

ular method of expression that would be valuable for propaganda.

It is needless to add that there is no basis for the comparison with "Progress and Poverty." The letters of Burgess, taken together, form a mere pamphlet; in which however, the main truths of the relation of man to land and the way to improve that relation, are told with great power. There is no profound study, or any study of technical economics; no planned development of the argumentation; or exposures of current fallacies in political economy. Definitions are absent; and the thought is somewhat blurred at times, to an exacting thinker. There is repetition, principally of the way in which the remedy is stated; but the repetition is such as, under the circumstances, would best aid in direct exhortation. And even if there is no attempt to harmonize economic laws, the essence of what ought to be in all political economies is the most conspicuous element in the work, viz: the Single Tax. I believe that Burgess, even if he never had anything but the rudiments of other men's thoughts in economics, (and it may be that he never had as much as the rudiments, as far as the "Letters" show, intrinsically,) could in oral argument before the people, have "polished off" any economist extant in this country in his day; for his original illustrations, drawn from surrounding conditions, and his varied approaches to the central truth, show that he was a man of resources. It would be fair to Burgess to say that his work is to Henry George's *Progress and Poverty* what a good rifle is to a cannon, in the general attack on Privilege.

JOSEPH F. DARLING.

THE Rochester, N. Y. *Union and Advertiser* contained under the heading "A Single Tax Man in Town" an account of Joseph Fink's recent visit to that city. It said:

"You can always strike most any kind of a political or economic argument around a big political convention. Joseph Fink, secretary of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, took on all comers in debate in the lobby of the Whitcomb yesterday afternoon and a large audience enjoyed the cross fire."

ASKS FOR ACTION.

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

The emphasis which in his paper submitted to the recent Free Trade Congress in London, Louis F. Post laid upon the "natural socialism" advanced by Henry George as distinguished from the artificial, arbitrary and chaotic scheme of the socialistic party, catches my imagination and suggests an appeal to democratic democrats (See "Land Values" for Sept.)

After 30 years of agitation the Single Tax has not won a place in politics or even in the minds of party leaders, not excepting Mr. Bryan. Even as a propaganda it seems to have lost its vitality, and to the casual observer it is inert and apparently dead. Of course, I am not blind to the progress which our theory of taxation as a fiscal reform has made in many countries. The people of the United States are lagging far behind that procession and the proposal of Henry George is tardy in assuming a practical shape anywhere in America. Nor do I fail to recognize the value of the example set by Tom L. Johnson and Lawson Purdy. But their efforts are but small oases in the vast desert of economic ignorance and indifference. The Socialists are performing a valuable service in directing attention to bad social conditions and I would not belittle even the half hearted efforts of the Democratic party. But neither party clears the befogged mental atmosphere or guides the bewildered people to think and act on right lines. The only considerable body of men who are suitably equipped to supply the indispensable preliminary education are the Single Taxers.

Disastrous economic conditions and the trend of thought which they suggest ought to render the masses peculiarly receptive of our conceptions of true Democracy. In common, undoubtedly, with many other Single Taxers I must confess that I am restless and impatient because we fail to avail ourselves of this exceptional opportunity. True, the burning enthusiasm of "howling dervish" days has vanished and, superficially, it seems to be extinct, for now it rarely finds expression. And yet, I am sure, it only sleeps, and can be

awakened. Given a practical aim to which the Single Taxers of America can turn their faces; enlist them in the battle for its attainment and there should be no lack of willing volunteers. Now how can this best be accomplished?

I agree with the opinion given by Keir Hardie at the reception to Louis F. Post in Glasgow on Aug. 14., that the phrase Single Tax has been a handicap to the movement and an obstacle to its development because it has prevented a full appreciation of its scope and meaning. The substitution in Great Britain of the term "Land Restoration" has proved to be of substantial advantage. Under the banner of the Single Tax we who know the breadth, beneficence and practicability of the Georgian philosophy have certainly not gained the following to which it is entitled. The growth of interest in the socialist movement despite its absurd claims and illogical deductions, indicates that there is a widespread recognition of the necessity of a radical social change and a desire for its accomplishment. But the socialists' scheme is so repugnant to the intuitive sense of the right of individual initiative and the right to the exclusive ownership and disposition of one's products that the general acceptance of their propositions does not seem to be even remotely probable.

Why, then, cannot we who are able to direct attention to a just and logical method of social re-adjustment, command the interest of the thinking public? We are unquestionably neglecting the rare opportunity offered by the industrial crisis through which we are now passing and in which we are likely to remain for several years. The platform of the democratic party certainly does not meet the exigency of the situation and, greatly as I admire Mr. Bryan, even he does not arouse my enthusiastic support, neither am I hopeful of any substantial and permanent advance in the direction of our desires should he be elected.

I am familiar with the aversion of Henry George and of the majority of our leaders to the formation of a Single Tax political party and I have shared this sentiment. But can we not do something to show our

patient and long suffering people the easily removable causes of their misery? It sometimes seems hard that we, at least, who long labored so hopefully to spread the knowledge of our new found truth, many of us rapidly approaching the end of our stay upon the field of action, should see so little actually accomplished and so slight a promise for the future.

You will naturally ask me what plan of action do I offer. I confess that, at this moment, I am at a loss, and only write in the hope that if a discussion of the subject is opened in the REVIEW some suggestion may clear a pathway to the solution of the problem. The New York conference last November, though delightful as a social reunion, failed to answer this grave question. Single Taxers who habitually read the REVIEW and the other periodicals of their movement, retain their interest if only in a perfunctory fashion. Give the believer a sword, point out the enemy and organize him for the battle and he will not fail to join in the onslaught and induce others to help. Now, what shall be the weapon, where the first point of assault and who shall lead the host?

ALFRED J. WOLF.

FAIRHOPE, Ala.

SINGLE TAX AND SOCIALISM IN COLORADO.

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

The Village of Nucla is in the midst of a socialist colony of farmers, but the village itself was, as a separate organization, founded upon Single Tax principles after the pattern of the Fairhope Colony. In two important points, however, this organization is at variance with the Fairhope plan and with Single Tax principles. One is the provision that no member is permitted to hold more than one business lot, two residence lots, or one block in the suburbs. Under a Single Tax system, such a restriction is not only unnecessary, but inconsistent with the very aim and purpose of the Single Tax, which would give to each individual full liberty to use as much of the natural resources of a com-