get the people to understand that unless improvements are released there will be little improvement and that there will be nothing lost if they do release them and improvements come.

Washington, D. C.

COL. WM. C. HARLEE.

ASKS POULTNEY BIGELOW TO BE FAIR

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

The written address by Mr. Bigelow, appearing in *LAND AND FREEDOM* and read by Mr. Miller at the Henry George Congress, September 14, calls for an explanation in the interest of our cause.

Referring to the paragraph wherein it states that Father McGlynn was excommunicated because of his loyalty to the Henry George movement, would it not be well to state that Father McGlynn was afterwards reinstated, without any retraction on his part, by Pope Leo XIII after studying Henry George's reply to the Pope's Encyclical?

As a personal friend of that noble priest, Father McGlynn, and knowing the facts as I do, I am prompted by the spirit of fair play to make this statement. The facts of reinstatement without retraction of Father McGlynn and that no further communication was received after Henry George's explanation to the Pope, should make this no longer an issue of doubt among our friends of all sects.

Chicago, Ill.

GEORGE M. STRACHAN.

WHO WILL REAP WHERE THE GOVERNMENT SOWS?

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

In the newspaper accounts of the plans of the U. S. Army Engineers for the control of floods on the Mississippi River, it is stated that the proposed plan contemplates flood control alone, that the estimated cost of the improvement is nearly three hundred millions of dollars, and that the estimated land values produced by the immunity from flood damages is over two and one-half billions of dollars. It appears from this that the improvement will be a very profitable undertaking. But who will reap the profit? The land owners in the territory affected. It is proposed to leave this immense fund untouched, the U. S. Government to pay eighty per cent. of the cost of the improvement, and the State Governments of the states along the river to pay the balance.

It should not be overlooked that the Great River is an asset as well as a liability. These assets are navigation, irrigation, water power and forestry. These interests, as well as that of immunity from flood damages, would all be served by the adoption of the plan of improvement outlined in the July-August number of *LAND AND FREEDOM*. The land values created by immunity from flood damages is only a small part of that which would be created by the more complete improvement. If the financial part of the plan of the army engineers is carried out, it will be safe to predict a land boom along the river valley that will eclipse anything in the history of California or Florida.

The land owners of the region affected should be staunch supporters of the more complete improvement. Who can imagine the increase of land values in such cities as Memphis, St. Louis, Cairo and Kansas City if they should be converted into seaports? The slogan of a few years ago, of, "Fourteen feet through the Valley," could at the present time be appropriately changed to, "Forty feet to the Gulf," if we had sufficient wisdom to pay for the improvement by appropriating increased land values.

The opposition of vested interests, such as that of the railroads to the navigation of the River, that of the power companies to the development of water power, and that of the farmers to the increase of agricultural facilities should all be ignored. With the development of the region, the railroads will probably find all the business they can attend to, in the passenger traffic and the distribution of products from the great river marts. The application of electric power to the propulsion of vessels, should in a great measure relieve the power companies from apprehension. The worries of many farmers might be relieved by abandoning farms, that on account of location or a lack of fertility, are near the margin of cultivation, and the labor that was formerly bestowed on them, applied to more productive land; notably, the strips of land between the levees and the river, that would be for rent by the Government.

According to the estimates of the army engineers, the land values created by the incomplete improvement will be nine times its cost, and it is reasonable to believe, that with the more complete improvement this ratio will not be lowered.

Stephnia, Russia.

W. A. WARREN

FRANKLIN K. LANE ON HENRY GEORGE

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I have just finished reading the interesting letters of Franklin K. Lane, compiled by his wife. I copy Lane's references to Henry George, as follows:

Editorial—1889—Pg. 26—"His political interests brought Lane into the Reform Club where "Progress and Poverty," Henry George's new book, was the center for discussion on the whole problem of the distribution of taxation. Lane and Henry George established a cordial friendship."

1920—Pg. 368—Letter to George W. Wickersham—"What writers would you say were most distinctly American in thought and most influential upon our thought, men who a hundred years hence will be regarded not great as literary men, but as American social, spiritual, and economic Philosophers? It occurs to me that this singular trio might be selected—Emerson, Henry George, William James."

Pg. 375—Letter to John W. Hallowell—"Roosevelt, James and Henry George were the three greatest forces of the last thirty years."

Jan. 1921—Letter from Rochester, Minn. to James H. Barry—"Do let us meet when I am West, and talk of Henry George and John Marble and Arthur McEwen who have gone on and left not their like." Buffalo, N. Y.

D. D. MARTIN.

HAULING DOWN THE FLAG

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

While I have recently renewed for a year my small subscription for the support of Stoughton Cooley and his most enlightening paper, *Tax Relief*, I have felt it right to ask him, at a meeting addressed by him in Pasadena, (or was it Alhambra, which is really the same thing?) why he thought it wise to disavow explicitly to his audience on that evening any intention to propagate the Single Tax "theory." Being present at the meeting, I felt that, with all good will toward him and his excellent line of work, it was up to someone present to elicit what a good many of us are proud to say, namely, that one may be too careful of the "nerves" of his audience; and that if one has to scare a roomful of possible Tax-reformers the risk is well worth while if there be a mere possibility that one single hearer may carry away with him a

beginning of a conviction that perhaps the Single Tax "theory" may be straight in line with *truth* and that, if it is in line with truth it is sure, in the long event, to get itself embodied in human law. I do not like to hear a follower of Henry George state, in just these words, to his audience, that "The Single Tax, *if it can ever be brought into effect*, could only come about after a lapse of time so long that, . . . &c." I mention the matter because a certain letter of Louis Post warmly commending Cooley's work is being sent out from the office of *Tax Relief*. Cooley's work is good. But, imagine Post being present at that meeting! I was one of Post's hearers on a night during the old days of the Anti-Poverty Society, when Post told his audience that he had been an atheist,—but that with his reading of "Progress and Poverty" had come to him a conviction that through the welter and confusion of human affairs Order can be discerned. That an orderly world is just a world where Law rules; and that Law means Mind; and that "God" is as good a name as "Mind," so far as he could see. Therefore, what is ethically right is sure, in the long run, to be brought about. And that in this matter of the Single Tax, the main business of a Single Taxer, is to proclaim that the Single Tax *can* be brought about. That in fact, the so-called "theory" of Henry George is just a practicable proposal whereby some of our human institutions can be either quickly destroyed or in reasonable time be brought into line with universal law.

If Louis Post ever, in any way, knowingly allowed his name to be identified with the idea that, after all, the Single Tax is a "theory" "that may possibly never be brought into practical effect," the news has failed to reach me. I do not want to make a mountain out of a mole-hill,—but the circulation of Louis Post's letter, by the Tax Reform Association, (which would appear to be Cooley) in connection with the above-mentioned repudiation of the Single Tax by Mr. Cooley, really seems to me to amount to a very grave mis-use of Louis Post's name. What I am concerned with is, that the weight of his name should not, without protest from someone, be used to influence Single Taxers to haul down their flag from the masthead. Deck-cleaning is all right; but why should anyone think that the good old flag should come down in order to do that?

Pasadena, Calif.

JOHN F. SCOTT.

HAVE OUR READERS ANY SUGGESTIONS?

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

If you recall my remarks last September, at the Henry George Foundation Congress, I stressed holding services of a religious and moral nature, for the primary purpose of giving spiritual and moral emphasis to Henry George's philosophy, and his practical suggestions for the amelioration of the economic ills of humanity. Well, I'm getting ready to put the notion into action. I intend to hire the room of the "Economic Forum," recently formed in Boston, one afternoon each month until June, and inviting those interested to meet there for just such a service. I intend to pay the cost of the room and, in addition my carfare to and from Boston to my home in Middleborough, and see what comes of it. During June, July, August, and September, weather permitting, and a license from Boston City Hall obtained, some of us expect to hold a meeting each Sunday afternoon, under one of the "trees" on the Common; my personal contribution will be upon Henry George and Natural Taxation.

In addition to these activities, some of us,—particularly a doctor and others,—intend to hold a "Summer Conference" out at Mr. Fiske Warren's enclave of Tahanto, in the town of Harvard, Massachusetts, during the month of August, for similar doings.

I am convinced that the whole thing needs special publicity; and these are some of the means looking to that end. I intend to initiate such meetings where services may be held, literature distributed, addresses given, and conferences held.

I must have "Bibles" with which to conduct the Services and other meetings. By "Bibles," I mean not only the Jewish and Christian